

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	SWN.68
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Christ Church
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Swansea
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Gardner's Neck;
<b>Local No:</b>	36;
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1900
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Gothic Revival;
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Vaughan, Henry;
<b>Use(s):</b>	Business Office; Church; Other Educational;
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Religion;
<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>	Wall: Ashlar Random Laid; Granite;
<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)

This file was accessed on: Monday, June 27, 2022 at 7:57 PM

PL-GARD  
USGS - FALL

NRMA  
NRDIS > 2116190 NR

AREA FORM NO.  
D, E 68

1C  
1NC

Town SWANSEA

Address Main Street

Historic Name Christ Church

Use: Present Church Services

Original Church Services

DESCRIPTION

Date 1900

Source Records of Christ Church

Style Vernacular Gothic

Architect Henry Vaughn

Exterior Wall Fabric Granite

Outbuildings None

Major Alterations (with dates) Series of

small stained glass windows added  
in 1966 - 1977

Condition

Moved No Date

Acres Less than one acre

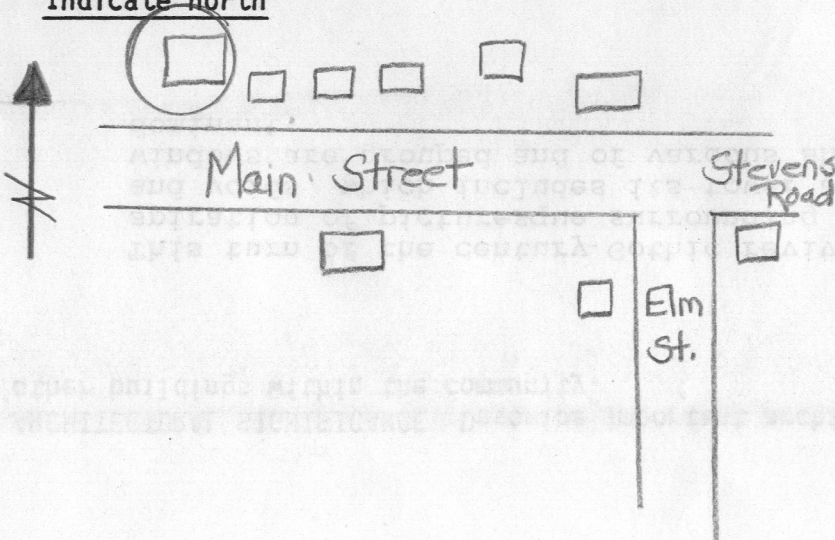
Setting Christ Church sits far enough

back from the street to make its mass  
not seem overpowering to the other  
buildings located to its east. With  
a lush front and side lawn, and  
flanked by trees on its east, Christ  
Church is pleasant to the passer - by  
Recorded by Kim Valente/ H. Pierce '78

Organization Swansea Historical

Commission  
Date March, 1986

intersection(s).  
Indicate north



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.

This turn of the century Gothic revival Church echoes its medieval inspiration of picturesque surrounding landscape, irregularity of form and voids, which includes its tower as a focal point. The pointed arch windows are grouped and of various shapes, and door opening heavy and dominant.

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

Henry Baughn of Boston, an architect distinguished in the field of ecclesiastical design, produced this gem called Modified Gothic. Born and educated in England he came to America in 1881. In addition to other well known projects he was architect of the National Cathedral in Washington for one year in collaboration with Bodley and Garner and subsequently completely in charge until his death in 1917.

The carving is presumed to have been done by I. Kirchmayer a wood carver from Oberammagau and an associate of Henry Vaughn.

Mr. Vaughn was a friend of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shaw Stevens donors of the building.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

The Vestry Book of the Clerk of Christ Church Parish.  
Christ Church Harvester, September 11, 1971. Article by the Reverend Allen W. Joslin with the collaboration of William Morgan then at Princeton writing a theses on Henry Vaughn.

