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JAN 02 1990

AREA

FORM NO.

F

138

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address Gardner's Neck Road

Historic Name \_\_\_\_\_

South Swansea Union Church

Use: Present religious

Original religious

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

## DESCRIPTION

Date 1916

Source Church records

Style Shingle

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric wood shingle

Outbuildings parish house (ca. 1960s)

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition good

Moved no Date ---

Acreage less than one acre

Setting suburban houses on fairly

regular rectangular lots

Recorded by Kay Flynn/K. K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date March 1988/October 1989

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 316880 4621270

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River, MA-RI 1967/1979

SCALE 1:25000

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The South Swansea Union Church retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and is significant on the local level. The church meets Criterion A as a product of the rapidly expanding suburban population on Gardner's Neck in the early 20th century, and Criterion C as a well-preserved ecclesiastical structure in the Shingle Style. For its architectural significance in Swansea, the church also meets Criteria Consideration A.

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

South Swansea Union Church is architecturally significant as the best example of a Shingle Style church in Swansea. One and one-half stories on a raised rubblestone foundation, the church is a gabled rectangular structure with characteristic wood shingle cladding. A prominent facade cross-gable includes four lancet windows on the first floor and a wheel window above. Similar arrangements of lancet and wheel windows grace the end-gable elevations of the main block. The offset entrance is marked by a square tower rising to a belvedere with tent roof. Other architectural features includes overhanging eaves, exposed rafters, and drip moulds over windows and doors.

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

The formation of the South Swansea Union Church is rooted in the organization of the South Swansea Sunday School about 1910. In the early decades of the 20th century the population of Gardner's Neck (South Swansea) rapidly increased, as the formerly rural area was transformed by suburban development. The Sunday school provided for area children of varied circumstances who were unable to attend the other Sunday schools of the town. School membership swelled from 16 to 96 children in just one year, and meeting places included private homes and even a tent at Ocean Grove. In October 1914 the school was incorporated with the objective of buying land and building a chapel. Meanwhile, the Ladies Aid Society was formed November 17, 1914 to assist in running the Sunday school.

Sunday evening services began in private homes on the Neck in August 1915. In November of that year, the South Swansea Sunday School Corporation purchased land from Edwin Gardner for the chapel. The building committee consisted of members of the Sunday school corporation: Charles A. Chace, Edward Goss, Mr. and Mrs. Chester R. Gardner, and Mrs. Sidney K. Crittenden. The cornerstone for the church was laid May 6, 1916 and the building was dedicated the following September.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

50th Anniversary of the South Swansea Church, 1914-1964, booklet printed by the Church.  
Pierce, Helen, ed. Swansea Tercentenary 1667-1967. Swansea, MA, 1967.  
Wright, Otis. History of Swansea 1667-1917. Swansea, MA, 1917.

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 *Alana Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 221 Norton House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Alana Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 23. Short's Tavern **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Alana Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 24. Simcock House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Alana Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 25. Smuggler's House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Alana Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 26. South Swansea Union Church **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Alana Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 27. Swansea Willage Historic District **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Alana Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 28. Walkden Farm **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Alana Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 29. Mason, William P., House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Barbara 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 South Swansea Union Church  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Swansea MRA  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Bristol

DATE RECEIVED: 1/02/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/18/90  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/01/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/16/90  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000055

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 2/10/90 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

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

historic       current

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DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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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

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps       USGS maps       photographs       presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



South Swansea Union Church (MHC# P138)  
Gardner's Neck Road at Church Street  
Swansea, Mass. MRA

1988

VIEW NW

MAR 1988

South Swansea Union Church  
Gardner's Neck Road  
SWANSEA, MA

1988



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: \_\_\_\_\_ 64000296