

JAN 02 1990

71
AREA

FORM NO.

99

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

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)

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA
SWANSEA

Address 495 Marvel Street

Historic Name Walkden Farm

Use: Present residence

Original residence/farmstead

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1800

Source visual analysis

Style Federal vernacular

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric asbestos shingle

Outbuildings barn (ca. 1885)

Major Alterations (with dates) none

(shingled prob. applied in mid-20th cent.)

Condition fair

Moved no Date ---

approximately two acres (nominated
Acreage total property approx. 8 acres

Setting Located on northwest corner of

Sharps Lot Road and Marvel Street with

little building setback; rural area.

UTM REFERENCE 19 319450 4627020

USGS QUADRANGLE Somerset, MA 1985

SCALE 1:25000

Recorded by K. Flynn, K. Valente/K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date May 1986/November 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Walkden farmhouse, 495 Marvel Street, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association and is significant on the local level. The vernacular farmhouse with associated barn illustrates the dispersed nature of Swansea's agriculture-based settlement in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, as well as typical farmhouse construction in Swansea during the period, and meets Criteria A and C.

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

This 2½-story farmhouse is a good example of the vernacular Swansea farmstead constructed during the Federal period (1775-1830). The house is of the traditional five-bay, center-entry, center-chimney form with a double-pile plan. An enclosed hip roof entry is distinguished by corner pilasters and a wide, plain frieze; the door is flanked by full-length sidelights. This entrance treatment was employed elsewhere in Swansea during the same period, most notably at 412 Old Warren Road (MHC #B20). Windows are simply articulated with drip boards and contain replacement 2/2 sash. The one-story, three-bay, gabled ell incorporates a secondary entry on the east side, and a wood bulkhead appears at the juncture of the main block and ell. The application of asbestos shingles to the exterior walls has not compromised the house's design in terms of massing, plan, fenestration pattern, or detailing. North of the house is a well-preserved 1½-story shingled barn (ca. 1885) with exposed rafters and a gambrel roof oriented perpendicular to Sharps Lot Road.

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

Walkden Farm is associated with two important elements of Swansea's agricultural activity, dairy farming, through the 19th and early 20th centuries, and market gardening, particularly in the first half of the 20th century. Marshall Walkden, a dairy farmer, owned the property in the late 19th century. The farm is also associated with the Earle and Isherwood families of Swansea; the Isherwoods operated a large farm further east on Marvel Street. Although the original size of the farm is currently unknown, the property is believed to have extended north and west of the Marvel Street-Sharps Lot Road intersection. The property along Marvel Street in particular has been subdivided for house lots in recent decades. The nomination is confined to that portion of the roughly 8-acre lot containing house and barn at the corner of Marvel Street and Sharps Lot Road.

Located in the comparatively remote northeastern section of town, Marvel Street is part of a colonial east-west road between Hortonville Road, a major north-south route connecting Gardner's Neck in Swansea to Rehoboth, and the present town of Somerset. The location of the house and barn reflects the dispersed character of agriculture-related settlement in Swansea in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. This section remains the town's most rural, although there is increasing pressure on historic resources from new residential development.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1849 map of Swansea and 1871 and 1895 atlases of Bristol County.
Wright, O.O. History of Swansea. 1917.
Dighton, Somerset, and Swansea Directory, 1904.
Helen Pierce, Swansea Historical Society, interview, 11/89.

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

Section number _____ Page _____

1/2/90

Swansea MRA
Bristol County, MASSACHUSETTS

Date Listed

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Walkden Farm
NAME:

MULTIPLE Swansea MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Bristol

DATE RECEIVED: 1/02/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/17/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/02/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/16/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000071

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 2/16/90 DATE **Entered in the
National Register**

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

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

CLASSIFICATION

☐ count ☐ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

☐ historic ☐ current

DESCRIPTION

☐ architectural classification
☐ materials
☐ descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ applicable criteria
☐ justification of areas checked
☐ relating significance to the resource
☐ context
☐ relationship of integrity to significance
☐ justification of exception
☐ other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

☐ acreage ☐ verbal boundary description
☐ UTM's ☐ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps ☐ USGS maps ☐ photographs ☐ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



495 Marvel St.
Swansea, MA.

Waikden Farm (MHC #99)

495 Marvel Street

Swansea, Mass. MRA

1986

View NW

PROPERTY MAP
TOWN OF SWANSEA 1961
BRISTOL COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS REVISED 10/82

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

OLD TOWN, MAINE
FOR ASSESSING PURPOSES ONLY **26**



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000296