FORM B - BUILDING

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

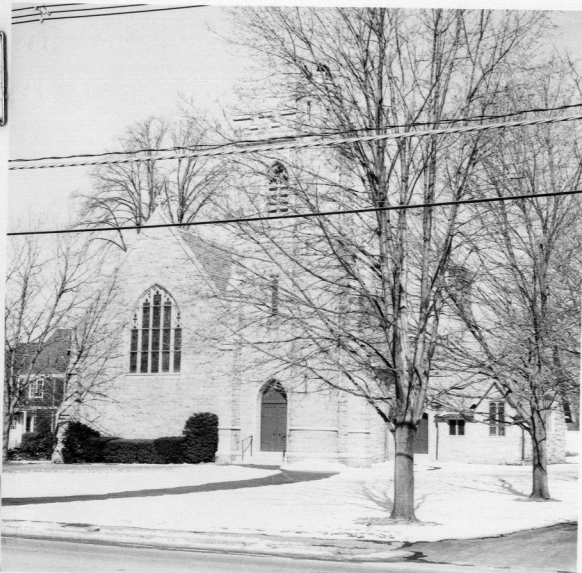
In Area no.

C.

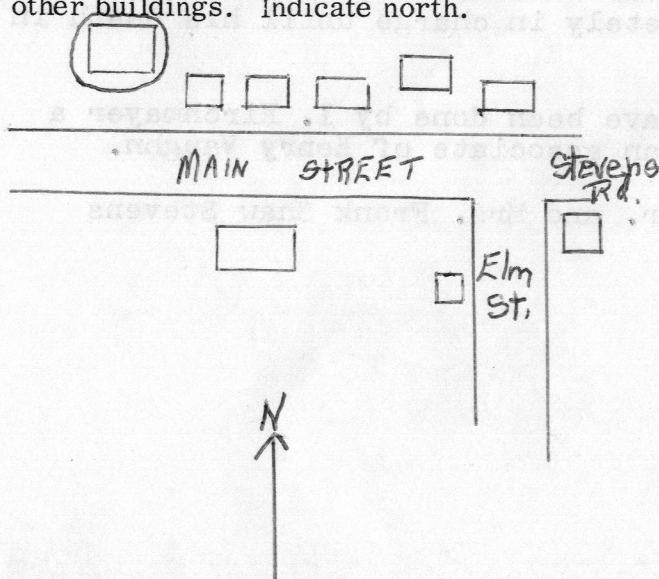
Form no.

3668

2.



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



RECEIVED

MAR 28 1979

MASS. HIST. COMM.

1. Town Swansea, Massachusetts

Address Main Street

Name Christ Church

Present use Church Services

Present owner Christ Church Parish

3. Description:

Date 1900

Source Records of Christ Church

Style English Gothic

Architect Henry Vaughn

Exterior wall fabric Granite

Outbuildings (describe) None

Other features Norman Tower, large stained glass windows by Kemp of England

Altered \* see below Date 1966

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

One acre or less ☒ Over one acre ☐

Approximate frontage 155 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

100 feet

6. Recorded by Helen Pierce

Organization Swansea Historical Soc.

Date July 12, 1978

(over)

\* Series of small stained glass windows added in 1966-1977

7. Original owner (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Original use \_\_\_\_\_

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

Henry Vaughn of Boston, an architect distinguished in the field of ecclesiastical design, produced this gem called Modified Gothic. Born and educated in England he came to America in 1881. In addition to other well known projects he was architect of the National Cathedral in Washington for one year in collaboration with Bodley and Garner and subsequently completely in charge until his death in 1917.

The carving is presumed to have been done by I. Kirchmayer a wood carver from Oberammagau and an associate of Henry Vaughn.

Mr. Vaughn was a friend of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shaw Stevens donors of the building.

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

The Vestry Book of the Clerk of Christ Church Parish.  
Christ Church Harvester, September 11, 1971. Article by the Reverend Allen W. Joslin with the collaboration of William Morgan then at Princeton writing a thesis on Henry Vaughn.