

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	SWN.67
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Swansea Town Hall
<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>	39;
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	C 1891
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Romanesque Revival;
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Brown, J. Merrill;
<b>Use(s):</b>	Library; Other Social; Town Hall;
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Education; Politics Government; Social History;
<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: Slate; Wall: Brown Stone; Cobblestone; Stone, Uncut;
<b>Demolished</b>	No



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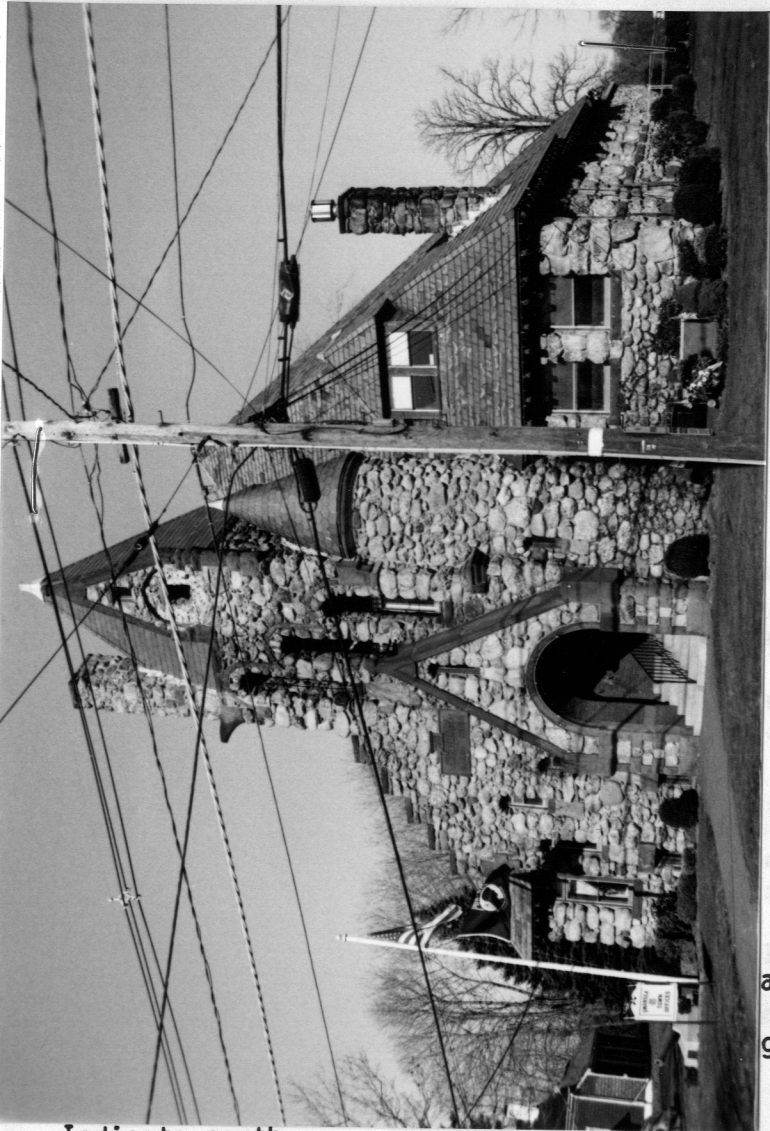
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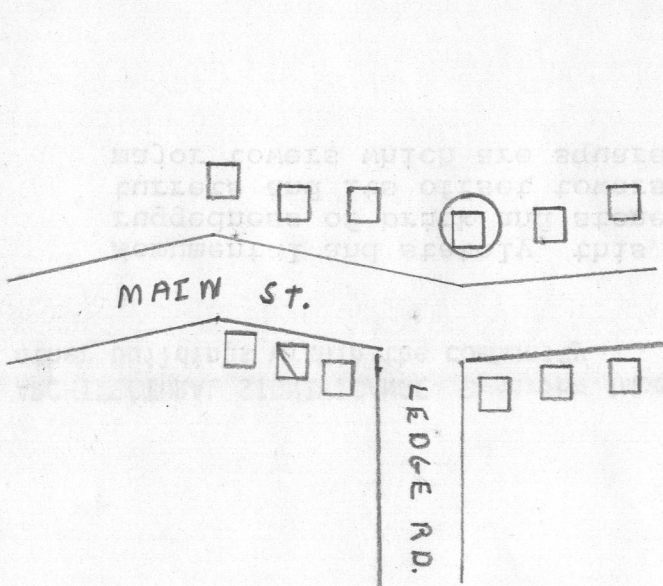
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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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



Indicate north



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

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River, MA-R 1967-79

SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

PL-GARD

USGS-FALL

NRDIS  
NRMPA > 2/10/90 NR

AREA

FORM NO.

