


# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	SWN.17	
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Luther Store	
<b>Common Name:</b>		
<b>Address:</b>	160 Old Warren Rd	
<b>City/Town:</b>	Swansea	
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Touisset;	
<b>Local No:</b>	27;	
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	C 1815	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal;	
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Luther, Mace;	
<b>Use(s):</b>	General Retail Store; Museum; Single Family Dwelling House;	
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Commerce;	
<b>Area(s):</b>	SWN.B	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register Individual Property (05/22/1978); Nat'l Register District (02/16/1990); Nat'l Register MRA (02/16/1990); Preservation Restriction (06/17/2002);	
<b>Building Materials:</b>	Roof: Wood Shingle; Wall: Brick Veneer;	
<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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FR  
6/26/02  
NRIND  
5/22/78

NRDIS  
NRMA > 2/16/90 NR  
USGS - FALL RIVER  
PL - TOWNSHIP

AREA	FORM NO.
B F	17

Town SWANSEA - SWANSEA CENTER  
Address southeast corner of  
Old Warren Road, Pearse Road  
Historic Name The Luther Store  
Use: Present Museum/Swansea  
Original Historical Society  
Store

DESCRIPTION

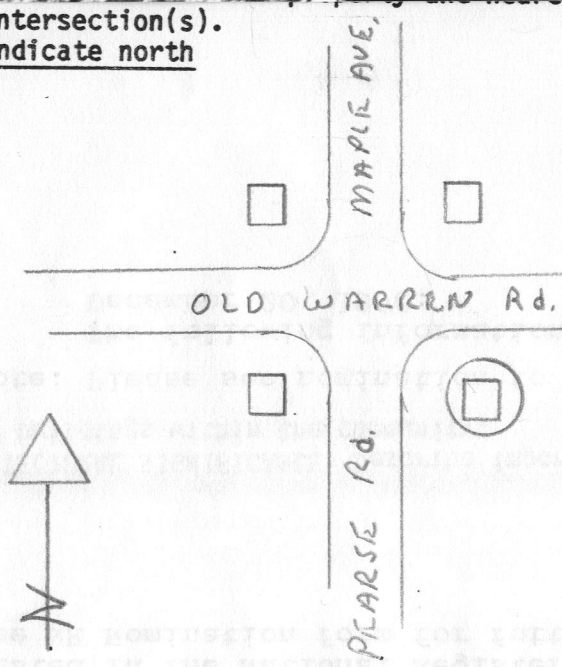
Date 1815 - 18  
Source Swansea Historical Society  
Style (Salt Box) Federal  
Architect \_\_\_\_\_  
Exterior Wall Fabric 4" Brick veneer  
over Wood  
Outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_

Major Alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_  
not substantially

Condition In basic stable condition-  
could always use maintenance but  
costly.  
Moved Away from road Date 1937  
to center of lot  
Acreage Less than one acre  
Setting Located in Swansea Center or  
Luther's Corner on main transporta-  
tion route - an ideal commercial  
node.

Recorded by Kay Flynn/M.S. Gendron '78  
Organization Swansea Historical  
Commission  
Date February, 1986

intersection(s).  
Indicate north



UTM REFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_  
USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River, MA., -R.I. AMS 6767  
N.W.-Series V 8 (1967/79)  
SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

Listed in The National Register of Historic Places on May 22, 1978.  
See NR Nomination form for further details.

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

Note: Please see nomination to N.R. form

The following information was on the original Form B written December 20, 1978:

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

The Luther Store was built by John Brown Luther in 1815 and was operated by the Luther family until its doors closed in 1903. The Luther family then offered the property to the Town of Swansea and in 1941 the Swansea Historical Society became responsible for the Store as a Swansea Museum.

The Store originally stood flush with the southeast corner at the crossroads of Luthers Corners and in order to eliminate a blind corner it was moved in 1937 under a WPA project about 50 feet east of its former location. Moving was a ticklish job as the building is built of wood, over which a 4' veneer brick is imposed, and there are three distinct sections to the building, two additions having been made at some time to the central structure.

