

JAN 02 1990

8

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116



Swansea, Mass. MRA
SWANSEA

Address 177 Market Street

Historic Name Luther House

Present residential

Original residential/farmstead

DESCRIPTION

ca. 1740

Source Registry of Deeds, Fall River

Style Georgian

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric wood shingle

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) east ell

(19th cent.), greenhouse addition (ca. 1960)

Condition good

Moved no Date ---

Acreage approximately five acres

Setting House faces south and is oriented

close to street in rural, residential

area of North Swansea. Market Street

(Route 136) moderately trafficked artery.

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

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date 1978/March 1986/November 1989

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 311380 4625890

USGS QUADRANGLE East Providence, RI-MA 1971/1979

SCALE 1:24000

JAN 2 1990

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Luther House, 177 Market Street, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association. As an intact Georgian cape reminiscent of colonial development in Old Swansea, the house 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.

The Luther House--a 1½-story, five-bay, center-entry, gambrel cottage--is typical of 18th-century residential construction in Swansea. The shingled Georgian house retains a brick central chimney, gunstock corner posts on the interior, five-light transom over the center entrance, 12/12 window sash, and a narrow shed-roofed dormer centered over the entrance which appears to be original. Two later dormers were added to the rear (north) elevation at an unknown date. Other additions include a one-story gabled ell with secondary entrance and 9/9 sash, and a late 20th-century, one-story greenhouse addition on the west side. The main block and ell were restored beginning in 1966.

The house occupies a clearing close to the street, north and west of which are a stone wall and foundations of at least four buildings. The extent of the property being nominated comprises approximately five acres closest to the street on a lot of roughly 37 acres.

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

A typical example of the dispersed farmsteads that characterized Old Swansea in the 18th century, the Luther House is situated on a primarily north-south route through northwestern Swansea, between present Rehoboth, Mass. and Warren, Rhode Island. To the north is the First Baptist Church (1848), the site of a previous building relocated from present Barrington, Rhode Island in 1717. The church's relocation to this section of Swansea provided the impetus for colonial settlement of the area.

The house is noted for its long association with the Luther family, local farmers prominent throughout Swansea's history who were descended from John Luther, one of the proprietors of Taunton. The branch of the family believed to have been associated with this house is that of John's son Hezekiah. Thomas Patterson Luther (1805-1887), a farmer, owned this house ca. 1850; it is believed that either his grandfather, Nathaniel Luther (b. 1733), or his great-grandfather, Moses Luther (b. 1694) built the structure. While Luther family homesteads were scattered throughout Old Swansea (including present Warren), members of the family were active in the affairs of the First Baptist Church. The Luther family continued to occupy this house until the mid-20th century.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- ca. 1849 map of Swansea and 1871 and 1895 atlases of Bristol County.
- Registry of Deeds, Fall River.
- Swansea vital records, Swansea Public Library.
- Helen Pierce, Swansea Historical Society, interview, 11/89.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Luther 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: 90000073

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

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

see reverse.

RECOM./CRITERIA Return
REVIEWER Savage
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 2/16/90

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

No information has been provided on the foundations and stone wall indicated on the sketch map.

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

please specify applicable area(s) of significance associated w/ the property's particular importance under criterion A. Give adres of 37 do not seem able to convey significance as a settlement era farmstead. If A is intended for association w/ Luther family, please provide further justification for the particular importance of this house relative to other numerous examples referred to.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___ acreage ___ verbal boundary description
___ UTMs ___ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___ sketch maps ___ USGS maps ___ photographs ___ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed *[Signature]*

Phone *(202) 343-9500*

Date *2/16/90*

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

JAN 02 1990

8

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA
SWANSEA

Address 177 Market Street

Historic Name Luther House

Use: Present residential

Original residential/farmstead

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1740

Source Registry of Deeds, Fall River

Style Georgian

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric wood shingle

Outbuildings Stone wall, foundations of barn,
coop, 2 sheds (all contributing)

Major Alterations (with dates) east ell

(19th cent.), greenhouse addition (ca. 1960)

Condition good

Moved no Date ---

Acreage approximately 5 acres

Setting House faces south and is oriented

close to street in rural, residential

area of North Swansea. Market Street

(Route 136) moderately trafficked artery.

Recorded by V. Frost/K. Valente/K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date 1978/March 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 311380 4625890

USGS QUADRANGLE East Providence, RI-MA 1971/1979

SCALE 1:24000

Valerie Talmage SRP 6/19/90

JAN 2 1990

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Luther House, 177 Market Street, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association. As an intact Georgian cape reminiscent of colonial development in Old Swansea, the house meets Criteria C on the local level. The property also includes a stone wall (ca. 1900) and the foundations of a large barn, coop, and two sheds (ca. 1895).

Areas of significance: Agriculture, Architecture

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

The Luther House--a 1½-story, five-bay, center-entry, gambrel cottage--is typical of 18th-century residential construction in Swansea. The shingled Georgian house retains a brick central chimney, gunstock corner posts on the interior, five-light transom over the center entrance, 12/12 window sash, and a narrow shed-roofed dormer centered over the entrance which appears to be original. Two later dormers were added to the rear (north) elevation at an unknown date. Other additions include a one-story gabled ell with secondary entrance and 9/9 sash, and a late 20th-century, one-story greenhouse addition on the west side. The main block and ell were restored beginning in 1966.

