

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	DAR.13
Historic Name:	Akin House
Common Name:	
Address:	359 Elm St
City/Town:	Dartmouth
Village/Neighborhood:	South Dartmouth; Padanaram;
Local No:	107;
Year Constructed:	C 1760
Architectural Style(s):	Federal; Georgian;
Architect(s):	Akin, Ebenezer;
Use(s):	Rectory; Single Family Dwelling House;
Significance:	Architecture; Religion;
Area(s):	DAR.F
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register District (09/05/1985);
Building Materials:	Wall: Wood; Wood Shingle; Foundation: Granite;
Demolished	No



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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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NR Padanarum Vill. HD

DAR.13

FORM B - BUILDING

USGS - New Bedford South

AREA F	FORM NO. 107 13
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

Pl - Padanarum
S. Dart



Town Dartmouth

Address 359 Elm Street

Historic Name Akin House

Use: Present Church rectory

Original dwelling

DESCRIPTION:

Date Ca. 1760

Source deed

Style Georgian

Architect Ebenezer Akin

Exterior wall fabric shingle

Outbuildings barn

Major alterations (with dates) _____

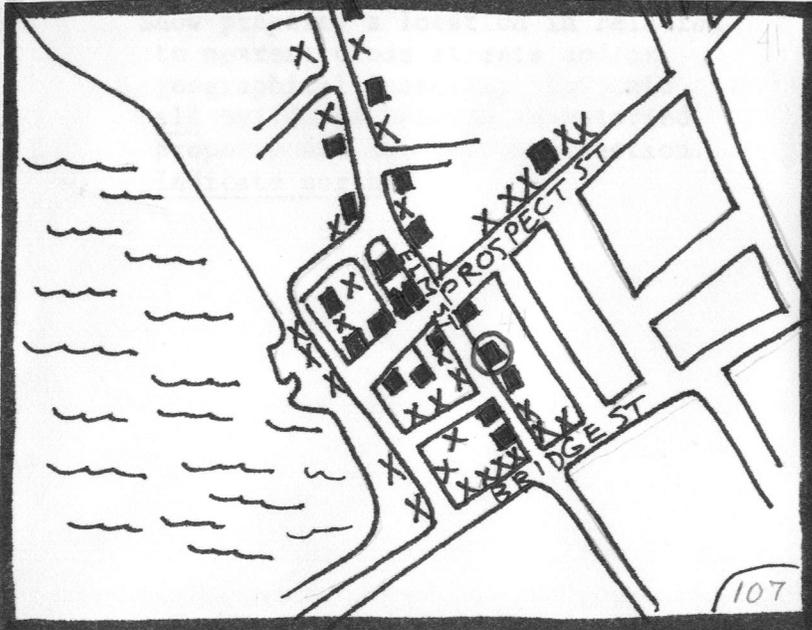
rear addition, 20th cent.

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage _____

Setting residential

SKETCH MAP



Recorded by Ken Weinstein

Organization Dartmouth Historical Commission

Date May, 1983

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The Akin house is a small Georgian dwelling, and a fine example of that style in Dartmouth. It is 2½ stories in height and has a center placed chimney. Door placement is unusual, in that it is not center facade placed. 3/4 plan Georgians are not the norm. Entrance way placement is left of center on the front facade. One window is to the left and two are to the right. The same is true at the second story level but in addition, a fourth window is placed above doorway. Windows are 12/12 and lintels are splayed at first story level. Doorway is a handsome example of decorative motifs- broken pediment with dentils, pilasters, and elliptical fanlight. (cont.)

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

This building is one of Dartmouth's most significant architecturally as well as historically, and is the subject of colorful local historical legends. In 1743 John Akin sold the land to his son Ebenezer. The deed reads in part thus: "I, John Akin of Dartmouth, in consideration of the sum of 150 pounds paid by Ebenezer Akin do grant forever one certain tract or parcel of land situate in the township of Dartmouth, it being part of my homestead farm. June 15, 1743." Ebenezer was then 27 years old, and the land area he was sold was 5 acres. The Akin family were famous as shipbuilders and it is assumed that Ebenezer built the house himself, using shipbuilding skills. In 1778, the British forces invaded Dartmouth to punish the citizenry for privateering. Soldiers attempted to burn the Akin house but were driven off and did not succeed. The house remained in the possession of the Akin family until 1832, when William Potter bought it. (Deed Book 37, Page 109) In the mid 1950's, St. Peter's Episcopal Church bought the house for use as a rectory.

Architectural Significance con't:

Roof has a moderate pitch. Foundation is granite. There is a stone wall at front of house, and stone stairs lead to front doorway. Modern addition at rear.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date, and publisher)