


Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SWN.18	
Historic Name:	Eddy, Seth Wilbur House and Store	
Common Name:		
Address:	174 Old Warren Rd	
City/Town:	Swansea	
Village/Neighborhood:	Touisset;	
Local No:	25;	
Year Constructed:	1871	
Architectural Style(s):	No style;	
Use(s):	General Retail Store; Other Educational; Other Social; Post Office; Single Family Dwelling House;	
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce; Politics Government;	
Area(s):	SWN.B	
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register District (02/16/1990); Nat'l Register MRA (02/16/1990);	
Building Materials:	Roof: Asphalt Shingle; Wall: Vinyl Siding;	
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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NRDIS
NRMA > 2/16/90
USGS-Fall R.

PL-TOUSET

AREA

FORM NO.

B/E 18

26
INC

Town SWANSEA - SWANSEA CENTER

Address 74 Old Warren Road

Historic Name Seth Wilbur Eddy House
and Store

Use: Present Residence

Original Residence-Store - Post
Office (1889)

DESCRIPTION

Date 1871

Source Swansea Tercentenary Brochure

Style Vernacular

Architect Vinyl

Exterior Wall Fabric Vinyl

Outbuildings

Major Alterations (with dates) Addition

East (1888) Addition Post Office (1889)

Condition Interior inspection to see if

any original fabric remains. Exterior
vinyl sided and in fair condition.

Moved No Date

Acres Less than one acre

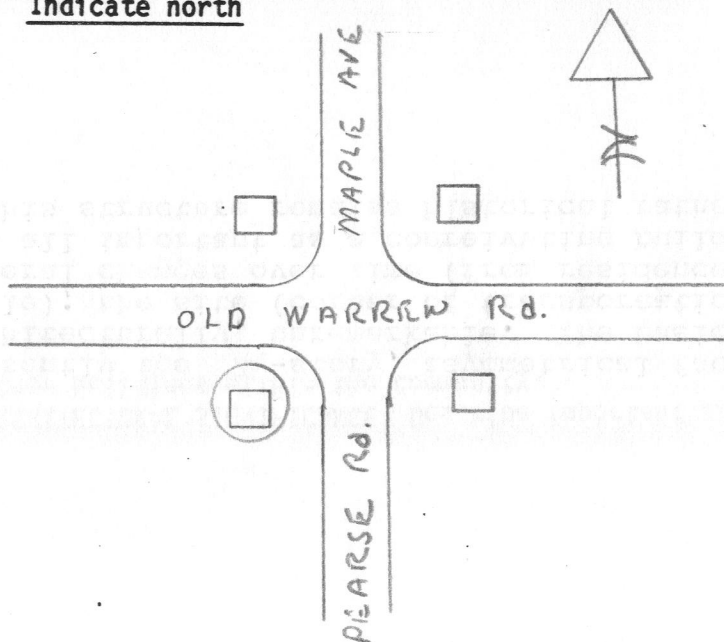
Setting Situated on the corner of two
early transportation routes, with
little setback, in historically
commercial Swansea Center.

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

Organization Swansea Historical
Commission

Date February, 1986

Indicate north



UTM REFERENCE

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River, MA., -R.I.

AMS 6767 11 NW-Series V9(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.

Presently the 2½-story, asymmetrical facade and structure as a whole are, architecturally, unremarkable. The basic massing (vernacular mixed-use in human-scale); the site (corner of transportation routes in Swansea Center); and the general changes over time (from residence, store and Post Office back to residence) are all important as a contributing building to this area. However, the importance of this structure remains historical rather than architectural.

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

The Eddy family, with which 174 Old Warren Road is connected, is an important family in the political and economic development of southeastern MA. and Seth Wilbur Eddy, particularly in Swansea- Samuel Eddy, born in 1608, came from London in 1630 and was one of the original purchasers of Middleborough, Ma. as well as other land. His descendants continued to own land and live in southeastern Ma. Seth Wilbur Eddy is the VIII generation, born in 1836 in Swansea, MA. The Swansea Tercentenary states that in 1871 Seth Wilbur Eddy built a combination residence and store on land purchased from Andrew Borden on the southwest corner of Luthers Corner where Henry Luther had made shoes. Seth's son, John Baker Eddy, besides helping with the store, repaired watches and clocks in an el of the store and was agent for Briggs & Jewitt Pianos. He was also in charge of the box of library books sent each week from the Swansea Free Public Library. Patrons came there to exchange books. Seth's store stocked groceries and provisions and also had a grain room. In the main room were the pot-bellied iron stove and spittoon around which neighbors gathered to swap news and tales of land and sea. Among the articles that could be purchased were nails, saw-horses, and tools; horsewhips, halters, and blankets; clam baskets, clam hoes, and ruvver boots; hay hats, scythes, baskets, rat traps, mouse traps, brooms and rope. In 1889 a newspaper column congratulated the people living in this vicinity on the fact there would be a post office established in the area soon to fill the need of an "intelligent, reading community," that the post office would preside over its

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Maps of Swansea dated 1850, 1871, and 1895; Swansea Library, Main Street
Registry of Deeds, Fall River, Ma.
Fall River Herald News, Jan. 1899
Swansea Tercentenary brochure, 1667-1967, pg. 42 & 43 (photo)
O.O. Wright, History of Swansea, Swansea, MA., 1917. pgs. 156-57

SWN.18

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: SWANSEA	Form No: SW-86-1-27
Property Name:	

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

cont'd Historical Significance

affairs. Seth was postmaster from Feb. 1, 1889 to August 31, 1907 when the Post Office was discontinued.