The original fixture of the general store are in place; solid mahogany counters bins for groceries, drawers which still contain spices. There is an old bar under the staircase, the desk where Mr. Luther kept his accounts, numerous household items and some Indian artifacts found in Swansea. The back room hold farm implements, musical instruments and is used for special exhibits. A narrow staircase leads to the second floor and upstairs can be found undertaking supplies, shoe making and repair implements, a small library, pictures, furniture and hand woven spreads.

con't

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Swansea Tercentenary - 1667 - 1967, Tercentenary Brochure

The Swansea Stagecoach, Swansea Historical Society

Fall River Herald News, Friday, Sept, 24, 1937

The Luther Store, Swansea Historical Society brochure

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: SWANSEA SWANSEA-CENTER	Form No: <del>SW-86-1-30</del>
Property Name:	

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

con't.

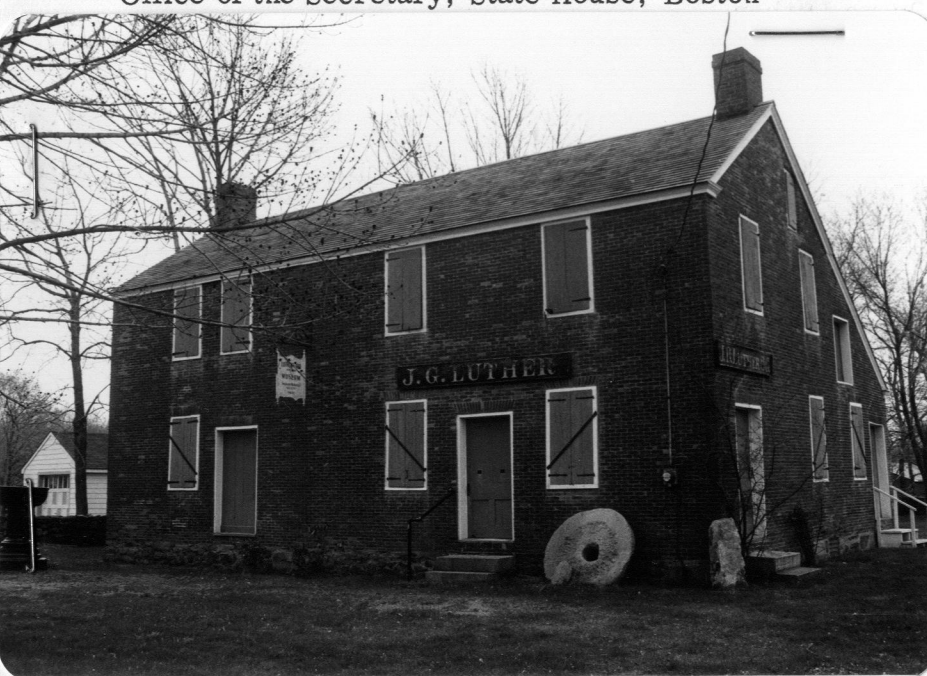
This area of Swansea was "Swansea Center" in early years and the Luther Store was the meeting place for the many local farmers, nearby ministers, seafarers and craftsmen. There were blacksmiths, a shoemaker and a cooper in the area and a large piggery. The focus of the town's affairs moved gradually to Swansea Village and Luthers Corners is now a quiet residential spot.

FORM B - BUILDING

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

NR

In Area no. B	Form no. 217
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own Swansea

Address Old Warren Road, cor. of  
Pearse Road

name The Luther Store

Present use Museum

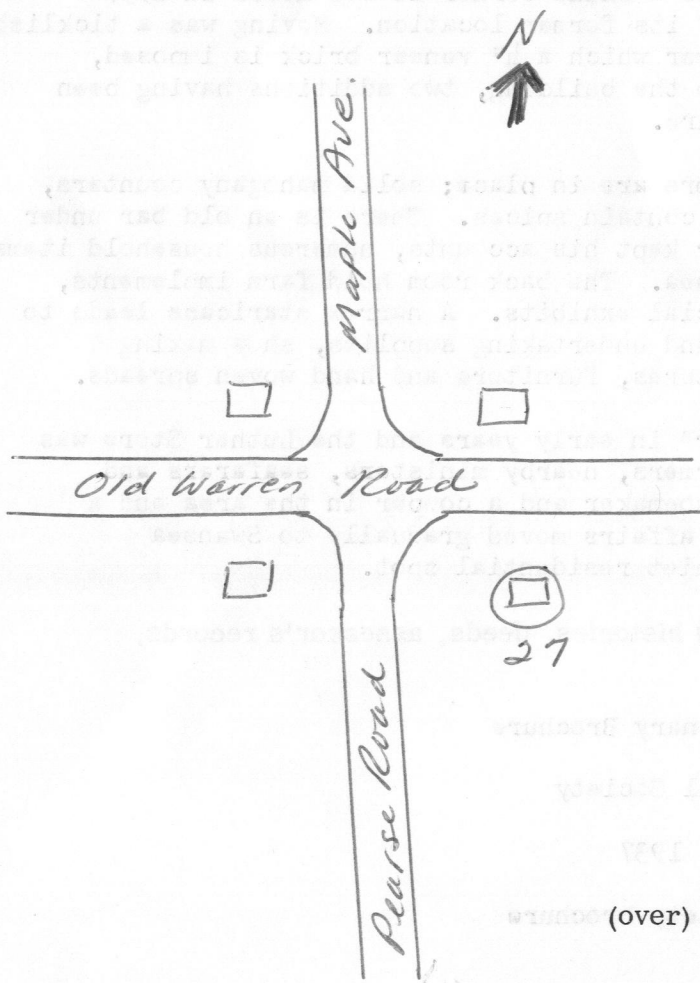
Present owner Swansea Historical Society

Description:  
Date 1815

Source Swansea Historical Society

Style Salt Box

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



Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior wall fabric Brick veneer

Outbuildings (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Other features Two-story building with  
addition to rear, 3 fireplaces- one down,  
two up. Chimneys on either end, shutters  
on all windows with iron bars & belts

Altered \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved Away from road to  
center of lot Date 1937

5. Lot size:  
One acre or less <sup>X</sup> Over one acre

Approximate frontage 102'

Approximate distance of building from street  
20 feet

6. Recorded by Martha S. Gendron

Organization Swansea Historical Society

Date Dec. 20, 1978

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) John Brown Luther  
 Original use General Store  
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Museum in 1941

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

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

Swansea Tercentenary- 1667-1967, Tercentenary Brochure

The Swansea Stagecoach, Swansea Historical Society

Fall River Herald News, Friday, Sept. 24, 1937

The Luther Store, Swansea Historical Society brochure

Original yellow form: Eligibility file  
 Copies: Inventory form ✓  
 Town file(w/corresp.)  
 Macris  
 NR director \_\_\_\_\_

Community: Swampscott

**MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER**

Date Received: 12 Aug 09

Date Due:

Date Reviewed: 26 Aug 09, 2 Sep 09

Type: ☒ Individual ☐ District (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name: Swampscott Cemetery/Andrews Chapel Inventory Form: SWA. 800 17

Address: Essex Street

Requested by: Louis Gallo for LHC

Action: ☐ Honor ☐ ITC ☐ Grant ☐ R & C  
 Other:

Agency: Staff in charge of Review:

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES**

**DISTRICTS**

☒ Eligible  
☐ Eligible, also in district  
☐ Eligible only in district  
☐ Ineligible  
☐ More information needed

☐ Eligible  
☐ Ineligible  
☐ More information needed

**CRITERIA:** ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

**LEVEL:** ☒ Local ☐ State ☐ National

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** by Phil Bergen

65-acre town cemetery allegedly used in 18<sup>th</sup> century (part of Lynn). Only town cemetery in Swampscott. 1923 Gothic Andrews Memorial Chapel. Variety of monuments, gates, burial sites.

Questions: are there any actual 18<sup>th</sup> century tablets? Modern burials only confined to new section of cemetery or scattered? Interior photos of chapel? Were there land additions to cemetery, or was this intact from beginning? Carver identification? Current photos made larger, original prints?

More information needed.

9.2.09 MSt site visit... Cemetery is eligible, only on the older (western) side. Questions remain about landscape architect, development of land and road pattern, addition of land (if possible), carvers, alleged 18<sup>th</sup> century stones, and location of earlier Swampscott burials