Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System
Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SWN.116
Historic Name:	Smuggler's House
Common Name:	
Address:	361 Pearse Rd
City/Town:	Swansea
Village/Neighborhood:	Touisset;
Local No:	24;
Year Constructed:	C 1800
Architectural Style(s):	Federal;
Use(s):	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House;
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture; Maritime History;
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register Individual Property (02/16/1990); Nat'l Register MRA (02/16/1990);
Building Materials:	Roof: Wood Shingle; Wall: Wood Clapboard; Foundation: Stone, Uncut;
Demolished	No

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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NR IND
NR MRA 2/16/90

PL-TOU
USGS-FALL

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DO NOT REMOVE

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA E

FORM NO. 116

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Swansea, Mass. MRA
SWANSEA

ess 361 Pearse Road

oric Name "Smuggler's House"

Present residence

Original residence/farmstead

RIPTION

ca. 1800

ce secondary documentation to 1820

e Federal

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings milk house (mid-19th cent.), garage (early 20th cent.)

Major Alterations (with dates)

east (kitchen) wing and dormers (1938)

Condition good

Moved no **Date** ---

Acreage less than one acre

Setting House has deep setback from road and is reached via a dirt drive; surrounding residential area largely early 20th century

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 315060 4622510

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River MA-RI 1967/1979

SCALE 1:25000

Recorded by M.S.Gendron/K. Flynn/K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date 1978/February 1986/November 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Smuggler's House, 361 Pearse Road, is an intact Federal period farmhouse associated with Swansea's maritime activity in the 19th century. Retaining integriy of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association, the house meets Criteria A and C on the local level.

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

Typical of the late 18th/early 19th-century farmhouses scattered throughout Swansea, 361 Pearse Road is a 1½-story, five-bay, gabled dwelling with a double-pile plan and single brick chimney set slightly right of center. Pilasters frame the center entry, which consists of a six-panel door topped with a five-pane transom. Cornerboards and a molded cornice finish the clapboarded exterior. Windows contain 12/12 sash. The house fell into disrepair in the early 20th century, and additions made during a 1938 restoration and remodeling project include the two gabled dormers with 6/6 sash on the facade, and the one-story, two-bay kitchen wing with secondary entrance in the rear pile on the east elevation. The kitchen wing does not visually detract from the appearance of the historic main block.
North of the house are a frame garage (early 20th cent.) and a milk house (mid-19th cent.), a one-story, gabled and shingled building used by recent owners as a detached outdoor livingroom.

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

The Smuggler's House is so-called for its associations with the sea-faring aspect of Swansea life and its reported use as a hideaway for goods such as tea that were smuggled into Swansea during the War of 1812. Pearse Road connects the house to the old Pearse's Wharf on the Cole's River to the south. William and Anna Gardner owned the house--originally part of a 50-acre farm--in 1820. Capt. Gardner was master of a Somerset-based cargo ship. Another early resident of the house was Aaron H. Wood, who went to sea as a young boy in 1854. Wood later became captain of the merchant ship, "Monarch of the Sea."

Much of the surrounding area in this section of Swansea (known as Touisset) was subdivided for suburban construction beginning at the turn of the 20th century.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Registry of Deeds, Fall River. Bk. 22, p.563.
Swansea Tercentenary 1667-1967.
Maps of Swansea: ca. 1849, 1871, 1895. Swansea Public Library.
Assessors records, Swansea Town Hall.

SWN.116
1961/REVISED to 82

MHC # 116
361 PEARSE ROAD

PROPERTY I

TOWN OF SWANSEA

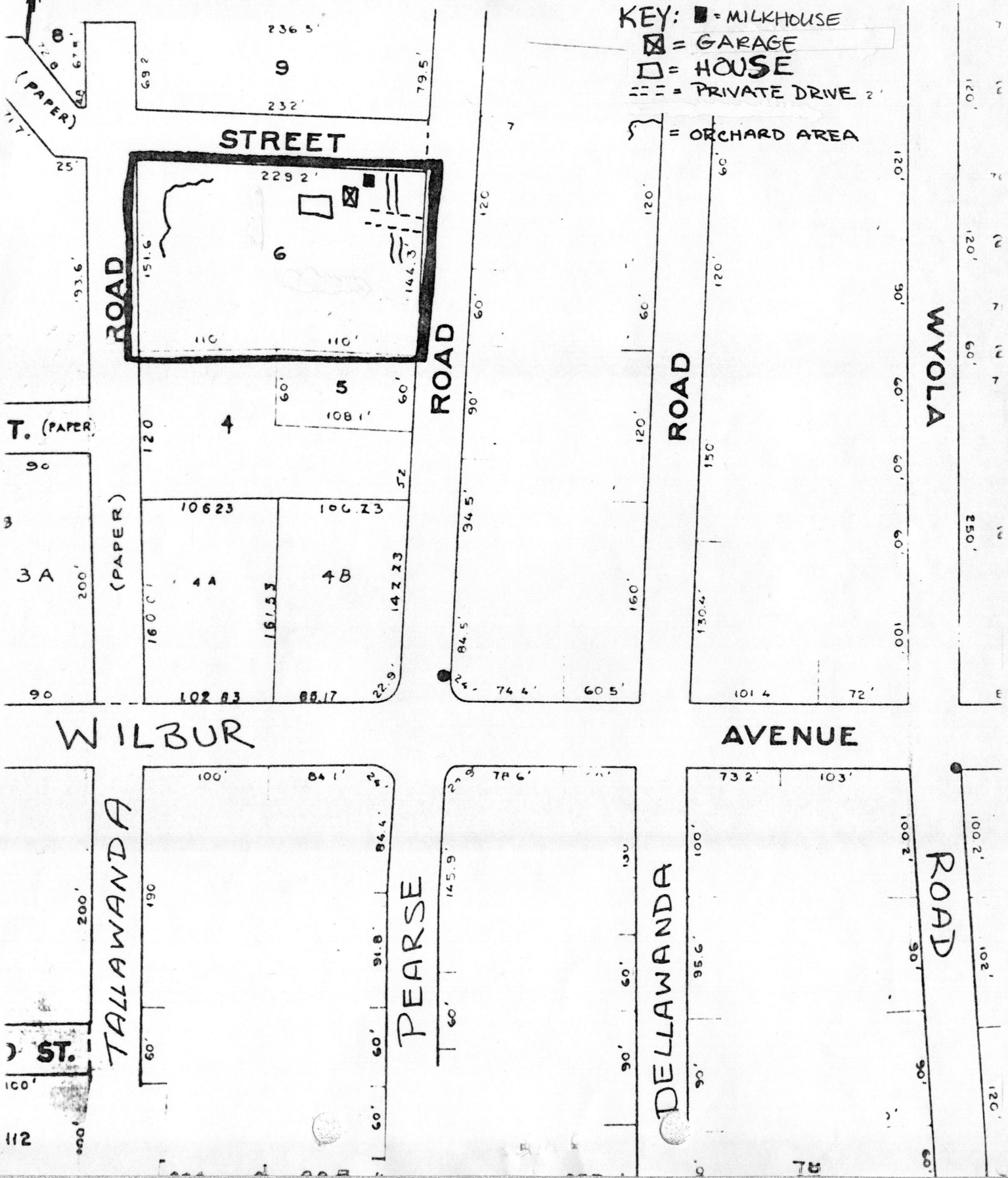
BRISTOL COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

JAMES W. SEWALL COMPANY
SCALE 1 INCH = 100 ± FEET

OLD TOWN, MAINE
FOR ASSESSING PURPOSES ONLY

51

KEY: ■ = MILKHOUSE
⊠ = GARAGE
□ = HOUSE
= = = PRIVATE DRIVE
= ORCHARD AREA



SWN.116
1961/REVISED 10/8

MHC # 116
361 PEARSE ROAD

PROPERTY

TOWN OF SWANSEA

BRISTOL COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

JAMES W. SEWALL COMPANY
SCALE 1 INCH = 100 ± FEET

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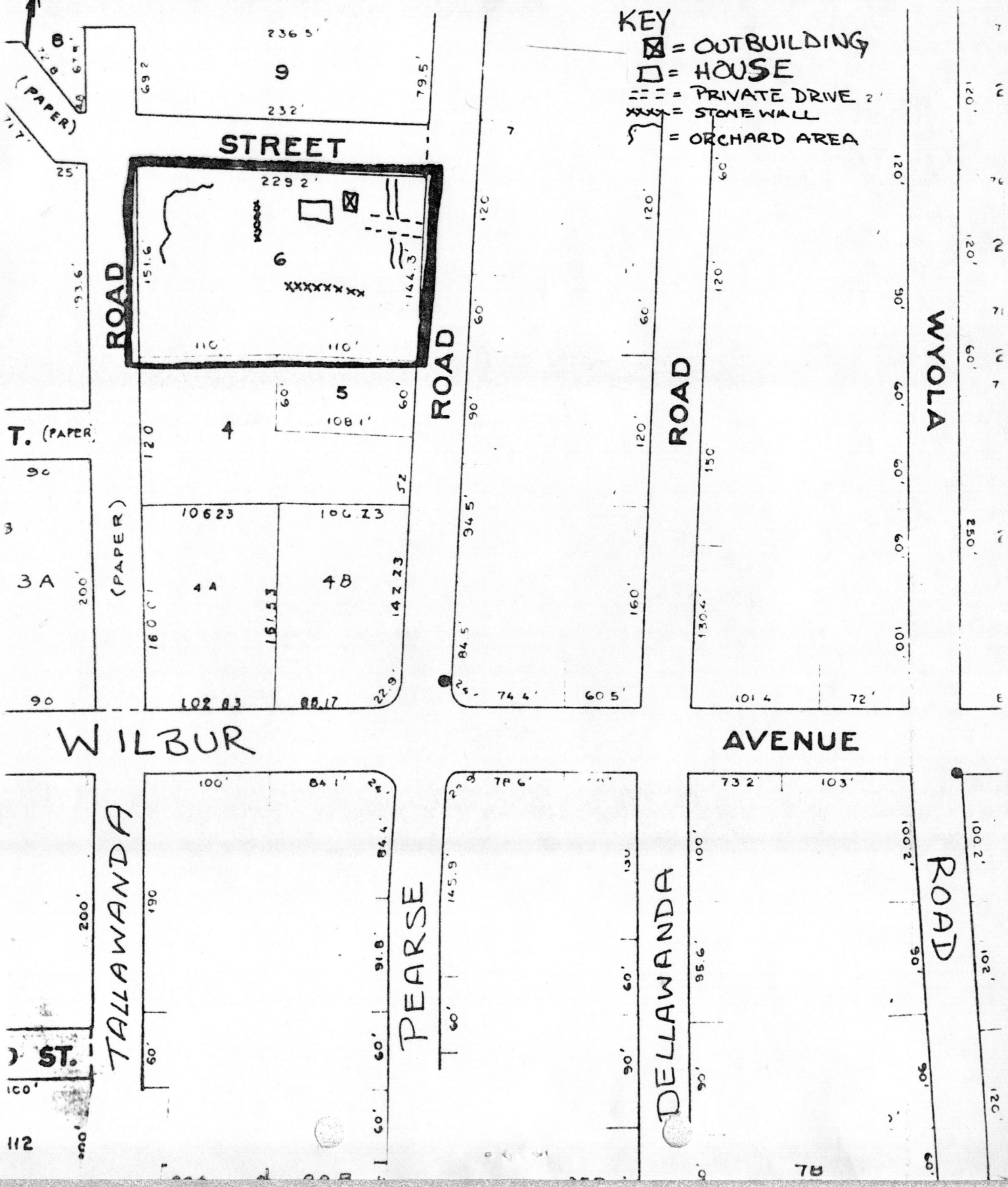

