

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

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| Inventory No: | SWN.24 |
| Historic Name: | Mason Farmstead |
| Common Name: | |
| Address: | 831 Locust St |
| City/Town: | Swansea |
| Village/Neighborhood: | |
| Local No: | 57; |
| Year Constructed: | 1822 |
| Architectural Style(s): | Federal; |
| Use(s): | Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House; |
| Significance: | Agriculture; Architecture; |
| Area(s): | |
| Designation(s): | |
| Building Materials: | Roof: Asphalt Shingle; Wall: Wood Shingle; |
| Demolished | No |



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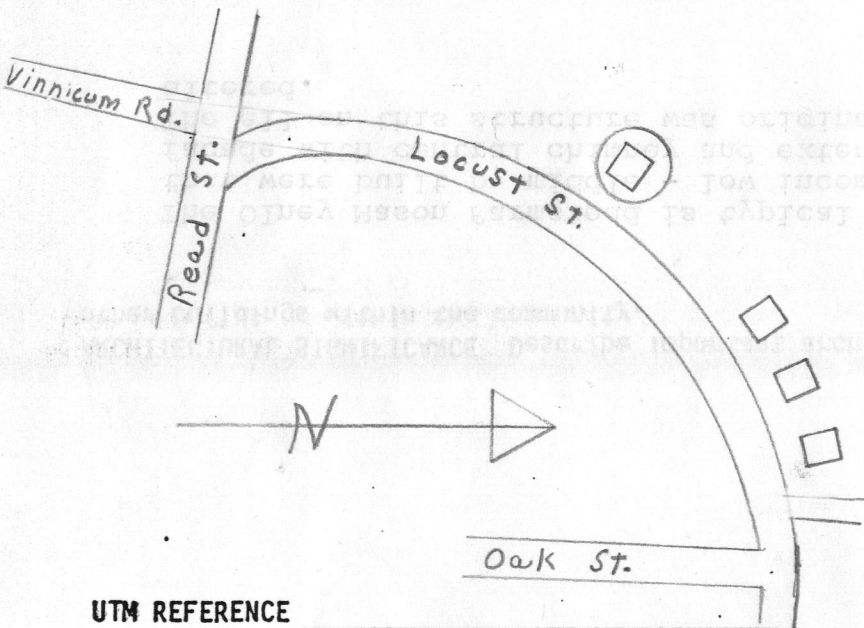
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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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intersection(s).
Indicate north



UTM REFERENCE

USGS QUADRANGLE Somerset, MA., Bristol Co.

1967/79

SCALE

AREA

FORM NO.

| | |
|----------|-----------|
| <u>C</u> | <u>24</u> |
|----------|-----------|

Town SWANSEA

Address 831 Locust Street

Historic Name Mason Farmstead

Use: Present Farm house

Original Farmstead

DESCRIPTION

Date 1822

Source Document Fall River Registry
of Deeds Bk. 26, pg. 243

Style Cape Cod Extended Farmhouse

Architect Unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric Wooden shingle

Outbuildings Barn and sheds

Major Alterations (with dates) Dormers on
E11 - 1950

Condition Stable state of preservation

Moved No Date

Acreage Over one acre

Setting Situated on a large parcel of
land in rural north Swansea.

Recorded by Kay Flynn/H. pierce '79

Organization Swansea Historical
Commission

Date April, 1986

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

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

The Olney Mason Farmstead is typical of the farms in southeastern Ma. that were built by middle - low income farmers. The 1½-story, 5-bay facade with central chimney and extended ells to facilitate farm life. The ell on this structure was originally a harness (tack)room, later altered.

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

This farm has never been out of the Mason family. Sampson Mason, a soldier under Cromwell, settled in the Rehoboth Swansea area in 1650. It appears that his son Benjamin settled on this land. In 1822 Olney Mason tore down the original house and built another using lumber from the old house.

Gideon Mason was the secretary of the committee to obtain substitutes for young men drafted to bear arms in the Civil War. The desk he used is still in the family. His wife Ruth Ann Luther was a tailor and during the Civil War worked in a factory in Warren R.I. making military uniforms. With money she earned the harness room in the ell was converted into a room of the house. When the dormers were added in 1950 the old harness pegs were discovered inside the walls.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Map of Swansea 1871

Fall River Registry of Deeds, Book 50, pg. 215

Book 26, pg. 243

Conversation with Mrs. Mabel Anderson 1979, co-owner

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

Form no.

5724

1. Town Swansea

Address 831 Locust Street

Name Mason House

Present use Farm house

Present owner Thomas Mason Estate

3. Description:

Date 1822

Source Document Fall River Registry of Deeds, Bk.26, p.243

Style 1½ story cape farmhouse

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Wooden shingle

Outbuildings (describe) Barn, sheds

Other features Ell on house was original harness room, later refinished.

Altered Dormers on ell Date 1950

Moved No Date

5. Lot size:

One acre or less Over one acre X

Approximate frontage 2070 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

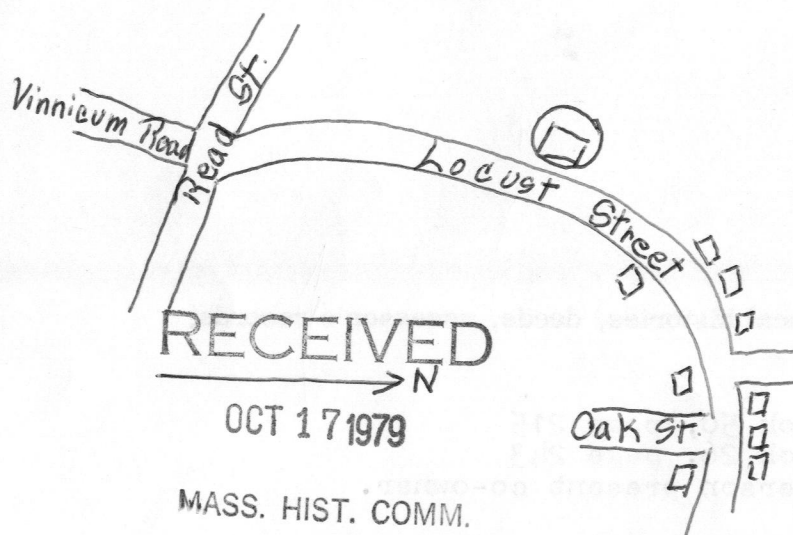
25 feet

6. Recorded by Helen Pierce

Organization Swansea Historical Soc.

Date September 16, 1979

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



(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Olney Mason

Original use Farm house

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Aboriginal | <u> </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>X</u> | | |
| Community development | <u> </u> | | | | |

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

This farm has never been out of the Mason family. Sampson Mason, a soldier under Cromwell, settled in the Rehoboth Swansea area in 1650. It appears that his son Benjamin settled on this land. In 1822 Olney Mason tore down the original house and built another using lumber from the old house.

Gideon Mason was the secretary of the committee to obtain substitutes for young men drafted to bear arms in the Civil War. The desk he used is still in the family. His wife Ruth Ann Luther was a tailor and during the Civil War worked in a factory in Warren R.I. making military uniforms. With money she earned the harness room in the ell was converted into a room of the house. When the dormers were added in 1950 the old harness pegs were discovered inside the walls.

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

Map of Swansea 1871

Fall River Registry of Deeds, Book 50, page 215
Book 26, page 243

Conversation with Mrs. Mabel Anderson present co-owner.