

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	SWN.G
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Ocean Grove
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>City/Town:</b>	Swansea
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Ocean Grove; Gardner's Neck;
<b>Local No:</b>	
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	
<b>Use(s):</b>	Other Recreational; Residential District;
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Recreation;
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials:</b>	
<b>Demolished</b>	No



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

E	125-131
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Town SWANSEA

Name of Area (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Ocean Grove

Present Use Residential/Summer

General Date or Period \_\_\_\_\_

Early 20th Century

General Condition \_\_\_\_\_

Unstable - Remodelling insensitive

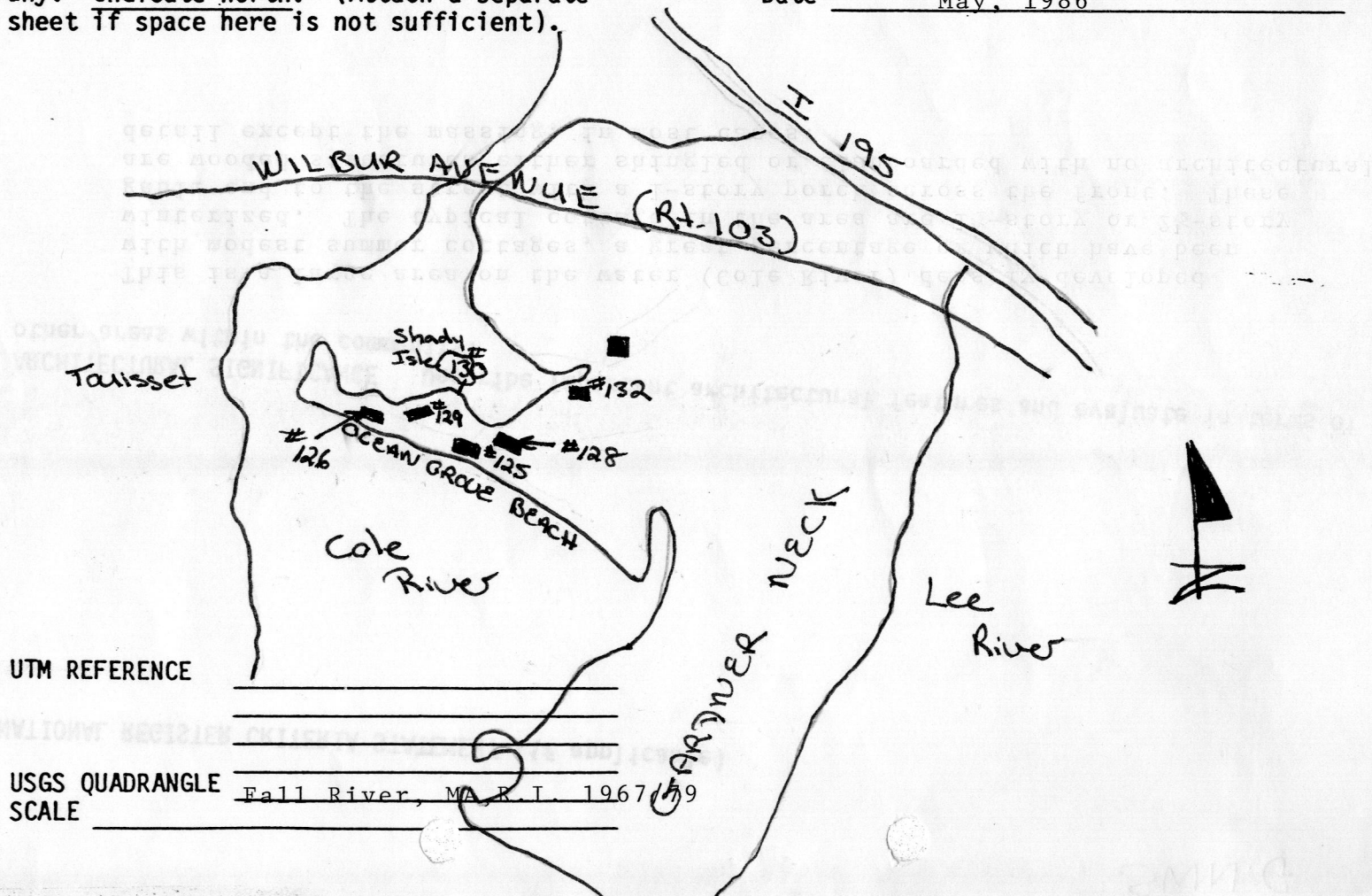
Acreage 3 square miles (aprox)

Recorded by Kay Flynn

Organization Swansea Historical Comm.

Date May, 1986

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).



# NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

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

This is a large area on the water (Cole River) densely developed with modest summer cottages, a great percentage of which have been winterized. The typical cottage in the area are 1½-story or 2½-story gable end to the street with a 1-story porch across the front. These are wooded structures either shingled or clapboarded with no architectural detail except the massing, in most cases.

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

Across the Cole River from Touisset and adjoining Gardner Neck on the west is the area developed as Ocean Grove in South Swansea.

During the Late Industrial Period (1870-1915) Swansea came into its own. A suburban and summer-home community developed close to the shoreline and commuter rail with the improved transportation. These areas included Gardners Neck, Touisset and Ocean Grove.

The Wilbur Land Company developed the Ocean Grove area only after a picnic grove was established in Ocean Grove by the street railway company. It was called Shady Isle and is still intact and functioning as a park. Shady Isle was fashionable and attracted city dwellers for day trips as did so many picnic groves during this period. The Wilbur Land Company, a real estate development company, was able to develop the land after its association with the picnic grove and street railway. Small house lots were sold and modest densely packed structures were built.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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