

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SWN.21
Historic Name:	Luther, John Brown House
Common Name:	
Address:	2 Maple Ave
City/Town:	Swansea
Village/Neighborhood:	Touisset;
Local No:	55;
Year Constructed:	C 1811
Architectural Style(s):	Federal;
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House;
Significance:	Architecture;
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: Wood Shingle;
Demolished	No



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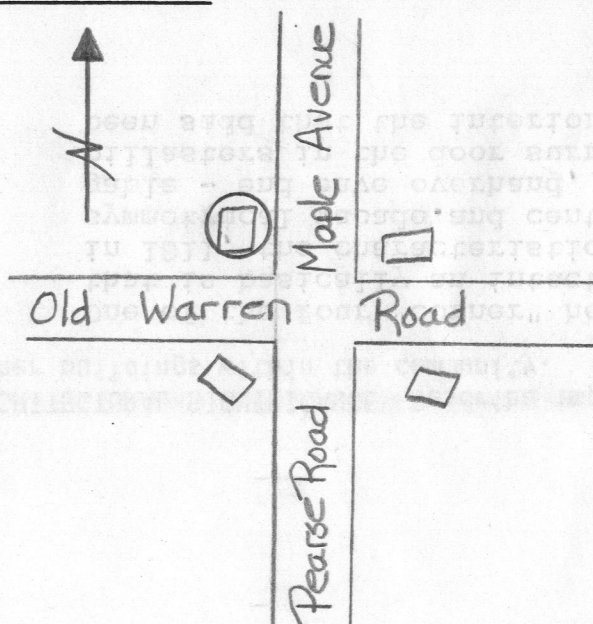
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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Monday, June 27, 2022 at 7:59 PM



intersection(s).
Indicate north



UTM REFERENCE _____

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

SCALE _____

NRMPA
NR.DIS > 2/16/90 NR

PL-TOUIS.
USGS-FALL
River

AREA

FORM NO.

BH 21

3C

Town SWANSEA - SWANSEA CENTER

Address 2 Maple Avenue

Historic Name John Brown Luther House

Use: Present Residence

Original Residence

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1811

Source Luther Genealogy, Swansea Library

Style Federal Colonial

Architect _____

Exterior Wall Fabric wood shingles

Outbuildings modern large garage

Major Alterations (with dates) Unknown

Condition Unstable state of preservation

Moved No Date _____

Acreage Less than one acre

Setting Situated with no setback on the corner of old transportation routes overgrown and heavily fenced.

Recorded by Kay Flynn/ R.M. Doodson '78

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date March, 1986

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

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

One of the four "corner" houses in Swansea Center or Luther's Corner that is basically an intact example of a Federal Colonial. Built in 1811, the characteristic features include the $2\frac{1}{2}$ - story, 5 - bay symmetrical facade and central chimney. The outstanding details are the gable - end eave overhang, the semi-circular fanlight with decorative pilasters in the door surround, and the splayed window lintels. It has been said that the interior contains six fireplaces.

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

Luther's Corner or Swansea Center was the 19th century focal point of the community. Important transportation routes between R.I. and North Swansea and Mt. Hope Bay and Fall River passed through this center. John Brown Luther is the first known owner of this structure and owned it for five years before his death and Joseph G. Luther succeeded him. Joseph G. Luther was a successful merchant and owned the store that was built diagonally across from his home. He was also prominent in town affairs and served as town clerk, treasurer and tax collector. He was well thought of in the community. There are over 30 Luthers listed in the 1790 census as "Heads of Families in Swansea."

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Luther Genealogy, Swansea Public Library
History of Swansea, O.O. Wright, 1917
 Swansea Town Hall, Assessor's Records
 Swansea Tercentenary, 1667 - 1967
 Swansea Stagecoach published by Swansea Historical Society
 The Luther Family in America (descendants of Captain J. Luther)
 Leslie L. Luther - Moravia, New York. 1976

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

BB

Form no.

21



City Swansea

Address Maple Avenue

Phone

Present use Residence

Present owner John J. & Dorothy Andrus

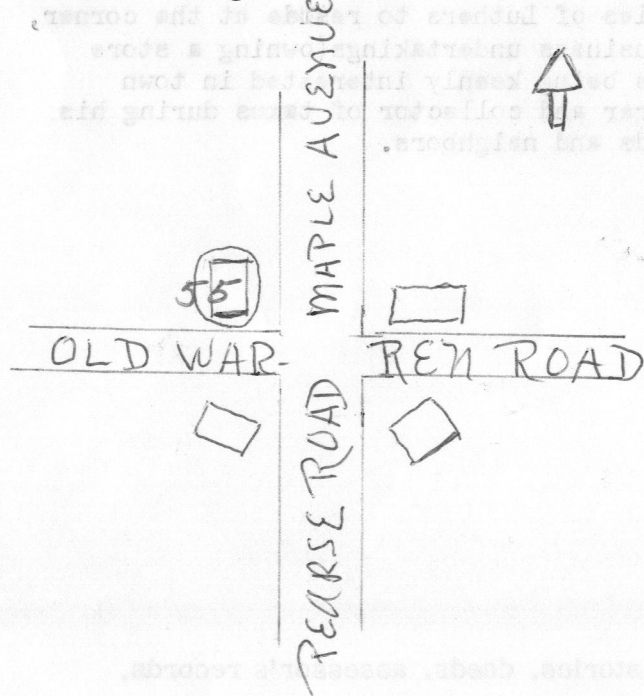
Description:

Year 1811 circa

Source Luther Genealogy, Swansea Library

Structure 2 1/2 Story Farmhouse (colonial)

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



Architect unknown
Exterior wall fabric presently wood shingles
wood clapboard (orig.)

Outbuildings (describe) large garage

Other features 2 1/2 story gable; central chimney with interior fireplaces; 2 story wing in rear; New England stone wall & stockade fence around property

Altered Date

Moved Date

5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre

Approximate frontage 110.5'

Approximate distance of building from street

8 feet

6. Recorded by Ruth M. Doodson

Organization Swansea Historical Society

Date December 20, 1978

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) John Brown Luther, owner for five years, until death;
Joseph G. Luther, his successor

Original use Home

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

A lovely two and a half story colonial farmhouse - small paned windows - central chimney with six fireplaces.

The home sits on a corner of Luther's Corners, Swansea Centre., the place that made "the town tick" during the nineteenth century. The home is surrounded on two sides by a stockade fence, on two sides by a New England stone wall.

Joseph G. Luther, one of the first families of Luthers to reside at the corner, was a merchant, very successful in his business undertakings (owning a store diagonally across the street), as well as being keenly interested in town affairs, serving as a town clerk, treasurer and collector of taxes during his life time. A gentleman revered by friends and neighbors.

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

Luther Geneology, Swansea Public Library
History of Swansea - O.O. Wright, 1917
Swansea Town Hall, Assessor's Records
Swansea Tercentenary, 1667-1967
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Leslie L. Luther - Moravia, New York. 1976



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2. Town Swansea

Street address 2 Maple

Name Luther, Jos. G

Easterbrook, Caleb

Original use _____

Present use _____

Present owner Reilly Grimaldi

Open to public _____

Date c. 1811 Style _____

Source of date SHS sign

Architect _____

eriorated Moved Altered Added _____

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: rubble-

WALL COVER: Wood clapboard Brick Stone Other _____

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard _____

Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork _____

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Interior Irregular Cluster Elaborate

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed _____

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 _____ PORTICO _____ Balcony

FACADE: Gable end: Front/Side Ornament: _____

Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details: Pediment - pilasters

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied _____

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

5. Indicate location of structure in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings

6. Footage of structure from street 10' each side
Property has _____ feet frontage on street

Recorder _____

For _____

Photo 691820 Date _____

SEE REVERSE SIDE

RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

1. Outbuildings

2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal

Predominant features

Landscape architect

3. Neighboring Structures

Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.

Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern

Use: Residential Commercial Religious

Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner:

Deed Information:	Book Number	Page	Registry of Deeds