

JAN 0 2 1990

112

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address 181 Cedar Avenue

Historic Name "Bend of the Lane"

Use: Present residence

Original residence/farmstead

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1740

Source Luther Family in America (1976)

Style Georgian vernacular

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric shingle

Outbuildings barn (late 19th cent.)

Major Alterations (with dates) rear ell  
(ca. 1850), south wing (late 1920s)

Condition excellent

Moved no Date ---

Acreage approximately 4 acres

Setting Located in the bend of Cedar  
Avenue, a secondary route between  
Swansea Center and Touisset. Rural  
residential area.

Recorded by Doodson & Travers/K. Flynn/Broom  
R.

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date 1978/February 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

UTM REFERENCE 19 315400 4623190

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River MA-RI 1967/1979

SCALE 1:25000

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

"Bend of the Lane", 181 Cedar Avenue, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association. As a vernacular Georgian house routinely expanded during its continuous association with dairy farming in Swansea over two centuries, 181 Cedar Avenue 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.

A vernacular farmhouse, 181 Cedar Avenue is architecturally important in Swansea as an excellent example of the 18th-century farmstead that has been continually enlarged and adapted to meet the needs of its owners. The house was constructed in three stages from ca. 1740 to the late 1920s/early 1930s. The main block (ca. 1740) is a 2½-story, double-pile, gabled structure oriented south; it is unclear whether the original facade of the house was four or five bays in width. A later brick chimney pierces the southerly slope of the roof near the eastern end of the block. Double-hung windows contain 8/8 sash. On the north side is a 1½-story gabled ell (ca. 1850) with steeply pitched roof that rises to meet the ridge of the main block. Windows in the ell contain 6/6 sash. The final addition is the south wing, formerly a three-bay half house, with gable roof, end-bay entry, and 12/12 window sash. The entrance in this wing, now the main entrance to the house, is undistinguished except for trellis panels (ca. 1930) to either side that simulate an enclosed porch.

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

This house has a continuous association with prominent farmers in Swansea. Harlow Luther is recorded as the builder of the house in 1740. Luther was a farmer and dairyman who located his house at the bend in Cedar Avenue, formerly known as Cedar Lane. Owners in the 19th century include Victor Gardner of the widely known farming family that settled primarily on Gardner's Neck, and Philander Wilbur, a prominent Swansea resident who continued the dairy business, raising cattle and selling milk. The barn was originally used for dairy operations, housing machinery for processing the milk. For a while in the mid-20th century the barn served as a gift shop.

In its present massing and orientation the house illustrates changing functional and aesthetic preferences on the part of the farm's owners. Constructed as a typical 2½-story gabled house with facade oriented south, the house was expanded with the addition of a 1½-story gabled rear ell ca. 1850. With the introduction of mechanical heating, the southerly orientation of the house became less of a practical concern, and the late 19th-century construction of the barn reoriented the functional focus of the property to the east toward Cedar Avenue. In the late 1920s/early 1930s, the 1½-story gabled wing was grafted onto the house's former facade; whether the original facade was five bays or four bays, as seen at 262 Cedar Avenue (MHC #113), has not been determined. The new wing, actually a half-house, had been moved from the old William Buffington homestead on the east side of lower Cedar Avenue. On that property, this detached half-house had been known as "the old house"; a mid 18th-century date is likely.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- History of Swansea, 1917. (O.O. Wright)  
Bristol County records, Taunton, and Registry of Deeds, Fall River.  
Luther, Leslie. The Luther Family in America. 1976.  
Helen Pierce, Swansea Historical Society, interview, 11/89.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

SWANSEA

Form No:

112

Property Name: 181 Cedar Avenue

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

Architectural Significance (cont'd)

The property includes an intact shingled barn in good condition, one of the best preserved late 19th-century barns in Swansea. Situated north of the house immediately adjacent to the street, this 1½-story barn retains a square louvered cupola at the roof ridge and vertical board sliding doors opening out to Cedar Avenue.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Swansea MRA  
Bristol County, MASSACHUSETTS

Date Listed

- |                                     |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Cover                               | <del>Substantive Review</del>       | Accept <i>Peta L. Sarge</i> 02-16-90<br>Cover        |
| 1. Anthony, David M., House         | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <i>Arlene Byers</i> 2/16/90<br>Attest _____   |
| 2. Anthony, Harold H., House        | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <i>Arlene Byers</i> 2/16/90<br>Attest _____   |
| 3. Bark Street School               | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <i>Arlene Byers</i> 2/16/90<br>Attest _____   |
| 4. Barneyville Historic District    | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <i>Arlene Byers</i> 2/16/90<br>Attest _____   |
| 5. Bend of the Lane                 | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <i>Arlene Byers</i> 2/16/90<br>Attest _____   |
| 6. Brown, John, IV, House           | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <i>Arlene Byers</i> 2/16/90<br>Attest _____   |
| 7. Buffington, D Facon, John, House | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <i>Arlene Byers</i> 2/16/90<br>Attest _____   |
| 8. Church of Christ, Swansea        | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <i>Arlene Byers</i> 2/16/90<br>Attest _____   |
| 9. Cole, Benjamin, House            | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <i>Arlene Byers</i> 2/16/90<br>Attest _____   |
| 10. Colony Historic District        | <del>Substantive Review</del>       | Keeper <i>Peta L. Sarge</i> 02-16-90<br>Attest _____ |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Bend of the Lane

MULTIPLE NAME: Swansea MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Bristol

DATE RECEIVED: 1/02/90      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/16/90  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/01/90      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/16/90  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000057

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  
\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_



181 Cedar Ave  
Swansea, MA.

"Bend of the Lane" (MHC # 112)

181 Cedar Avenue  
Swansea, Mass. MRA

1986

View W



MHC # 112

181 CEDAR AVENUE

KEY

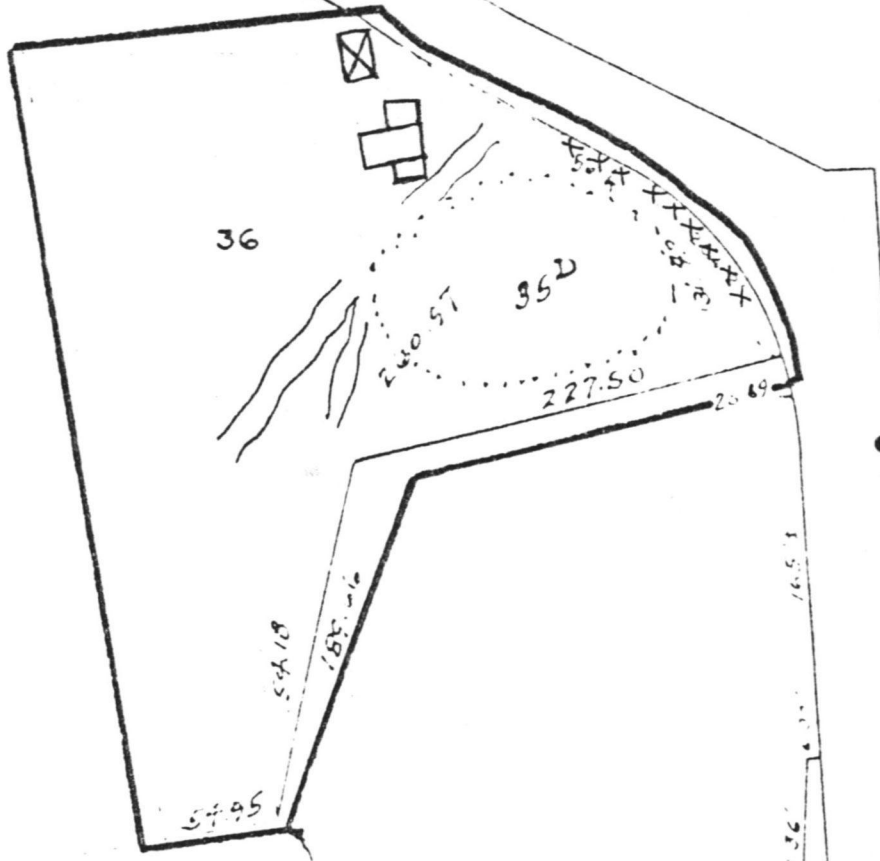
□ = HOUSE

⊠ = BARN

xxx = GRANITE WALL

○ = GRAPE ARBOR/GARDEN

}} = BROOK



309 63

171.40

218 33

111.36

1.85

150.00

48.84

00.051

CEDAR AVENUE

1961 / REVISED 10/82

PROPERTY MAP

**TOWN OF SWANSEA**

BRISTOL COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

JAMES W. SEWALL COMPANY

OLD TOWN, MAINE

SCALE 1 INCH = 100 ± FEET

FOR ASSESSING PURPOSES ONLY

56

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000296