

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



156

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Swansea Friends Meetinghouse & Cemetery
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 223 Prospect Street not for publication
city or town Somerset vicinity
state Massachusetts code MA county Bristol code 005 zip code 02726

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Brona Simon
Signature of certifying official
SHPO
Title

Brona Simon, SHPO

February 20, 2014
Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official
Title

Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain): _____

Joe Eason H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

4.15.14
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	district
2	0	site
1	0	structure
34	2	object
38	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION, Religious Facility

FUNERARY, Cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

FUNERARY, Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Stone

walls: WOOD, shingle

roof: ASPHALT

other: N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Swansea Friends Meetinghouse and Cemetery are situated on the westerly side of Prospect Street in Somerset, MA (until 1790, a part of Swansea), in the midst of a more recent residential subdivision. The less-than-one-acre property is located just west of the Taunton River, south of the hamlet of Pottersville, east of the hamlet of Swansea, and north of an old ferry crossing, later a railroad (New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad) crossing, now the U.S. Rt. 6 highway bridge to the city of Fall River, the central place in the area. The meetinghouse is a two-story, wood-frame building of domestic scale with a gable roof and painted wood-shingle siding. Its larger scale denotes its status as a monthly meeting in the network of meetings in the New England Yearly Meeting, based in Providence; its outward symmetry reflects American meetinghouse design of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The form and plan of the building originated with a smaller meetinghouse erected on the site in 1702, parts of which still may be contained in the existing edifice, and evolved through at least two historic stages of enlargement and renovation, in 1746 and 1889. Each of these reflects the growth of the local weekly meeting and changes in the Quaker theology and practice in the 18th and 19th centuries. The modest and unornamented appearance of the exterior is consistent with the enduring plain style favored by the Society of Friends, while the interior has a mix of churchlike features, such as an entry vestibule or narthex, a sanctuary focused on a front dais and pulpit, and a second-story Sunday school, together with the preservation of traditional features, including a gallery, movable partitions for dividing spaces, and plain painted benches. Historic photographs document that a large wagon shed had occupied the open area north of the meetinghouse. The cemetery appears to have lost a number of markers due to age and attrition, although it has been suggested that earlier graves were unmarked. The primary concentration of headstones is in the northwest corner of the burial ground, another small group is aligned in the center of the cemetery near a gateway in the stone wall connecting the cemetery with the meetinghouse yard, and a number of fallen stones can be seen in the lawn in the southwest corner of the property. Grave markers are simple, small, slabs with arched tops, typical of the Quaker taste, and they reflect a range of that design from various periods in the 19th century. Immediately behind the meetinghouse is a monument erected in 1976 to honor Patience Brayton (1733-1794), an elder or minister of the Swansea Meeting. Brayton also was a "travelling friend" who sojourned in the South in the late 1700s to preach nonresistance and the abolition of slavery; she even traveled to England to seek an audience with the king to promote anti-slavery. The monument is contained within an iron fence reputedly salvaged from a fence that once surrounded the Boston Common.

The nominated property contains 38 contributing features: the Swansea Friends Meetinghouse (building), a wagon shed site and the cemetery (sites), stone walls (structure), and 34 gravestones (objects). A memorial marker and fenced enclosure erected in 1976 in honor of Patience Brayton is a noncontributing object due to its recent date. A large community cemetery (Slade Cemetery) is located across Prospect Street from the meetinghouse; it is not associated with the nominated property.

Narrative Description

Based on previous interpretation of meeting records, the development of the Swansea Friends Meetinghouse has been projected over four stages of development: 1702, 1746, 1872, and 1889.¹ However, a review of that documentation and a historical overview published in 1931 has left the 1872 stage unsubstantiated.² A closer reading of the descriptions contained in the minutes of business meetings held at the Swansea Meetinghouse also has resulted in a somewhat more refined impression of the interpretation of the appearance of the 1702 meetinghouse and building that developed in the stages that followed.

¹ Maximilian L. Ferro, FAIA, "Inspection Report on the History, Condition, Repair and Future Use of the Swansea Quaker Meeting House, Somerset, Massachusetts," prepared for the Somerset Historical Commission and the Town Administrator of Somerset, May, 2010. The dates were published in Silas B. Weeks, *New England Quaker Meeting Houses, Past and Present* (Richmond IN: Friends United Press, 2001), 74, from information provided by Janice W. Chace, one of the last members of the meeting, and a pamphlet published by the meeting in 1975 as part of Somerset's commemoration of the U.S. Bicentennial. In the latter publication, it was claimed that these dates were found in the records of this, and the quarterly meetings now in the archives of the New England Yearly Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island.

² Rhode Island Historical Society, *New England Yearly Meeting Archives, "Brief Historical Sketch and List of Pastors," Year Book and Church Directory of the Swansea Friends Meeting, Somerset, Massachusetts, 1931-1932*. Providence: the Society.

First Stage, 1702

A noninvasive investigation undertaken for a 2010 conditions assessment identified a shouldered post, at the base of the staircase of the south side of the existing building, as the possible southeast corner of the 1702 meetinghouse (Fig. 2, Photo 5). It was observed that this visible component was consistent with early 18th-century framing methods. No other features associated with this 1702 stage were identified, but from this evidence, it has been posited that a 33-foot-wide space in the center of the present plan, now flanked by wings of later construction, represents the original meetinghouse.³ Further investigation will be needed to confirm this hypothesis.

The first meetinghouse was only one story in height, as indicated by a separate post seated upon the shouldered post when a second story was added later (Photo 5). The interior would have contained a single room with facing benches on risers at the west end of the building, opposite the entrance. Posts in the east and west walls divide the framing of the room into two uneven sections, one on the south side being fourteen feet, three inches wide and one on the north side eighteen feet, eight inches wide. This inequality is consistent with the prevailing hierarchy of male space over female space in the house, and there probably was some capacity for dividing the room along this line to create separate areas for men's and women's business meetings. There probably was only one entrance in the front, as separated entrances had yet to come into use. Windows on the front and side walls, and windows on the rear wall, were elevated above the facing benches there. The 2010 report speculates that the existing front vestibule originated in this period as an open porch, but more physical evidence is needed to verify this; however, porches were not a common component of 18th-century meetinghouse architecture. The conceptual plan of the building is very similar to that of the Friends meetinghouse reputedly built in 1706 in Pembroke, Massachusetts.⁴

Second Stage, 1747

At a business meeting in 1735, a committee was appointed to repair the "little Meeting House."⁵ The Swansea preparative meeting had been elevated to a monthly meeting three years earlier, which resulted in the demand for more space, and the physical planning and the raising of subscriptions were preoccupations at subsequent meetings until a new building was completed in May 1747.⁶ The dimensions of the new meetinghouse were projected to be 45 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 18 feet high, although the current building measures approximately 48 by 25 feet.⁷ From these dimensions, it has been assumed that the current form of the building represents that achieved by 1747. Monthly meetings typically were larger buildings with plans that could be temporarily partitioned for separate business meetings or smaller weekly religious services, but then opened up for occasional larger gatherings. Most had second-story galleries on three sides used for overflow attendance; these, too, could be shuttered off from the main meeting room by boards laid across the opening in the ceiling.

In 1782, it was reported that the "chamber over the little part" was finished for the women to hold their monthly meeting.⁸ What exactly constituted the "little part" is not clear, although an excerpt from the minutes recorded below indicates that it was in the north part of the house, and the chamber enclosed the gallery on the north side, perhaps so that it could be heated. In August 1808, a committee appointed by the Swansea meeting made the following report to the Quarterly Meeting held in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. It helps to distinguish features in the plan of the 1746 building:

We the committee appointed respecting making an alteration in Swansey meeting House to make it more convenient for holding the Quarterly meetings report that under Present circumstances we do not see anything better than to remove the partition which now divides the house further south as far as the alley which leads to the gallery seats, and make a narrow flight of stairs on the Left of the North door which will lead into the chamber over the north part of the house and place a few seats round the opening which

³Ferro, "Inspection Report."

⁴This building was measured and documented by the Historic American Building Survey, http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?hh:74:./temp/~ammem_fOrF::

⁵Rhode Island Historical Society, New England Yearly Meeting Archives, "Brief Historical Sketch and List of Pastors," *Year Book and Church Directory of the Swansea Friends Meeting, Somerset, Massachusetts, 1931-1932*. Providence: the Society.

⁶Ibid.

⁷NEYM Archives, Swansea Monthly Meeting minutes, 4 Sept. 1745.

