

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

JAN 02 1990

113

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address 262 Cedar Avenue

Historic Name Deacon John Buffington House

Use: Present residence

Original residence

## DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1790

Source visual analysis

Style Georgian vernacular

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric shingle

Outbuildings misc. small sheds

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

rear ell (prob. mid-19th cent.)

Condition good

Moved no Date --

Acreage approximately one acre

Setting house oriented south in

rural residential area

Recorded by Gendron & Travers/K. Flynn/Broome

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 315540 4623100

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River MA-RI 1967/1979

SCALE 1:25000

## **NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

The Deacon John Buffington House, 262 Cedar Avenue, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and meets Criterion C on the local level as one of the few intact examples of the three-quarter house extant in Swansea.

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

This gabled, 2½-story, three-quarter house has a four-bay facade with the entry and brick chimney located in the third bay. The vernacular Georgian dwelling displays little architectural embellishment other than thin cornerboards and slightly articulated window heads on the first floor facade windows. The door surround is equally simple, consisting of plain boards. A secondary entrance is located on the west side of a two-story, gabled, rear ell to the north. Six-over-six window sash and the rear ell most likely date to the mid-19th century. While 262 Cedar Avenue lacks distinguishing architectural detail, the dwelling is significant as one of the best preserved examples of the 2½-story, three-quarter house form in Swansea.

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

John Buffington, earliest documented owner of the house, was deacon of the Christian Church (MHC #10), located north of Cedar Avenue on Maple Avenue at Swansea Center. His daughter married Elder William Miller, pastor of the same church, a popular man of local reputation. At least three generations of Millers are known to have occupied this house. Elder Miller and his descendants also engaged in farming and fishing, which comprised the mainstay of Swansea's economy in the 18th and 19th centuries. This house was one of at least two Buffington homesteads established between Cedar Avenue (formerly Cedar Lane) and the Cole's River in the 18th century.

The Buffington family occupied an important place in the development of Swansea. Thomas Bovanton (later Buffington) emigrated from Wales ca. 1671, settling first in Salem and later in Swansea. Members of the family were associated with the establishment of the first Friends Meeting in Swansea in 1701. Numerous Buffington descendants built homes throughout Swansea, with a significant cluster located east of Luther's Corner/Swansea Center in the Cedar Avenue vicinity.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Helen Pierce, Swansea Historical Society, interview, 11/89.  
New England Families, p.338, Swansea Public Library.  
Bristol County Registry of Deeds, Fall River, and Registry of Probate, Taunton.  
1849 map of Swansea, and 1871 and 1895 atlases of Bristol County, Swansea Public Library.  
Fall River Herald News, Wed. May 22, 1929.

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Buffington, Deacon John, 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: 90000056

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 \_\_\_\_\_



262 Cedar Ave  
Swansea, MA.

Deacon John Buffington House (MHC #113)

262 Cedar Avenue  
Swansea, Mass. MRA

1986

View SE (rear and ell)

PROPERTY MAP  
TOWN OF SWAIN EA  
BRISTOL COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

1961/REVISED 10/82

JAMES W. SEWALL COMPANY

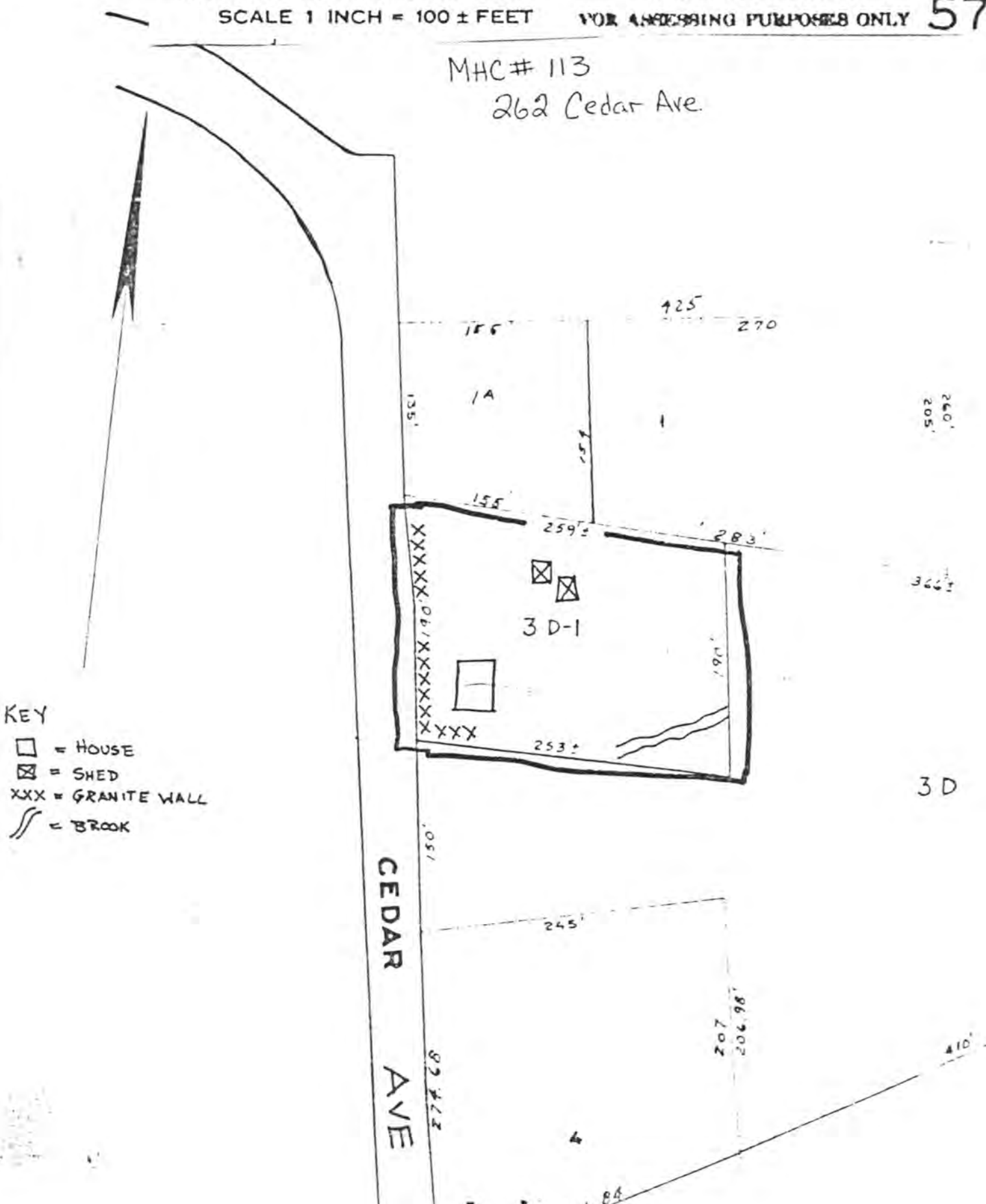
OLD TOWN, MAINE

SCALE 1 INCH = 100 ± FEET

FOR ASSESSING PURPOSES ONLY

57

MHC # 113  
262 Cedar Ave.



- KEY
- = HOUSE
  - ⊠ = SHED
  - XXX = GRANITE WALL
  - ∩ = BROOK

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

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