D# 67

1c

Town SWANSEA

Address Main Street

Historic Name Town Hall

Use: Present Town Offices

Original Town Library - Selectman's Office

# DESCRIPTION

Date Dedicated 1891

Source Deed of Gift

Style Romanesque

Architect G. Merrill Brown, Boston

Exterior Wall Fabric Filed Stone with long meadow brown stone trimmings

Outbuildings None

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

Interior only

Condition \_\_\_\_\_

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

Acreage Less than one acre

This extensive stone structure sits asqued to the major view of the towns center with the town Library east and a large open green to its west. It sits back from the road with a small (about 120 feet) green surrounding it as well. Very pleasant and inviting.

Recorded by Kim Valente/H. Pierce '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.

Momumental and stately, this style depends on its heaviness, solidity and ruggedness of brick and stone masonry, massive low arches and imaginative turrets and its offset towers. The roof, being cross gabled, houses two major towers which are squared off with the front one housing a clock face.

**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 community gathering place until the large hall was partitioned for town offices in 1952. It was presented to the town by the Hon. Frank S. Stevens. The Library 23 x 18 feet was used until 1900 when the Public Library building was erected. The Hall 40 x 50 feet had a stage beyond 10 x 34 feet. This area was used for town meetings and social assemblies until 1952.

Not only was the Town Hall used for official town business, but this paragraph from the Deed of Conveyance, suggests another use.

"And that any Christian denomination desiring the use of said Town Hall for funeral services shall be allowed to use the same, subject to such equal and reasonable regulations as the Selectmen of said Town may prescribe."

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Dedication of the Town Hall, Swansea, Mass. On Wednesday, September 9, 1891 printed at Fall River, Mass. by Almy & Milne, 1892.  
Record of the Town Clerk

FORM B - BUILDING

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

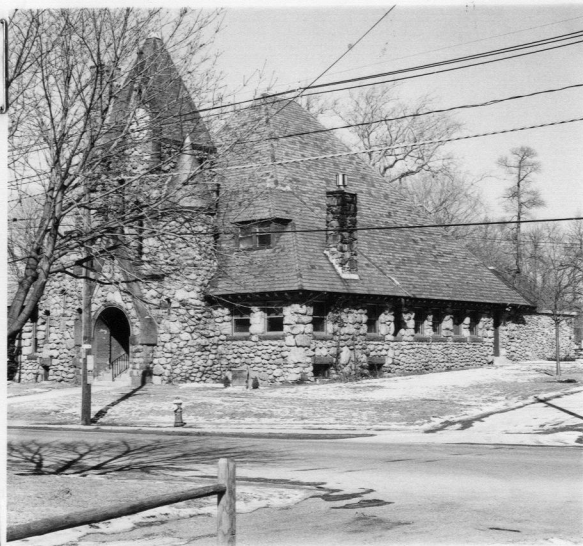
In Area no.

C.

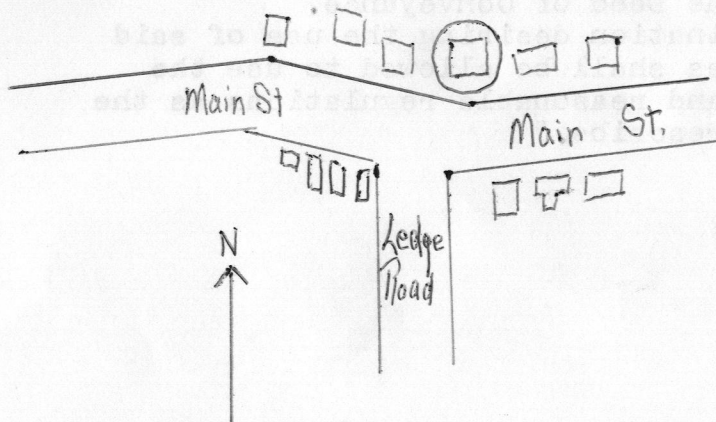
Form no.

3867

2.



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



1. Town Swansea, Massachusetts

Address Main Street

Name Town Hall

Present use Town Offices

Present owner Town Of Swansea

3. Description:

Date Dedicated 1891

Source Deed of Gift

Style Romanesque

Architect G. Merrill Brown, Boston

Exterior wall fabric Filed stone with long meadow brown stone trimmings

Outbuildings (describe) None

Other features Tower with bell and Howard Clock

Altered Interior only Date 1952

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

5. Lot size:

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

Approximate frontage 122 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

33 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) Town of Swansea

Original use Town Library, Selectmen's Office, political & social gatherings

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Town Offices - voted at town meeting 3/13/50

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

This was the community gathering place until the large hall was partitioned for town offices in 1952. It was presented to the town by the Hon. Frank S. Stevens. The Library 23x18 feet was used until 1900 when the Public Library building was erected. The Hall 40x50 feet had a stage beyond 10x34 feet. This area was used for town meetings and social assemblies until 1952.

This is a unique paragraph from the Deed of Conveyance.

"And that any Christian denomination desiring the use of said Town Hall for funeral services shall be allowed to use the same, subject to such equal and reasonable regulations as the Selectmen of said Town may prescribe."

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

Dedication of the Town Hall, Swansea, Mass. on Wednesday, September 9, 1891, printed at Fall River, Mass. by Almy & Milne, 1892.

Records of the Town Clerk.