

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

JAN 02 1990

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA
SWANSEA

Address 361 Pearse Road

Historic Name "Smuggler's House"

Use: Present residence

Original residence/farmstead

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1800

Source secondary documentation to 1820

Style Federal

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings milk house (mid-19th cent.),
garage (early 20th cent.)

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

east (kitchen) wing and dormers (1938)

Condition good

Moved no Date ---

Acreage less than one acre

Setting House has deep setback from

road and is reached via a dirt drive;

surrounding residential area largely

early 20th century

Recorded by M.S.Gendron/K. Flynn/K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date 1978/February 1986/November 1989

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).
Indicate north

(see attached map)

UTM REFERENCE 19 315060 4622510

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River MA-RI 1967/1979

SCALE 1:25000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Smuggler's House, 361 Pearse Road, is an intact Federal period farmhouse associated with Swansea's maritime activity in the 19th century. Retaining integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association, the house meets Criteria A and C on the local level.

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

Typical of the late 18th/early 19th-century farmhouses scattered throughout Swansea, 361 Pearse Road is a 1½-story, five-bay, gabled dwelling with a double-pile plan and single brick chimney set slightly right of center. Pilasters frame the center entry, which consists of a six-panel door topped with a five-pane transom. Cornerboards and a molded cornice finish the clapboarded exterior. Windows contain 12/12 sash. The house fell into disrepair in the early 20th century, and additions made during a 1938 restoration and remodeling project include the two gabled dormers with 6/6 sash on the facade, and the one-story, two-bay kitchen wing with secondary entrance in the rear pile on the east elevation. The kitchen wing does not visually detract from the appearance of the historic main block.

North of the house are a frame garage (early 20th cent.) and a milk house (mid-19th cent.), a one-story, gabled and shingled building used by recent owners as a detached outdoor livingroom.

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

The Smuggler's House is so-called for its associations with the sea-faring aspect of Swansea life and its reported use as a hideaway for goods such as tea that were smuggled into Swansea during the War of 1812. Pearse Road connects the house to the old Pearse's Wharf on the Cole's River to the south. William and Anna Gardner owned the house--originally part of a 50-acre farm--in 1820. Capt. Gardner was master of a Somerset-based cargo ship. Another early resident of the house was Aaron H. Wood, who went to sea as a young boy in 1854. Wood later became captain of the merchant ship, "Monarch of the Sea."

Much of the surrounding area in this section of Swansea (known as Touisset) was subdivided for suburban construction beginning at the turn of the 20th century.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Registry of Deeds, Fall River. Bk. 22, p.563.

Swansea Tercentenary 1667-1967.

Maps of Swansea: ca. 1849, 1871, 1895. Swansea Public Library.

Assessors records, Swansea Town Hall.

1/2/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Swansea MRA
Bristol County, MASSACHUSETTS

Date Listed

- 21. Luther, William, House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Arlene Byers* 2/10/90
Attest _____
- 221 Norton House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Arlene Byers* 2/10/90
Attest _____
- 23. Short's Tavern **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Arlene Byers* 2/10/90
Attest _____
- 224. Simcock House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Arlene Byers* 2/10/90
Attest _____
- ~~25. Smuggler's House~~ **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Arlene Byers* 2/10/90
Attest _____
- 26. South Swansea Union Church **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Arlene Byers* 2/10/90
Attest _____
- 27. Swansea Village Historic District **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Arlene Byers* 2/10/90
Attest _____
- 28. Walkden Farm **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Arlene Byers* 2/10/90
Attest _____
- 29. Mason, William P., House ~~Entered in the National Register~~ Keeper *B. H. Savage* 8/8/90

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Smuggler's House
NAME:

MULTIPLE Swansea MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Bristol

DATE RECEIVED: 1/02/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/16/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/01/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/16/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000065

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2/16/90 DATE Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph
 completeness
 clarity
 applicable criteria
 justification of areas checked
 relating significance to the resource
 context
 relationship of integrity to significance
 justification of exception
 other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



361 Pearce Rd
Swansea, MA.

"Smuggler's House" (MHC # 116)

361 Pearce Road
Swansea, Mass. MRA

1986

View NW

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000296