

JAN 02 1990

AREA

FORM NO.

A

163

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Swansea, Mass. MRA
SWANSEA

Address 5 Mason Street

Historic Name William P. Mason House

Present residence

Original hotel, store, post office

DESCRIPTION

ca. 1860

See maps of Swansea and Bristol County

Style Gothic Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings garage and shed (ca. 1930)

Major Alterations (with dates)

none

Condition fair

Moved no Date ---

Acreage less than one acre

Setting Situated on northeast corner of

Old Providence Road facing Mason Street

in a rural, residential area of north-

western Swansea known as Barneyville

Recorded by Kay Flynn/K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date March 1988/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 311050 4626810

USGS QUADRANGLE East Providence, RI-MA 1971/1970

SCALE 1:24000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The William Mason House, an intact vernacular example of the Gothic Revival style, was built in conjunction with the growth of the village at Barneyville to the west in the third quarter of the 19th century. The house served as a hotel and housed other services associated with the village in the late 19th century. The house retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association and meets Criteria A and C on the local level.

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

This 1½-story, clapboarded, side-gabled dwelling illustrates the incorporation of Gothic Revival style features into the standard Swansea three-quarter cottage form. The entry on the asymmetrical, four-bay facade is marked by an off-center cross gable in the third bay. Shielding the entry is a pitched door hood on brackets with a decorative truss. Other distinguishing features include overhanging eaves, bracketed pent hoods over first floor windows, double windows on the side elevations, and 2/2 sash. A gabled 1½-story rear ell has a three-bay porch with turned posts and spindle frieze and balustrade. Few intact examples of the Gothic Revival survive in Swansea, a town dominated by the Greek Revival and Italianate vernacular forms of the third quarter of the 19th century.

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

Located on Old Providence Road, a segment of the colonial route connecting Swansea to Providence, Rhode Island, the Mason House was built on the site of a stagecoach tavern, known as Graham's tavern as late as ca. 1850. During the second half of the 19th century, the present structure served the village of Barneyville in several capacities. William P. Mason operated both a hotel and store in this building in the early 1870s. In 1872, Mason succeeded Mason Barney, Jr. as postmaster of Barneyville, and by 1895 the village's branch post office had moved from Barneyville Road to this house. The post office had been established in the 1830s in response to rapid growth in this north-western section of Swansea. The house likely reverted to residential use in the early 20th century, following the demise of jewelry manufacturing--the village's last active industry--and the folding of the street railway system that had traversed Swansea in the present Route 6 corridor about 25 yards east of this house.

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Wright, O.O., History of Swansea, pp.89-90 (post offices), pp.180-181 (Mason family)
ca. 1849 map of Swansea and 1871 and 1895 atlases of Bristol County
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 NAME: Mason, William P., House

MULTIPLE NAME: Swansea MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Bristol

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

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000121

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: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ ACCEPT X 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

*Please classify all resources
as C + NC in light of
comments below.*

SIGNIFICANCE

Please specify a period of 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
and relate to property's particular
importance under criterion A.*

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

Phone _____

Signed _____

Date _____

JAN 02 1990

121

AREA

FORM NO.

A

163

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA
SWANSEA

Address 5 Mason Street

Historic Name William P. Mason House

Use: Present residence

Original hotel, store, post office

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1860

Source maps of Swansea and Bristol County

Style Gothic Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings garage and shed (ca. 1930)
(both noncontributing)

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

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Condition fair

Moved no Date ---

Acreage less than one acre

Setting Situated on northeast corner of

Old Providence Road facing Mason Street

in a rural, residential area of north-

western Swansea known as Barneyville

Recorded by Kay Flynn/K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date March 1988/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 311050 4626810

USGS QUADRANGLE East Providence, RI-MA 1971/1970

SCALE 1:24000

Valeri Tange sup 6/19/90

JAN 2 1990

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

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

Areas of Significance - Architecture, Transportation, Commerce, Government

Period of Significance - C. 1860 (date of Construction) - C. 1900 (Decline of jewelry industry)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Wright, O.O., History of Swansea, pp.89-90 (post offices), pp.180-181 (Mason family)
ca. 1849 map of Swansea and 1871 and 1895 atlases of Bristol County
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><i>Arlene Byers</i></u> 2/16/90 |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 221 Norton House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Arlene Byers</i></u> 2/16/90 |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 23. Short's Tavern | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Arlene Byers</i></u> 2/16/90 |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 224. Simcock House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Arlene Byers</i></u> 2/16/90 |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 25. Smuggler's House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Arlene Byers</i></u> 2/16/90 |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 26. South Swansea Union Church | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Arlene Byers</i></u> 2/16/90 |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 27. Swansea Village Historic District | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Arlene Byers</i></u> 2/16/90 |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 28. Walkden Farm | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Arlene Byers</i></u> 2/16/90 |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 29. Mason, William P., House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Beth 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: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Mason, William P., House

