

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

JAN 02 1990

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA
SWANSEA

Address 79 Old Warren Road

Historic Name William Luther House

Use: Present residence

Original residence

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1849

Source deeds, early maps of Swansea

Style Greek Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard facade,
shingled sides and rear

Outbuildings garage (ca. 1920)

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

rear ell (ca. 1900)

Condition good

Moved no Date ---

Acreage less than one acre

Setting quiet residential area with

little traffic

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

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date 1978/April 1986/November 1989

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).
Indicate north

(see attached map)

UTM REFERENCE 19 315320 4623760

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River, MA-RI 1967/1979

SCALE 1:25000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The William Luther House, 79 Old Warren Road, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association and is significant on the local level. As an intact example of a Greek Revival style cape, the house meets Criterion C. As a farmstead associated first with the locally prominent Luther family, who operated several stores down the road, and next with the Buffington family, known for their contributions to life at Swansea Center, the house meets Criterion A.

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

The Luther House appears to be a late example of the traditional 1½-story, gabled, 5-bay, center-chimney cape constructed in Swansea as early as the mid-18th century. This intact Greek Revival house is distinguished from earlier buildings of the same type by its clapboard facade, shingled side and rear elevations, cornerboards, and 6/6 window sash. The entry retains a vertical board door with no glazing. A rear ell and covered porch on the east side are late 19th/early 20th-century additions.

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

In 1848 William Luther purchased from James Luther a lot of land. A year later Susan Megus bought from William Luther "a certain lot of land with a dwelling thereon." Members of the Luther family maintained scattered farmsteads around Swansea, but were known for their early 19th-century commercial buildings clustered at Luther's Corner, one block west of this house.

The Buffington family obtained the house in 1879. Deacon Stephen Buffington, who lived to be 93, was noted for his 76-year membership in the Christian Church (located northwest of the house at Maple Avenue and the present Route 6). In 1843 and 1844, he had represented Swansea in the Legislature. Throughout his years in the community, he was noted for his famous gardens with their abundance of crops, and his beautiful baskets made by hand. Subsequent residential development of the surroundings has reduced the house lot to its present size. The property passed to son Benjamin and then to George Buffington, both of whom had close ties to the Christian Congregational Church. George operated a blacksmith shop at Luther's Corner. After Seth Eddy built a new store at the southwest corner of the Old Warren Road/Pearse Road intersection, George Buffington's shop was moved ca. 1871 down Old Warren Road closer to the Buffington house.

The Buffingtons retained ownership of the house until 1946.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Fall River, Registry of Deeds for Bristol County.
Buffington family records, Swansea Historical Society.
1849 map of Swansea, Swansea Public Library.

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

Section number _____ Page _____

1/2/90

Swansea MRA
Bristol County, MASSACHUSETTS

Date Listed

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Luther, William, House

MULTIPLE NAME: Swansea MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Bristol

DATE RECEIVED: 1/02/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/10/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/02/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/16/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000067

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 2/10/90 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

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



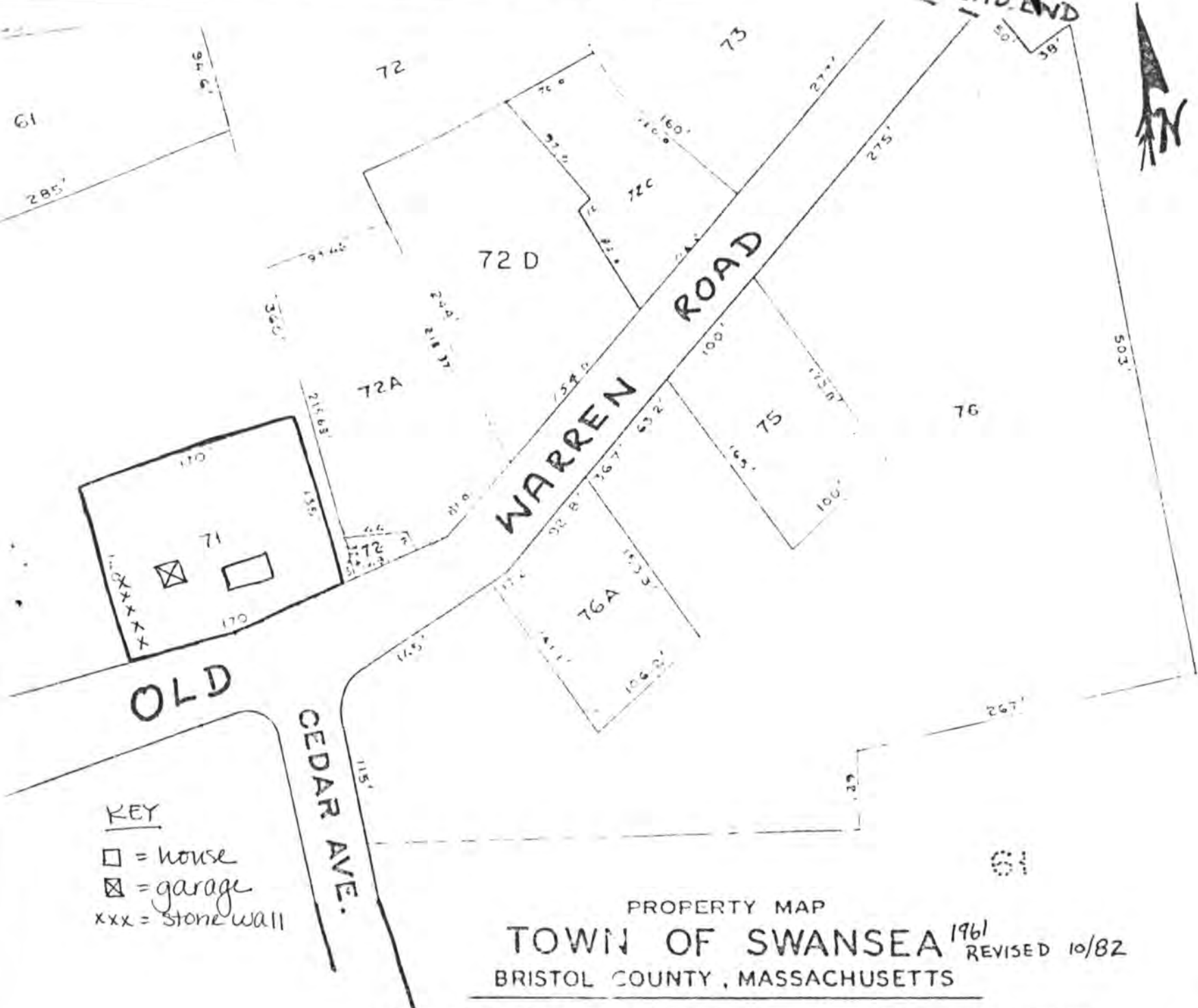
79 Old Warren Rd
Swansea, MA

William Luther House (MHC # B22)
79 Old Warren Road
Swansea, Mass. MRA

1986

View NE

MHC# 822
79 OLD WARREN ROAD



PROPERTY MAP
TOWN OF SWANSEA¹⁹⁶¹ REVISED 10/82
BRISTOL COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

JAMES W. SEWALL COMPANY

OLD TOWN, MAINE

SCALE 1 INCH = 100 FEET

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000296