

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATA SHEET

RECEIVED

JAN 17 1978

DATE ENTERED

MAY 22 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Luther Store

AND/OR COMMON
same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

160 Old Warren Road

CITY, TOWN

Swansea

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

10th Massachusetts

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Bristol

CODE

005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

X PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

X YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

X MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Swansea Historical Society, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 67

CITY, TOWN

Swansea

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 02777

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bristol County Registry of Deeds, Fall River District

STREET & NUMBER

441 North Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Fall River

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey
Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1935, 1969

X FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress, Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.; Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☒ MOVED DATE 1937

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Luther Store is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Old Warren Road and Maple Avenue in the Luthers' Corner neighborhood of the southeastern Massachusetts town of Swansea. This principally residential neighborhood was once the center of community activity.

The two story brick veneer on plank "saltbox" faces north across Old Warren Road. Built in 1815, it has two interior end chimneys; the roof is wood shingled. Fenestration is irregularly placed, set in jack arch openings and framed by simple plank blinds. The plain moulded cornice sits just above the window openings of the second floor on the facade and has open returns on the gable ends.

The facade is four unequal bays wide. The store is located in the western end of the structure. The orientation of the facade reflects the separation of the store and the second story spaces. The western end of the facade has the store entrance flanked by two windows. Above the windows, on the second floor are two windows. The eastern end of the facade has a window and doorway; above these openings are two windows on the second floor. The end and rear elevations have irregularly spaced windows. There are doorways on either end of the first floor of the western elevation. Above the entrance to the store and on the western elevation are the original store signs.

The interior is finished in simple white plaster and the store retains its original three foot deep by twenty-five foot long mahogany counter. Some early merchandise is on display.

A small shed to the rear has been removed, and the roof was resingled in 1975.

The store was moved back thirty-five feet on its lot when Old Warren Road was widened as a WPA project in 1937.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☒ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1815

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Mace Luther

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Luther Store is significant for the excellent preservation of its architectural character, for its association with the Luther family and as a center of community activity in the 19th century.

The store was built in 1815 for John Brown Luther by his journey man cousin, Mace Luther. The store continued to be operated by members of the Luther family until 1925. In 1935 it was deeded to the town by heirs of the Luther family and since 1941 has been operated by the Swansea Historical Society. Marion Reilly, the founder and first president of that organization, is a tenth generation descendant of Captain John Luther, one of the original settlers.

Luthers have occupied these four corners since 1747. When John Luther opened his store, he lived on the corner opposite it. Another Luther ran a tavern on another corner, and Henry Luther had a shoemaking shop on the last corner.

Members of the Luther family associated with the store held many local political positions including town clerk, treasurer, collector of taxes and justice of the peace.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Records and Collections of the Swansea Historical Society
Collections of the Rhode Island Historical Society
Beers; John N., Representative Men and Families of Southeastern Massachusetts,
Chicago: 1912.
Wright; Olney, History of Swansea, Massachusetts, Swansea:1917.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/3 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 315100 4623620
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
D
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joseph R. Orfant, National Register Editor & Ferdinand J. Loungeway

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Massachusetts Historical Commission

December 22, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

294 Washington Street

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boston

Massachusetts

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elizabeth Reed Amadon

TITLE Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE

1/10/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Lawrence Cole

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5-22-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4-26-78



Luther Store
Swansea, MA.

from Swansea Assesors Map
not to scale

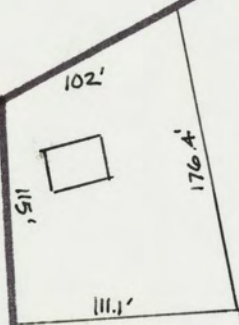
U.S. Route 6



Maple Avenue

Old Warren Road

Pearse Road



MAY 22 1978

Property

The Luther Store

State

Mass.

Working Number

*1.17.78.2248**Bristol*

TECHNICAL

Photos

1

Maps

1, sketch

CONTROL

OK pl 1.18.78

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*ARCHITECTURALLY, IT REPRESENTS A DUAL-FUNCTION
STRUCTURE OF THE EARLY 19TH C.; A RATHER
UNUSUAL SPACING OF WINDOWS.**ACCEPT
H. Smith
3/3/78*

ARCHEOLOGIST

*Statement of significance could have been stronger.**OTHER
accept
Braham
3.8.78*

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

*concur with Braham, but commercial significance
demonstrated.*

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*Accept
Lebowitz
4/10/78**(moved back few feet in 1935 for road widening)*

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

*Review
5/24/78*

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered

MAY 22 1978

Federal Register Entry

7.5.78

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



Luther Store
Swansea Massachusetts
1977

Albert Deston

500 Dillon Lane

Swansea, Massachusetts 02777

Bristol County

Photo #1

Looking northeast towards the facade and
west elevation of the Luther Store

JAN 17 1978

MAY 22 1978

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

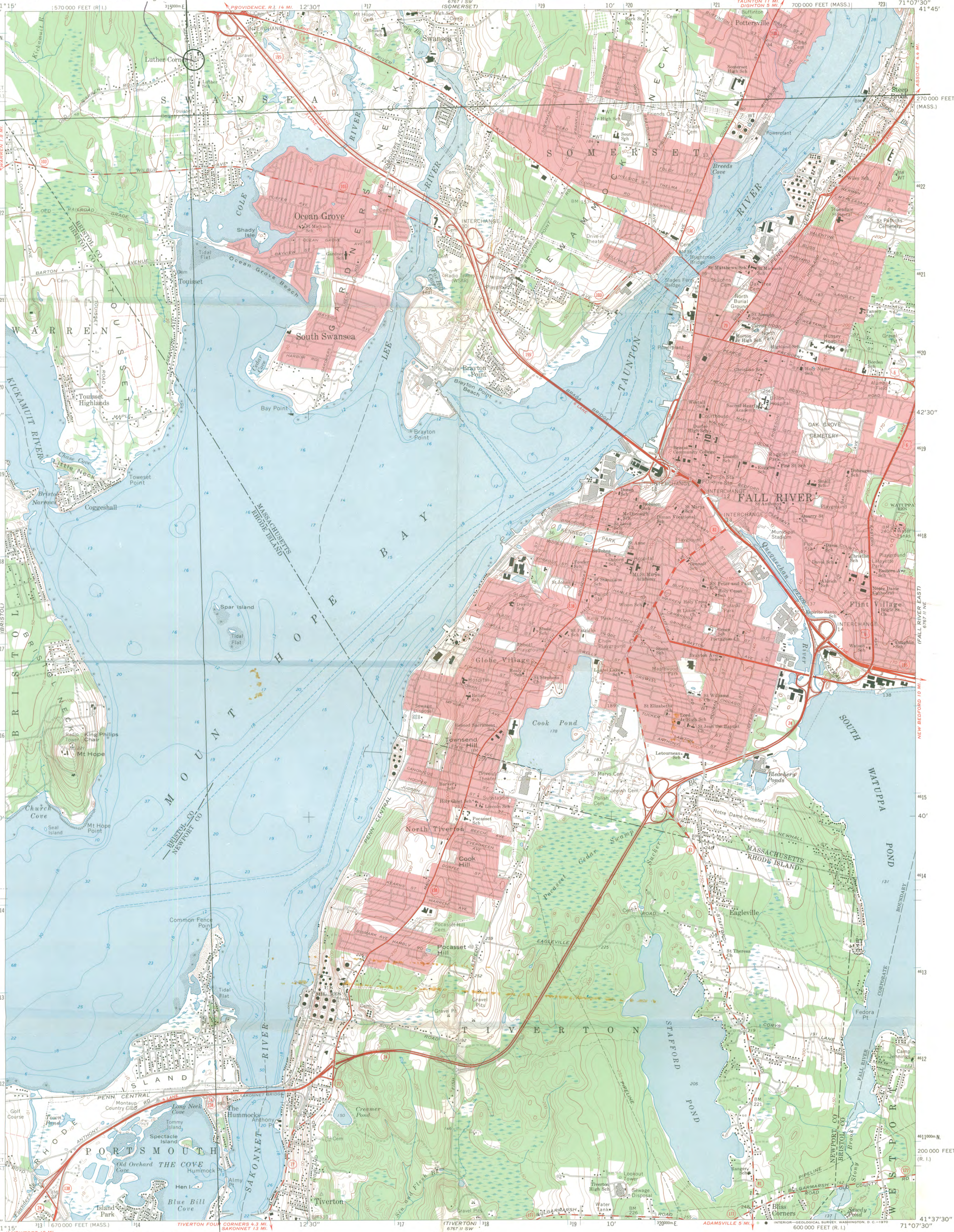
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

FALL RIVER QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS—RHODE ISLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Luther Store
Swansea, MA.

UTM Reference:
19/315100/4623620



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1938-1939. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 350 (1966)
and 353 (1967). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and Rhode Island coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 19,
shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Boundaries in tidalwater areas in Massachusetts from information furnished
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works

UTM GRID AND 1967 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24,000
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 4.4 FEET



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

FALL RIVER, MASS.—R.I.
N4137.5—W7107.5/7.5

1967
AMS 6767 II NW—SERIES V814
MAY 22 1978



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered MAY 22 1978

Name

Location

Ware Paper Mill

Newton
Middlesex County

Luther Store

Swansea vicinity
Bristol County

Also Notified

Honorable Edward W. Brooke

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy

Honorable Robert F. Drinan

Honorable Margaret M. Heckler

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NR

Mott/js

5/23/78

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Luther Store		② OTHER NAMES:		③ date of entry: MAY 22 1978	④ county code: 05
⑤ LOCATION street & number W of Swansea at 160 Old Warren Rd.		city / town Swansea	vicinity of Swansea	state MA	county Bristol
⑦ OWNER ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)		⑧ ADMINISTRATOR:		⑥ NPS REGION: NA	
⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS ☒ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL		⑩ FUNDED? ☐ YES ☐ NO		⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT 10th	
⑫ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES, NAME _____ ☐ NO		⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES, NAME _____ ☐ NO		⑭ ACREAGE ☐ LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION	
⑮ CONDITION ☐ deteriorated ☐ altered ☐ original site ☐ excellent ☐ ruins ☐ unaltered ☐ moved ☐ good ☐ unexposed ☐ reconstructed ☐ unknown ☐ fair ☐ unexcavated ☐ excavated		⑰ features: INTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7 EXTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8 ENVIRONS ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-6 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9			
⑱ ACCESS ☐ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown		⑲ ADAPTIVE USE ☐ YES ☐ NO		⑳ SAVED? ☐ YES ☐ NO	
㉑ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☐ COMMERCE-6 ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7 ☐ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☐ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ ART-5 ☐ EDUCATION-10		☐ ENGINEERING-11 ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ INDUSTRY-13 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ INVENTION-14 ☐ PHILOSOPHY-20		☐ POLITICS/GOVT.-21 ☐ RECREATION-28 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31 ☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY) _____ ☐ SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25	
㉒ functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:		㉓ dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:		㉔ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION	
㉕ architectural style(s):		㉖ architect:		㉗ master builder:	
㉘ landscape architect / garden designer:		㉙ interior decorator:		㉚ artist:	
㉛ artisan:		㉜ builder/contractor:		㉝ engineer:	
㉞ NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:					

㉟ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP