

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

|                                |                                                                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Inventory No:</b>           | SWN.27                                                                 |
| <b>Historic Name:</b>          | Martin, Melatiah House                                                 |
| <b>Common Name:</b>            |                                                                        |
| <b>Address:</b>                | 397 Locust St                                                          |
| <b>City/Town:</b>              | Swansea                                                                |
| <b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>   |                                                                        |
| <b>Local No:</b>               | 52;                                                                    |
| <b>Year Constructed:</b>       | 1736                                                                   |
| <b>Architectural Style(s):</b> | Georgian;                                                              |
| <b>Use(s):</b>                 | Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House; Tannery;                   |
| <b>Significance:</b>           | Agriculture; Architecture;                                             |
| <b>Area(s):</b>                | SWN.C                                                                  |
| <b>Designation(s):</b>         | Nat'l Register District (02/16/1990); Nat'l Register MRA (02/16/1990); |
| <b>Building Materials:</b>     | Roof: Asphalt Shingle;<br>Wall: Wood Shingle;                          |
| <b>Demolished</b>              | No                                                                     |



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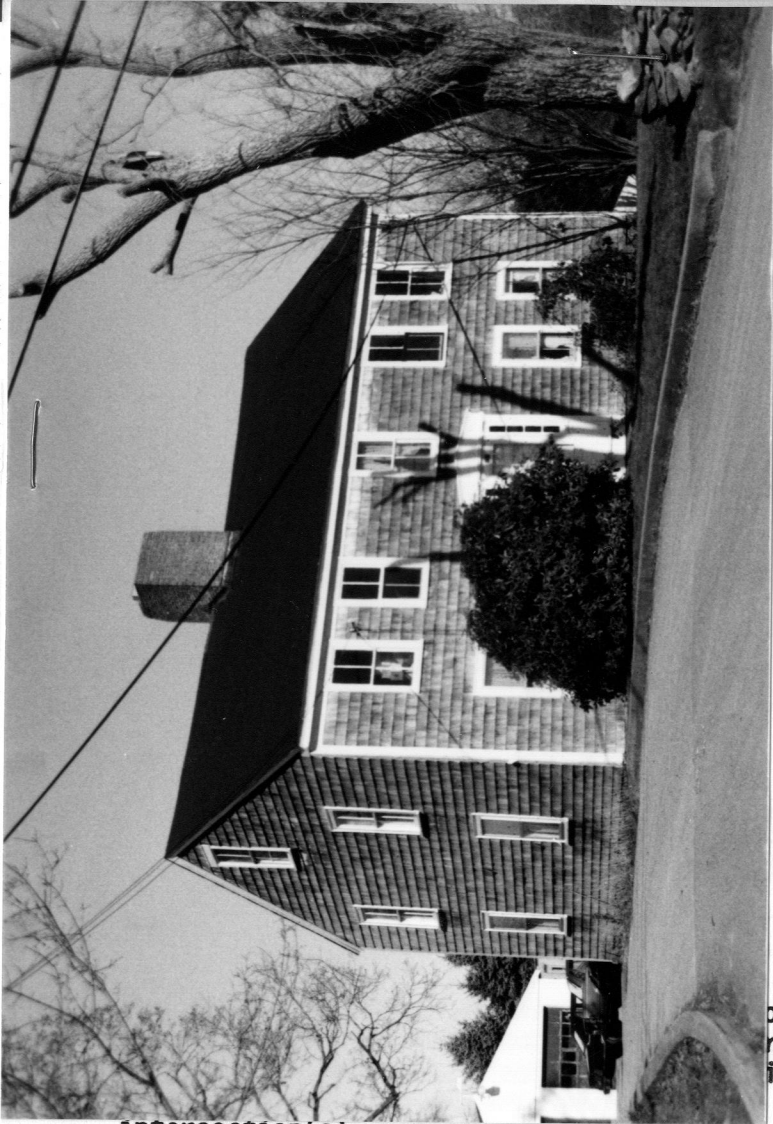
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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

This file was accessed on: Monday, June 27, 2022 at 7:56 PM



NRMRA > 2/16/1986  
NRDIS

USGS -  
SOMERSET

AREA

FORM NO.

C 27

12  
116

Town SWANSEA - HORTONVILLE

Address 397 Locust Street

Historic Name Melatihah Martin House

Use: Present Residence

Original Farmstead

DESCRIPTION

Date 1736

Source Fall River Herald News 1925

Titled Hortonville's Oldest

Style Georgian Colonial House

Architect Unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric Shingled

Outbuildings No original

Major Alterations (with dates) Unknown

Condition Exterior is stable and

well preserved.

Moved No Date

Acreage Over one acre

Setting Situated close to the road in  
a rural setting in the northern  
section of Swansea - Hortonville.

Recorded by Kay Flynn/ H. Pierce ' 78

Organization Swansea Historical  
Commission

Date February, 1986

Intersection(s).  
Indicate north

LOCUST ST.

OAK ST.

UTM REFERENCE

USGS QUADRANGLE Somerset, Mass 1967

SCALE

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

Interior investigation would be necessary.

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

Traditionally noted as the oldest house in Hortonville, a northern section of Swansea, built in 1736. "Assessment slab uncovered in 1925 has numerals which appear to read 1736." Characteristic features of a Georgian Colonial are expressed in the massing of 2½-stories, 5-bay, central chimney. The front entrance door and its surround with side lights was probably altered ca 1830. The 2 over 2 windows were probably altered from the original in the 19th century. The interior is said to have 5 fireplaces and 2 Dutch ovens.

## 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 of this 1736 house is Melatiah Martin. It is said to have been built by Robert Carr. Melatiah Martin is listed in "Heads Of Families in Swansea, First Census of the United States, 1790." He appears not to be involved in the Martins who started the Swansea Cotton Factory, but was the owner of a self-sustaining farm with its own tannery, livestock and crops. The house illustrates the type of living area that was used on a farm of the early 18th century.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Fall River Herald News, 1925  
Swansea Assessors Records  
Fall River Registry of Deeds  
History of Swansea Massachusetts, 1667-1917, O.O. Wright, 1917

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

Form no.

52 27

2.



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



MAR 28 1979

MASS. HIST. COMM.

(over)

1. Town Swansea, Massachusetts

Address 397 Locust Street

Name Known as Martin House

Present use Residence

Present owner John W. Douglas

3. Description:

Date 1736

Source Fall River Herald News 1925  
Titled Hortonville's Oldest House  
Style 2 story center chimney colonial

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Shingled

Outbuildings (describe) No original

Other features 5 fireplaces, 2 Dutch Ovens

Altered No Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved No Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

One acre or less \_\_\_\_\_ Over one acre X

Approximate frontage 248 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

25 feet

6. Recorded by Helen Pierce

Organization Swansea Historical Soc.

Date October 8, 1978

7. Original owner (if known) Built by Robert Carr, Melatiah Martin first occupant

Original use Farm House

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

Possibly the oldest house in Hortonville. A stone slab uncovered in 1925 has numerals which appear to read 1736.

This was a self sustaining farm with its own tannery, live stock and crops.

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

Fall River Herald News 1925  
Swansea Assessors Records  
Fall River Registry of Deeds