⁸"Brief Historical Sketch."

will then be in the north part, that if the lower part of the house should not hold the meeting, they might be occupied – the probable expense, we think, will be about one hundred & fifty dollars.⁹

This description is consistent with the conceptual plans illustrated in Figs. 3 & 4, except with the north side of the gallery walled in. The above description of the work and the \$150 cost document that it was not an enlargement.

The side wings would have provided additional space for monthly meetings, and could have been closed off when not needed (Fig.3). The wings contained fireplaces for use in colder months. They are unequal in size, with the one on the south side, measuring eleven feet wide, considered an “alley” leading to the stairs to the second-story gallery. The north wing measures fourteen feet, three inches wide and may have been made larger to provide sufficient space for the women’s meeting room above it. The plan included second-story galleries with stairs in the southeast corner (Fig.4). As noted above, the gallery on the north side was finished as a chamber in 1782.

It would be expected that the fenestration was organized in a symmetrical manner on the exterior and particularly on the front façade. The second-story windows are evenly spaced, one in each of the four bays of the frame. Assuming these are appropriate, then there likely were windows in similar positions on the first story, and a single entrance in the center, with the existing conditions the result of alterations occurring in one or more later periods. Two front doors became a feature of Quaker meetinghouse design later in the 18th century, when gender separation was more commonly expressed architecturally. The window at the north end probably was moved when stairs were added there in 1809, and the south one probably was removed when new stairs in that section were built across it in 1889. The center windows and entrance were jockeyed around when two entrances were installed at an undetermined date around the turn of the 19th century.

Third Stage, 1889

In 1889 an extensive project was undertaken to repair the aging building and renovate the interior in accordance with the prevailing taste and organizational program (Figs.1, 5 & 6, Photos #1-4). The addition of an exterior vestibule across the entrances in the front of the building was the most significant alteration, and windows on the rear facade were rearranged in response to interior changes. Aging window sash throughout the building was replaced with the existing 6/6 sash. By this time, facing benches in front of the meeting room were removed and replaced with the existing dais and pulpit, as the Friends’ style of worship became more churchlike (Photos 6 & 7). Also, fireboxes were closed up and stoves installed for more effective heat. A beaded-board wainscot was added to the walls. (An 18th-century wainscot probably would have been comprised of wide horizontal rather than narrow vertical boards.) A new sliding partition was installed on the south end of the first floor between the meeting room and the “alley” leading to the stairs (Fig. 5, Photo 9). New benches were made that had hinged backs that could be moved to change the direction of the seats from inward to outward, depending on the use of the space. A passageway was created inside the southern entrance from the narthex and at the base of the south stairs to divide and control access to the first-floor spaces and the upper story.

A large room was created at the south end of the second story by flooring over the southern half of the open well of the gallery (Fig.6, Photo10). Dwindling membership by this time made the gallery unnecessary, and with meetinghouse practice giving way to church-like functions, auxiliary spaces for adult fellowship activities, Sunday School, and other social uses were created. The new room was finished with plaster walls and a coved ceiling above a beaded-board wainscot. Windows and doors were distinguished with simple pedimented cornices, while a new straight run of wide stairs, replacing a tight winder in the southeast corner, made for easier access (Photo 5). New paneled knee walls edged the remaining opening in the floor, and they were surmounted by sliding doors on the south and east sides to close off the meeting-room space in a traditional Quaker mode (Photos 8 & 10). The “chamber” on the north side of the second floor was preserved and partitioned into two classrooms. It was reached by an old winder stair in the northeast corner, only slightly modified (Fig.6). The section of the gallery remaining on the east side of the well was also partitioned for a third classroom. Panel doors above the knee wall at the edge of the well, similar to those in the Sunday School room, permitted this classroom to be opened to the meeting room below when desired.

⁹ NEYM Archives, Swansea Monthly Meeting minutes, Jan 1809. An undated photograph of the meetinghouse, printed with a portrait of Obadiah Chace, who served as the minister of the meeting from 1847 to 1894, has a caption stating that the building was enlarged about 1808. This illustrates the ambiguity in the construction history of the building.

Wood shingles appear to have been the original exterior material, although the present siding is a 20th-century replacement. Business Meeting minutes from 1831 attest to an earlier rehabilitation of the wood-shingle exterior.¹⁰ (The absence of a reveal where the siding abuts window casings indicates the current shingles were added over a pre-existing layer.) The shingles conceal any evidence of altered window locations. For instance, there probably had been a window on the front façade at the southern end of the first story, in line with the second-story window that was removed when the existing longer run of stairs was added. Other windows on the front façade have been jockeyed out of original vertical alignment, which would have resulted in the patching or replacement of the previous siding. The narrow exposure of the clapboards covering the vestibule reflects late 19th-century technology and design (Photo 4). The windows on the south gable end appear to be in their original locations, although one on the first story has been replaced with a door (Photo 1). The front tier of windows on the north gable end have been removed, and replaced by two small windows on the first story, where bathrooms were added in the late 1900s, and covered over on the second story (Photo 2). The rear (west) wall had two tiers of four windows each. One interior tier was removed and replaced with a pair of windows positioned between the first and second stories; on the interior it is centered above the pulpit dais, although not quite on axis with the center aisle (Photo 3). The extant pulpit and furnishings were installed ca. 1907.¹¹

Present Conditions

A few actions have been taken on the building since 1889 that have changed its appearance. The most significant alteration has been the addition of black louvered shutters, characteristic of the wave of 20th-century Colonial Revival renovation of many of New England's historic buildings. A late 19th-century photograph of the meetinghouse depicts the building as it looked prior to its Romantic reconfiguration (Fig.1). The roof of the building has acquired the ubiquitous asphalt shingles of the late 20th century. A ventilator was added to the center of the rear plane of the roof, just below the ridge line. The windows on the first story of the rear wall have makeshift plywood shutters, while those on the second story are fully covered with plywood panels. This presumably was done for security purposes; the decorative louvered shutters were installed only on the three visible sides of the building.

Two non-historic awning windows were installed on the north end of the building to illuminate and ventilate a lavatory and storeroom built between the chimney and the stairs on the interior side of the wall. A third enclosure was constructed on the west side of the chimney to contain a hot-air heating unit; it contains an original window located at the rear of the north wall. A similar enclosure was erected on the west side of the chimney, and over a window on the south end of the meetinghouse, for a second hot-air heating unit. These spaces were created in the late 20th century by stud and gypsum wall partitions. The additions were integrated into the architecture of the rooms by the application of beaded-board wainscot to match the existing wainscot. The only noteworthy change on the second floor has been the conversion of a classroom space in the northeast corner into a kitchen.

Cemetery & Grounds

The grounds of the meetinghouse are defined by stone walls on the north, west, and south boundaries, and Prospect Street on the east (Fig.7). A large open space north of the building originated as a marshalling area for carriages and wagons, which were lodged with their horses in a long shed backing up to the stone wall along the northern border of the meetinghouse grounds (Fig.1). The cemetery is located beyond the stone walls bordering the north and west sides of the meetinghouse grounds, and it also has stone walls demarcating its outside boundaries to form an L-shaped enclosure, with a gateway located near the inside corner (Photo 14). The southern leg of the L, being directly behind the meetinghouse, represents the older part of the cemetery. A number of broken and illegible stones are scattered and lying in the lawn at the southernmost limit of the cemetery. Apparently, most of the stones in this section have been lost, or the graves were never marked (Photos 11 & 12). Towards the center, four square-topped marble markers for members of the Chace family are left standing near the gateway, one at the grave of Elizabeth Chace, who died in 1830 (Photo 11). In between is an overgrown monument dedicated to Patience Brayton (1733-1794), a traveling Friend and anti-slavery advocate, well-known for a memoir of her experiences published in 1802 (Photo 13). The granite slab was erected in 1976 to commemorate this Swansea native and long-time pastor of the meeting. Her actual grave site is believed to be among those without markers. The iron fence that envelops the monument was made from parts of a fence that reputedly once bordered the Boston Common.

¹⁰ Ibid., July 25, 1831.

¹¹ "Brief Historical Sketch."

The leg of the cemetery running along the northern property line was more recently developed, and contains a total of 27 stones in six rows concentrated near the northwest corner (Photos 14 & 15). An open area in the northeast corner apparently was intended for expansion that never occurred. All the headstones have arched tops in the Quaker tradition of plain and uniform markers, but there are three distinct types, each reflecting a different period of gravestone manufacture. A grouping in the center is comprised of marble markers with arched tops, sharp, squared edges, and plain lettering, providing only names, death dates, and ages. Three marble stones in a family group, cut in the mid 19th century, are embellished with a molded edge on the front, showing a less rigorous avoidance of decoration due to either the family's preference, the stonemason's inventory, or both. The remaining markers, numbering nineteen in all, were erected in the late 19th century. They are exceptionally plain, but fashioned from granite rather than marble.

