

KIN.1

Assessor's Number MAP 34/LOT 45	USGS Quad PLYMOUTH	Area(s) 1.40	Form Number KIN.1
---	------------------------------	------------------------	-----------------------------

Town KINGSTON N A

Place (neighborhood or village) _____

Address MAPLE STREET & LANDING ROAD

Historic Name MAJOR JOHN BRADFORD HOUSE

Uses: Present MUSEUM

Original HOUSEHOLD

Date of Construction 1674/1717

Source HISTORICAL RECORDS

Style/Form COLONIAL

Architect/Builder MAJOR JOHN BRADFORD

Exterior Material: _____

Foundation STONE

Wall/Trim CEDAR SHINGLES AND PINE CORNER BOARDS

Roof CEDAR SHINGLES

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures _____

NONE EXISTING

Major Alterations (with dates) 1717

(SEE ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION)

Condition EXCELLENT

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date _____

Acreage 1.5+ acres

Setting HIGH, OPEN LOT OVERLOOKING THE

MOUTH OF THE JONES RIVER

RECEIVED

OCT 12 2000

MASS. HIST. COMM

tion or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.



Recorded by JOHN C. BURREY (781-595-7581)

Organization JONES RIVER VILLAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Date (month/year) OCT. 2000

18 BREWSTER RD
KINGSTON, MA 02364

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Situated on a hillside overlooking the Jones River, the MAJOR JOHN BRADFORD HOUSE was built in 1674, and is a carefully preserved, two-story, Colonial farmhouse and an excellent example of late Pilgrim Century construction. The homestead features a brick center chimney and a cedar-shingled, salt-box roof. The cottage-style, diamond paned, leaded glass windows are the dominant detail when viewed from the exterior. Four fireplaces served the generations of dwellers for cooking and warmth. The walk-in fireplace in the great room contains a domed-roof oven. The interior features the original doors and wide pine floors and is outfitted with many artifacts belonging to the Bradford family. In 1717, the home was moved a few yards, enlarged and remodeled, reflecting the family's increasing size and prosperity with the installation of interior lath and plaster walls, fireplace tiles and additional windows. Early documents record the existence of a Greek Revival barn on the property which has been located nearby, but is unavailable for purchase. In 1999, a fenced, four-quadrant herb garden featuring medicinal, household, culinary herbs and flowers was planted after thorough research into its period authenticity.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

By 1674, Major John Bradford, grandson of the second Governor of Plymouth Colony, was a principal inhabitant of the North Precinct of the Town of Plymouth. He was a successful merchant, operating from "The Landing" on his property on the Jones River near his home; and he was a major in the militia in King Phillip's war.

He led his neighbors to establish a new town by donating in 1717 the land for the meeting house, school house, burial ground, training green, minister's house and garden lot. In 1726, the North Precinct was incorporated as the Town of Kingston. Major John and his wife, Mercy, lived in their house for "nigh 62 year" and raised seven children there. The Major and Mercy are interred in the burial ground he donated to the town.

The house was inhabited continuously for nearly 250 years from its construction in 1674 until its purchase in 1921 by the Jones River Village Club, predecessor of today's historical society. Since the 1920s, the Jones River Village Historical Society has maintained this significant building as a historic house and museum with many hundreds of tourists visiting and local adults and school children partaking of pageants, plays and celebrations.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Town records
Historical Society records
County Deeds
Thacher's History of the Town of Plymouth

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town

KINGSTON

Property Address

LANDING RD @ MAPLE ST.

Area(s)

Form No.

--	--



View from
West



View
from
North

KIN. 1



View from
East

Close up
of front
façade
showing
garden.



Detail of wood
double hung
↓ window.



↑ Detail of leaded glass window

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Plymouth

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Town **Kingston**

Place (neighborhood or village)

Maple Street and Landing Road

Name **Major John Bradford House**

Present **house museum**

Original **residence**

Construction **1674, enlarged ca. 1715**

Jones River Village Historical Society

Form **Colonial / Saltbox**

Architect/Builder **William Bradford (attrib)**



Exterior Material:

Foundation **fieldstone**

Wall/Trim **wood shingle / wood**

Roof **wood shingle**

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures
storage shed (ca. 1980)

Major Alterations (with dates) **1674 "half House" (west half) expanded to east ca. 1715**

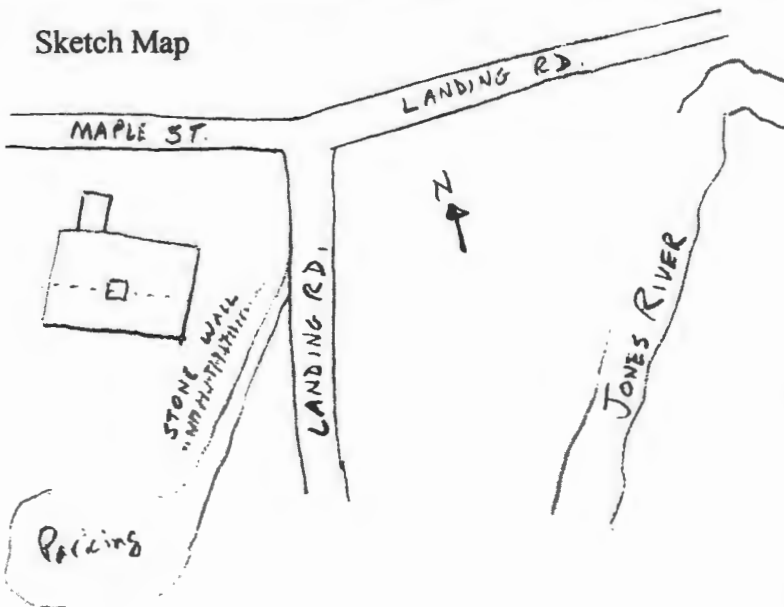
Condition **good**

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage **less than one**

Setting **rural - well set back from street on high knoll with large lawn/sloping field to rear**

Sketch Map



Recorded by **Chad Andrew Perry**

Organization **BU Preservation Studies Program**

Date (month/year) **5/98**

RECEIVED

AUG 7 1999

MASS. HIST. COMM.

