

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA
SWANSEA

Address 1074 Sharps Lot Road

Historic Name Simcock House

Use: Present residence/farmstead

Original residence/farmstead

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

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1765

Source visual analysis;
oral tradition

Style Georgian vernacular

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric shingle

Outbuildings barn (ca. 1890),

well house (ca. 1890), altered milk house

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

rear ell (early 19th century)

Condition good

Moved no Date ---
less than one acre (nominated);

Acreage approximately 63 acres total

Setting Rural setting in northeastern

Swansea; market gardening currently

in operation on property

Recorded by K. Flynn, K. Valente/K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date May 1986/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 319490 4627450

USGS QUADRANGLE Somerset, MA 1985

SCALE 1:25000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Simcock House, 1074 Sharps Lot Road, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association and is significant on the local level. The house meets Criterion C as a unique form of vernacular Georgian house in Swansea.

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

This asymmetrical, three-bay, center-entry house is unusual in Swansea. The house's more typical features include the 2½-story height, center chimney, and three-room plan. The facade consists of an entry located right of center and flanked by irregularly spaced windows. Second-story windows are similarly arranged, although the window over the entry is narrower than the others. All windows retain plain surrounds topped with drip boards and contain 2/2 sash. Other finishing details include a narrow frieze and rakeboards. The entry surround, trimmed with a simple molding, contains a five-light transom and a six-panel door from the Federal period. On the west side (rear) is a two-story gabled ell. There are six fireplaces on the interior.

Outbuildings are frame and include a 1½-story barn and one-story well house (both ca. 1890) and an altered milk house.

(see continuation sheet)

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

Little is known about the history of this farmhouse before the second half of the 19th century, when the farm was owned by the Simcock family. The Simcocks came to the United States from England in the mid-19th century to work in the textile mills in nearby Fall River. It appears that members of the family settled in Swansea at that time. George A. Simcock owned this house and James B. Simcock owned a house on adjacent property to the south by 1895. The farm was oriented toward dairying and market gardening, two important aspects of Swansea's economy in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and market gardening continues on the property today.

Verbal boundary description and justification

Comprising a large, irregularly shaped lot of approximately 63 acres, 1074 Sharps Lot Road consists of a building cluster at the property's narrow frontage along the road with farm acreage extending west. The property is nominated for its architectural significance, and therefore is confined to the building cluster on less than one acre adjacent to Sharps Lot Road and excludes the farm acreage.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1849 map of Swansea, 1871 and 1895 atlases of Bristol County, Swansea Public Library.
Mrs. Cora Silvia (40-year owner of house), interview, 5/20/86.
Mrs. Helen Pierce, Swansea Historical Society, interview, 11/89.
Mass. Hist. Comm. State Survey Team. Historic and Archaeological Resources in SE Mass., 1987.
Swansea Town Report and Inventory, 1978/1986, Mass. Hist. Commission.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Community: SWANSEA | Form No: 97 |
| Property Name: 1074 Sharps Lot Road | |

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

Architectural Significance (continued)

The architectural evolution of this house has not been definitively determined. Although three-bay houses are an anomaly, both five-bay houses and three-quarter (four-bay) cottages from the Colonial (to 1775) and Federal (1775-1830) periods are extant in Swansea. The Simcock House approximates the center-chimney, center-entry form with three major rooms, the most commonly employed house plan in southeastern Massachusetts during the Colonial period. [MHC, 134] However, these houses typically had five-bay facades. A detailed structural investigation could address the possibility that the Simcock House was originally a two-bay half-house with end chimney, extended one bay to the south later in the 18th century. Intact examples of the half-house (normally three-bays) are comparatively rare, most such houses having been enlarged or demolished for more substantial dwellings. [MHC, 135]

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

1/2/90

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

- 21. Luther, William, House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Arlene Byan* 2/16/90
Attest _____
- 221 Norton House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Arlene Byan* 2/16/90
Attest _____
- 23. Short's Tavern **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Arlene Byan* 2/16/90
Attest _____
- ~~24. Simcock House~~ **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Arlene Byan* 2/16/90
Attest _____
- 25. Smuggler's House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Arlene Byan* 2/16/90
Attest _____
- 26. South Swansea Union Church **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Arlene Byan* 2/16/90
Attest _____
- 27. Swansea Willage Historic District **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Arlene Byan* 2/16/90
Attest _____
- 28. Walkden Farm **Entered in the National Register** Keeper *Arlene Byan* 2/16/90
Attest _____
- 29. Mason, William P., House ~~Entered in the National Register~~ Keeper *Bill Savage* 8/8/90

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Simcock House

MULTIPLE NAME: Swansea MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Bristol

DATE RECEIVED: 1/02/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/18/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/02/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/16/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000063

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 _____

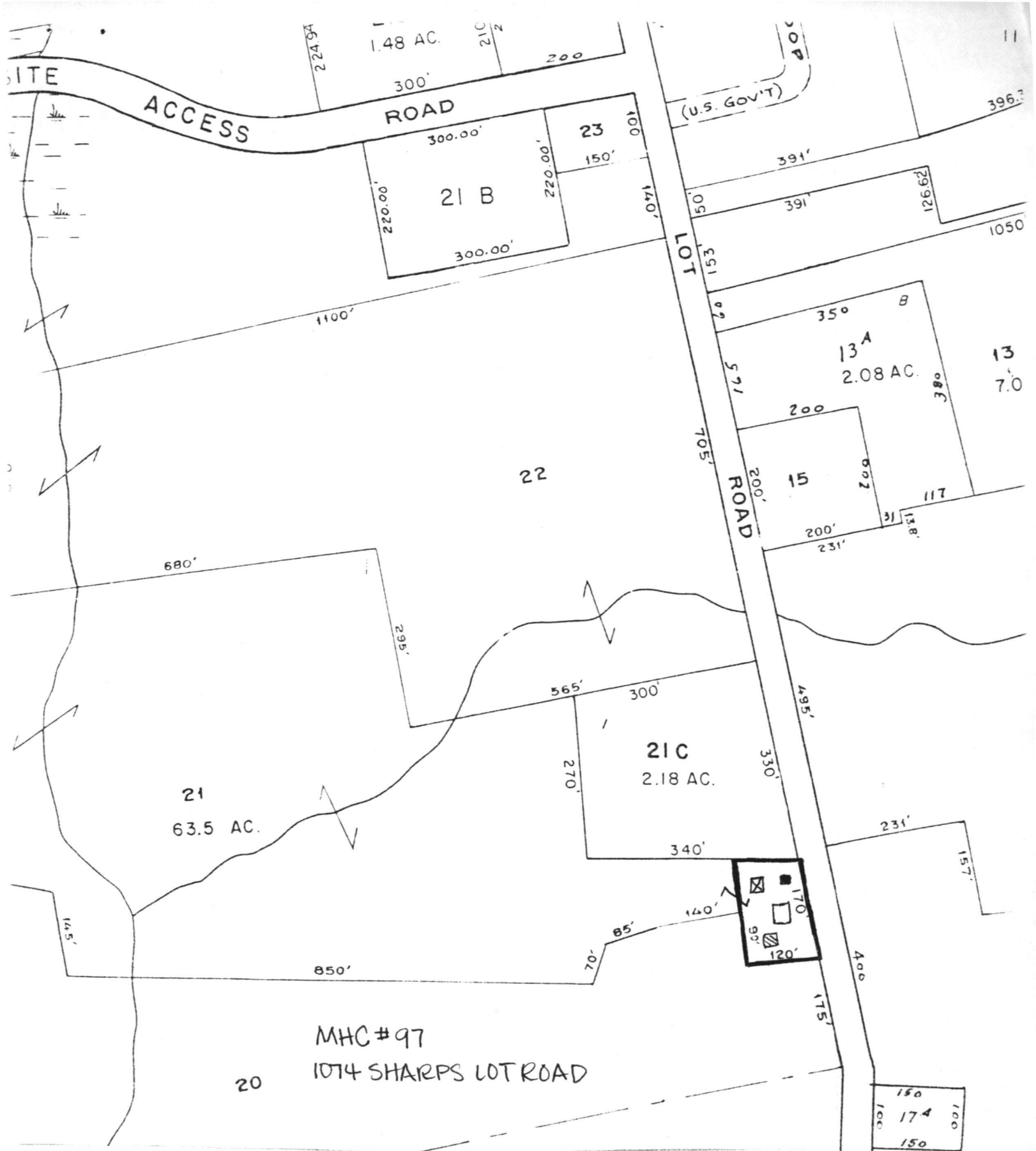


1074 Sharps Lot Rd
Swansea, MA

Simcock House (MHC #97)
1074 Sharps Lot Road
Swansea, Mass. MA

1986

View NW



PROPERTY MAP
TOWN OF SWANSEA
 BRISTOL COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

- KEY:
- = house
 - ⊠ = barn
 - = wellhouse
 - ▣ = milkhouse



30

1075 W. SEWALL COMPANY
 SCALE 1 INCH = 200 ± FEET

OLD TOWN, MAINE
 FOR ASSESSING PURPOSES ONLY

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000296