

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SWN.121
Historic Name:	Brown, John V House
Common Name:	
Address:	793 Pearse Rd
City/Town:	Swansea
Village/Neighborhood:	Touisset;
Local No:	19;
Year Constructed:	C 1740
Architectural Style(s):	Georgian;
Use(s):	Agricultural; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House;
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture;
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials:	Roof: Asphalt Shingle; Wall: Wood Shingle; Foundation: Stone, Uncut;
Demolished	No



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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PL-TDU
USGS-FALL

AREA	FORM NO.
	121

Town SWANSEA
 Address 793 Pearse Road
 Historic Name John and Abigail (Cole)
Brown V 's House
 Use: Present Multiplw Dwelling
 Original Farmstead

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1740
 Source John Brown, Gentleman, of
Wannamoissett, pg. 32
 Style Georgian Colonial

Architect _____
 Exterior Wall Fabric Wood Shingles
 Outbuildings shed w/ outhouse

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

Condition Exterior intact with later
additions in good condition.

Moved No Date _____

Acreage Less than one acre

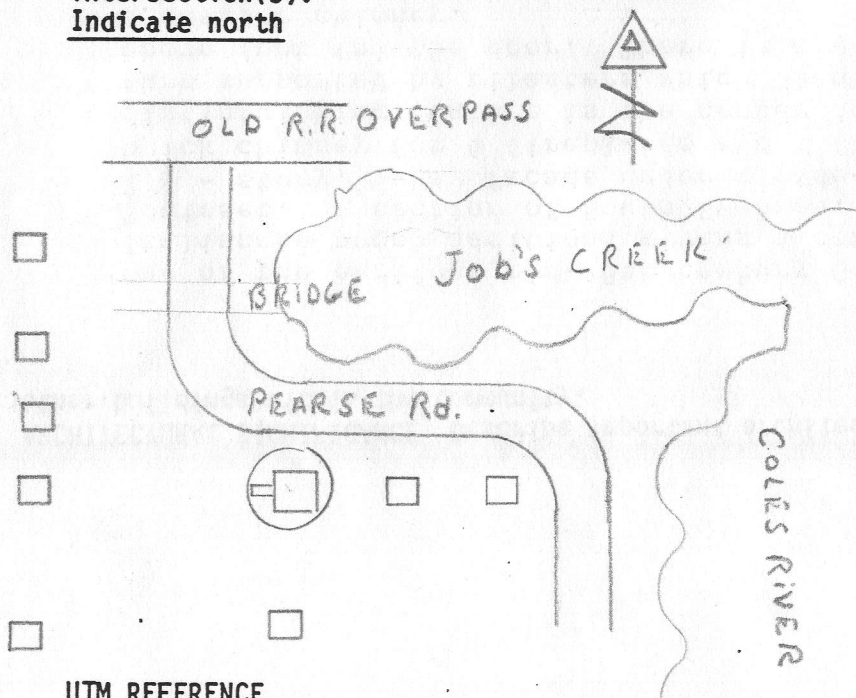
Setting Situated on top of a knoll
overlooking the Cole River just
south of the RR overpass. Stone
walls and mature trees complete
site.

Recorded by Kay Flynn/M.S. Gendron '78

Organization Swansea Historical

Date February, 1986

intersection(s).
Indicate north



UTM REFERENCE _____

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River, Mass. RI 1967-79

SCALE _____

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

One of the earliest mid-18th century Georgian Colonial houses with Italianate porch additions giving a continuity of development in Touisset, a section of South Swansea. Typical features are the 2 ½ - story, 5-bay facade under a side-gable roof with a large central brick chimney for 6 fireplaces and a fieldstone foundation. A distinguishing feature is the center door surrand of a simple entablature supported by pilasters which flank a transom of small lights above (not in) the door. There is a west or rear 2-story ell with a smaller chimney.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

This land was bequeathed to Mrs. John Brown IV (Abigail Cole) by her father, James Cole. The land had been transmitted from the Indians to generation after generation of Coles for more than two centuries and never was conveyed by deed until the purchase by Henry A. Gardner in 1874. This land along the Coles River was said to be a summering place for the Indians and mounds of shells have been found in the woods.

In John Brown 5th's will in 1754 he left to his son, William, "all my homestead and all buildings thereon, also all farming tacklings." This was originally a 140 acre farm.

Both the Brown and Cole families whose first ancestors are distinguished citizens, settled in Plymouth.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1. The Descendants of James Cole of Plymouth 1633, Grafton Press, N.Y., pp. 33 (at the R.I. Historical Society)
2. John Browne, Gentleman of Wannamoisett, by Aimee Huston Eck, Minneapolis 1951, pp. 119 (R.I. Historical Society - privately reproduced)
3. History of Swansea, Wright, pp. 200 (Marcus Brown Family) and pp. 154 (The Cole Family)
4. Registry of Deeds, Fall River, Ma.
5. Probate Court, Taunton, Ma.
6. Maps of Swansea dated 1850, 1871 and 1895 - Swansea Library
7. Swansea Tercentenary brochure 1667 - 1967

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.

B

Form no.

121



own Swansea

793

Address Pearse Road

name Riverby

Present use Apartment house

Present owner Winthrop D. Sanford

Description:

ate Pre 1754

Source John Browne, Gentleman, of
Wannamoissett, pp.32

yle Colonial farmhouse

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric Wood shingles

Outbuildings (describe) Shed w/ outhouse

Other features Large central brick chimney with 6 fireplaces, smaller chimney in west wing with fireplace, 2 1/2 story gable with east facing entry, central, with transom lights in 5 bay facade, south addition, field stone foundation, front porch

Altered _____ Date _____

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less X Over one acre _____

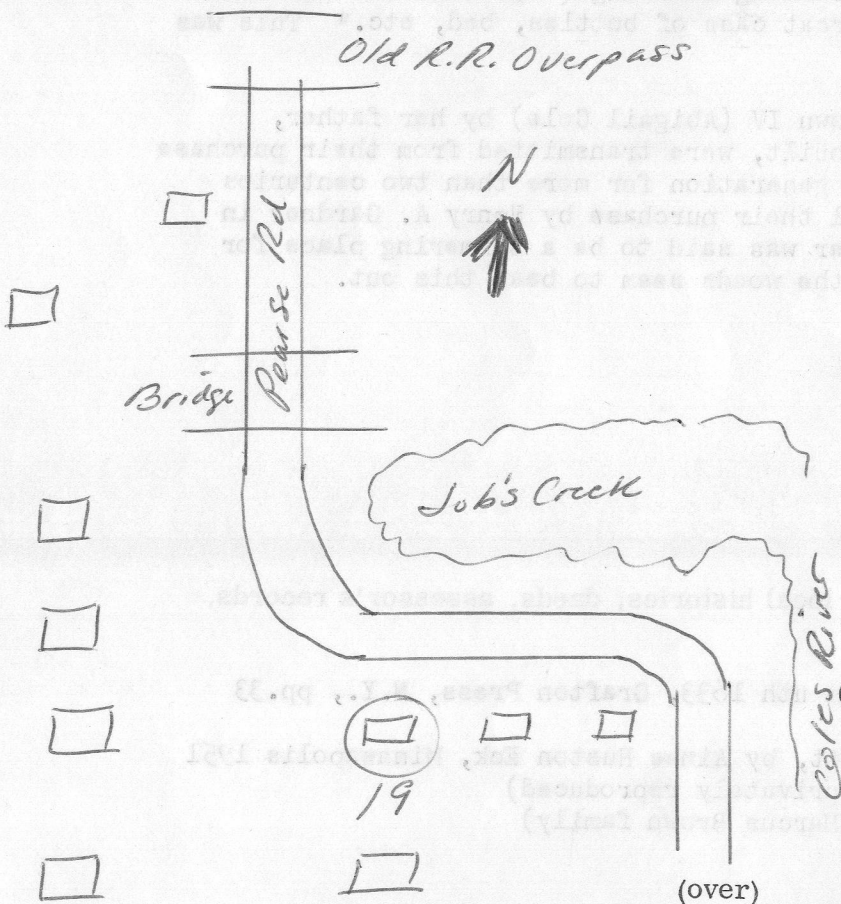
Approximate frontage 82'

Approximate distance of building from street
36'

6. Recorded by Martha S. Gendron

Organization Swansea Historical Society

Date Dec. 20, 1978



(over)

7. Original owner (if known) John Brown

Original use Farm house

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Apartment house in 1976

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<u>X</u>	Conservation	<u> </u>	Recreation	<u> </u>
Agricultural	<u>X</u>	Education	<u> </u>	Religion	<u> </u>
Architectural	<u> </u>	Exploration/ settlement	<u> </u>	Science/ invention	<u> </u>
The Arts	<u> </u>	Industry	<u> </u>	Social/ humanitarian	<u> </u>
Commerce	<u> </u>	Military	<u> </u>	Transportation	<u> </u>
Communication	<u> </u>	Political	<u> </u>		
Community development	<u> </u>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

John Browne 1st came to Rehoboth (later Swansea) from New Plymouth and the descendants of this Brown family were distinguished citizens of Swansea. John 2nd was described as "a strict Puritan, devout man, standing high in community & colony affairs", and John 3rd as "a man of positive nature, unflinching in discharge of duty".

In John Brown 5th's will in 1754 he left to his son, William, "all my homestead and all buildings thereon, also all farming tacklings. To William also silver spoon marked I. M. also desk and a great case of bottles, bed, etc." This was originally a 140 acre farm.

The lands bequeathed to Mrs. John Brown IV (Abigail Cole) by her father, James Cole, on which this house was built, were transmitted from their purchase from the Indians to generation after generation for more than two centuries and never were conveyed by deed until their purchase by Henry A. Gardner in 1874. This land along the Coles River was said to be a summering place for the Indians and mounds of shells in the woods seem to bear this out.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

1. The Descendants of James Cole of Plymouth 1633, Grafton Press, N.Y., pp.33 (at the R. I. Historical Society)
2. John Browne, Gentleman of Wannamoisett, by Aimee Huston Eck, Minneapolis 1951 pp. 119 (R. I. Historical Society - privately reproduced)
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4. Registry of Deeds, Fall River, Ma.
5. Probate Court, Taunton, Ma.
6. Maps of Swansea dated 1850. 1871 and 1895 - Swansea Library, Main St.
7. Swansea Tercentenary brochure 1667-1967
8. A Record of my Ancestry A descendant of John Brown of Plymouth & Rehoboth-Jarvis D. Brown, Jr., Aug. 29, 1949