

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SWN.H
Historic Name:	Gardner Neck
Common Name:	
City/Town:	Swansea
Village/Neighborhood:	South Swansea; Gardner's Neck;
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	
Use(s):	Residential District;
Significance:	Architecture;
Designation(s):	
Building Materials:	
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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FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

Area Letter H Form numbers in this Area

<u>F</u>	<u>135-154</u>
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Town SWANSEA

Name of Area (if any) _____

Gardner NeckPresent Use Residential

General Date or Period _____

Historically - from pre history

Architecturally - late 19 early 20 c

General Condition Basically excellenthowever, is threatened with insensitive
remodelling as land is valuable.Acreage 1 mile long by 1/2 mile wideRecorded by Kay FlynnOrganization Swansea Historical Comm.Date May, 1986

Photos (3"x3" or 3"x5" black
& white) - Indicate on back
of each photo street addresses
for buildings shown. Staple to
left side of form.

Photo not possible.

Sketch Map. Draw a general map of the
area indicating properties within it.
Number each property for which individual
inventory forms have been completed.
Label streets including route numbers, if
any. Indicate north. (Attach a separate
sheet if space here is not sufficient).

See attached map of area.

UTM REFERENCE _____

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River, MA-R. I. 1967/79
SCALE _____

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

Gardner Neck/South Swansea area of Swansea meets criterias A and D of the Secretary of the Interior for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. This area retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The association is through the Gardner Family who have continued to live on the Neck through generations. Due to the location of the Neck, between the the Lee and Cole River and Mt. Hope Bay, the natural resources and past archeological findings make it a highly sensitive area for prehistory and history.

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

Architecturally Gardner Neck illustrates the development period from 1850-1930 (17 structures) of Shingle, Queen Anne, Bungalow and Colonial Revival. Most of them are conservative and yet ambitious for their time with quality detailing and original designs. These buildings were built for the more affluent of Swansea in a location where the water and water view was probable and the lots sizable.

There are three houses from the late 18th century which are examples of the type of architecture that was probably more prevalent on the Neck when the acreage was not divided up but was farm land. These are three remaining examples: David M. Anthony Farm at 1543 Gardner Neck Road; Samuel Gardner House at 1443 Gardner Neck Road; and J. Gardner House.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain historical importance of area and how the area relates to the development of other areas of the community.

Gardner Neck, South Swansea consisted of the earliest inhabited area of Swansea. It was occupied by the Wampanoags in the early 1620's when Governor Winslow and John Hampden visited Corbitant on Mattapoissett now Gardner Neck. The Bourne Garrison Site (1664), Old Gardner Neck and was destroyed by the King Phillip War (1675).

In 1693, Samuel Gardner and Ralph Chapman, both of Newport, purchased Mattapoissett or Gardner Neck. Cedar Cover was developed for the fishing and shipbuilding industry, however, the farming of the Neck was what lasted. This was the only fishing area of the town. Menhaden were commonly used for fertilizer. By the close of the War of 1812, menhaden oil had become a substitute for whale oil.

The Late Industrial Period (1870-1915) was the prime growth period for the Neck. Between 1880 and 1890 I. K. Morse and Sons and Brightman Fishworks capitalized on the area's Menhaden and other fish. In 1882 a railroad station and freight shed was established in South Swansea which opened up the agricultural and fish business to broader markets. It also brought summer residents. The "Colony", off Gardners Neck Road on Mattapoissett Avenue, is an example of the earliest development in Swansea, by David Anthony of Fall River (1896-1902). Con't.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

See Selected Bibliography and Resources attached to the Historical and Architectural Overview.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: SWANSEA	Form No: AREA ^{NH}
Property Name: GARDNER NECK	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE - Con't

The property bought by David M. Anthony of Fall River was on the southern tip of Gardner Neck in 1883. Until 1867 it had been in the Gardner family since 1693 when the first Samuel Gardner with Ralph Cahpman bought the Neck - then Mattapoissett - from the Brentons of Newport who inturn had purchased it from King Philip of the Wampanoag tribe of Indians.

Anthony built his summer home in 1896 and in that same year he sold four acres across from his farmhouse to Robert A. Wilcox and Eric Borden. They divided part of this parcel into eleven lots with a private road bisecting them from Gardner Neck Road east to Lee's River. At least nine persons purchased lots and seven built summer homes between 1896 and 1902. Five built on lots in the subdivision: Edward and Annie Marvel, he a Fall River architect, designed and lived in the house on Lot #4 in 1898. Richard S. Thompson - Lot #5; elvin B. Horton - Lot #6; Asa A. Mills - Lot #7; Abner P. Davol - Lot #9. Wilcox and Borden built on their property to the south of these losts. Each owner had certain rights in common: the right to use the private road, rights to use the beach and landing place; and to dwaw and use water form the two wells on lots #1 and #3. The hurricanes of 1938 and 1954 destroyed the houses on Lots 5 and 6.

In the last fifty years, year-round residences have been built on Lots 1 and 2 and another has been built which replaces the Wilcox house. Four of the original houses of "The Colony" remain but only two are still used as summer residences. The other two have been remodelled for year-round living.

Reference:

Plan of "The Colony" by Robert A. Wilxox and Eric Borden - 1901
Plan Book 3, page 19, Bristol County Registry of Deeds, Fall River

Deed:

D. M. Anthony to Robert A. Wilcox and Eric Borden - Book 31, pg. 287-1896.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

USGS - FALL RIVER, MA. - R.I.
1967-79

AREA F / Numbers
F135 - F154
SWANSEA

SWN. H