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AREA E | FORM NO. 116

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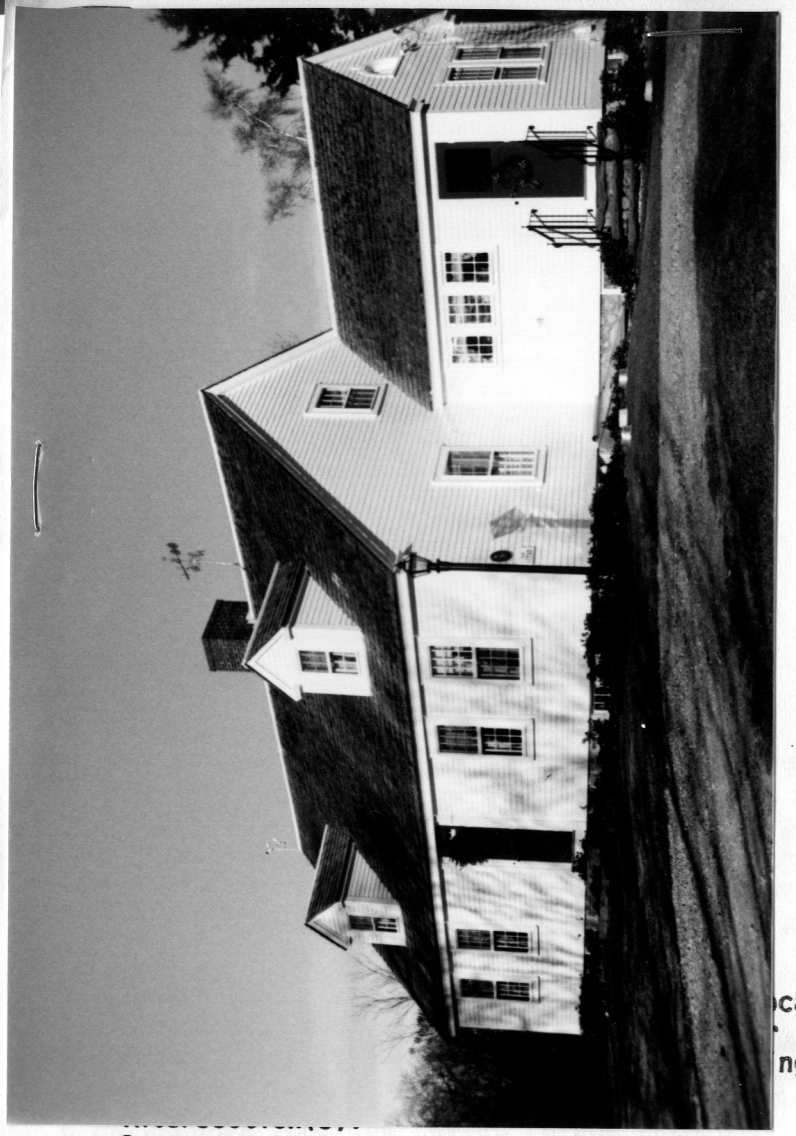

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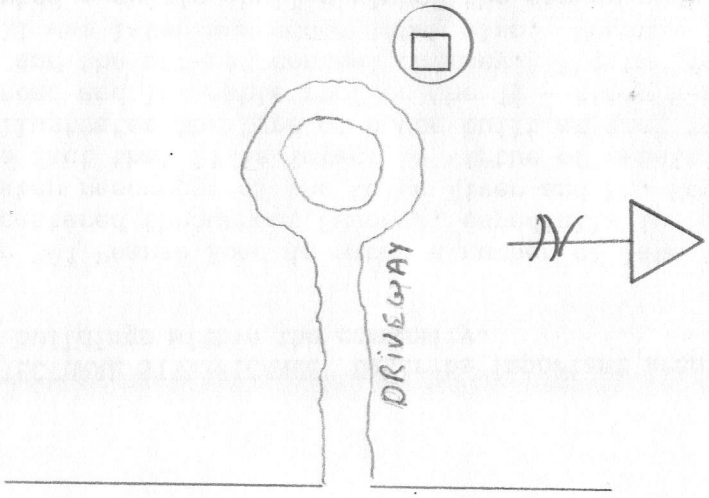
Indicate north



Town SWANSEA -TOUISSET

Address 361 Pearse Road

Historic Name "Smuggler's House"

Use: Present Residence

Original Farmstead

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1800

Source Secondary documentation to 1812.

Style Colonial Cape

Architect

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings 2- stall garage / cook house

milk house

Major Alterations (with dates) Addition - 2 west rooms (date unknown), Kitchen-east-1940

Condition Sympathetic alterations and additions have kept the basic original fabric intact.

Moved No **Date**

Acreage 5 Acres

Setting Set back from the road on a large lot with a circular driveway, this is situated adjacent to the Coles River.

UTM REFERENCE

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River, MA-R.I. AMS 6767 11 NW-Series V8 (1967/79)

SCALE

Recorded by Kay Flynn/M.S. Gendron '78

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date February, 1986

SWN.116

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

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

Number 361 Pearse Road is among a number of late 18th -early 19th century farmsteads that are scattered throughout Swansea, espedially in South Swansea. This was the area closest to the water resources of the Coles River and Mt. Hope Bay. Architecturally it is significant in the fact that it is intact by virtue of sensitive restoration and practical preservation and illustrates the type of house built at that time by a seaman. Characteristic features are the broad and low gable roof on the 1½ - story 5-bay house, the transom light over the central door, and the off-set central chimney. The two dormers were added in the mid- 20th century. The ell was later was added later also. Unusual in the construction of this house is the "inverted - ship's -hull style of the corner post construction. There are three fireplaces around a central chimney and when a 2-story addition was made on the west end of the house, a passageway from the cellar to the second floor was constructed and was believed to be used for smuggling goods such as tea during the war of 1812.

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

Historically this property is significant in the fact that it is one of the late 18th or early 19th century structures of Swansea which illustrate a lifestyle of community during a period in which the inhabitants "lived off the land or sea." The first documented ownership of this property is in 1820 when "the farmhouse with 50 acres" was transferred from William and Anna Gardner to Samuel S. Hull, a yeoman. Another early resident was Aaron H. Wood; who, as a young boy in 1854, went to sea. He later became Captain of the merchant ship -"Monarch of the Sea."

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Registry of Deeds, Fall River, Ma., Book 22, pp. 563
Swansea Tercentenary brochure, 1667 - 1967
Maps of Swansea, 1850, 1871, 1895, Swansea Library
Assessor's Office, Town Hall

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No:
SWANSEA	~~SW-86-1-26~~ 116
Property Name: "Smuggler's House"	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Architectural Significance (cont'd)

A small house to the north of the main house was used as a dwelling; has been called a "milk house" and was possibly a cook house. In 1895 two bedrooms were added th the back of little house.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
~~B~~	~~84~~ 116

wn Swansea

dress 361 Pearse Road

me "Smuggler's House"

esent use residence

esent owner Delbert Hayden

scription:

te c. 1730

Source

le cape cod farmhouse

Architect

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

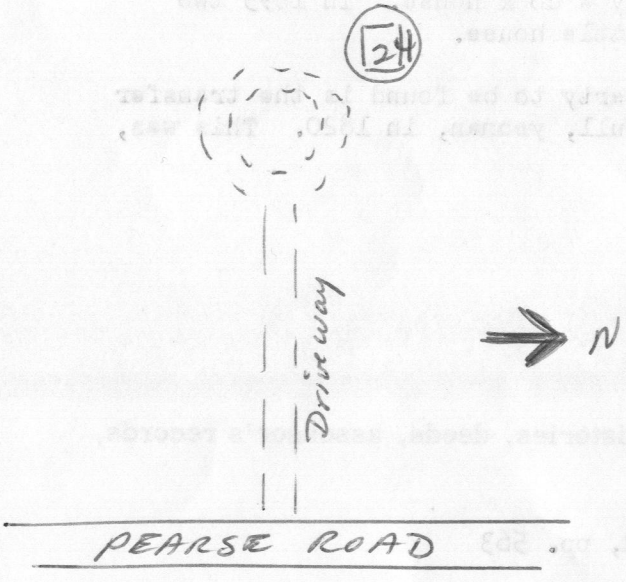
Outbuildings (describe) 2 stall garage cook house/milk house

Other features 1½ story gable with off-center brick chimney; central door with transom lights and 5 bay facade; 2 gabled dormers. On large lot, well landscaped

Altered Addition- 2 west rooms 1755 " Kitchen-east Date 1940

Moved Date

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



5. Lot size: 5 acres

One acre or less ____ Over one acre X

Approximate frontage 193.6'

Approximate distance of building from street 700 ft.

6. Recorded by Martha S. Gendron

Organization Swansea Historical Society

Date Dec. 20, 1978

(over)

30M-5-77

7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use Farmhouse

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates residence

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	____	Conservation	____	Recreation	____
Agricultural	____	Education	____	Religion	____
Architectural	X	Exploration/		Science/	
The Arts	X	settlement	____	invention	____
Commerce	____	Industry	____	Social/	
Communication	X	Military	____	humanitarian	____
Community development	____	Political	____	Transportation	____
	____		____		____

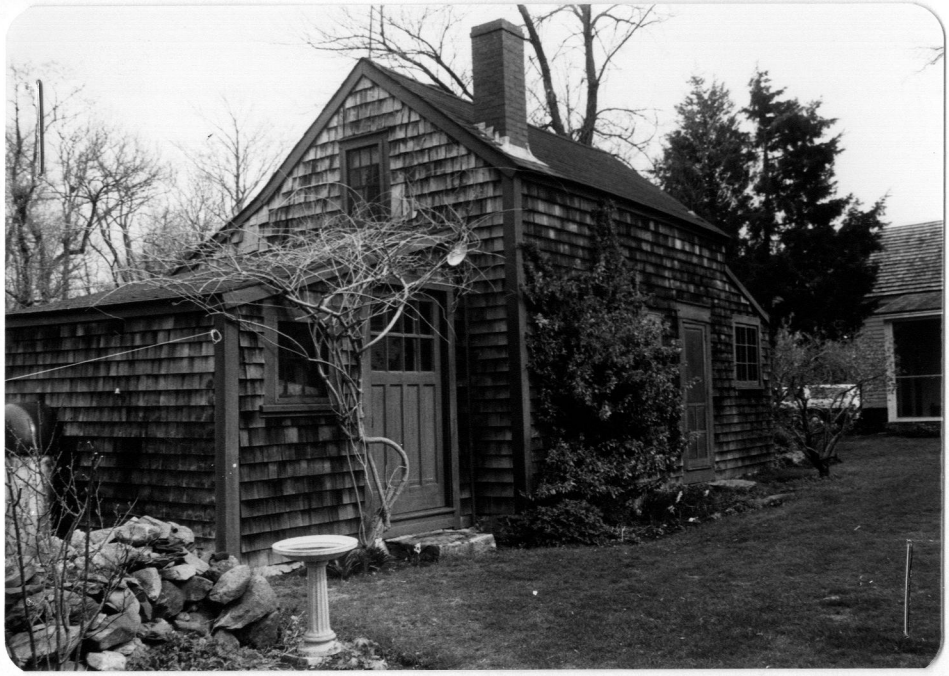
9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Although the original owner has not been determined, it is known that one of the early residents, Aaron H. Wood, went to sea as a young boy in 1854 and later became the Captain of the "Monarch of the Sea", merchant ship.

It is supposed that the builder of this home was a seaman also because of the inverted ship's hull style of the corner post construction. There are three fireplaces around a central chimney and when a 2-story addition was made on the west end of the house, a passageway form the cellar to the second floor was constructed and was believed to be used for smuggling goods such as tea during the war of 1812.

A small house to the north of the main house was used as a dwelling; has been called a "milk house" and was possibly a cook house. In 1895 two bedrooms were added to the back of this little house.

The first record of ownership of this property to be found is the transfer from William & Anna Gardner to Samuel S. Hull, yeoman, in 1820. This was, then, a farmhouse with 50 acres of land.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

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