As a representation of the 300-year history of the Swansea Monthly Meeting, the cemetery is but a remnant of the numbers and range of Friends associated with it. Without a documentary record of the burials, it is difficult to get a sense of the individuals and families who populated the meeting or to visualize the historic setting.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are recorded within the meetinghouse and cemetery property or in the general area (within one mile), sites may exist. Environmental characteristics of the nominated property do not represent locational characteristics (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native sites. While the meetinghouse and cemetery are situated on level to moderately sloping topography, both favorable characteristics, they are both located well over 1,000 feet from the nearest wetland resources, an important but unfavorable characteristic. The area is part of the Taunton River/Narragansett Bay drainage. Soils in the area are also classified as urban land, making soil drainage and other physical soil characteristics difficult to determine. Urban land consists of areas where 75% or more of the land is covered with impervious surfaces, such as buildings, pavement, industrial parks, and railroad yards. While these urban land characteristics are not present on the nominated property, soil strata in the area has been disturbed by construction of the meetinghouse and the excavation of graves for more than 200 years. Given the above information, a low potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources in the cemetery.

There is a high potential for locating historic archaeological resources on the meetinghouse and cemetery property. Historic archaeological resources described above can contribute important information on earlier land use of the property, as well as detailed insights into Quaker lifeways, Quaker construction techniques, and the general use of the meetinghouse. Archaeological remains located on the property are particularly important, since they may allow reconstruction of the earlier meetinghouse site as it existed in 1702, and possibly earlier. Additional historical research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may help determine the construction date for the meetinghouse and the structural patterns of reuse or the extent to which the 1702 meetinghouse was incorporated into the extant building, which underwent two stages of enlargement and renovation, in 1747 and 1889. Similar research could also be used to determine whether or not evidence of a second 18th-century doorway exists.

Unmarked burials should represent the most common type of archaeological resource at the site, followed by structural evidence of outbuildings, barns, and possibly stables. Unmarked graves containing a burial shaft, a coffin, human remains, and funerary objects may survive anywhere in the cemetery and in the surrounding areas. Multiple burials may also be present. Post molds and other evidence of fences and boundary markers may exist, as well as grave markers and memorial offerings/markers for individual and groups of graves. Other potential historic archaeological resources may include trash deposits, remnants of stone walls, boundary markers, and artifact scatters related to memorial services and offerings.

See also potential structural evidence of the carriage barn site and evidence for other barns, stables, and outbuildings related to the operation and maintenance of the cemetery and meetinghouse.

Data Sheet for component features.

Feature	Date	Description	Resource Type	Status
Meetinghouse	1702-1889	2-story, wood frame, gable roof, irregular fenestration, enclosed porch on front	Building	C
Wagon shed site	18 th century	Located in open area north of meetinghouse	Site	C
Grounds & cemetery	1702-1900	Lawns surrounding meetinghouse outlined by stone walls, unpaved driveway in front of building. Cemetery on north and west sides of meetinghouse also enclosed in stone walls	Site	C
Stone walls	1702-1900	Surrounds property and divides cemetery and meetinghouse areas	Structure	C
Chace family gravestone group	Early 19 th century	Four arch-top marble stones	Objects	4 C
Plain marble gravestone group	Mid-19 th century	Eight arch-top marble stones	Objects	8 C
Ornamented marble gravestone group	Mid-19 th century	Three carved marble stones	Objects	3 C
Granite gravestones	Late 19 th century	19 plain stones	Objects	19 C
Patience Brayton Memorial & Fence	1976	Granite gravestone with iron fence said to have been salvaged from Boston Common	Objects	2 NC

Resource total	Contributing	Noncontributing
Buildings	1	
Structures	1	
Sites	2	
Objects	34	2
Totals	38	2

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE _____
 RELIGION _____
 SOCIAL HISTORY _____

Period of Significance

1702-1964

Significant Dates

1702 _____
 1747 _____
 1889 _____

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Patience Brayton _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

unknown _____

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance (1702-1964) was selected because it encompasses the three building campaigns of the meetinghouse, and represents the long history of the Swansea Monthly Meeting and the New England Annual Meeting of the Society of Friends. The end date represents the required 50-year threshold for National Register eligibility, but it also is a point at which the Swansea meeting declined in numbers and activity.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

The Swansea Friends Meetinghouse & Cemetery meets Criteria Consideration A, as a resource constructed and historically associated with a religious institution.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Swansea Friends Meetinghouse and Cemetery comprise a property that is architecturally and historically significant as a distinctive example of 18th-century meetinghouse architecture, and as an important surviving landmark in the geographical and hierarchical network of Quaker meetings in southern New England, which was one of the earliest and most successful plantings of the Society of Friends in America. The property meets National Register criteria A, B, and C at a local and state level of significance. The Swansea Friends Meetinghouse is one of only nineteen Quaker meetinghouses inventoried in the state of Massachusetts, of which there had been scores in the 19th century, and as such represents a rare surviving example of a statewide religious network of historical significance. Containing evidence of its earliest component, built in 1702, the meetinghouse is the oldest building in this group and has significance that transcends its local context. Architecturally, it now represents the form and plan of a meetinghouse built in 1746 and updated in 1889.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Architecture.

The Swansea Friends Meetinghouse illustrates the evolution of Quaker architecture. The meetinghouse grew from an intentionally unpretentious, domestic-scale building, completed in 1702 with a revolutionary plan free of a pulpit or religious iconography evincing the Friends' rejection of established modes of Christian worship, to a large facility created in 1746 to function for monthly meetings of a number of satellite meetings within the strict Quaker organization implemented in the late 1700s. Its development culminated in a renovation undertaken in 1889 that made it more churchlike, as Quakers became more evangelical and oriented to mainstream Christian religious practice. In all periods and all places, Friends' meetinghouses represent a distinguishable architectural type that subtly expressed the tenets of "quietness" and "plainness."

Religion.

The Swansea Friends Meetinghouse is a landmark in the religious history of Massachusetts. The Society of Friends played a significant role in the settlement and community development in the state and southern New England.¹² The first Quakers to immigrate to the American colonies, Mary Fisher and Ann Austin, arrived in Boston in 1656, and were seized immediately by the Puritan authorities and imprisoned. Five weeks later, they were exiled to Barbados. Quakers experienced persecution in most of the American colonies, but reaction was the most ferocious and unrelenting in Massachusetts, where Puritan leaders saw them as heretics, witches, and threats to their holy experiment. Many of them were abused and tortured; some were executed. By contrast, Friends were tolerated and protected in the neighboring colony of Rhode Island, which became a base for the settlement of Quaker communities in other parts of New England. Boston was particularly opposed to Quakers, but Cape Cod and Salem became fertile ground for their settlement, as well as parts of southern Massachusetts adjoining Rhode Island. **[more on continuation sheet]**

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The Quaker religious experience was individual and internal, and their places of worship were designed to remove the voices and decoration of conventional Christian services. As the sect became larger and more organized in the late 18th century, Quakers adopted a conscious design to identify their meetinghouses in counter-distinction to the churches of other Protestant denominations. The idea of plainness became the governing aspect of Quaker design, not just in meetinghouses, but in all aspects of Friends material culture and social interaction. The aesthetic was a well-crafted one (plain did not equate to simple or poor), intended to emphasize this ethic to outsiders.

¹² The foregoing overview has been culled from "A Brief History of the Friends in New England," *NEYM Faith & Practice*, (Providence, RI New England Yearly Meeting, 2008). http://www.neym.org/fandp/filemgmt_data/files/History%20Draft%20Given%20Preliminary%20Approval%202008-06-08.pdf.

Social History.

