

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

78  
JAN 02 1990

AREA

FORM NO.

A

6

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address 61 Old Providence Road

Historic Name Norton House

Use: Present Residence, antique shop

Original Farmhouse

## DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1779

Source paid research

Style Georgian

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric wood shingles

Outbuildings modern garage

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition good

Moved no Date ---

Acreage less than one acre

Setting Open lot at the corner of two

secondary access roads to/from

U. S. Route 6 to the east.

Recorded by H. Pierce/K. Flynn/K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date 1978/March 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 310990 4626800

USGS QUADRANGLE East Providence, RI-MA 1971/1979

SCALE 1:24000

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Norton House, 61 Old Providence Road, is an intact Georgian style house built in conjunction with the growth of the village at Barneyville to the west beginning in the second half of the 18th century. The house is further associated with Barneyville as the residence of Benjamin F. Norton, part-owner of a jewelry-manufacturing concern in the village in the early 20th century. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association, 61 Old Providence Road 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.

This 2½-story, side-gabled, vernacular Georgian house is a five-bay, center-entry structure with central chimney and double-pile plan. Windows have shallow surrounds and contain 12/12 sash. The door surround, perhaps a Federal period addition, consists of a blind elliptical fan over a four-pane transom and three-quarter sidelights. The house at 61 Old Providence Road is of the traditional form in Swansea; the five-bay, center-entry, central chimney house type prevailed well into the Federal period, although later houses generally exhibited an end-gable overhang not seen here.

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

Probably built by a member of the Barney family, which had settled the area one-quarter mile west of the house in the third quarter of the 18th century, 61 Old Providence Road is one of the earliest intact houses in this northern section of Swansea. The house is located on a segment of a colonial road connecting Swansea to Providence, Rhode Island. Activity associated with the Barney family and particularly the family's shipyard focused on the Palmer (Warren) River to the west. With the closing of the shipyard in 1861, Barneyville became a local center for jewelry manufacture with the establishment of D. R. Child & Co. After several transfers, the business was purchased in 1911 by Benjamin F. Norton and J. A. Wheeler, who changed the name to the North Swansea Manufacturing Co. Norton resided in this house. The company flourished until the early 1920s when the Providence & Fall River Street Railway, which had brought employees to the factory, went out of business. The Norton house fell into disrepair until it was purchased and restored by the Grenon family in 1966.

The Norton house has been excluded from the Barneyville Historic District, located one-quarter to one-half mile to the west, due to the amount of contemporary infill construction between the house and the district's eastern boundary.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Swansea Town Reports.  
Notes from the Grenon family.  
1849 map of Swansea, Swansea Public Library.  
1871 and 1895 Bristol County atlases.

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 *Arlene Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- ~~221 Norton House~~ **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Arlene Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 23. Short's Tavern **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Arlene Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 24. Simcock House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Arlene Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 25. Smuggler's House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Arlene Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 26. South Swansea Union Church **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Arlene Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 27. Swansea Willage Historic District **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Arlene Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 28. Walkden Farm **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Arlene Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 29. Mason, William P., House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Butch 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 Norton House  
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: 90000078

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 \_\_\_\_\_



~~61 Old Providence Rd + 5 Mason St (background)  
Dorseyville Historic District  
SWANSEA, MA~~

~~Kay Flynn  
March, 1988~~

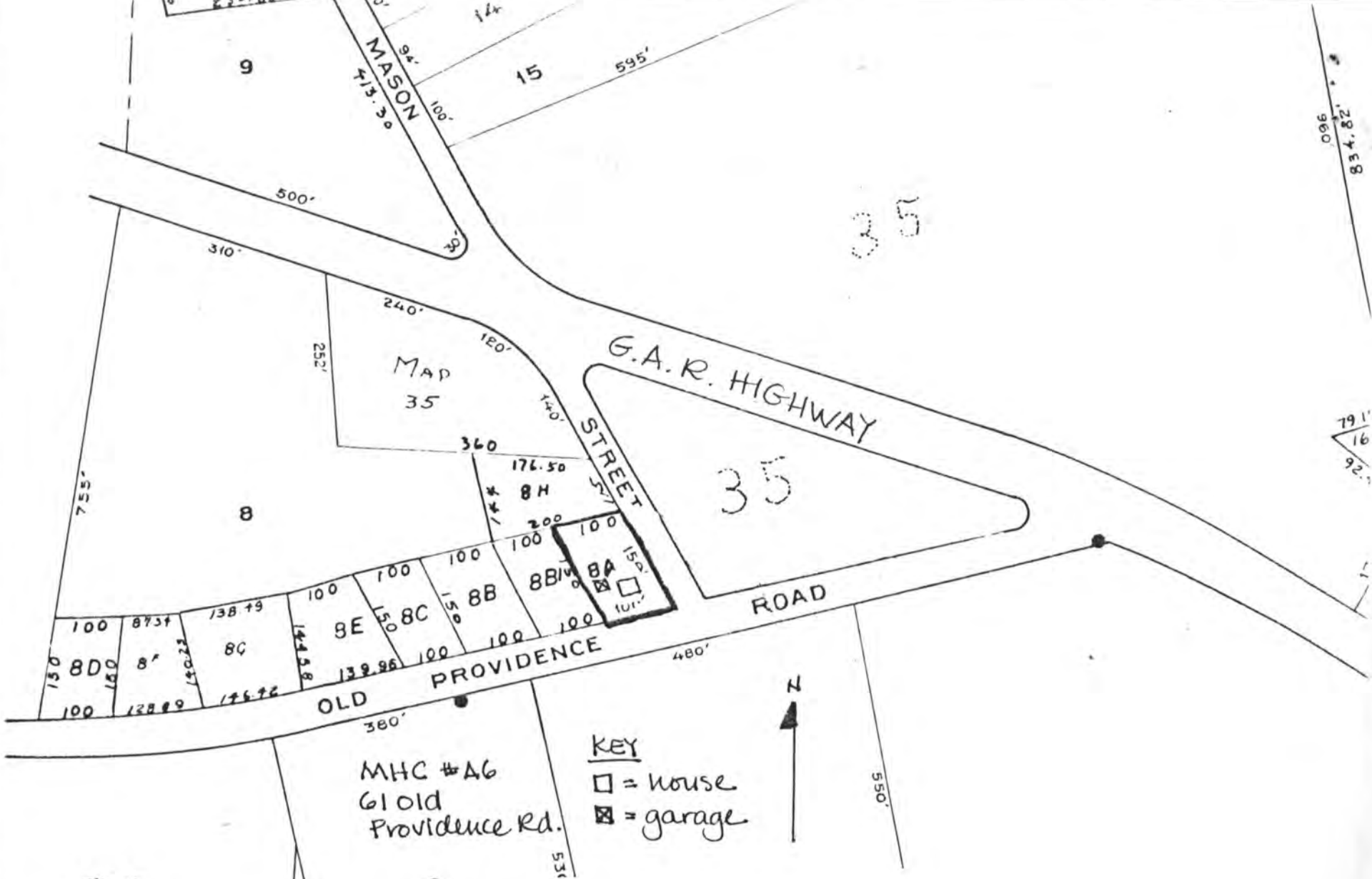
~~Swansea Public Library  
Northeast View~~

~~#5~~ Norton House

61 Old Providence Road (MHC #A6)  
Swansea, Mass. MRA

March 1988

VIEW NE



20

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

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

OLD TOWN, MAINE  
 FOR ASSESSING PURPOSES ONLY

21

35

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000296