Seth operated his store for 40 years and, following his death in 1916, the store was dismantled and the building converted to a residence.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

FORM B - BUILDING

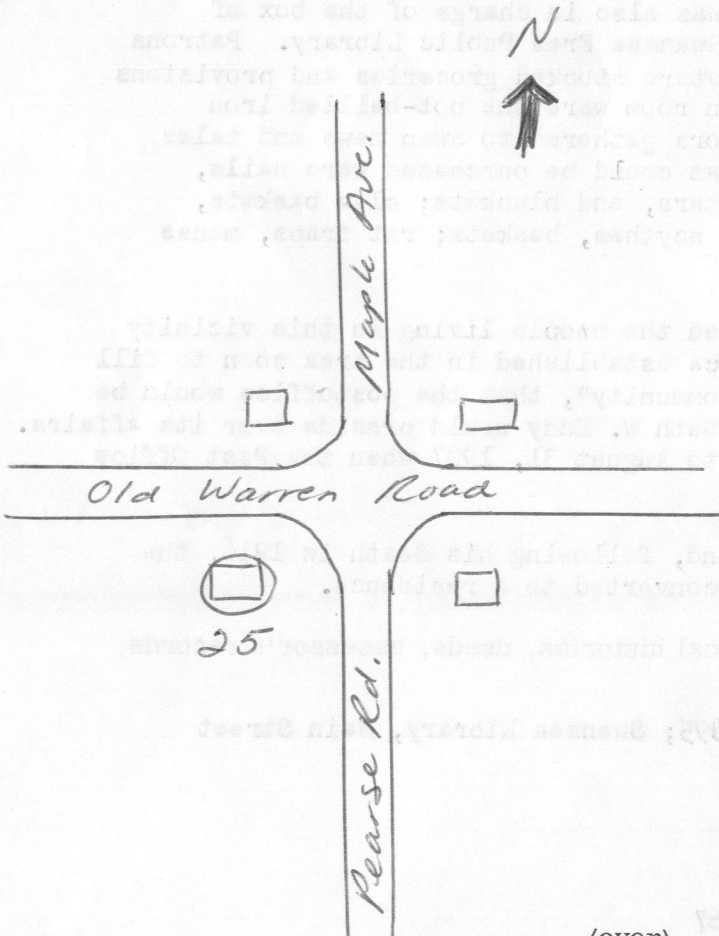
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no. B	Form no. 18 25
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Town Swansea
Address 174 Old Warren Road
Name _____
Present use Residence
Present owner George Dumont
Description:
Date 1871
Source Swansea Tercentenary Brochure
1667-1967
Style Colonial

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



Architect _____
Exterior wall fabric clapboard siding
Outbuildings (describe) _____
Other features 2 story gable with small brick central chimney, asymmetrical facade.
Front porch, front addition, two-stall garage, addition to rear
Addition East end 1888
Altered Addition Post Office 1889
Date _____
Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:
One acre or less X Over one acre _____
Approximate frontage 184'
Approximate distance of building from street
6 feet

6. Recorded by Martha S. Gendron
Organization Swansea Historical Society
Date Dec. 20, 1978

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Seth Wilbur Eddy

Original use Residence & Store

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Post Office in 1889

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

In 1871 Seth Wilbur Eddy built a combination residence and store on land purchased from Andrew Borden on the southwest corner of Luthers Corner where Henry Luther had made shoes. Seth's son, John Baker Eddy, besides helping with the Store, repaired watches & clocks in an el of the store and was agent for Briggs & Jewitt Pianos. He was also in charge of the box of library books sent each week from the Swansea Free Public Library. Patrons came there to exchange books. Seth's store stocked groceries and provisions and also had a grain room. In the main room were the pot-bellied iron stove and spittoon around which neighbors gathered to swap news and tales of land & sea. Among the articles that could be purchased were nails, saw-horses, and tools; horsewhips, halters, and blankets; clam baskets, clam hoes, and rubber boots; hay hats, scythes, baskets; rat traps, mouse traps, brooms, and rope.

In 1889 a newspaper column congratulated the people living in this vicinity on the fact there would be a post office established in the area soon to fill the need of an "intelligent, reading community", that the postoffice would be christened "Swansea Center", and that Seth W. Eddy would preside over its affairs. Seth was postmaster from Feb. 1, 1889 to August 31, 1907 when the Post Office was discontinued.

Seth operated his store for 40 years and, following his death in 1916, the store was dismantled and the building converted to a residence.

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

Maps of Swansea dated 1850, 1871 and 1895; Swansea Library, Main Street

Registry of Deeds, Fall River, Ma.

Fall River Herald News, Jan. 1899

Swansea Tercentenary brochure, 1667-1967