The Society of Friends is well known for their commitment to the human rights of peoples of all kinds all over the world. The abolition of slavery in America was one of their first humanitarian missions. The Swansea Monthly Meeting is additionally significant as the home meeting of Patience Brayton, a pastor of the meeting, 1760-1781, who as a “traveling friend” sojourned through the South to express nonresistance opposition to slavery, and even went to England in an attempt to convince the king to abolish slavery in the colonies. Her memoirs, published in 1802, continue to serve as a document of the Friends’ early and long antislavery agenda.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (continued)

Plainness was a device used by other radical or “primitive” Protestant sects (e.g. Primitive Baptists), and it became a driving idea in rural architecture generally in the early 19th century, when the predominance of the 18th-century agrarian society was threatened by the rapid growth of urban capitalism. The pious and plain demeanor represented by the Quakers became a rallying point for a highly politicized rural preservation movement.¹³

Quaker Architecture

The plan of a Quaker meetinghouse is unlike those of churches—even primitive ones—in that there is no pulpit as a focal point, signifying the absence of ministerial authority. The meeting room was an unadorned, rectilinear space with neat rows of benches or pews facing one another, with two additional rows of benches in the front where elders would sit. Meetings were largely silent, although members were able to present testimonies if they desired. Meetings were comprised of two parts: one for spiritual worship, and one for addressing issues related to the business of the meeting in the context of the large organization. Unlike most religious denominations of the time, Friends believed in an equality of the sexes. Men and women would participate in the religious part of the meeting together, but they would hold separate business meetings. To accommodate this separation, two spaces were necessary. The earliest meetinghouses usually contained two distinct rooms: the common meeting room, and a second, smaller room either adjoining or above it, where women would withdraw for their business meetings. Later, this separation developed into a feature unique to Quaker meetinghouse design. Movable partitions were installed in the common meeting room so that it could be divided when needed. In most early cases, large panels were hung on cords like sash windows and raised or lowered as required. Later, as in the Swansea Friends Meetinghouse, partitions moved horizontally on tracks.

Another distinctive aspect of Quaker meetinghouse design is that a particular building existed within a hierarchical network with others. Within the organizational framework established by the Friends in the 18th century, local meetinghouses, where members came together weekly, were grouped under the umbrella of a monthly meeting. Members from the local groups would convene for business meetings at the monthly meeting regarding issues common to them and the larger organization. Monthly meetings were organized under quarterly meetings, and the whole network was overseen by a yearly meeting. The yearly meeting for New England was based in Providence, Rhode Island. Swansea was designated a monthly meeting in 1732, and this action led to the expansion and renovation of the 1702 building around 1746. Monthly meetings needed to accommodate more people, and as such they were generally two stories in height with a gallery for overflow, as well as the capability for partitioning off larger meeting areas and closing off the gallery when not in use. The Swansea Friends Meetinghouse retains many of the features it acquired after becoming a monthly meeting. Other Massachusetts meetinghouses within the Rhode Island Yearly Meeting listed in the National Register of Historic Places are located in Pembroke, Acushnet, and Dartmouth.

While still a plain building in the Quaker sense, the Swansea Friends Meetinghouse now evinces a late 19th-century building that illustrates the complexity and contradictions in the Quaker experience of that period. Earlier in the century, the sect went through a number of conflicts generally stemming from the modern dilemma of whether to remain inward and isolated, at the expense of losing new members, or to be more worldly and evangelical in order to recruit new members and sustain the larger organization. In some cases, meetings chose to remain true to the original plan and preserve their plain meetinghouses; in others, such as in Swansea, they adopted more conventional church practices and renovated their meetinghouses accordingly. The most striking concession was the addition of a pulpit as a focal point of the interior plan. However, plainness was still considered a virtue, and even these adapted buildings and interior spaces

¹³ Neil Larson, Context Statement “Dutchess County Quaker Meeting Houses Thematic Resources,” National Register Nomination, 1973.

rejected the ostentation of high churches. Instead, as in the later stages of the Swansea Friends Meetinghouse, a Quaker iconography emerged: undecorated walls, simple board pews, and movable partitions. The final stage of the design of the Swansea Friends Meetinghouse is an apt representation of the eventual disintegration of the expansive 19th-century Quaker network. Later, in the 20th century, the Society of Friends would reanimate, and the designs of many new meetinghouses built in that period pay tribute to the stunning, plain architecture of their forebears.

Quakers in New England

By 1671, only 15 years after the arrival of the first Quakers in Boston, George Fox, their charismatic English leader, embarked on a visit to his disciples in the New World. One outcome of Fox's sojourn was to emphasize the need for the Society of Friends in the New World to solidify around an organization that would provide integrity and stability to their communities in relation to other religious sects and political entities. While some Friends asserted that the individual's spiritual development took precedence over all else, Fox recognized that the community would disintegrate if there was not an organized effort to nurture it. He urged New England Friends to institute monthly business meetings so that they could, under divine guidance, manage their practical affairs. With the institution of monthly meetings, the prophetic movement evolved into a credible and permanent religious society.

The flourishing of the Quakers in the 18th century led to a multiplication of meetings and the development of an expansive hierarchical organizational network with a system of monthly, quarterly, annual and even national meetings representing the Society of Friends. Because of Rhode Island's early and enduring support of the Quakers, it became the center, or yearly meeting, for all of New England. Because of their proximity, meetings in southeastern Massachusetts fell directly under the yearly meeting's influence, and it became one of the densest concentrations of Quakers in the region. The Swansea meeting, known then as Wickapimset, was formed sometime before construction was begun on the first meetinghouse in 1701.¹⁴ It functioned as a preparative (weekly) meeting under the Rhode Island Monthly Meeting until 1732, when Swansea was elevated to a monthly meeting as the Rhode Island meeting became a quarterly meeting. The town of Somerset, in which the meetinghouse and cemetery are located, was set off from Swansea in 1790.

The 19th century was a tumultuous time for the Society of Friends, as the integrity of the traditional "quiet" meeting practice came under assault by reformers wanting the Friends to engage more in the world and spread their word through evangelical efforts, in response to the liberalization of Protestant worship following the Great Awakening that had swept through New England in the late 1700s. The first significant "separation" of Quakers occurred in 1828, with Philadelphian Joseph Hicks serving as the agitator. Although its effects were not so acutely felt by the Society of Friends in New England, the rebellion created conservative and reformist (Hicksite) factions that spiritually and physically divided meetings.

Another separation, this one directly affecting the Swansea meeting, occurred following the preaching of Joseph John Gurney, an English Friend who made a speaking tour through New England in 1838-1840. Gurney is credited as "one of the foremost Quaker thinkers of his generation, and a man who did more to shape modern Quakerism than any other single person."¹⁵ Gurney was a biblical scholar and saw limitations in traditional quietist piety and introspection.

Under Gurney's influence the Bible was rediscovered as a source of inspiration, and its avid study led to the founding of Bible schools by almost all meetings. His active participation in movements on behalf of slaves, prisoners and American Indians gave young Friends a new ideal of Quaker personality and character. Finally, his effort to restate Quaker truths in the language and contemporary theology radically altered the focus of Quakerism in New England and elsewhere. Its final authority no longer rested upon the inward working of the Spirit, but on the conformation of the Scriptures and on a body of theological doctrines regarded as essential for saving a faith.¹⁶

In reaction to Gurney's successful crusade to win over Friends' minds, the strident voice of John Wilbur emerged. Wilbur, a Friend from Hopkinton, Rhode Island, in 1832 had published a pamphlet opposing Gurney's ideas and stressing the traditional Quaker orientation to the inner light. This dissension came to a head when the Rhode Island Annual Meeting

¹⁴ Silas B. Weeks, *New England Quaker Meeting Houses, Past and Present* (Richmond IN: Friends United Press, 2001), 74.

¹⁵ "A Brief History of the Friends in New England," *NEYM Faith & Practice*.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

“laid down,” or abolished, Wilbur’s own monthly meeting in South Kingstown, Rhode Island, when the monthly meeting refused to disown him. Following a meeting in Swansea in 1844, which was split in its allegiances, Wilbur led his supporters across the Taunton River to Fall River, where they took over a preparative meeting and established a second Swansea Monthly Meeting. The 600 or so Wilburites established their own New England Yearly Meeting; the remainder of the 8,000 Friends adopted the name of Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England. This division would last for the next century and characterize relationships among New England Quakers until a reconciliation finally brought the Society of Friends into its present modern era.¹⁷

Consistent with changing religious practice experienced throughout the Society of Friends, the Swansea Meeting adopted many conventional churchlike functions at the turn of the 20th century. The interior of the meetinghouse was adapted with the addition of a dais and pulpit from which ministers preached to a congregation. Business meetings were less frequent, as there was less business to conduct. The Swansea Meeting established a Sunday school as well as a summer vacation bible school for its members, for which space was created in the upper story. Meanwhile, the Yearly Meeting adopted an anti-war and social reform activism that has come to define the image of the Society of Friends to this day, in which the Swansea and other meetings participated. Swansea’s membership numbered over 100 adults at this time, and this population remained consistent until after the Second World War. Membership declined significantly in the 1960s, as younger generations moved away from the area and did not replenish the loss of their forebears. By the 1970s there were fewer than 25 members in the meeting, and they were aging, yet they were committed to keeping the meeting active and maintaining the building. As the 21st century opened, only three members remained. These surviving Friends conveyed the property to the Town of Somerset in 2010, with the expectation that the meetinghouse would be preserved and reused for an appropriate purpose. The transaction was predicated on their ability to hold meetings there when desired. The Town commissioned a conditions assessment in 2010, and is evaluating use plans that include a community center and a museum of the history of the Society of Friends in the region. The Town’s Department of Public Works currently cares for both the building and the cemetery.

Patience Brayton

Patience Brayton (1733-1794) was one of numerous women in her generation who believed they were called by God to sustain and expand the Quaker community through preaching.¹⁸ She was born in North Kingstown, Rhode Island on November 18, 1733, the daughter of David and Mary Greene, members of the Society of Friends. When she was 21 years of age, she made her first public testimony at a Quaker meeting. In 1758 she married Preserved Brayton, a member of her meeting. As she reached middle age, she and her husband became concerned about the plight of enslaved Africans, and they freed those that they held and joined the abolition movement to work towards the liberation of all slaves. On May 9, 1771, she set out on a mission to visit the governments of slave-owning states in the South. She used the Friends’ meeting and social networks to make connections and provide accommodations during the trip. Believing that she was directed by God, her commitment was such that she left her husband, who was in poor health, and three young children behind. After being away for about a year, she returned home to find that one child had died, and another died soon after. Humbled by the experience, she visited Friends in the Swansea monthly meeting to bring comfort to the poor and downtrodden. Gradually she extended her visitations to Friends in eastern New England. During this period, she acted as minister to the Swansea meeting.¹⁹

While in Swansea, Brayton developed an interest in visiting Friends in Great Britain, and in 1783, with the support of her monthly meeting, she set out for Philadelphia, visiting other meetings along the way, and then embarked for Ireland. After spending some time visiting Friends in that country, Brayton proceeded to England, her principal destination, where she endeavored to visit nearly all the Quaker meetings there, an effort that took about four years. While there, she supported Quaker women seeking their own London Yearly Meeting. When she returned home, she brought with her certificates from many of these visits, professing unity among friends and testimonials of her service to them.

¹⁷ Ibid. *The British Friend* (Glasgow, June 1849), 114. From a report of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Charles Frederick Holder, *The Quakers in Great Britain and America: the religious and political History of the Society of Friends from the Seventeenth to the Twentieth Century* (1913).

¹⁸ Susan Hill Lindley & Eleanor J. Stebner, eds. *The Westminster Handbook to Women in American Religious History* (Louisville KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008), 24. Entry written by Barbara J. Machaffie.

¹⁹ “A Testimony Of the Swansey Monthly Meeting Concerning Patience Brayton, 6 April 1795,” in *A Short Account of the Life and Religious Labours of Patience Brayton, Late of Swansea, in the State of Massachusetts Mostly Selected from Her Own Minutes* (1802), 4-5.

Although in failing health, Brayton resumed her New England visitations once she returned to Swansea. By one account, "In the year 1793, she was seized with a paralytic affliction, at intervals of which, she was concerned and assisted to meet with us at our meeting-house, though much weakened in body, yet fervent in spirit, and appeared to be renewedly concerned for the poor, often administering to their relief."²⁰ Patience Green Brayton died on July 30, 1794, and was buried in the Friends ground in Swansea following a large and solemn meeting of Friends and others.²¹ In 1802, her journals providing accounts of her varied travels were published as a biography by Friends of the Swansea Monthly Meeting. They recount her experiences as a traveling female minister who suffered from bouts of self doubt, physical ailments, and homesickness, but who also, as a Quaker, rejoiced in seeing God working through her.²²

Archaeological Significance

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important information related to 18th- and 19th-century Quaker meetinghouse architecture, the evolution of Quaker burial grounds and cemeteries, and the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of members of the southeastern Massachusetts Quaker community during the 18th through 20th centuries. Additional historical research, combined with excavation in the foundation area, may contribute important evidence related to the original construction date and construction methods used to build the meetinghouse. Similar research may also identify structural evidence of alterations to the meetinghouse, including the presence of an earlier 18th-century doorway. Archaeological research may also contribute important information related to the early use and evolution of the cemetery through the identification of unmarked graves and buried/broken gravestones. Careful analysis of the contents of individual and groups of graves, and any occupational-related features that may be present, may contribute important social, cultural, and economic information of those who attended meetinghouse functions, and/or were interred at the cemetery and the larger Quaker community. All of the information described above may also contribute important information related to aspects of Quaker culture and society, including the concept of plainness and gender equality.

²⁰ Ibid., 6.

²¹ Ibid., 7.

²² Lindley & Stebner, eds. *The Westminster Handbook to Women in American Religious History*, 24.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Providence, RI. Archives of the New England Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

Weeks, Silas B. *New England Quaker Meeting Houses, Past and Present*. Richmond, IN: Friends United Press, 2001.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been Requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- _____
Name of repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): SOM.4, SOM.801

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Lat/Lon 41.738508 -71.157382

1 19 320560 4622800
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

Swansea Friends Meetinghouse & Cemetery
Name of Property

Bristol Co., Massachusetts
County and State

The property is bounded by Prospect Street on the east and adjoining residential parcels on the other three sides. See attached assessor map for a more precise description.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary contains the original parcel granted for the meetinghouse in 1701.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Neil Larson, with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission
organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date February 2014
street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470
city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125
e-mail betsy.Friedberg@sec.state.ma.us

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner:

(complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Town of Somerset, Dennis F. Luttrell, Town Administrator
street & number 140 Wood St. telephone 508-646-2800
city or town Somerset state MA zip code 02726

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Swansea Friends Meetinghouse & Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Somerset

County: Bristol **State:** Massachusetts

Photographer: Neil Larson

Date Photographed: 11 June 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: View of exterior from SE

- 1 of 15: View of exterior from SE
- 2 of 15: View of exterior from NE
- 3 of 15: View of exterior from NW
- 4 of 15: Detail of entrance vestibule on front façade
- 5 of 15: View of staircase in SE corner of plan, shouldered post on right
- 6 of 15: View of sanctuary looking west towards dais and pulpit
- 7 of 15: View of sanctuary looking east and entrance
- 8 of 15: View of paneled kneewall and sliding panels of well from sanctuary
- 9 of 15: View of sanctuary looking north from adjoining south room through moveable partition
- 10 of 15: View of second story meeting room looking NE
- 11 of 15: View of west side of cemetery showing row of Chace family stones, Patience Brayton monument (right) and stoneless burial area
- 12 of 15: View of SW corner of cemetery containing broken and leveled stones
- 13 of 15: View of Patience Brayton monument from north
- 14 of 15: View looking north from Patience Brayton monument (right) to core cemetery in NW corner of property
- 15 of 15: View of core cemetery looking NE from rear of property

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Swansea Friends Meetinghouse & Cemetery

Bristol County, Massachusetts

Section number: Photographs page: 1



Photo.1. View of exterior from SE.



Photo.2. View of exterior from NE.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Swansea Friends Meetinghouse & Cemetery

Bristol County, Massachusetts

Section number: Photographs page: 2



Photo.3. View of exterior from NW.



Photo.4. Detail of entrance vestibule on front façade.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Swansea Friends Meetinghouse & Cemetery

Bristol County, Massachusetts

Section number: Photographs page: 3



Photo.5. View of staircase in SE corner of plan, shouldered post on right.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Swansea Friends Meetinghouse & Cemetery

Bristol County, Massachusetts

Section number: Photographs page: 4

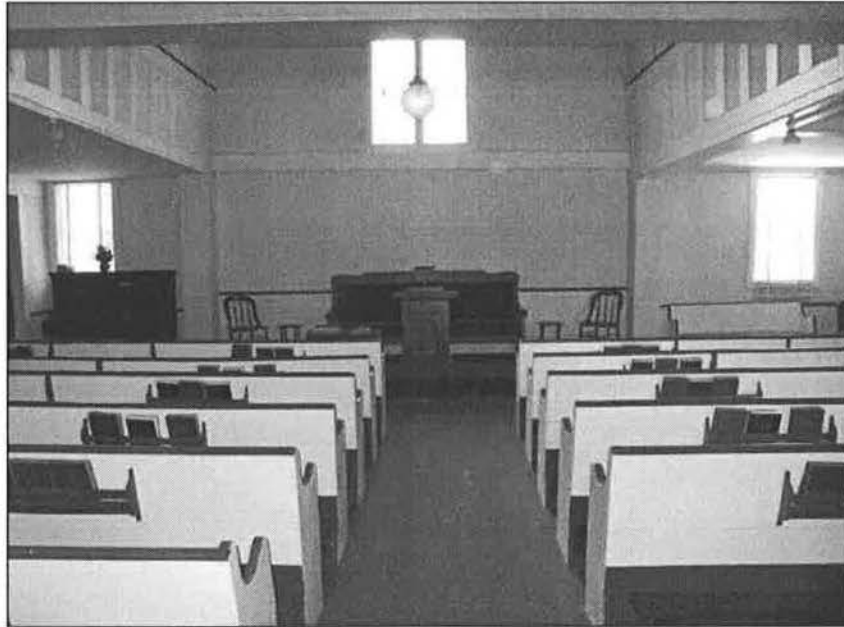


Photo.6. View of sanctuary looking west towards dais and pulpit.

