

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SWN.36
Historic Name:	Martin, Benjamin House
Common Name:	
Address:	24 Locust St
City/Town:	Swansea
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	51;
Year Constructed:	1757
Architectural Style(s):	Georgian;
Use(s):	Agricultural; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Other Industrial; Single Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House;
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture; Industry;
Area(s):	SWN.C
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register District (02/16/1990); Nat'l Register MRA (02/16/1990);
Building Materials:	Roof: Asphalt Shingle; Wall: Wood Clapboard; Foundation: Stone, Uncut;
Demolished	No



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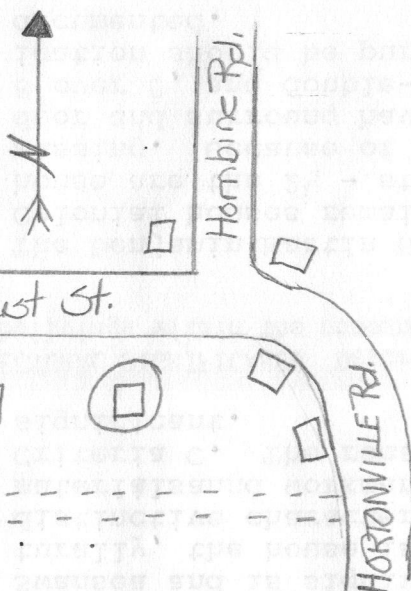
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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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Intersection(s).
Indicate north



UTM REFERENCE _____

USGS QUADRANGLE Somerset, Mass 1967

SCALE _____

USGS
Somerset

NR MRA
NR DIS > 2/16/90

AREA E FORM NO.
C 36

1C
1NE

Town SWANSEA - HORTONVILLE

Address 24 Locust Street

Historic Name Benjamin Martin House

Use: Present Residential

Original Farmstead

DESCRIPTION

Date 1757

Source Research, Fall River Registry
of Deeds

Style Georgian Colonial

Architect Unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings Garage and Sheds

Major Alterations (with dates) Dormer on

rear facade / Enclosed front porch
Dates Unknown

Condition In state of good preservation

Moved No Date _____

Acreage Over one acre

Setting Situated on naturally land-
scaped grounds set back from the
street.

Recorded by Kay Flynn/H. Pierce '78

Organization Swansea Historical
Commission

Date March, 1986

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Benjamin Martin house, built in 1757, meets B and C. of the National Register Criteria for evaluation. Benjamin Martin was an early settler in Swansea and is significant in local history, meeting Criteria B. Architecturally, the house is in a good state of preservation and embodies the distinctive characteristics of mid-18th century design, construction materials and workmanship and possesses integrity of location meeting Criteria C. The remains of the second cotton factory in the country are significant.

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

The Benjamin Martin House, built in 1757, is one of ten or so Georgian Colonial houses remaining in Swansea. The characteristic features of this house are the 2½ - story, central chimney, 5-bay symmetrical facade massing. Because of the addition of the enclosed front porch, the original door and surround have been obscured. The windows are small paned 8 over 8, and double-hung, but probably not original. Interior investigation should be pursued. The remains of the 1806 mill should be documented.

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

The first known owner and probable builder of this house is Benjamin Martin, listed in "heads of Families, in Swansea, First Census of The United States - 1790." He left to his sons, Benjamin and Philip, with "43 acres... dwelling house, barn, corn barn, blacksmith shop and corn mill" and in 1804 was sold to Dexter Wheeler. By 1806, Oliver Chace had a factory and dam constructed and owned 1 acre of the original Martin's 43 acres. The Swansea Cotton Manufacturing Co. was said to be the second cotton factory in this country. After the war of 1812, four families lived in this house. It is now a single family residence situated near the remains of the original Swansea Cotton Manufactory which evolved into the Fall River Manufacturing Co.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

History of Swansea, O.O. Wright pgs. 130-132
Scrabbletown, Alice Brayton
 Fall River Registry of Deeds

FORM B - BUILDING

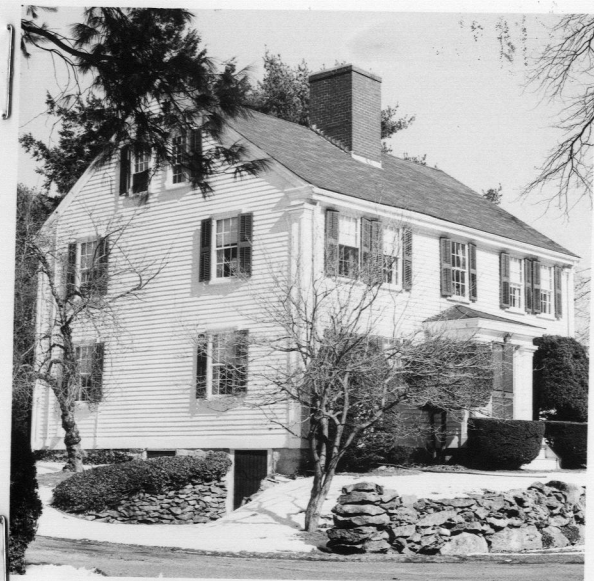
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.

Form no.

36

2.



1. Town Swansea, Massachusetts

Address 24 Locust Street

Name Miss Dutton's

Present use Residential

Present owner Miss Flora Dutton

3. Description:

Date 1757

Source Research, Fall River
Registry of Deeds

Style 2 story colonial farmhouse
with central chimney

Architect Not known

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) Modern garage
and sheds

Other features Beautiful natural
grounds

Small dormer added on back

Altered _____ Date _____

Moved No Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less _____ Over one acre X

Approximate frontage 165 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

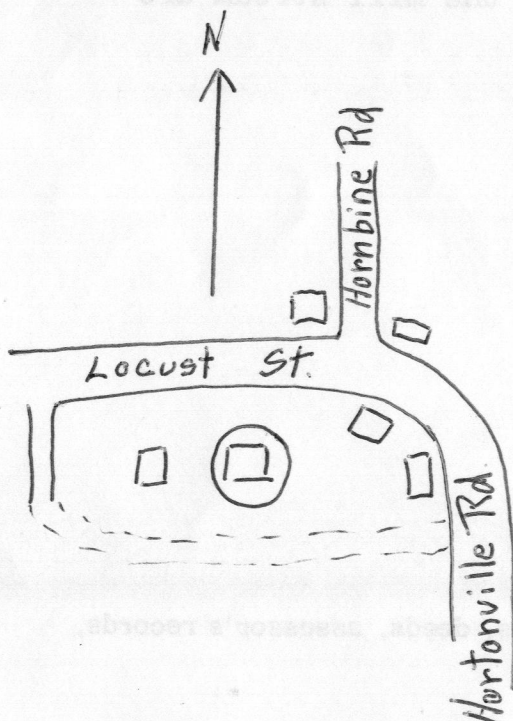
250 feet

6. Recorded by Helen Pierce

Organization Swansea Hist. Society

Date November 29, 1978

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



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(over)

7. Original owner (if known) John Martin

Original use Farm house

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Home for mill workers, c.1815

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

This was the home of John Martin, an early settler of the town, operator of a large farm and active in town affairs. The property was purchased in 1807 by a group planning to build a cotton mill, the second in the whole area, including Rhode Island. When the mill was finally in production after the war of 1812, four families lived in this house. It is now a residence beautifully preserved and landscaped. Community activities are often held here. The spring flowers along the mill stream are noteworthy.

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

History of Swansea, O.O.Wright
Scrabbletown, Alice Brayton
Fall River Registry of Deeds