

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

JAN 02 1990

93

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address Stevens Road at Bark Street

Historic Name Bark Street School

Use: Present elementary school

Original primary school

## DESCRIPTION

Date 1905

Source School Committee Report for 1905

Style Colonial Revival

Architect Louis G. Destremps & Son

Exterior Wall Fabric shingle

Outbuildings none

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

ca. 1930 -- shingled rear addition

Condition excellent

Moved -- Date --

less than one acre of total

Acreage 6½-acre lot

Setting open lot with playgrounds in

rear -- building situated close to street

Recorded by K. Flynn, K. Valente/K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date May 1986/October 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 320080 4624000

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River, MA-RI 1967/1979

SCALE 1:25000

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

Bark Street School possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association. It meets Criterion C on the local level as a well-preserved example of a Colonial Revival schoolhouse with a sympathetic addition at the rear.

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

Bark Street School is the only frame Colonial Revival school in Swansea, a town dominated by brick school buildings. The original two-room, center-hall schoolhouse of 1905 has a compatible rear addition of two classrooms designed ca. 1930. One story with a cobblestone foundation, continuous shingled walls, and a hipped roof, the school is capped with a square cupola with louvered openings and a pyramidal roof. The influence of the Prairie style is suggested by the low horizontal lines, wide eave overhang, and bands of windows on the side elevations. All windows contain 6/6 double-hung sash. The center entry with round-arched transom is shielded by a shed-roof overhang on oversized triangular knee braces. The rear addition, which incorporates design elements of the original building, differs from the original only in its concrete foundation.

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

The oldest continuously used school building in Swansea, Bark Street School was built during a period of rapid suburbanization in the southeastern section of town in the early 20th century. The first school on the site (present on an 1895 map) was sold for \$40.00, moved around the corner of Stevens Road to Bark Street, and converted for use as a residence. The School Department's Building Committee abandoned the idea of replacing the earlier school with another one-room schoolhouse, settling instead on a two-classroom design in anticipation of future development in the surrounding neighborhood. The school was designed by Louis G. Destremps & Son and built by Edgar W. Hardy for \$2880.00.

Bark Street School was one of ten schoolhouses in Swansea at the time of its construction. Intended as a primary school for a maximum of 80 pupils, Bark Street School proved to be of inadequate size by the 1920s, when roughly 100 primary and grammar school students occupied the building. The large rear addition, similar in design, scale, and materials to the 1905 building, was constructed ca. 1930.

Verbal Boundary Justification: The school building occupies only a fraction of the 6.25-acre lot. The nomination extends only to the open area immediately surrounding the school, comprising less than one acre. The balance of the property consists of playfields developed later in the 20th century, and woodlot.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Helen Pierce interview, Swansea, 2/88.  
Bristol County atlas (Everts & Richards), 1895.  
Annual Reports of the Town Officers of the Town of Swansea. 1904 and 1905.

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

- |                                     |                                     |                 |                        |          |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------|
| Cover                               | <del>Substantive Review</del>       | Accept<br>Cover | <i>Peter L. Savage</i> | 02-16-90 |
| 1. Anthony, David M., House         | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper          | <i>Arlene Byers</i>    | 2/16/90  |
| 2. Anthony, Harold H., House        | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper          | <i>Arlene Byers</i>    | 2/16/90  |
| 3. Bark Street School               | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper          | <i>Arlene Byers</i>    | 2/16/90  |
| 4. Barneyville Historic District    | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper          | <i>Arlene Byers</i>    | 2/16/90  |
| 5. Bend of the Lane                 | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper          | <i>Arlene Byers</i>    | 2/16/90  |
| 6. Brown, John, IV, House           | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper          | <i>Arlene Byers</i>    | 2/16/90  |
| 7. Buffington, D Eacon, John, House | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper          | <i>Arlene Byers</i>    | 2/16/90  |
| 8. Church of Christ, Swansea        | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper          | <i>Arlene Byers</i>    | 2/16/90  |
| 9. Cole, Benjamin, House            | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper          | <i>Arlene Byers</i>    | 2/16/90  |
| 10. Colony Historic District        | <del>Substantive Review</del>       | Keeper          | <i>Peter L. Savage</i> | 02-16-90 |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Bark Street School

MULTIPLE NAME: Swansea MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Bristol

DATE RECEIVED: 1/02/90      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/17/90  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/02/90      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/16/90  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000062

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

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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 \_\_\_\_\_



Bark St. School  
Sher Steven's Rd  
Swainsea, MA.

