

PH0660523

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATA SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED

JAN 17 1978

DATE ENTERED

MAY 22 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Luther Store

AND/OR COMMON

same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

160 Old Warren Road

CITY, TOWN

Swansea

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

10th Massachusetts

COUNTY

Bristol

CODE

005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☒ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Swansea Historical Society, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 67

CITY, TOWN

Swansea

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 02777

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bristol County Registry of Deeds, Fall River District

STREET & NUMBER

441 North Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Fall River

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1935, 1969

☒ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress, Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.; Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☒ MOVED DATE 1937

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Luther Store is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Old Warren Road and Maple Avenue in the Luthers' Corner neighborhood of the southeastern Massachusetts town of Swansea. This principally residential neighborhood was once the center of community activity.

The two story brick veneer on plank "saltbox" faces north across Old Warren Road. Built in 1815, it has two interior end chimneys; the roof is wood shingled. Fenestration is irregularly placed, set in jack arch openings and framed by simple plank blinds. The plain moulded cornice sits just above the window openings of the second floor on the facade and has open returns on the gable ends.

The facade is four unequal bays wide. The store is located in the western end of the structure. The orientation of the facade reflects the separation of the store and the second story spaces. The western end of the facade has the store entrance flanked by two windows. Above the windows, on the second floor are two windows. The eastern end of the facade has a window and doorway; above these openings are two windows on the second floor. The end and rear elevations have irregularly spaced windows. There are doorways on either end of the first floor of the western elevation. Above the entrance to the store and on the western elevation are the original store signs.

The interior is finished in simple white plaster and the store retains its original three foot deep by twenty-five foot long mahogany counter. Some early merchandise is on display.

A small shed to the rear has been removed, and the roof was resingled in 1975.

The store was moved back thirty-five feet on its lot when Old Warren Road was widened as a WPA project in 1937.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1815

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Mace Luther

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Luther Store is significant for the excellent preservation of its architectural character, for its association with the Luther family and as a center of community activity in the 19th century.

The store was built in 1815 for John Brown Luther by his journey man cousin, Mace Luther. The store continued to be operated by members of the Luther family until 1925. In 1935 it was deeded to the town by heirs of the Luther family and since 1941 has been operated by the Swansea Historical Society. Marion Reilly, the founder and first president of that organization, is a tenth generation descendant of Captain John Luther, one of the original settlers.

Luthers have occupied these four corners since 1747. When John Luther opened his store, he lived on the corner opposite it. Another Luther ran a tavern on another corner, and Henry Luther had a shoemaking shop on the last corner.

Members of the Luther family associated with the store held many local political positions including town clerk, treasurer, collector of taxes and justice of the peace.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Records and Collections of the Swansea Historical Society
Collections of the Rhode Island Historical Society
Beers; John N., Representative Men and Families of Southeastern Massachusetts,
Chicago: 1912.
Wright; Olney, History of Swansea, Massachusetts, Swansea:1917.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/3 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 315100 4623620
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joseph R. Orfant, National Register Editor & Ferdinand J. Lougeway

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Massachusetts Historical Commission

December 22, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

294 Washington Street

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boston

Massachusetts

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ☐

STATE ☐

LOCAL ☒

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elizabeth Reed Amadon

TITLE Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE 1/10/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Walter Cole
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

5-22-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4-26-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Luther Store
Swansea, MA.

from Swansea Assesors Map
not to scale

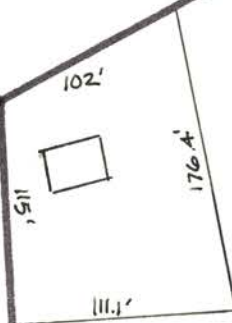
U.S. Route 6



Maple Avenue

Old Warren Road

Pearse Road



6767 IV SE
(EAST PROVIDENCE)

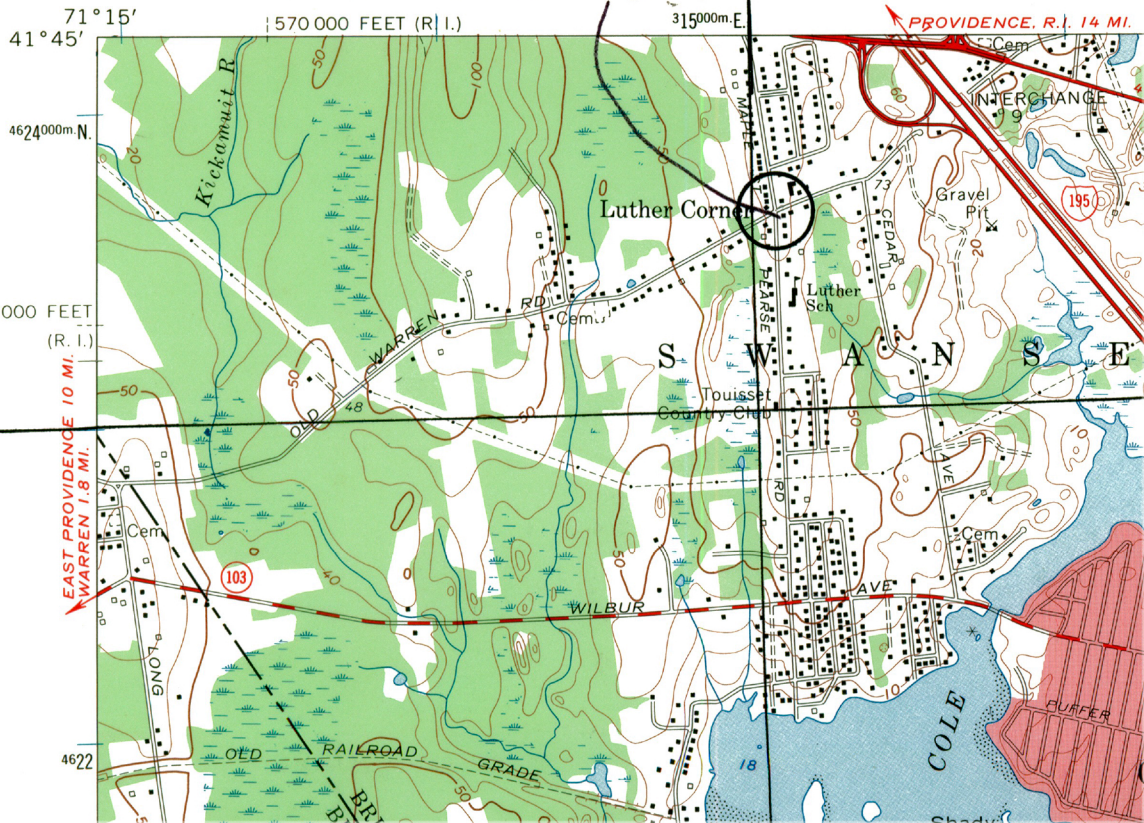
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SWANSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Luther Store
Swansea, MA.

UTM Reference:

19/315100/4623620





1. Looking northeast towards the facade and west elevation of the Luther Store. (Photo: Albert Deston, 1977)