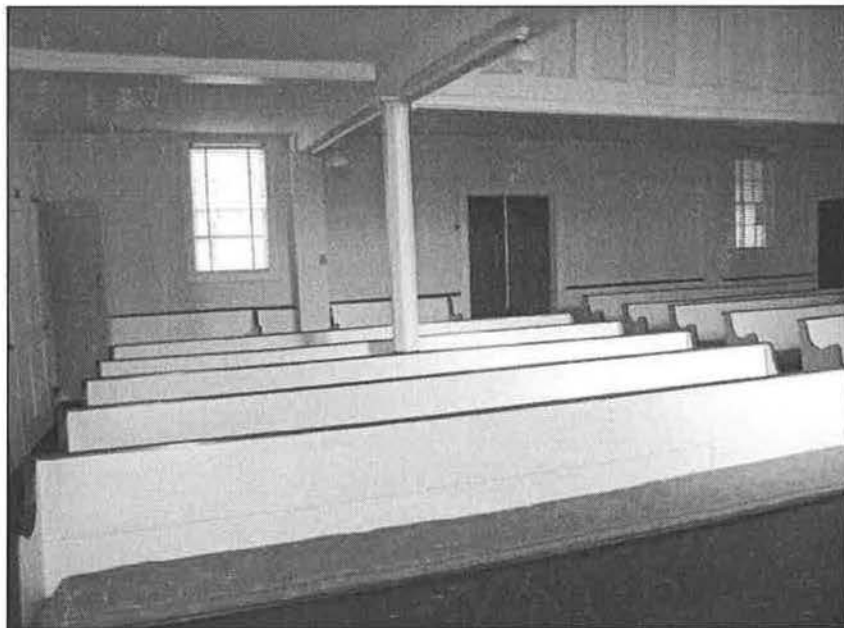


Photo.7. View of sanctuary looking east and entrance.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Swansea Friends Meetinghouse & Cemetery

Bristol County, Massachusetts

Section number: Photographs page: 5

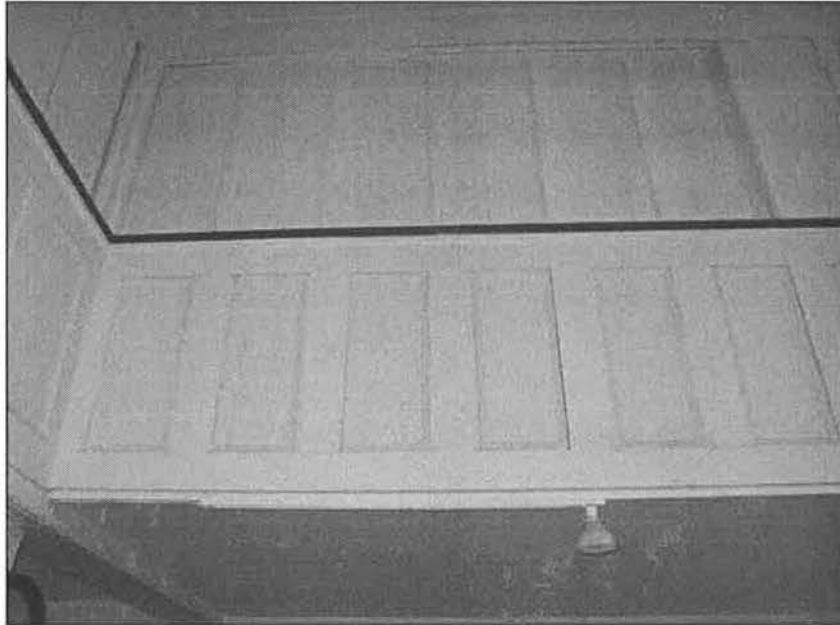


Photo.8. View of paneled knee wall and sliding panels of well from sanctuary.

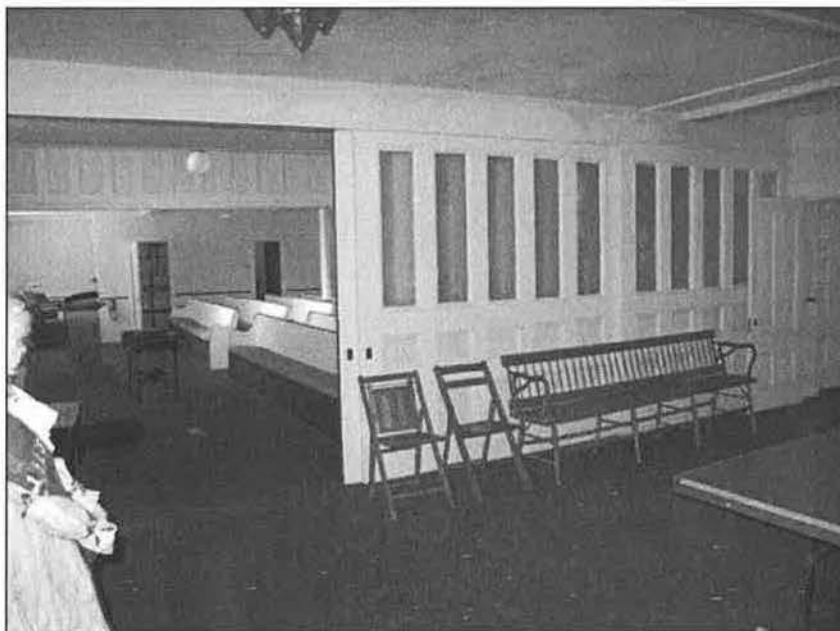


Photo.9. View of sanctuary looking north from adjoining south room through moveable partition.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Swansea Friends Meetinghouse & Cemetery

Bristol County, Massachusetts

Section number: Photographs page: 6



Photo.10. View of second-story meeting room looking NE, suspended curtain rod to enclose corner for an unknown purpose.



Photo.11. View of west side of cemetery showing row of Chace family stones (left), Patience Brayton monument (right), and area containing broken and leveled stones in lawn (background).

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Swansea Friends Meetinghouse & Cemetery

Bristol County, Massachusetts

Section number: Photographs page: 7



Photo.12. View of SW corner of cemetery containing broken and leveled stones.



Photo.13. View of Patience Brayton Memorial from north.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Swansea Friends Meetinghouse & Cemetery

Bristol County, Massachusetts

Section number: Photographs page: 8

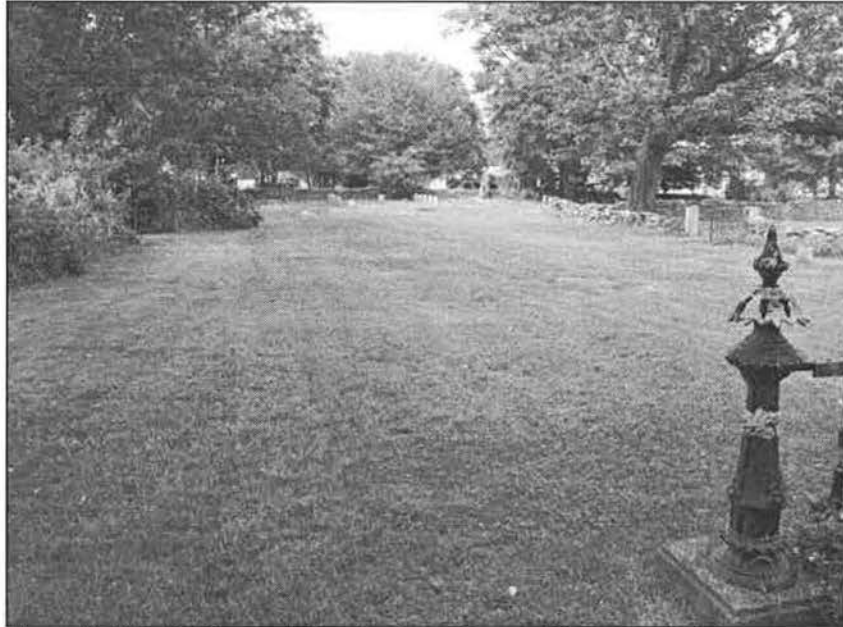


Photo.14. View looking north from Patience Brayton Monument (right) to core cemetery in NW corner of property, gateway in stone wall in center on right.



Photo.15. View of core cemetery looking NE from rear of property.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Swansea Friends Meetinghouse & Cemetery

Bristol County, Massachusetts

Section number: Figures page: 1



Fig. 1. Historic view of Swansea Friends Meetinghouse from NE. From James E. Bradbury, *Somerset* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia, 1996), 46.

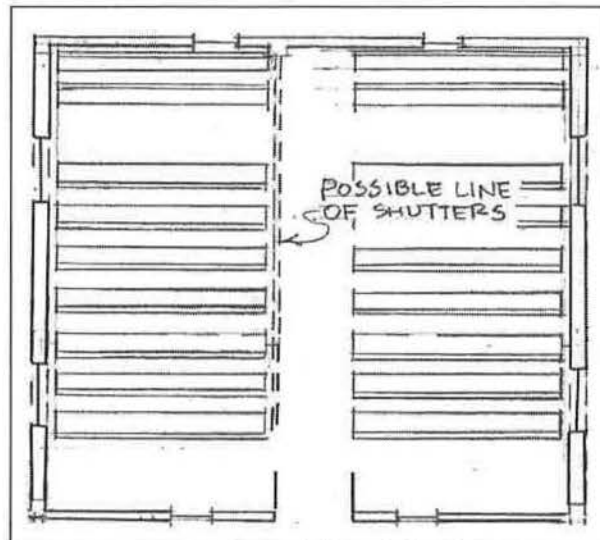


Fig. 2. Conceptual First Floor Plan, 1702. Plan drawn by Maximilian L. Ferro, The Preservation Partnership, 2010, with amendments by Neil Larson, 2012.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Swansea Friends Meetinghouse & Cemetery

Bristol County, Massachusetts

Section number: Figures page: 2

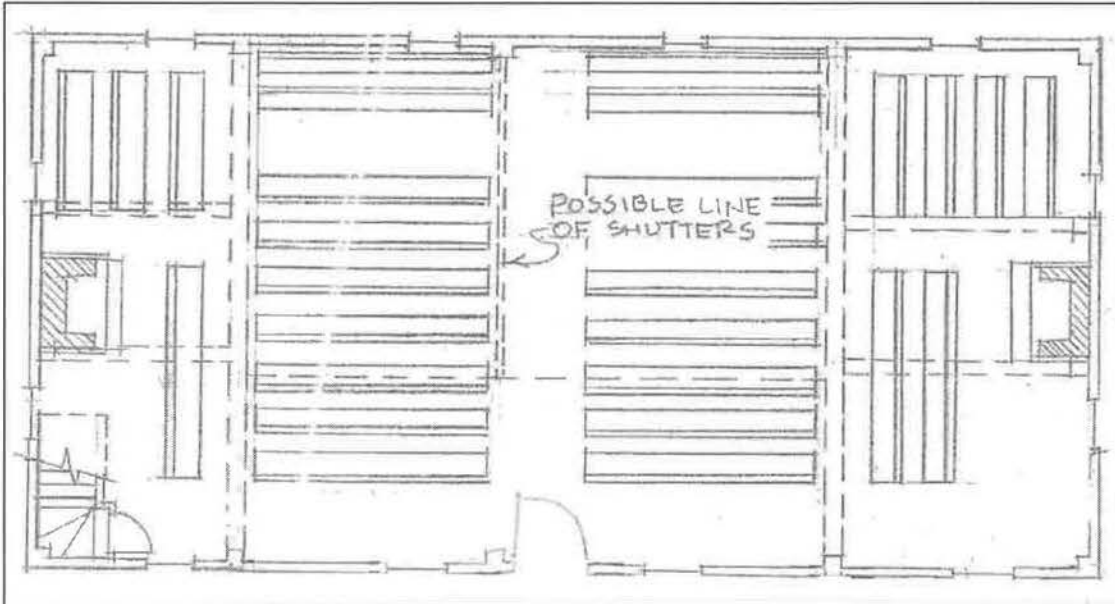


Fig.3. Conceptual First Floor Plan, 1746. Plan drawn by Maximilian L. Ferro, The Preservation Partnership, 2010, with amendments by Neil Larson, 2012.

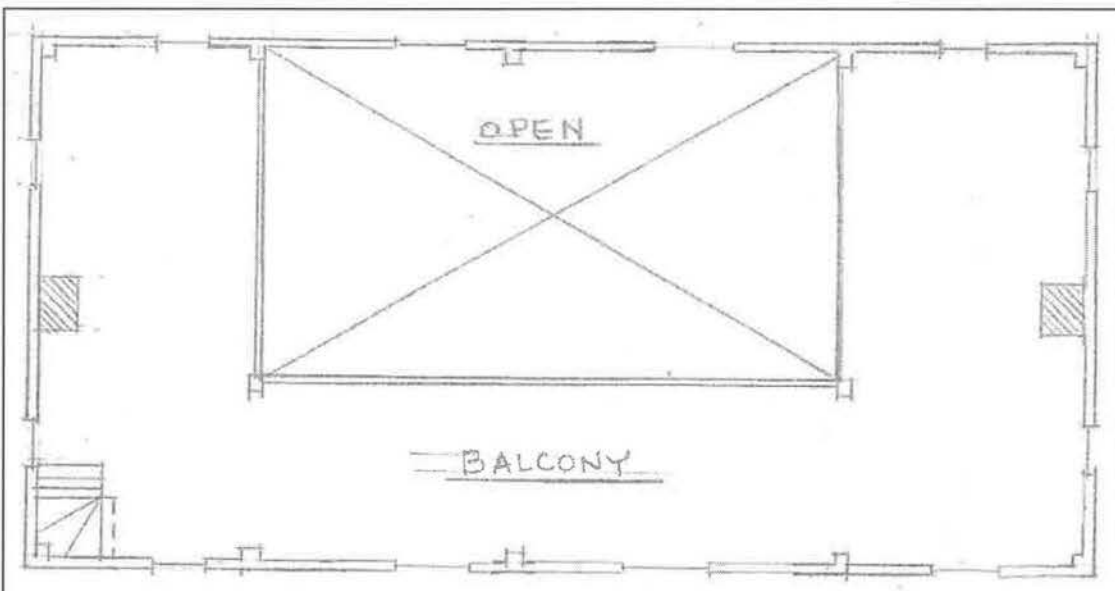


Fig.4. Conceptual Second Floor Plan, 1746. Plan drawn by Maximilian L. Ferro, The Preservation Partnership, 2010, with amendments by Neil Larson, 2012.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Swansea Friends Meetinghouse & Cemetery

Bristol County, Massachusetts

Section number: Figures page: 3

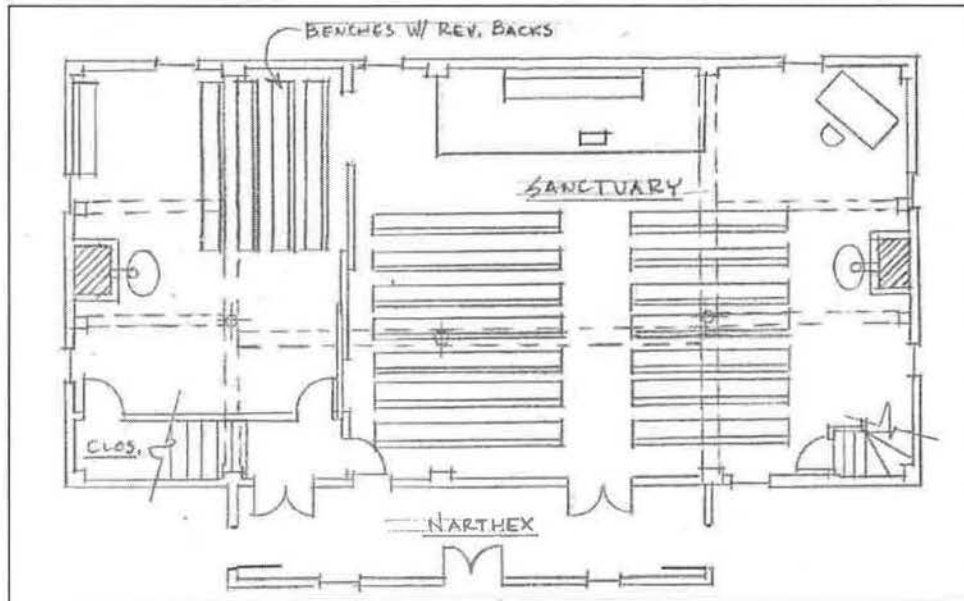


Fig.5. Conceptual First Floor Plan, 1889. Plan drawn by Maximilian L. Ferro, The Preservation Partnership, 2010, with amendments by Neil Larson, 2012.