The house occupies a clearing close to the street, north and west of which are a stone wall and foundations of at least four buildings. The extent of the property being nominated comprises approximately five acres closest to the street on a lot of roughly 37 acres.

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

A typical example of the dispersed farmsteads that characterized Old Swansea in the 18th century, the Luther House is situated on a primarily north-south route through northwestern Swansea, between present Rehoboth, Mass. and Warren, Rhode Island. To the north is the First Baptist Church (1848), the site of a previous building relocated from present Barrington, Rhode Island in 1717. The church's relocation to this section of Swansea provided the impetus for colonial settlement of the area.

The house is noted for its long association with the Luther family, local farmers prominent throughout Swansea's history who were descended from John Luther, one of the proprietors of Taunton. The branch of the family believed to have been associated with this house is that of John's son Hezekiah. Thomas Patterson Luther (1805-1887), a farmer, owned this house ca. 1850; it is believed that either his grandfather, Nathaniel Luther (b. 1733), or his great-grandfather, Moses Luther (b. 1694) built the structure. While Luther family homesteads were scattered throughout Old Swansea (including present Warren), members of the family were active in the affairs of the First Baptist Church. The Luther family continued to occupy this house until the mid-20th century.

Five acres of thirty-seven have only been nominated because this five acres contains the principle building and remains of outbuildings associated with the property.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

ca. 1849 map of Swansea and 1871 and 1895 atlases of Bristol County.
Registry of Deeds, Fall River.
Swansea vital records, Swansea Public Library.
Helen Pierce, Swansea Historical Society, interview, 11/89.

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

11. First Baptist Church and Society

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melvin Byers 2/16/90

Attest _____

12. Gardner, Francis L., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melvin Byers 2/16/90

Attest _____

13. Gardner, Joseph, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melvin Byers 2/16/90

Attest _____

14. Gardner, Preserved, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melvin Byers 2/16/90

Attest _____

15. Gardner, Samuel, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melvin Byers 2/16/90

Attest _____

16. Hooper House

~~Substantive Review~~

for Keeper Beth J. Sarge 8/8/90

Attest _____

17. Hortonville Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melvin Byers 2/16/90

Attest _____

18. Johnson, J. V., House

~~Substantive Review~~

for Keeper Beth J. Sarge 8/8/90

Attest _____

19. Luther House

~~Substantive Review~~

for Keeper Beth J. Sarge 8/9/90

Attest _____

20. Luther's Corner

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melvin Byers 2/16/90

Attest _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90000073

Date Listed: 08/08/90

Luther House
Property Name

Bristol
County

MA
State

Swansea MRA
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Betty L. Savage
Signature of the Keeper

8/8/90
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

7. Description: Contributing and non-contributing resources:

The stone wall and foundations noted have not been evaluated in a historical archeological context; thus, they are noted in the description but are not counted as either contributing nor noncontributing at this time.

8. Statement of Significance: Criteria and Area(s)

Only criterion C is applicable for the property's architectural significance; criterion A was inadvertently not deleted in the resubmission.

Agriculture is not justified as an applicable area of significance.

This information was confirmed with Ann Tait, MASHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Luther House

MULTIPLE NAME: Swansea MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Bristol

DATE RECEIVED: 6/25/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY:
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/09/90

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000073

NOMINATOR: STATE

DETAILED EVALUATION: Y

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 8/8/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Locally significant Georgian
cape residence.
Initial return comments have
been addressed.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept C
REVIEWER Savage
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 8/8/90

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

Phone _____

Signed _____

Date _____



177 Market St.
Swansea, MA.

Luther House (MHC #B)
177 Market Street
Swansea, Mass. MRA

1986

View NW

PROPERTY MAP
TOWN OF SWANSEA
 BRISTOL COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

JAN 2 1990

JAMES W. SEWALL COMPANY

OLD TOWN, MAINE

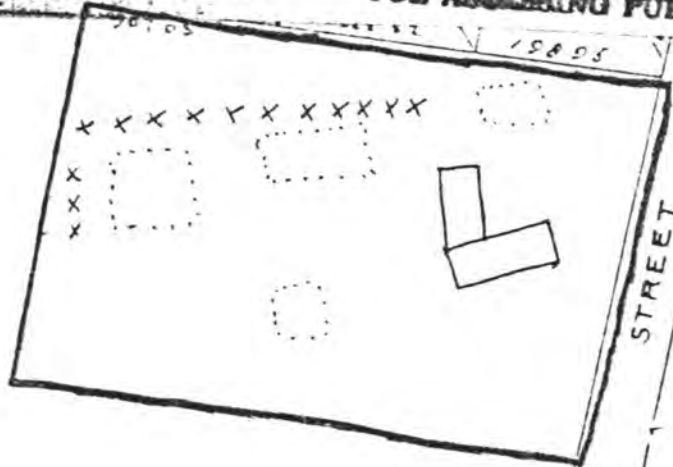
SCALE 1 INCH = 200 ± FEET
 1961 / REVISED 10/82

FOR ASSIGNING PURPOSES ONLY **12**

28



MHC # 8
 177 MARKET STREET



STREET

STONEY HILL ROAD

ROAD

KEY

- = HOUSE
- = FOUNDATIONS
- XX = STONE WALL



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000296