MULTIPLE NAME: Swansea MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Bristol

DATE RECEIVED: 6/25/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/09/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000121

NOMINATOR: STATE

DETAILED EVALUATION: Y

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 8/8/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Historically significant as hotel, post
office, store and residence.
Architecturally representative of Gothic
Revival style.
Initial return comments have been addressed.*

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

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y ☒ see attached SLR Y ☒

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 _____



William P. Mason House (MHC #A163)

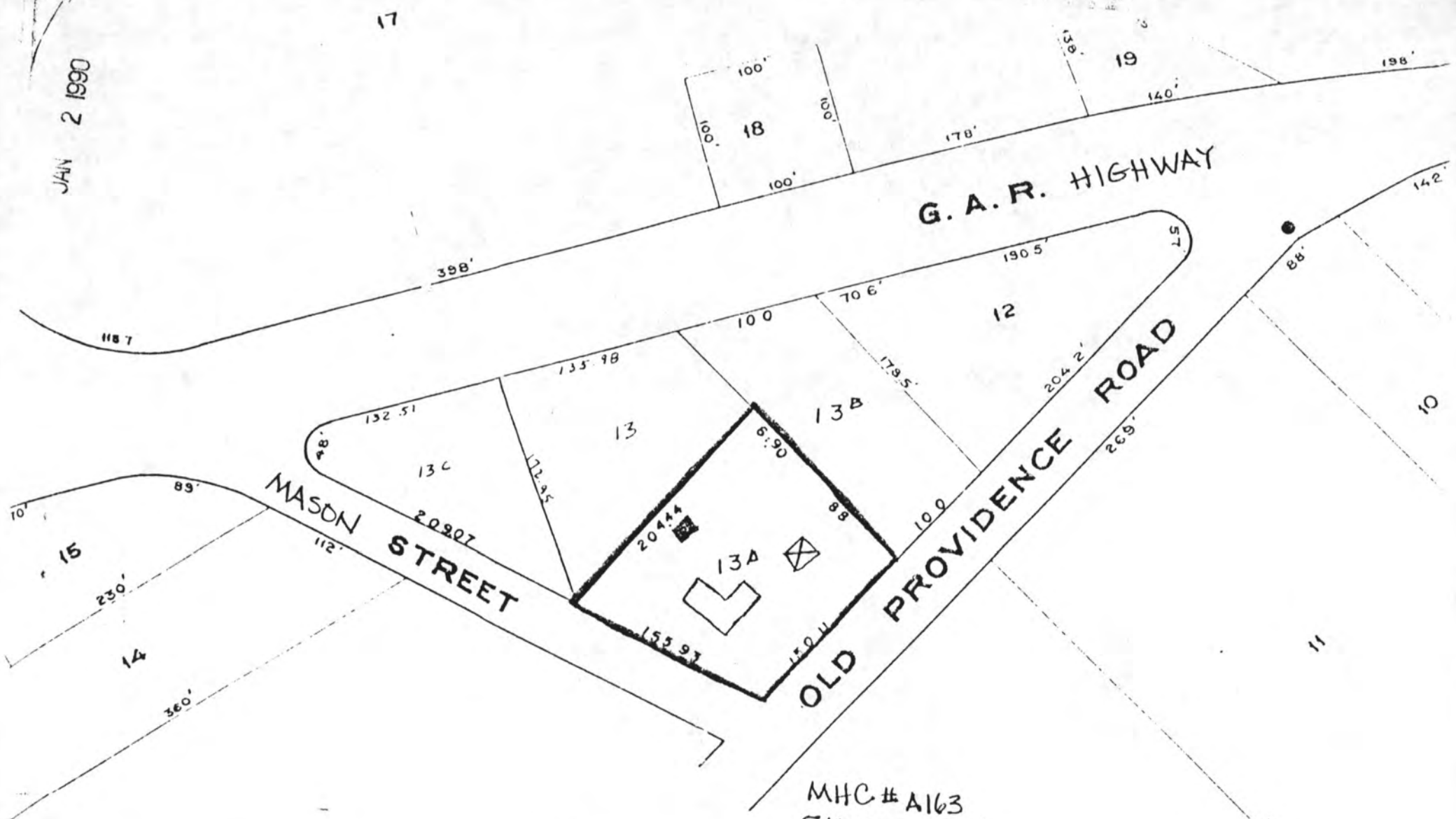
5 Mason Street

Swansea, Mass. MRA

1988

View NE

JAN 2 1990



KEY

-  = house
-  = garage
-  = shed

MHC # A163
5 Mason Street

PROPERTY MAP
TOWN OF SWANSFIELD

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000296



NATIONAL
REGISTER

June 15, 1990

Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Please find the following individual properties of the Swansea Multiple Resource Area National Register Nomination which was returned on 2/16/90. All corrections have been made for resubmission:

36 Riverview Avenue
306 Hortonville Road
5 Mason Street
177 Market Street.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure: