

JAN 02 1990

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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA
SWANSEA

Address 282 Market Street

Historic Name Short's Tavern

Use: Present 2-family residence

Original farmhouse, then tavern

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1742

Source Registry of Deeds, Fall River

Style Georgian

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric wood siding

Outbuildings stone barn (now noncontrib.
building on separate lot)

Major Alterations (with dates) rear exit from 2nd floor (ca. 1950?)

Condition stable

Moved no Date ---

Acreage less than one acre

Setting Situated close to corner in
rural, primarily residential area of
North Swansea. Market Street (Route 136)
moderately trafficked artery.

Recorded by V. Frost/K. Flynn/K. Broome

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date 1979/April 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 311360 4625600

USGS QUADRANGLE East Providence, RI-MA 1971/1979

SCALE 1:24000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

Short's Tavern, 282 Market Street, is an intact Georgian three-quarter house significant as an example of a typical 18th-century Swansea farmstead, and for its operation as a tavern in the mid-19th century. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association, Short's Tavern 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.

A gabled, 2½-story, three-quarter house with central chimney and double-pile plan, Short's Tavern is a relatively uncommon example of Georgian design in Swansea, where most survivors of the period are five-bay, center-entry houses. The building displays minimal ornamental detailing. The main entry in the third bay has a multi-pane transom and door surround with pilasters and pediment. First floor windows, articulated with molded heads, contain replacement 2/2 sash, and second-story windows with plain surrounds retain 12/8 sash. A rear exit on the second story probably dates to the mid-20th century when the building was converted for two-family use.

South of the house is a stone barn, perhaps mid-19th century, which has been insensitively remodeled into a residence. The barn now occupies a separate lot and is no longer a part of this property.

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

In 1685, John Therber deeded a parcel of land to his son, Thomas Therber. Charity, daughter of Thomas, married Thomas Whalley. In 1742, to settle the estate of Thomas Therber, Whalley sold the farmhouse, outbuildings, and land. A typical example of the dispersed farmsteads that characterized much of Swansea in the 18th century, the house faces west on a primary north-south route through Old Swansea, running between the present towns of Rehoboth, Mass. and Warren, Rhode Island. A short distance to the north on Market Street (also known as Baptist Street) was the First Baptist Church. The church's relocation from the present Barrington, Rhode Island to its present site in 1717 precipitated colonial settlement of northwestern Swansea.

James Short purchased the farmstead, then comprising 40 acres, in 1851. His decision to operate a tavern was undoubtedly prompted by the house's location on a county highway leading to Providence, Rhode Island. This section of Swansea, known as North Swansea, was a flourishing community in the mid-19th century, due in large part to the growth of the shipyard on the Palmer River west of the tavern and the corresponding development of a village at Barneyville in the shipyard vicinity.

The nominated portion of the present property comprises less than one acre at the corner of Market Street and Stoney Hill Road (see assessor's map). A row of mature trees behind (east of) the house separates the house site from adjacent fields, some of which are under cultivation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Swansea and Bristol County maps and atlases.
Swansea Historical Society.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

1/2/90

Swansea MRA
Bristol County, MASSACHUSETTS

Date Listed

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 21. Luther, William, House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Arlene Byers</i></u> 2/16/90 |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 221 Norton House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Arlene Byers</i></u> 2/16/90 |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 23. Short's Tavern | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Arlene Byers</i></u> 2/16/90 |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 224. Simcock House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Arlene Byers</i></u> 2/16/90 |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 25. Smuggler's House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Arlene Byers</i></u> 2/16/90 |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 26. South Swansea Union Church | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Arlene Byers</i></u> 2/16/90 |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 27. Swansea Village Historic District | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Arlene Byers</i></u> 2/16/90 |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 28. Walkden Farm | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Arlene Byers</i></u> 2/16/90 |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 29. Mason, William P., House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Beth Savage</i></u> 8/8/90 |
| | | Attest _____ |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Short's Tavern
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: 90000072

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

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



282 Market St.
Swansea, MA.

Short's Tavern (MHC #9)
282 Market Street
Swansea, Mass. MRA

1986

View SE

PROPERTY MAP
TOWN OF SWANSEA
BRISTOL COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

1961 / REVISED 10/82

JAMES W. SEWALL COMPANY
SCALE 1 INCH = 200 ± FEET

OLD TOWN, MAINE
FOR ASSESSING PURPOSES ONLY

12

MHC # 9

282 MARKET STREET

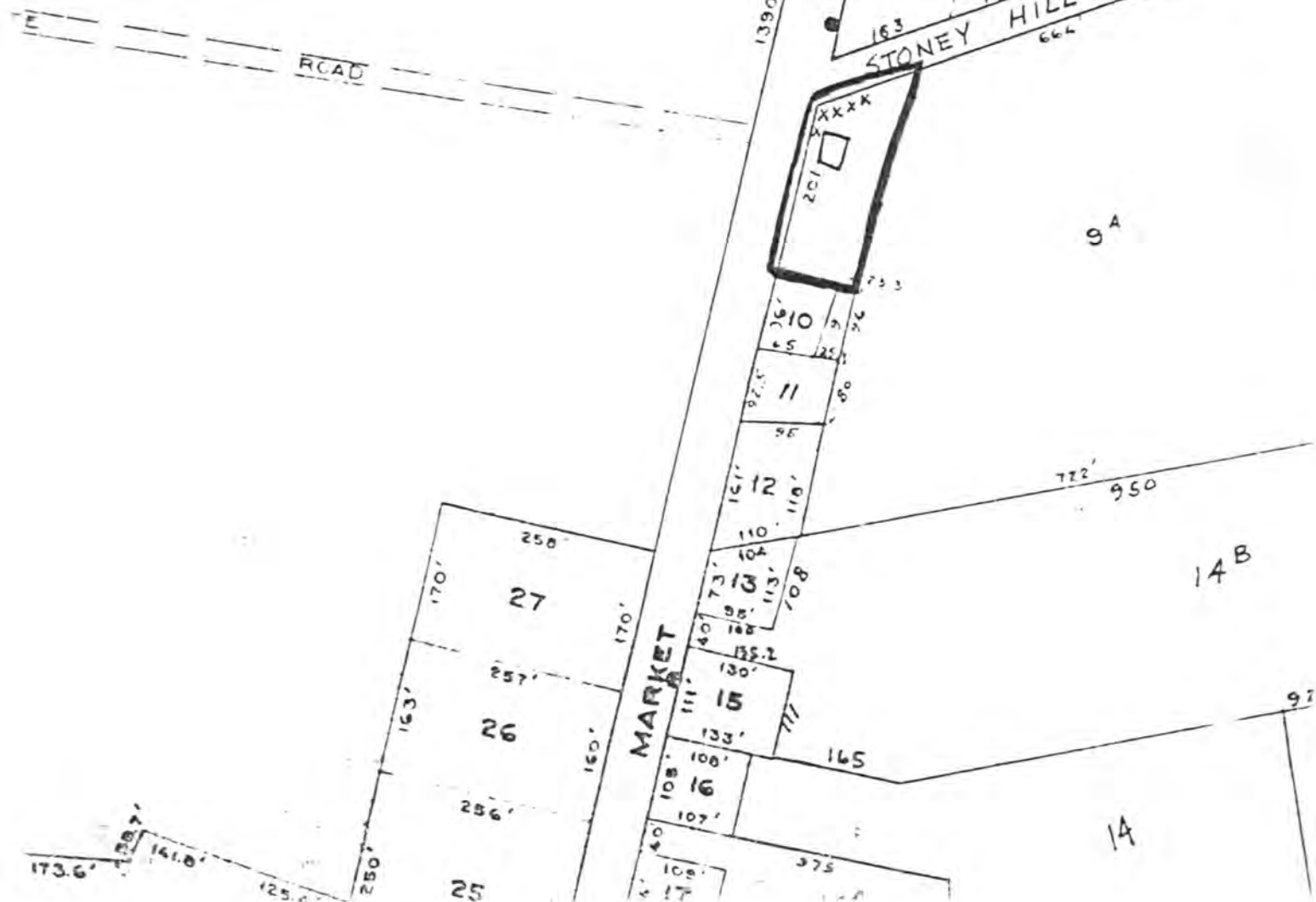
28



KEY

□ = HOUSE

XX = STONE WALL



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000296