

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NFL.31
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Swan, Mary Gay House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	88 Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Northfield
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Northfield;
<b>Local No:</b>	
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	C 1807
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal;
<b>Use(s):</b>	Other Religious; Other Residential; Single Family Dwelling House;
<b>Significance:</b>	Archaeology, Historic; Architecture;
<b>Area(s):</b>	NFL.A, NFL.C
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (07/08/1982);
<b>Building Materials:</b>	Wall: Wood; Wood Shingle;
<b>Demolished</b>	Yes



The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

The MACRIS database and scanned files are highly dynamic; new information is added daily and both database records and related scanned files may be updated as new information is incorporated into MHC files. Users should note that there may be a considerable lag time between the receipt of new or updated records by MHC and the appearance of related information in MACRIS. Users should also note that not all source materials for the MACRIS database are made available as scanned images. Users may consult the records, files and maps available in MHC's public research area at its offices at the State Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, open M-F, 9-5.

Users of this digital material acknowledge that they have read and understood the MACRIS Information and Disclaimer (<http://mhc-macris.net/macrisdisclaimer.htm>)

Data available via the MACRIS web interface, and associated scanned files are for information purposes only. THE ACT OF CHECKING THIS DATABASE AND ASSOCIATED SCANNED FILES DOES NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LOCAL, STATE OR FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. IF YOU ARE REPRESENTING A DEVELOPER AND/OR A PROPOSED PROJECT THAT WILL REQUIRE A PERMIT, LICENSE OR FUNDING FROM ANY STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY YOU MUST SUBMIT A PROJECT NOTIFICATION FORM TO MHC FOR MHC'S REVIEW AND COMMENT. You can obtain a copy of a PNF through the MHC web site ([www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)) under the subject heading "MHC Forms."

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

This file was accessed on: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 6:47 PM

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

M.

Form no.

#31



Northfield

88 Main St.

Swan- Renaissance Community

Residence

Renaissance Community

Description:

c. 1807

Hist of Nfld-Reg of Deeds

Federal

Architect

in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.

MEADOW ST

MAIN ST

CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARKER AVE

Exterior wall fabric Stained shingles

Outbuildings (describe) Large ell, garage

Other features Pedimented frontispiece, pitch roof, once steep gable in front, dormers added

Altered 2 or 3 times Date  
Extensive work in 1855 by Linsley  
Moved Date

5. Lot size:

One acre or less Over one acre \*

Approximate frontage

Approximate distance of building from street

30 ft

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE  
USGS Quadrant

MHC Photo no.

6. Recorded by Rosa Johnston

Organization Fortnightly

Date May 1976

RECEIVED

OCT 13 1976

(over)

Portions of this form that were redacted at the time of scanning are marked \*\*



7. Original owner (if known) Rev Eben Gay built it for his daughter Mary Swan  
 Original use wife of Timothy Swan  
Residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates First Youth Hostel, Hdqtrs Brotherhood of the Spirit, Community living for Renaissance Church

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

This was lot #13 Samuel Davis lot. It was owned by Solomon Vose before he left town. Both Hist of Nfld and Puritan Outpost say Rev Ebenezer Gay built it for his daughter Mary. Her husband Timothy Swan was a song writer poet and first librarian of the Social Library. Swan published some of his hymn tunes while living in Suffield Conn. His first song "Montague" was written while he first lived in Northfield and before he went to Conn. Charles A. Linsley a southern hotel owner enlarged and remodeled the house extensively in the 1800's.

It became the first Youth Hostel in the 1930's.

The Brotherhood of the Spirit, a commune, owned it in the 1970's and when that organization changed its organization it became the property of the Renaissance Church. It continued as a community living center.

It was sold at auction on June 1976.

John Phelps author of many articles re Northfield homes lived here.

#### Known Owners:

Samuel Davis lot #13

1713 Thomas Baker sells to Hezikiah Stratton - four fifths

1722 Samuel Clark for Mary Davis to Stratton - one fifth

Land divided on death of Mr. Stratton

1794 S part held by Caleb Stratton and sister

N part held by Eleazer Stratton

1794 Eleazer sold to Solomon Vose

1807 Rev Ebenezer Gay bot for daughter Mary and Timothy Swan buildings there-on

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

History of Nfld-Temple and Sheldon

Puriton Outpost-H. Parsons

Reminices- Munsell

F.C.Reg. of Deeds Bk 1361-169

Timothy Swan Memorial Program 1976

Greenfield Recorder Gazette

Map ID.

on 1858 map as W.L.Fay

on 1971 map as A.S.Stratton

Ass.Rec. Map 23A-B-6

MHC INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MHC Inventory scanning project, 2008-2011

MACRIS No. NFL. 31

Known Owners: cont.

1843 After Swans death sold to Benjamin Murdock

1875 Winsor L Fay

1885 Charles A. Linsley

John Phelps to stepdaughter

Mrs. L.V.Joslin

Grace Virginia Sankey

1930's Youth Hostel

Robert Sinclair

Brotherhood of the Spirit

Renaissance Community

History continued:

In June 1976 Brannon Russell of the Renaissance Community brought to the Selectmen in the Town Hall \*\*

Study to continue in the fall with the new owners, once this is established.