

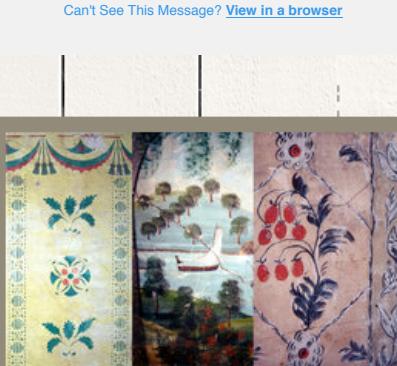
From: Linda Lefko lclefko@live.com
Subject: Fwd: PLASTER BITS The Center for Painted Wall Preservation, Inc.
Date: September 15, 2017 at 9:23 PM
To: d.m.gilbert@comcast.net

LL

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Painted Wall Preservation" <info@pwpcenter.org>
Date: September 15, 2017 at 5:35:34 PM EDT
To: lclefko@live.com
Subject: PLASTER BITS The Center for Painted Wall Preservation, Inc.
Reply-To: info@pwpcenter.org



PLASTER BITS
The Center for Painted Wall Preservation, Inc.

WHAT IS IT ?

The Elihu Akin House in Dartmouth, Massachusetts is a little house with a big story. The Akin family settled in Dartmouth from Portsmouth, RI, after emigrating from Scotland. The house was originally built by Job Mosher who has a pedigree of settlers. He built the house for his wife Amie Akin, a niece of Elihu Akin. It was always in the family and Elihu purchased it in the late 1760s. The Akins' had a shipbuilding in what is now Padanaram Harbor in Dartmouth and also did some privateering. In the 18th C it was known as Akin's Wharf or Akin's Landing. They owned a tavern, large ornate home and Elihu was a politician who was acquainted with Ben Franklin and John Adams.





Basically, the Center for Painted Wall Prreservation recognizes three types of identifiable early decoration on plaster- freehand brushstroke painting, wall stenciling and murals. Both freehand brushstroke and coarse brush graining decoration have been documented on vertical sheathing wood walls prior to the turn of the 18th century. A recent discovery by the Dartmouth Massachusetts Heritage Preservation Trust, Inc. has us somewhat perplexed. What exactly are we looking at?



The uncovering of successive layers of decoration documents a treasure trove of history for the pre-Georgian cape built in 1762. The parlor walls were covered with plaster board and successive layers of wallpaper and newsprint. Dartmouth's proximity to the bustling whaling seaports and trade centers of both Rhode Island and Massachusetts in the mid 1700's makes us ponder about the origins of this early find.

After conservationists finally got down to the painted whitewash on the vertical wood sheathing they saw the real conundrum. What is it that we are looking at? If it is the remaining imprint of paper, why is the background so uniformly missing? Is it some type of silk screen process that was used?



In an effort to understand, document and preserve the early plaster wall decoration of America, the Center for Painted Wall Preservation must understand the deterioration of same – as we are only able to study the walls after the ravages of time. Although the Akin House walls are not plaster, nor are they within the time purview of CPWP (1800-1860), we have been asked to delve into this and have found it intriguing enough to share in a CPWP Plaster Bits.





We look forward to your thoughts on this most puzzling discovery which hasn't seen the light of day since the turn of the 18th century. For more information on the Dartmouth Heritage Preservation Trust project go to dhpt.org.

The Center for Painted Wall Preservation is dedicated to documentation and preservation of the painted past. We are a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to help us continue our work, either by sending a check to the address below or by going to the pwpcenter.org website using PayPal or credit card to donate directly. We at CPWP appreciate your continuing interest in our mission.

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