

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SWN.D
Historic Name:	Swansea Village Historic District
Common Name:	
City/Town:	Swansea
Village/Neighborhood:	Gardner's Neck;
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	
Use(s):	Other Governmental or Civic; Other Institutional; Other Religious; Residential District;
Significance:	Architecture; Politics Government; Religion;
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register District (02/16/1990); Nat'l Register MRA (02/16/1990);
Building Materials:	
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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FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

D	See District Data Sheet
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Town Swansea, Mass. MRA
SWANSEA

Name of Area (if any) _____

Swansea Village Historic District

Present Use residential, institutional

General Date or Period _____

ca. 1750-ca. 1939

General Condition good

Acreage approximately 29 acres

Recorded by Preservation Plus/K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date March 1988/October 1989

Photos (3"x3" or 3"x5" black
& white) Indicate on back
of each photo street addresses
for buildings shown. Staple to
left side of form.

Sketch Map. Draw a general map of the
area indicating properties within it.
Number each property for which individual
inventory forms have been completed.
Label streets including route numbers, if
any. Indicate north. (Attach a separate
sheet if space here is not sufficient).

(see attached maps)

UTM REFERENCE

A 19 318160 4624040

B 19 318180 4623670

C 19 317840 4623660

D 19 317820 4623430

E 19 317770 4623580

F 19 317760 4623930

G 19 317370 4623970

H 19 317410 4624110

I 19 317720 4624120

USGS QUADRANGLE
SCALE

Fall River, MA - RI 1967/1979
1:25000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

Swansea Village Historic District is a closely settled cohesive grouping of primarily residential and institutional buildings reflecting the town's development from the late 18th century to ca. 1939. The village displays vernacular and high-style residences in a range of architectural styles, as well as several architect-designed institutional buildings of town-wide significance. Swansea Village retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association, and meets Criteria A and C of the National Register on the local level.

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

Encompassing approximately 29 acres in east-central Swansea, Swansea Village is a largely linear district of primarily residential and institutional structures ranged along Main Street. Radial streets include Ledge and Elm Streets to the south, Stevens Road (a continuation of Main Street) to the east, and Gardner's Neck Road to the west. In addition to residential and institutional buildings, there is an industrial complex, now used for storage, on Lewin Brook, and a former hotel, now a residence, on Stevens Road.

There are 95 buildings, three sites, six structures and one object in the district; 72 buildings, three sites, and six structures are contributing. Noncontributing resources, primarily secondary structures such as modern garages, post-date the period of significance but generally are compatible with the district's contributing resources in scale and materials. Most contributing resources were erected between ca. 1790 and ca. 1910, with a majority constructed in the late 19th century. Residential buildings, generally

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain historical importance of area and how the area relates to the development of other areas of the community.

In the decades following the organization of the town of Swansea in 1667, certain prominent families amassed most of the land in what are now the five main villages in the town: the Gardners in South Swansea, the Barneys in Barneyville, the Luthers at Luther's Corner, the Hales in Hortonville, and the Eddys in Swansea Village. Although each village played an important role in the town's history, Swansea Village emerged in the late 19th century as the residential and institutional focus for the community.

Zachariah Eddy was the patriarch who owned most of what is now considered Swansea Village. He set aside a burial ground at the foot of Ledge Road (Eddy Burial Ground, MHC #D818) which served as a family ground from ca. 1687 to 1838. Ebenezer, one of the Eddy sons, sold his hundred-acre farm to Jonathan Hill in 1720. The Hill House at 1 Main Street (ca. 1750, MHC #D65, Photo #1) is extant. Also documenting the area's early development is the Old Burial Ground (MHC #D815) behind Town Hall on Main Street, where the earliest stone dates to February 1737/1738. Following the Revolutionary War and the passing of a local smallpox epidemic, Hill Farm was broken up, and several houses were constructed close together on what is now Main Street (Photos #1 and 7). These houses, built between ca. 1790 and 1800, include the Northam House at 27 Main Street (ca. 1794, MHC #D60), the Mason House at 21 Main Street (ca. 1800, MHC #D62), the Nottingham House at 160 Elm Street (ca. 1794, MHC #D91), the Chase/Mason House at 15 Main Street (ca. 1795, MHC #D63) and 9 Main Street (ca. 1794, MHC #D64). Less closely settled development

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1849 map of Swansea and 1871 and 1895 atlases of Bristol County.
 Boston Public Library, Fine Arts Department, architects file.
 Massachusetts Historical Commission, Swansea Inventory, 1977, 1986.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

SWANSEA

Form No:

see DDs D

Property Name: Swansea Village H.D.

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

Architectural Significance (continued)

one or two stories and of frame construction, are largely vernacular interpretations of the Georgian, Federal, and Italianate styles. Exceptions include the high-style Italianate Stevens Mansion on Main Street and a limited number of vernacular Gothic Revival, Second Empire, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman houses. At the center of the village are three institutional buildings of stone, architect-designed in revival styles and built between 1889 and 1900. Two 20th-century brick schools dominating the western end of the village are Georgian Revival in style. A late 19th-century brick and frame industrial complex on Lewin Brook is utilitarian in design.

Most of the village's 18th- and early 19th-century houses are clustered at the eastern end near the intersection of Elm Street and Main Street/ Stevens Road (Photo #1). These vernacular Georgian and Federal houses are generally 2-1/2 stories with double-pile plans, gable roofs, and brick interior chimneys. Earliest of these is the Hill House at 1 Main Street (ca. 1750, MHC #D65), a Georgian house with five-bay, center-entry facade and massive central chimney. The gabled entry porch and central door were updated in the Federal period, and the 6/6 window sash may have been installed at that time. The Northam House at 27 Main Street (ca. 1794, MHC #D60, Photo #7) is a Georgian half-house with a three-bay facade, end-bay entry, and interior chimney behind the opposite end bay. Other Georgian residences have been remodelled: 9 Main Street (ca. 1790, MHC #D64, Photo #1), converted to a Colonial Revival house with the addition of a gambrel roof and columned porch, and 21 Main Street (ca. 1800, MHC #D62, Photos #1 and 7), now an Italianate structure with a bracketed side bay, long first floor windows, and a flat-roofed, columned porch.

Of the village's Federal style dwellings, both 2 1/2-story houses and 1 1/2-story capes survive, most with five-bay, center-entry facades and paired interior end chimneys. Good examples of the 2 1/2-story house are the Mason House at 15 Main Street (ca. 1795, MHC #D63, Photo #1), a shingle-clad house with corner boards, splayed window lintels, and pedimented door surround, and the Winslow House at 59 Main Street (ca. 1820, MHC #D58, Photo #4), a well-preserved example of the style with full-length sidelights and a segmental arch pediment over the entry. A prominent full cape in the Federal style is the Hull House at 93 Main Street (ca. 1790, MHC #D52, Photo #6). Built into an incline on the north side of Main Street, the Hull House incorporates a five-bay brick basement with center entry on the south elevation (facade). An elevated full-width porch with side entry provides access to the main floor of the house above street level. The house was recently restored.

There are few examples of the Greek or Gothic Revival styles in Swansea Village, likely the result of little new development in the second quarter of the 19th century. The Greek Revival cottage at 117 Elm Street (ca. 1849, MHC #D86) is a 1 1/2-story house with a 3-bay end-gable facade, side-hall plan, wide frieze and cornerboards, and entablature door surround. The first Christ Church (1847, demolished ca. 1899) on Main Street was a gabled, center-entry, Gothic Revival building with board and batten siding. Surviving vernacular Gothic Revival buildings are two cottages, 64 Main Street (ca. 1850, MHC #D57) and 72 Main Street (ca. 1870, MHC #D56). These 1 1/2-story buildings have five-bay facades and center cross-gables containing single round-arched windows. The front doors have different detailing: a bracketed door hood and no sidelights at #64, and a flat entablature and three-quarter sidelights at #72.

Atypical in Swansea Village due to the extent of its architectural elaboration is the high-style Stevens Mansion (MHC #D61, Photo #2) at 24 Main Street, built in 1855. The main house and other period buildings

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

SWANSEA

Form No:

see DDS **D**

Property Name: Swansea Village H.D.

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

Architectural Significance (continued)

on the property--a carriage house and office (ca. 1860)--are well articulated with Italianate detail. The main house, a three-story, hip roof structure with a wrap-around porch and semi-octagonal three-story rear bay, is reportedly a replica of a South Carolina mansion. Detailing includes bracketed eaves, long first floor windows, double round-arched windows at the third story, a square cupola at the roof ridge, and elaborate cut-out porch balustrade. At the roof ridge of the one-story office is a bird house, a copy of the main house in miniature. Other buildings on the property include the two-story frame carriage house (ca. 1860) articulated by a central gabled pavilion and corner quoins, and a one-story building that formerly contained bowling lanes (ca. 1900). This corner site, the most spacious residential property in Swansea Village, has served as a school for boys for nearly fifty years. Three frame Colonial Revival dormitories with gambrel roofs, built ca. 1938, are set back from both Main and Elm Streets.

Completion of the Stevens Mansion precipitated construction in the village of other Italianate structures, though considerably less ambitious in scale and detailing. Four cottages of ca. 1860 were built by the Stevens family to house some of the many families who worked on the Stevens farm. Three, 86 Main Street (MHC #D54), 92 Main Street (MHC #D53), and 96 Main Street (MHC #D51), are similar 1 1/2-story, three-bay, side-entry dwellings with gable end to the street. Their common detailing includes overhanging eaves, thin cornerboards, molded window heads, and entablature door surrounds. Full-length front windows on the first floor contain 6/9 sash. Another house built by the Stevens family for employees is 745 Stevens Road (ca. 1860, MHC #D70). The house's main entry was relocated to a side elevation during a 1940s remodeling, although the south side (facade) retains Italianate brackets at the cornice. A late example of the Italianate style is the Henry Wood House at 80 Main Street (1880, MHC #D55, Photo #3). This two-story cross-gable dwelling has a three-bay facade and one-story, wrap-around porch with Doric posts, cutout balustrade, and bracketed cornice.

One of the only mansard roof dwellings in Swansea and the only one in Swansea Village is 52 Main Street (ca. 1870, MHC #D59). This 1 1/2-story cottage has a five-bay, center-entry facade, three gabled dormers, a bracketed cornice, and a double-door entry with round-arched lights. A detached two-car garage (ca. 1890) also has a mansard roof.

Swansea Village retains little evidence of historic commercial activity. The long-time commercial focus at Gray's Corner is now dominated by residences. Near the corner, the Case Hotel was constructed ca. 1870 on the site of Gray's Inn and Coach Stop (1803, burned). The hotel, now 789 Stevens Road (MHC #D69), was a substantial Italianate structure with gable end to the street and a full-width front porch. In 1900 the building was turned 90 degrees; today a five-bay, center-entry facade faces the street, behind a white picket fence capped with urn finials at the entrances. The facade retains the bracketed cornice. A two-story brick ell on the rear of the building and a one-bay gabled entry porch on the facade were added in 1938-1939.

Three stone institutional buildings clustered on the north side of Main Street are the product of the philanthropic efforts of the Stevens family. Town Hall (1891, MHC #D67, Photos #3 and 4), designed by J. Merrill Brown of Boston, is the only Romanesque Revival building in Swansea. J. J. Highlands of Fall River was the builder for the field stone building trimmed with Longmeadow brownstone; Angus McDonald of Boston executed the interior carpentry. The one-story building is asymmetrical in massing with a multi-hipped roof, round-arched entry portal, and off-center bell- and clock-tower on the facade. Town Hall originally housed a town meeting hall, the library, and a selectmen's room.

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

SWANSEA

Form No:

see DDS D

Property Name: Swansea Village H.D.

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

Architectural Significance (continued)

East of Town Hall is Christ Church (MHC #D68, Photo #5), the second edifice for the Protestant Episcopal church at Swansea Village. The cornerstone for the new building, constructed on the site of an earlier Gothic Revival building, was laid August 27, 1899; the church was consecrated June 6, 1900. Designed by the renowned ecclesiastical architect Henry Vaughan of Boston, Christ Church is built of rough-cut stone laid in regular courses. Its crenelated west tower, conical stair tower, buttressed gabled end wall, and pointed arch window and door surrounds impart a medieval English flavor to the village.

One of the buildings between Town Hall and Christ Church is the Frank Stevens Library (1900, MHC #D66, Photos #3 and 4), also designed by Henry Vaughan. Stylistically, the library draws on Elizabethan precedent, which the architect believed would harmonize best with the Romanesque Town Hall and the Gothic vernacular Christ Church. [Morgan] Executed in granite with trim of red Potsdam sandstone, the library is 1-1/2 stories with a side-gabled slate roof, wood octagonal cupola, and asymmetrical facade incorporating three cross-gable pavilions. Mullioned windows in round-arched surrounds and stone coped gables and finials complete the design.

The only Shingle Style building in the village is the Dorothy Brown Lodge at 98 Ledge Road (MHC #D75). Built in 1899 as a lodge for the local order of Odd Fellows, the gabled, 1 1/2-story building of rectangular massing has continuous shingle cladding and a three-bay, center-entry facade. The lodge features a full-width front porch marked by gabled openings at the end bays, each gable containing a single round-arched louvered window.

Most of Swansea Village's contributing 20th-century buildings are Colonial Revival residences. Some are older buildings remodelled in the early 20th century, such as the old Case Hotel at 789 Stevens Road (see above) and the former Case Hall at 757 Stevens Road (MHC #D71). A 2 1/2-story, side-gabled structure built ca. 1870 as an assembly hall, Case Hall was moved from the hotel property to its present location and converted to a house in 1905. Colonial Revival elements added at that time include pedimented dormers, a semi-circular columned porch on the 5-bay center-entry facade, and Palladian windows in the gable ends. The only four-square house in the village is the Dr. Hilton House at 109 Main Street (ca. 1905, MHC #D50), with a wrap-around porch of Doric columns. Shingled Colonial Revival houses with 3-bay facades oriented gambrel end to the street include 147 Elm Street (ca. 1910, MHC #D89) and 155 and 157 Elm Street (ca. 1910, MHC #D90); each of these houses has a full-width front porch. A later example of the Colonial Revival is the Dutch Colonial at 127 Elm Street (ca. 1920, MHC #D88), with a side-gambrel shape and a full-width shed dormer.

A vernacular bungalow is the Martin House at 108 Ledge Road (1908, MHC #D74). A unique building, this bungalow with jerkin-head roof is constructed of cement blocks. The blocks, made by a local stone mason, were reportedly first used in the area in the construction of this house. At 90 Elm Street (ca. 1915, MHC #D82) is a well-preserved center-entry bungalow. Characteristic Craftsman-style detailing includes exposed rafters, an oversized gabled dormer, and integral porch with square posts on a shingled balustrade.

Major 20th-century construction in the village includes two Georgian Revival school buildings of brick. The tetrastyle portico and brick wings of the Frank Stevens School at 1 Gardner's Neck Road (1908, MHC #D45) provide a strong visual anchor at the western end of Main Street. Designed by Henry Vaughan, this school was the third Stevens-funded building constructed in Swansea Village. Nearby on Main Street

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: SWANSEA	Form No: see QDS <u>D</u>
Property Name: Swansea Village H.D.	

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

Architectural Significance (continued)

is the village's largest building, the Joseph Case High School (1927, MHC #D46), designed by James Ritchie. Originally Swansea's first high school and now a junior high, the 2 1/2-story school is an asymmetrical, hipped roof structure with a square cupola, gabled end pavilions, corner quoins, and a modillion cornice. The double-door center entry has a stone entablature surround and six-pane transom. A two-story brick wing was added to the east side of the building in the 1950s.

The single industrial building in Swansea Village, the Swan Finishing Co. on Ledge Road (ca. 1889, MHC #D72), is a brick two-story building of utilitarian design with a low-pitched gable roof. A brick chimney and some 6/6 window sash are intact. The building was expanded with frame additions in the early 20th century, and is now used for storage.

Swansea Village includes three contributing cemeteries. The oldest of these is the Eddy Burial Ground (MHC #D818) east of Ledge Road. An Eddy family burial place, the ground contains 60 stones ranging from 1687 to 1838. A bronze tablet was erected in 1948 by the Eddy Family Association in honor of Zachariah Eddy (1639-1718), one of the purchasers of Swansea. The cemetery behind Town Hall is also known as the Old Burial Ground (MHC #D815). This cemetery contains 90 stones ranging in date from February 1737/8 to 1932. Finally, Christ Church Cemetery (MHC #D814) was established with the construction of the first Christ Church in 1847. A stone gateway in the Gothic Revival style has three pointed-arch bays and finials surmounted on corner posts. Burials in the cemetery, ranging from the 1840s to the present, include the Stevens family crypt.

Historical Significance (continued)

also occurred beyond the intersection, with the construction of capes such as 92 Main Street (ca. 1790, MHC #D52, Photo #6) and 107 Elm Street (ca. 1790, MHC #D84).

The intersection of Elm Street, Main Street, and Stevens Road became the developing village's commercial as well as residential focus. In 1815, Israel Brayton built his house on Elm Street and his store at the corner of Main and Elm (neither are extant). Having established a center for trade in the village, Brayton

gathered the products of the countryside and shipped them far and wide, by cart to Boston and Albany, by ship to the southern states. He traded shoes from the village shoemakers, cotton cloth woven in the homes from yarn spun at the Swansea Union Cotton Manufacturing Co. in the Village, and the Swansea Cotton Manufacturing Co. in what is now Hortonville, for rum and molasses, china, spices and countless wares not available at home. The mill in the Village was converted [later in the century] to the manufacture of paper, and ladies began sewing straw bonnets at home, so two new products were added for trade. Mr. Brayton used the name Scrabbletown on his correspondence. Perhaps it had been used before that time and it certainly persisted long afterwards, although no one knows the origin. [Swansea Tercentenary]

In 1832, Israel Brayton sold his house to Philip Baker, a shoemaker, and his store to Joseph F. Chace and John A. Wood, traders. Other trades represented were those common to a developing village, such as a wheelwright shop and smith shop.

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

SWANSEA

Form No:

see DDS D

Property Name: Swansea Village H.D.

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

Historical Significance (continued)

The presence of these commercial entities brought increasing identity to the village and encouraged the establishment of several institutions there. A Post Office had been established in 1814 and in 1830 the Union Meeting House was built on the site of the present Town Hall. Methodists, Baptists, Swedenborgians, and Universalists participated in the dedication service and subsequently met there for worship. It was in the Meeting House that the Swansea Social Library was organized in 1841. This group purchased books to be passed from member to member. Soon the name was changed to Swansea Public Library Association, the predecessor of the Free Public Library housed in various village locations until the library was constructed in 1899.

Union Meeting House continued to be used for social and civic meetings for many years, although shifting loyalties among its supporting groups resulted in less frequent services by ca. 1845. The Episcopalians of Swansea had been attending services in neighboring Warren, Rhode Island, but in 1845, the Rev. Amos D. McCoy of the Church of the Ascension in Fall River began to preach in the Meeting House. Many in the village became interested in the establishment of an Episcopal Church and, consequently, Christ Church was organized in 1846. An attractive Gothic Revival edifice was erected on the site of the present church on Main Street and dedicated in December 1847. Christ Church Cemetery (MHC #D814) with its Gothic Revival gateway is a vestige of the church's early presence in the village.

In addition to these institutional developments, a paper mill began operations at the foot of Ledge Road on Lewin Brook ca. 1840. Ledge Road was then referred to as Paper Mill Lane. Here William Mitchell manufactured straw paper. The factory may have occupied the site of an early Swansea cotton factory operated by the Swansey Union Cotton Manufacturing Company, about which little is known. The precise location of this first factory is unclear according to secondary sources, some of which document the factory site as Lewin Brook and other as west of Swansea Village. About mid-century the paper mill (demolished) housed a bakery and dancehall under the proprietorship of Howard & Mitchell and later Howard and other partners. [Wright, 134]

By ca. 1850, Swansea Village had assumed the character of a self-sufficient nucleated settlement. According to a map of the period, the village consisted of at least one dozen residences, six shops, two churches, and Gray's Hotel, all ranged roughly from the present Stevens Road to the Main Street-Ledge Road intersection. The presence of the hotel (no longer extant), situated near Elm Street on the road east to Somerset, Dighton, and Taunton, caused the adjacent intersection to be known as "Gray's Corner." The hotel was replaced with a second hotel ca. 1870.

A business partnership established during the California Gold Rush of 1849 precipitated a great deal of development in Swansea Village in ensuing decades. James Birch, an unknown young man, probably from South Carolina, departed from Providence to seek his fortune. In the same party traveling west was Frank Shaw Stevens, a native of Vermont. These men and others operated a business in California for hauling goods and provisions to miners and travelers in the mountains. Stevens later engaged in restaurant and stage coach concerns. James Birch returned to the East Coast and in 1852 married Julia Chace in Swansea Village. Their mansion on the village street, 24 Main Street (ca. 1855, MHC #D61, Photo #2), was completed shortly before Mr. Birch was lost at sea in 1857 at the age of twenty-nine. Mrs. Birch married her former husband's business partner, Frank S. Stevens (1827-1898), in 1858. The couple made their home in the mansion in Swansea Village. Stevens became very active in the life of the community, and was involved in the direction of several mills in Fall River, distilleries in Kentucky, and many other

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

SWANSEA

Form No.:

see BBS

Property Name: Swansea Village H.D.

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

Historical Significance (continued)

enterprises. In 1873, after the death of his wife Julia, Stevens married Elizabeth Case (d. 1930), whose family owned the hotel in the village (789 Stevens Road, ca. 1870, MHC #D69). The financial resources of the Stevens family changed the face of Swansea Village.

Perhaps the activity conducted on the largest scale in Swansea Village during the third quarter of the 19th century was the operation of the Stevens Farm, which covered large tracts of land north and south of Main Street at the eastern edge of the village. Horsebreeding and cultivation of crops were the principal activities. Work on the farm generated the construction of nearly one-half dozen homes ca. 1860. At least four Italianate cottages at 86, 92, and 96 Main Street (MHC #D54, D53, D51) and 745 Stevens Road (MHC #D70) are known to have been constructed by Stevens for the families of men under his employ; a fifth cottage at 123 Elm Street (not surveyed) is another possible Stevens cottage.

The Stevens cottages comprised the bulk of residential construction in Swansea Village during these years. Other individuals who built homes in the village include Henry Wood, who owned the former Brayton Store and post office at the corner of Main and Elm Streets. His house at 80 Main Street (ca. 1880, MHC #D55, Photo #3) at the corner of Ledge Road is a late Italianate cross-gabled dwelling with a wrap-around porch, and bespeaks its owner's position in the community. Wood's duties as Town Clerk after 1880 were carried out in his home before the construction of a town hall. A noteworthy house due to its unusual style in the village is the home of Thomas Chase at 52 Main Street (ca. 1870, MHC #D59). The village's only mansard cottage, the Chase House is one of the few Second Empire houses known to have been built in Swansea.

Considerable building activity characterized the last decade of the 19th century at Swansea Village. A town hall, library, and new Episcopal church were among the buildings constructed. All three buildings was funded by the Stevens family, whose generosity eventually resulted in five new town buildings at Swansea Village. In 1891 Frank Stevens presented Town Hall on Main Street (MHC #D67, Photo #3), a building of Romanesque Revival design constructed from rough field stones taken from walls on the farms owned by Stevens. The dedication proceedings record that Stevens located the building in that part of Swansea he determined to be most likely to increase in value in the future, i.e., a developing area. Early town meetings were held in a meetinghouse in Barrington, Rhode Island, and later in privately owned homes or halls at North Swansea, Luther's Corner, and Hortonville. Architect of Town Hall, J. Merrill Brown (b. 1853) of Boston, studied at M.I.T. and worked in the offices of H. H. Richardson and Peabody & Stearns. His commissions include the Free Public Library in Rochester, Mass. (1891-2), the Massasoit National Bank in Fall River, and the Eddy Building in New Bedford.

The legacy of Frank Stevens continued after his 1898 death, with his wife and estate assuming the costs of constructing a new building for Christ Church (MHC #D68, Photo #5) and a Public Library (MHC #D66, Photo #4), both completed on Main Street in 1900. Though not a communicant of Christ Church, Stevens had been interested in the church's value to the community. The early Gothic Revival building was sold at auction and removed from the site in 1899, and worship continued at Town Hall during construction. The present Gothic Revival vernacular church was consecrated June 6, 1900. Swansea Free Public Library started in 1882 as the Christ Church Book Circle. The following year the Swansea Public Library Association was organized with the donated Christ Church collection. For more than a decade the library successively operated out of private homes, a vacant store, the post office, and finally the town hall. The town voted for the construction of a Free Public Library in March 1896.

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: SWANSEA	Form No: see DDS <u>D</u>
Property Name: Swansea Village H.D.	

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

Historical Significance (continued)

Boston architect Henry Vaughan designed both church and library, thus beginning an association with the Stevens family that would last until his death in 1917. A prominent ecclesiastical architect especially noted for his Gothic Revival designs, Vaughan was born and schooled in England where he worked for the renowned English Gothicist George Bodley. The two men collaborated on the National Cathedral in Washington, DC after 1906. Vaughan relocated to Boston in 1882, although the circumstances of his initial acquaintance with the Stevens family of Swansea are unclear. [Morgan, 166] In addition to the church and library, Vaughan's other commissions for Elizabeth (Mrs. Frank) Stevens are the bronze doors on her husband's tomb (1898) at Christ Church Cemetery (MHC #D814), and the Frank S. Stevens School at 1 Gardner's Neck Road (1908, MHC #D45). Stevens School is a Georgian Revival structure considered to be a reworking of the architect's design for the town library in Bourne, Mass. (1896-1897). Although the school bears the lantern/cupola seen in a number of Vaughan's non-Gothic designs, including the Swansea Library, the full-height tetrastyle portico is considered unusual in Vaughan's work. [Morgan, 127-129] Vaughan also drew up the early plans for the Joseph Case High School (1927) on Main Street, funded by Mrs. Stevens. World War I and the architect's death prevented completion of the school plans, which were eventually executed by another architect. [J. Case High School, 15] In 1927 Mrs. Stevens gave \$75,000 to the National Cathedral for one of the great crossing piers in Vaughan's memory. [Morgan, 166]

Other major construction at Swansea Village in the late 19th century was a new mill on Ledge Road, now known as the Swan Finishing Co. (MHC #D45). The present brick building was constructed ca. 1889 after a fire destroyed the previous wood building on the site, which housed a bleachery. A two-story brick addition on the south side dates to 1916. Swansea Dye Works, also known as Swansea Print Works, incorporated in 1890 and operated the factory until closing in 1956. Employing 50-60 hands by World War I and approximately 100 hands by 1930, the factory printed, dyed, bleached, and finished cotton piece goods [Wright, 134-5 and Stone, 295] and later served as an outlet for Fall River print cloth. Swan Finishing Co. purchased the plant in 1958. The factory is now used as a commercial storage facility.

The location of Swansea's new Odd Fellows lodge at Swansea Village affirmed the village's emerging status as the new town center in the late 19th century. In August 1893, a number of Odd Fellows who resided in Swansea but belonged to different area lodges were granted a charter. The Dorothy Brown Rebekah Lodge, named after the wife of early Swansea settler John Brown, was instituted at Town Hall later that year. The lodge built a Shingle Style meeting hall near Town Hall at 98 Ledge Road (MHC #D75) in 1899. [Wright, 240]

Residential construction at Swansea Village accelerated following the completion of the key town buildings and a new Post Office at 42 Main Street (ca. 1905, MHC #D157), and the Frank Stevens School at the western edge of the village in 1908. Several Colonial Revival and Craftsman style houses and bungalows were erected on open lots along the western end of Main Street as well as on Ledge Road and Elm Street. Particularly noteworthy are a bungalow of locally manufactured cement blocks at 108 Ledge Road (1908, MHC #D74), and a grouping of three gambrel roofed, shingled Colonial Revival houses reportedly built by the Kellogg family at 147, 155, and 157 Elm Street (ca. 1910, MHC #D89, D90).

The fifth town building at Swansea Village to be constructed with Stevens family funds is the Joseph Case High School (now Jr. High School) on Main Street (1927, MHC #D46). Dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Stevens's father, the former high school is significant as the first in Swansea. Heretofore, Swansea students of high school age attended school in the neighboring towns of Warren and Fall River.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

SWANSEA

Form No:

see DDS *D*

Property Name: Swansea Village H.D.

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

Historical Significance (continued)

Swansea's population had expanded to such an extent in the early decades of the 20th century that the town was required to build its own high school. Initiated in 1916, the high school project was delayed by World War I, and finally realized in 1926 when Elizabeth Stevens officially notified the town of her desire to give a high school building.

While still the civic focus of the town, Swansea Village today is primarily a residential area. At least two of the larger properties were converted to institutional use before the mid-20th century. The Frank S. Stevens School for Boys was established at the Stevens mansion with residual funds from the estate of Elizabeth Stevens, who died in 1930. Her sister, Mary A. Case, bequeathed to the Episcopal Diocese the Case Hotel at 789 Stevens Road (MHC #D69) to establish the Eliza Gray Home. Operated for ten years by the diocese as a home for widows and daughters of Episcopal clergy, the building was subsequently sold several times and is now a private school. A single passive commercial venture, the storage facility at the Swan Finishing Co. on Ledge Road, is in operation, but most area businesses are confined to U. S. Route 6 south of the village or the malls on State Route 118 west of the village.

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

Swansea Village comprises the greatest concentration of intact buildings associated with historic development of the village. Boundaries incorporate a line of convenience drawn approximately 200 feet from the road through large properties flanking Main Street. Lewin Brook and Pond provide a natural boundary along a portion of the village's southwestern edge. The village is distinguished from contemporary development to the southwest, and areas of less concentrated settlement to the east, west, north, and southeast.

Bibliography and/or References (continued)

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Morgan, William. The Almighty Wall: The Architecture of Henry Vaughan. Cambridge, MA and London: The Architectural History Foundation and MIT Press, 1983.

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District Data Sheet
Swansea Village Historic District, Swansea, Massachusetts

<u>Map #</u>	<u>MHC #</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Resource</u>
72/43	D82	---	90 Elm Street	ca. 1915	C	Craftsman	B
		garage		ca. 1930	C	---	B
72/44	D83	---	102 Elm Street	ca. 1840	C	Italianate	B
72/45	D84	Mary Althom House	107 Elm Street	ca. 1790	C	Federal/Italianate	B
		stable/garage		ca. 1890	C	late 19C utilitarian	B
72/46	D85	---	108 Elm Street	ca. 1890	C	Colonial Revival	B
		garage		ca. 1930	C	---	B
72/47	D86	Mary Slade House	117 Elm Street	ca. 1849	C	Greek Revival	B
		garage		ca. 1935	C	---	B
72/48	D87	R. C. Gray House	118 Elm Street	ca. 1860	C	Italianate	B
		barn		ca. 1885	C	late 19C utilitarian	B
72/49	---	---	123 Elm Street	ca. 1860	C	vernac. Italianate	B
72/50	D88	---	127 Elm Street	ca. 1920	C	Dutch Colonial	B
		garage		ca. 1920	C	---	B
72/51E	---	---	137 Elm Street	ca. 1950	NC	modern ranch	B
		garage		ca. 1950	NC	---	B
72/52	D89	Kellogg House	147 Elm Street	ca. 1910	C	Colonial Revival	B
		carriage hse/barn		ca. 1910	C	early 20C utilitarian	B
72/53	D90	Baldwin House	155 Elm Street	ca. 1910	C	Colonial Revival	B
		carriage hse/barn		ca. 1910	C	early 20C utilitarian	B

Swansea Village H.D./2

72/54	D90	---	157 Elm Street	ca. 1910	C	Colonial Revival	B
72/1	D91	Nottingham House garage	160 Elm Street	1794 1930s	C C	vernacular Federal utilitarian	B B
72/42	D92	Slade House garage barn	167 Elm Street	ca. 1755, ca. 1900 ca. 1920s ca. 1880	C C C	Georgian/Col. Rev. 20C utilitarian Shingle	B B B
73/2	D45	Frank Stevens School	1 Gardners Neck Rd.	1908	C	Georgian Revival	B
64/3 64/4	D72	Swan Finishing Co. office storage building	11 Ledge Road	ca. 1889 ca. 1910 ca. 1930	C C NC	late 19C utilitarian Colonial Revival altered utilit. bldg.	B B B
64/5	D818	Eddy Burial Ground bronze tablet	Ledge Road	1696 1948	C NC	--- ---	Si. O
72/6	D73	---	19 Ledge Road	ca. 1815	C	Federal	B
72/7A	---	---	29 Ledge Road	ca. 1970	NC	modern ranch	B
73/8C	---	---	88 Ledge Road	ca. 1960s	NC	---	B
73/9	D75	Brown Rebekah Lodge	98 Ledge Road	1899	C	Shingle	B
73/10	D74	Martin House garage	108 Ledge Road	1908 ca. 1920s	C C	Colonial Revival 20C utilitarian	B B
72/11	D65	Hill House	1 Main Street	ca. 1750	C	Georgian	B
72/12	D64	--- garage	9 Main Street	ca. 1790/1900 ca. 1945	C NC	Georgian/Col. Rev. ---	B B
72/13	D63	James Mason House garage	15 Main Street	ca. 1795 ca. 1940	C NC	Federal ---	B B
72/14	D62	John Mason House garage	21 Main Street	ca. 1800 1940s	C NC	Georgian/Italianate ---	B B

Swansea Village H.D./3

72/15	D61	Stevens Mansion	24 Main Street	1855	C	Italianate	B
		office w/ bird house		ca. 1860	C	Italianate	B
		carriage house		ca. 1860	C	Italianate	B
		bowling lanes		ca. 1900	C	Colonial Revival	B
		3 dorms for school		1938	3C	Colonial Revival	3B
		gymnasium		1988	NC	---	B
		granite bollard/iron fence (Main St.)		ca. 1875	C	---	St.
		fieldstone wall (Elm Street)		ca. 1860	C	---	St.
72/16	D60	Northem House	27 Main Street	ca. 1794	C	Georgian	B
72/23	D68	Christ Church	Main Street	1900	C	Gothic Revival	B
		parish office/day school		1939	NC	altered barn	B
72/55	D814	Christ Church Cemetery	Main Street	1847	C	---	Si.
72/17	D157	Village Post Office	42 Main Street	ca. 1905	C	Colonial Revival	B
72/18	D59	Thomas Chase House	52 Main Street	ca. 1870	C	Second Empire	B
		garage		ca. 1890	C	Victorian Gothic	B
72/19	D58	Winslow House	59 Main Street	ca. 1820	C	Federal	B
72/24	D66	Frank S. Stevens Public Library	Main Street	1900	C	Elizabethan Revival	B
72/20	D57	---	64 Main Street	ca. 1850	C	vernac. Gothic Rev.	B
72/21	D56	J. L. Wellington House	72 Main Street	ca. 1870	C	vernac. Gothic Rev.	B
		garage		1940s	NC	---	B
72/22	D55	Henry Wood House	80 Main Street	ca. 1880	C	Italianate	B
		garage		1940s	NC	---	B
72/25	D67	Town Hall	Main Street	1891	C	Romanesque Revival	B
72/56	D815	Old Burial Ground	Main Street	ca. 1737	C	---	Si.

Swansea Village H.D./4

73/26	D54	Stevens Cottage #1	86 Main Street	ca. 1860	C	Italianate	B
73/27	D53	Stevens Cottage #2	92 Main Street	ca. 1860	C	Italianate	B
73/29	D52	Hull House garage	93 Main Street	ca. 1790 1980s	C NC	Federal ---	B B
73/28	D51	Stevens Cottage #3	96 Main Street	ca. 1860	C	Italianate	B
73/57	---	---	98 Main Street	ca. 1875	C	vernacular Italianate	B
73/30E	---	garage	102 Main Street	1970s 1970s	NC NC	modern cape ---	B B
73/31	D50	Dr. John Hilton House garage	109 Main Street	ca. 1905 1960s	C NC	Colonial Revival ---	B B
73/32	---	garage	110 Main Street	1920s 1950s	C NC	Colonial Revival ---	B B
73/33	D49	Daniel Woods House barn stone wall	125 Main Street	ca. 1830 ca. 1870 ca. 1850	C C C	Greek Revival 19C utilitarian ---	B B St.
73/58B	---	V. F. W. Hall	140 Main Street	1960s	NC	---	B
73/34	D48	---	142 Main Street	ca. 1880	C	Italianate	B
73/35	---	---	154 Main Street	ca. 1870	C	vernac. Greek Rev.	B
73/59D	---	Swansea Fire House	Main Street	1970s	NC	---	B
73/36	D46	Joseph Case High Sch. shop	Main Street	1927 ca. 1950s	C NC	Georgian Revival ---	B B
73/37G	---	---	166 Main Street	1940s	NC	modern cape	B

Swansea Village H.D./5

73/38	D47	M. Buffington House shed and chicken coop	222 Main Street	ca. 1820 ca. 1890	C 2C	Federal/Colonial Rev. 19C utilitarian	B 2B
72/39H	D70	Hillside Stock Farm barn stone wall	745 Stevens Road	ca. 1860/1940 1880s ca. 1850	NC C C	altered Italianate 19C utilitarian ---	B B St.
72/40	D71	Case Hall shed garage stone wall	757 Stevens Road	ca. 1870/ 1905 ca. 1890 1960s ca. 1850	C C NC C	Colonial Revival late 19C utilitarian --- ---	B B St.
72/41	D69	Case Hotel wooden fence	789 Stevens Road	ca. 1870/ 1900 ca. 1900	C C	Italianate/Col. Rev. ---	B St.

Key: Map # = sheet number of assessor's map/property number in district
Capital letter at end of property number denotes noncontributing property

C = contributing NC = noncontributing B = building Si. = site St. = structure O = object

	contributing	noncontributing
Buildings	72	23
Sites	3	0
Structures	6	0
Objects	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	81	24

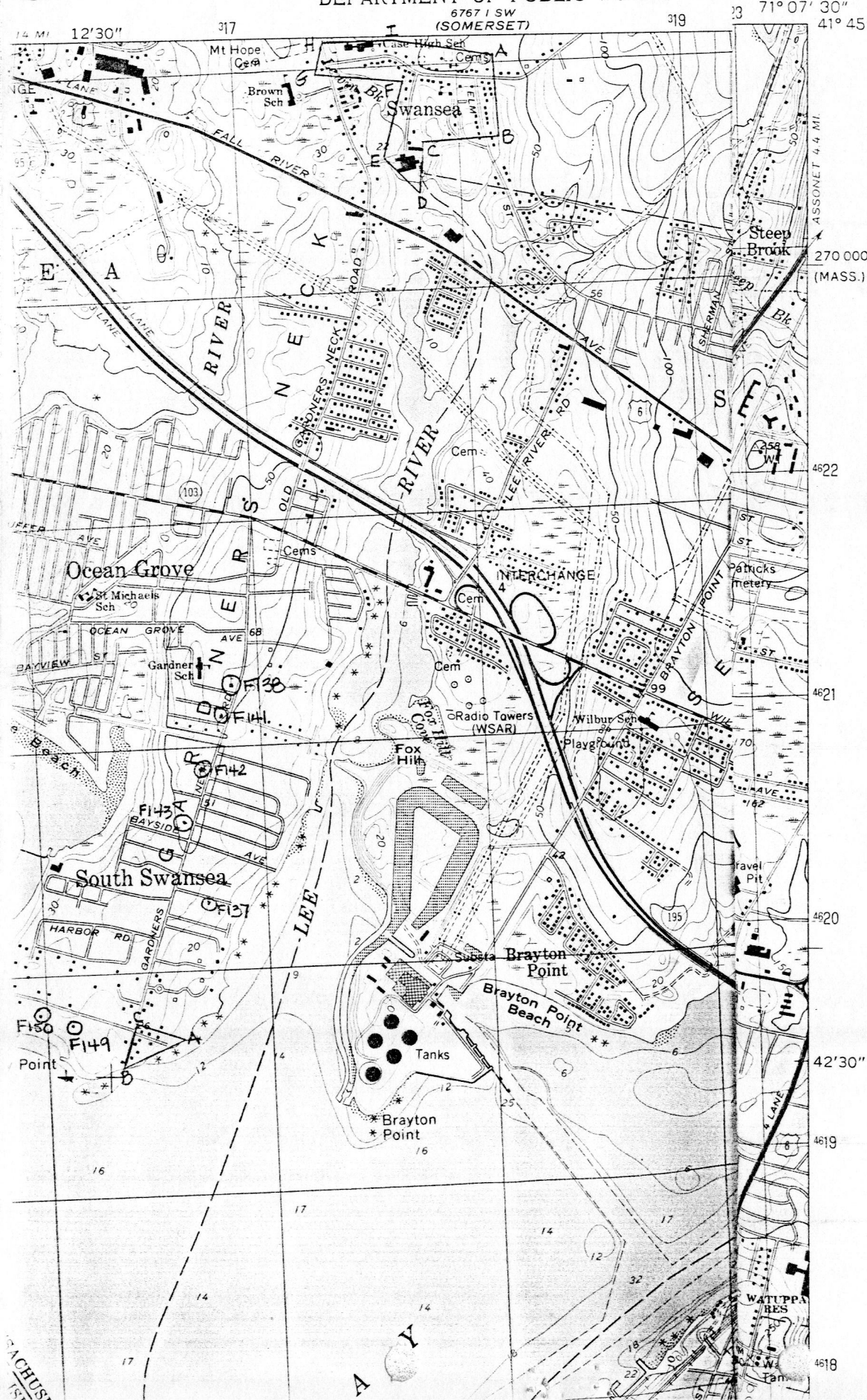
SWN.D



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

GLE
LAND
GRAPHIC)

6707 1 SE
(ASSONET)



BARK STREET SCHOOL (#4)
68 STEVENS ROAD
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA
FALL RIVER QUAD
1:25000
19 320080 4624000

SWANSEA VILLAGE H.D
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA
FALL RIVER QUAD 1:2500

- A 19 318160 4624040
- B 19 318180 4623670
- C 19 317840 4623660
- D 19 317820 4623430
- E 19 317770 4623580
- F 19 317760 4623930
- G 19 317370 4623970
- H 19 317410 4624110
- I 19 317720 4624120



Corner of Elm and Main/Stevens Road. #1, 9, 15 + 21 Main Road (north side). SWN.D
March 1988. North view.



#27, 21, 15, 9 Main Street (north side). March 1988. Northwest view. SWN.D



93 Main Street (Town Hall Tower behind). March 1988. West view.

SWN.D



Christ Church, Main Street. March 1988. North view.

SWN.D



59 Main Street. Library and Town Hall, Main Street. March 1988. S.W.N.D
NW view.



View down Ledge Rd. of Town Hall and Library. #80 Main Street (right).
March 1988. North view. SWN.D



#24 Main Street - Steven's Mansion. March 1988. Southwest view. SWN.D

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

D	47-92 + 157
---	----------------

Town SWANSEA

Name of Area (if any) _____

The Village

Present Use Residential and Civic

Photos (3"x3" or 3"x5" black & white). Indicate on back of each photo street addresses for buildings shown. Staple to left side of form.

General Date or Period _____

Late 18th century - early 20th cen.

General Condition Excellent

No photo possible

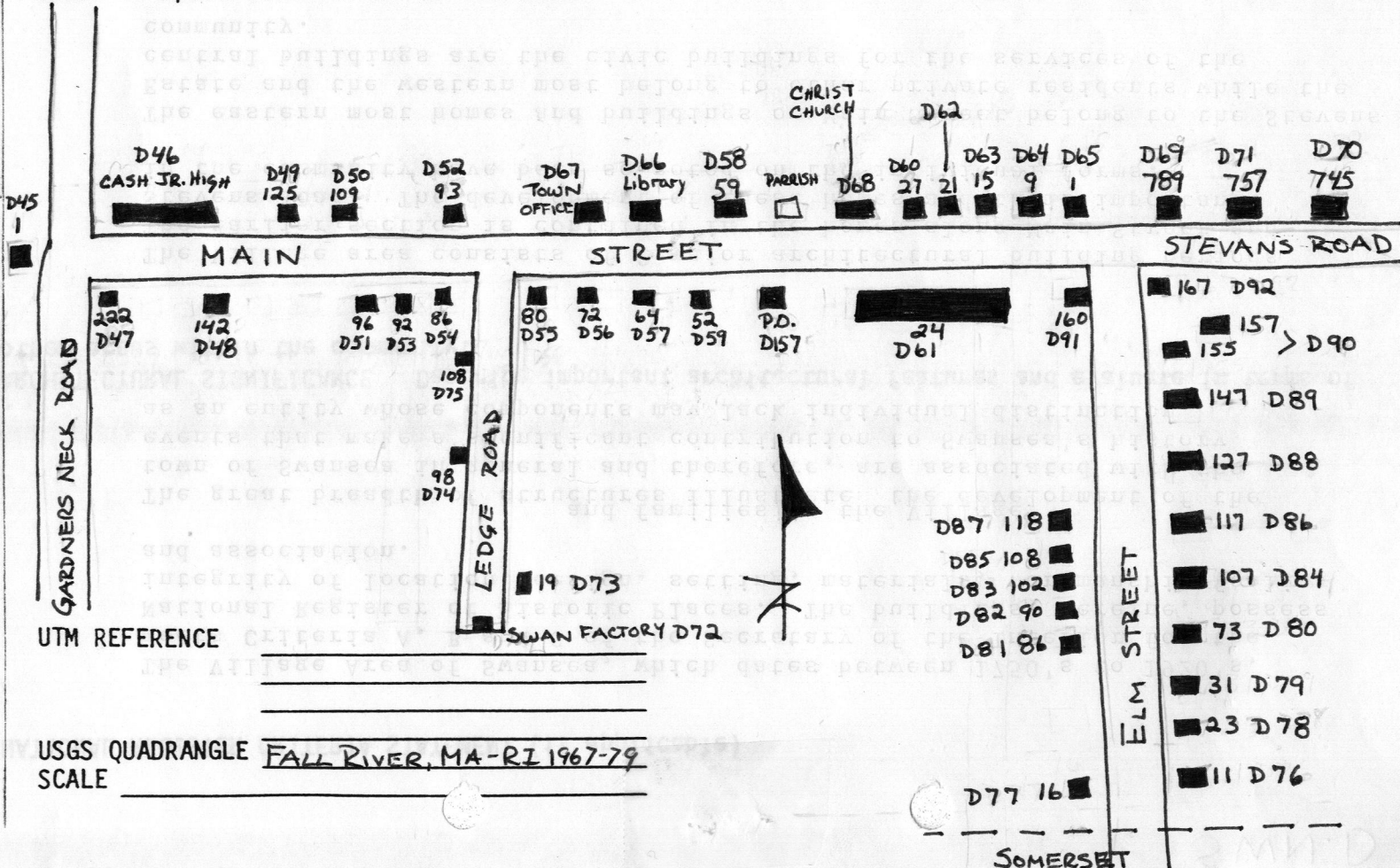
Acreage Quarter mile square

Recorded by Kay Flynn

Organization Swansea Historical Comm.

Date May, 1986

Sketch Map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient).



NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Village Area of Swansea, which dates between 1750's to 1920's, meets Criteria A, B and C of the Secretary of the Interior for the National Register of Historic Places. The buildings, herein, possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship feeling and association.

The great breadth of structures and families in the Village illustrate the development of the town of Swansea in general and therefore, are associated with the events that make a significant contribution to Swansea's history as an entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

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

The Village area consists of 2 major architectural building periods. The earlier section is contained in the homes along Main Street and Stevens Road. The development of these homes and their importance in the community have been so noted on the individual forms.

The eastern most homes and buildings on Main Street belong to the Stevens Estate and the western most belong to other private residents while the central buildings are the civic buildings for the services of the community.

The second building time period was during the turn of the century and the early 20th century. Here, Elm Street saw a wealth of building.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain historical importance of area and how the area relates to the development of other areas of the community.

Three settlement areas were distinguished during the Colonial Period (1675-1775) in Swansea. Zachariah Eddy's family, one of the original 55 inhabitants of Swansea in 1669, settled the Village area. In the 1720's Jonathan Hill purchased 100 acres from Eddy and homes and businesses were established.

The Federal Period (1775-1830) saw Swansea Village develop due to the Swansea Union Cotton Mfg. Co. on Lewin Brook. There was a village P. O. and the Union Meeting House was built in 1830 on the present site of Town Hall. The Village at this time was known as "Scrabbletown".

Nucleation in The Village continued through 1870. Because the main rail routes were south of The Village, the commercial and trade businesses ceased after this period. A number of industries preceded The Swan Finishing which is presently at the end of Ledge Road and the only remaining industry and/or commercial property.

During the late Industrial Period (1870-1915) Frank S. Stevens figured prominently in the development of the Village as a philanthropist who gave buildings - Town Hall and Library, Stevens School.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

See Selected Bibliography and Resources attached to Historical and Architectural Overview.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

SWANSEA

Form No:

AREA D

Property Name:

The Village

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE con't:

with little exterior detail in the traditional manor. These homes are Craftsman cottages and American Foursquare. Moving north, the homes get bigger in size, but are still considered to be typical middle income housing. Numbers 147, 155-157 Elm Street were all built as a unit for a family.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom