

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	SWN.60
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Northam, Capt. Joseph House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	27 Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Swansea
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Gardner's Neck;
<b>Local No:</b>	35;
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	C 1794
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Georgian;
<b>Use(s):</b>	Single Family Dwelling House;
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture;
<b>Area(s):</b>	SWN.D
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (02/16/1990); Nat'l Register MRA (02/16/1990);
<b>Building Materials:</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle; Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood Shingle;
<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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PL-6ARD  
USGS-FALL

NR mPA  
NR DIS > 2/16/90

AREA	FORM NO.
DE	60

1C

Town SWANSEA

Address 27 Main Street

Historic Name Northam House

Use: Present Rental Property

Original Residence

DESCRIPTION

Date c. 1794

Source Fall River Registry of Deeds

Style Georgian Colonial

Architect Unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric Clapboard & shingle

Outbuildings 1 shed

Major Alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

Portico added

Condition \_\_\_\_\_

Moved No Date \_\_\_\_\_

Acreage Less than one acre

Setting Prominate to street, on small

parcel of land, one of 4 homes,

clustered together and still

owned by Christ Church.

Recorded by Kim Valente/H. Pierce '78

Organization Swansea Historical  
Commission

Date March, 1986



Location  
ings



MAIN ST.

Elm ST.

UTM REFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River, MA., R.I. 1967

SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

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

Simple Georgian half-house with off-set chimney to right. Added ell to back. This home features details of fluted pilasters at door, surrounded by a pedimented portico with supporting columnettes. All windows are 6 over 6 lights.

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

This was the home built for Captain Joseph Northam who settled in Swansea Village after the Revolutionary War when trade once more became profitable. His was one of several on the street built at that time. It was occupied by family members until 1916.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Fall River Registry of Deeds, Book 14, pg. 152, October 6, 1792.  
(Sale of land without house.)

Fall River Registry of Deeds, Book 14, pg. 308, October 10, 1794.  
(Sale of same tract of land with dwelling house.)

History of Swansea, O.O. Wright, 1917, page 217.



FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

C.

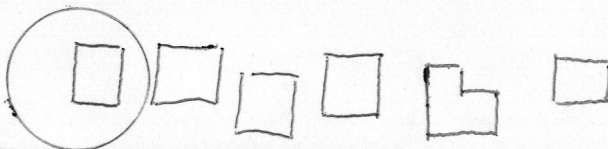
Form no.

3560

2.



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



Main St.

Stevens Rd.

Elm St.



1. Town Swansea, Mass.

Address 27 Main St.

Name Northam House

Present use Rental Property

Present owner Christ Church

3. Description:

Date c. 1794

Source Fall River Registry of Deeds

Style 2 story Box Colonial

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard & Shingles

Outbuildings (describe) 1 Shed

Other features Half-house Chimney

Altered Portico added Date c. 1948

Moved No Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

One acre or less X Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 50 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

10 feet

6. Recorded by Helen Pierce

Organization Swansea Historical Soc.

Date 6/5/78

RECEIVED

MAR 28 1979

MASS. HIST. COMM.

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Captain Joseph Northam

Original use Residence

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	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	<u>X</u>	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

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

This was the home built for Captain Joseph Northam who settled in Swansea Village after the Revolutionary War when trade once more became profitable. His was one of several on the street built at that time. It was occupied by family members until 1916.

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

Fall River Registry of Deeds, Book 14, page 152, October 6, 1792.  
(Sale of land without house.)

Fall River Registry of Deeds, Book 14, page 308, October 10, 1794.  
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History of Swansea, Otis Olney Wright, 1917, page 217.