Bark Street School (MHC #93)  
68 Stevens Road  
Swausea, Mass. MA

1986

View SW

PROPERTY MAP  
**TOWN OF SWANSEA**  
BRISTOL COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

1961 / REVISED 10/82

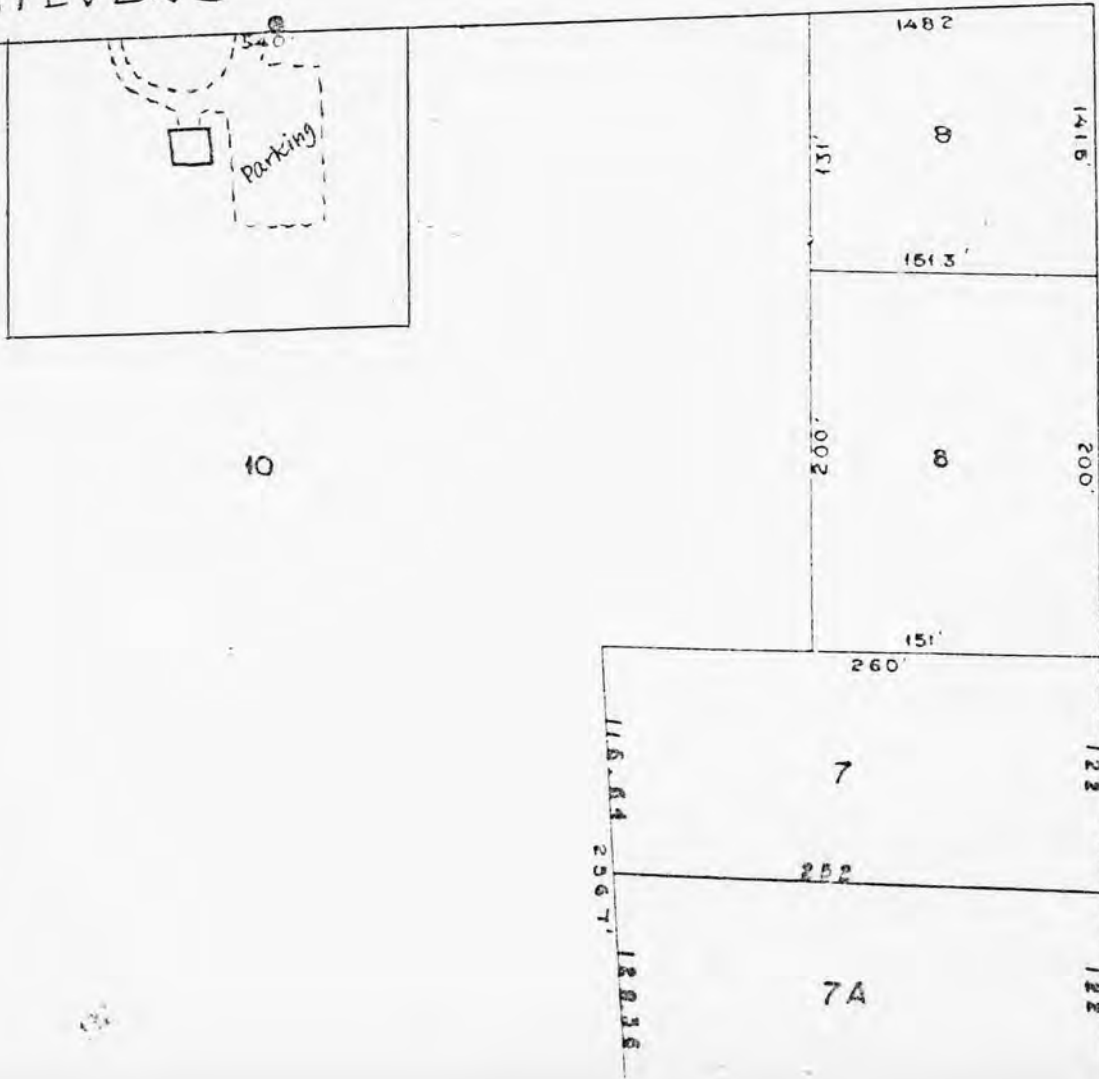
JAMES W. SEWALL COMPANY  
SCALE 1 INCH = 100 ± FEET

OLD TOWN, MAINE  
FOR ASSESSING PURPOSES ONLY

70

MHC # 93  
68 STEVENS Rd.  
Bark Street School

STEVENS ROAD



BARK STREET

STREET

10

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000296