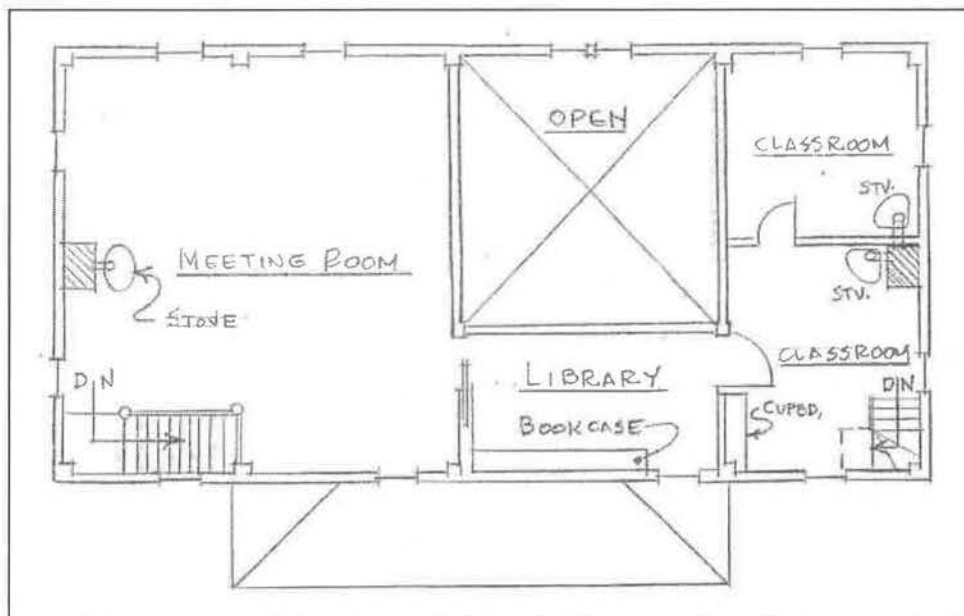


Fig.6. Conceptual Second Floor Plan, 1889. Plan drawn by Maximilian L. Ferro, The Preservation Partnership, 2010, with amendments by Neil Larson, 2012.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Swansea Friends Meetinghouse & Cemetery

Bristol County, Massachusetts

Section number: Figures page: 4

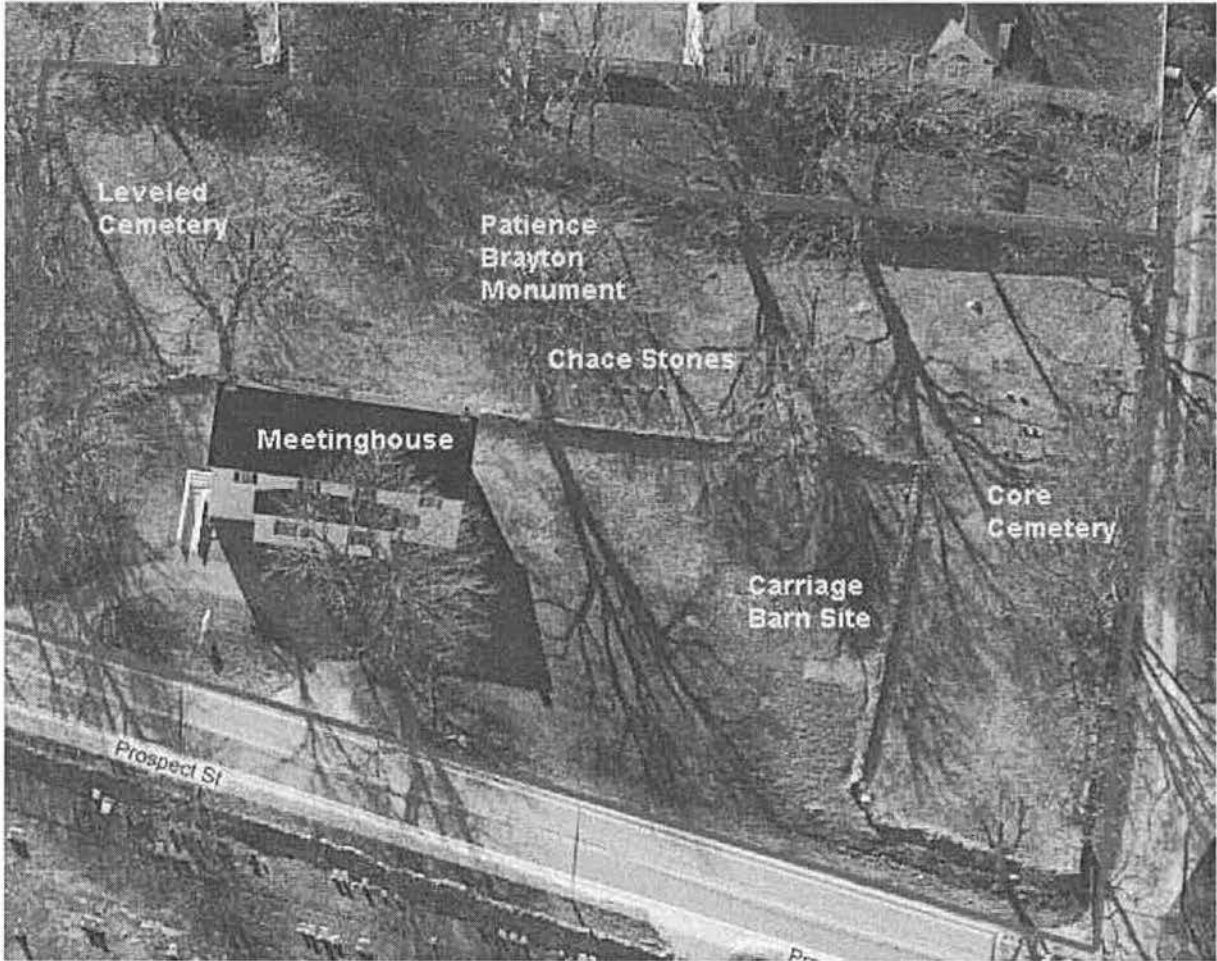


Fig.7: Aerial view of nominated property showing components of site.



Town of Somerset



Assessor's Map B5

1 inch = 100 feet

Legend	
	Selected Tax Map Boundary
	Tax Map Boundary
	Waterbed Protection District
	Water Resource Protection District
	Parcel Boundaries
	Sourcewater
	Hydrologic Connections
	Open Water
	Selected Tax Map Boundary
	Zoning Boundaries
	Residence District
	Light Industrial District
	Residence District
	Open Recreational District
	Park

This map is for Assessment and Planning purposes only. It is not intended to be used for authoritative description, boundary line or property conveyance. It is not the product of a land survey.

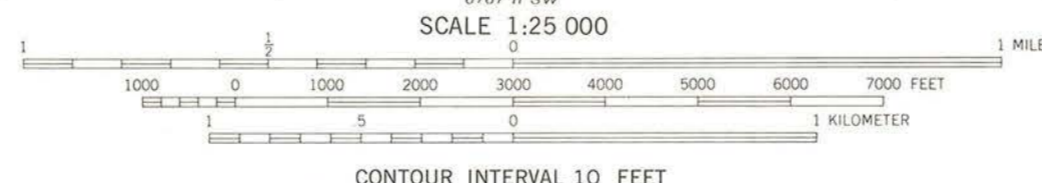
Parcel boundaries up to date as of December 31, 2011.

Data Source: Town Boundary Data Acquired from MASS GIS; Parcel and Ownership Data developed by the Town of Somerset.

Map Prepared by the Town of Somerset Geographic Information System, March 22, 2012.



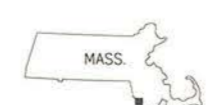
Map published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1938-1939. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 350 (1966)
and 353 (1967). This information 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,
zone 19
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is uncheckd
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Boundaries in tidewater areas in Massachusetts from information furnished
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET-DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE AVERAGE RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 4.4 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved 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
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6767 II NW - SERIES V814









223

1708























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Swansea Friends Meetinghouse and Cemetery

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Bristol

DATE RECEIVED: 2/27/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/27/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/11/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/15/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000156

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 4.15.14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

February 20, 2014

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Swansea Friends Meetinghouse and Cemetery, Somerset (Bristol), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Neil Larson, consultant
Sheila Weinberg, Somerset Historical Commission
Donald Setters, Somerset Board of Selectmen
Dennis Luttrell, Town Administrator
Gary Simons, Somerset Planning Board