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [X] *see continuation sheet*

The Major John Bradford House is said to be the oldest and only architecturally intact house that was built and occupied by a member of Governor William Bradford's family. It is a restored, integral lean-to Saltbox, the west half of which began as a "half house" in 1674 and was expanded to its current configuration around 1715. The main block has a rectangular footprint measuring approximately 30.5' by 42' with a center chimney plan. An ell measuring approximately 10' by 12' extends to the rear of the west half. The two-story, five-bay house has a center entry and is two rooms deep. Windows on the west half are mainly diamond pane casements while those on the east are mainly 12-over-8 sash, all with simple surrounds. The house was restored in 1921 under the supervision of George Francis Dow and the casement windows were apparently copied from the originals found in the house. Door surrounds, corner, and fascia boards are all plain. A late-20th century wood frame shed sits to the southwest of the house. The Bradford House sits high on a knoll overlooking the Jones River and is buffered by a large front lawn and field which slopes sharply to the rear.

Pamphlets published by the Bradford House Council indicate that the 1674 "half house" with lean-to was built by Major William Bradford. The evidence of this original house is represented in the southwest room and includes exposed framing with chamfered 10" summer beam with raised cove and pip and chamfered posts and girts. The fireplace is fairly small, probably the result of reconfiguring the hearth around 1715, and the north and east walls are finished in vertical pine sheathing dating from the 1921 restoration while the other walls are plastered. A small room off of this one is accessed by a door on the north wall (identified as a "bedroom" on HABS drawing). Another door to the east of the first one leads into the long kitchen under the lean-to roof. The frame is also exposed in this room but many elements are 1920s replacements. The wall of the large hearth and separate bake oven is embellished with a single horizontal feather-edge panel. Another small room sits to the

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE [] *see continuation sheet*

The Major John Bradford House is a typical example of a Colonial saltbox built in two stages. Major William Bradford (1624-1704) purportedly built the west half of the house with a lean-to in 1674 for his eldest son John and his bride, Mercy Warren. William served as Colony Deputy Governor for seven years before 1692 and was Chief Commander of Plymouth forces during King Philip's War. William's son John Bradford (1653-1736) served as selectman, a deputy from Plymouth, and as a representative in the Boston General Court. In 1717 John led in the establishment of Kingston as a new town by donating land for the meeting house, school house, burial ground, training green, and minister's house (the Town of Kingston was not incorporated until 1726, however). Around 1715 John Bradford expanded his house which was not sufficient to house his wife, seven children. Additionally, John's son William was about to be married so the house was nearly doubled in size.

John Bradford's grandson, Captain Seth Chipman, Jr., inherited the house in 1750. His widow subsequently sold the property to Cornelius Sampson in ca. 1770 and the house passed out of the Bradford family for the first time. Later owners included Colonel Joseph Sampson, his son Joseph, Joseph's daughter Betsey Sampson Beal, her two sons Joseph and Alexander, and Robert McGrath. In 1910 the house was purchased by Walter Lippincott of Philadelphia who then sold it to Ezra Wright in 1920.

In 1921 a wave of historical fervor led to the restoration of the Bradford house in observance of the Pilgrim tercentenary. The Jones River Village Club, predecessor of today's historical society, obtained the house from Wright and George Francis Dow supervised every detail of the restoration.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES [] *see continuation sheet*

Bradford House Council, *The Bradford Heritage*, 1953 (pamphlet at State House Library).

HABS drawings, survey No. 2-78.

Jones River Village Club, Incorporated, *The Major John Bradford House, Kingston, MA* (pamphlet at State House Library).

[] Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *See National Register Criteria Statement form attached.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property Address

Massachusetts Historical Commission
 Massachusetts Archives Building
 220 Morrissey Boulevard
 Boston, Massachusetts 02125

KingstonMaple/Landing Rd.

Area(s) Form No.

--	--

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION (cont'd.)

east of the kitchen with plastered walls and ceiling.

The southeast room or parlor was supposedly added around 1715 when the house was doubled in size. Framing elements here are boxed and beaded with more elaborate door surrounds and cornice moldings, and a wood baseboard flush with the plastered walls. The hearth has a relatively plain surround with two horizontal panels above.

The three-run main entry stair, added at the time of the 1715 expansion, contains decorative, open-string brackets and three turned baluster variations. The second floor landing leads to the two upper chambers. The southwest chamber has exposed, chamfered framing similar to that found in the room below and contains wind braces in the northwest and southwest corners. The walls in the southwest chamber are all plastered and finished with whitewash as are the exposed joists of the ceiling.

The southeast chamber is finished in a manner consistent with the parlor below: boxed and beaded framing with plastered walls and ceiling. The hearth is surrounded with decorative Delft-like tile and has two horizontal panels above. A smaller, finished room with plaster walls and ceiling adjoins this chamber to the north while the remainder of the space to the north of the southwest chamber and chimney stack is unfinished.

The suggested dates of the original part of the Bradford house and the later addition coincide with the physical fabric and evidence visible inside. The exposed and decorated frame of the southwest room and chamber suggest First Period construction while the plastered walls and ceiling and boxed framing of the southeastern portion indicate later construction. The 1921 restoration replaced some framing elements, particularly the joists in the lean-to kitchen on the north side of the house, and there is little evidence of First Period construction there.

4N.1

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property Address

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

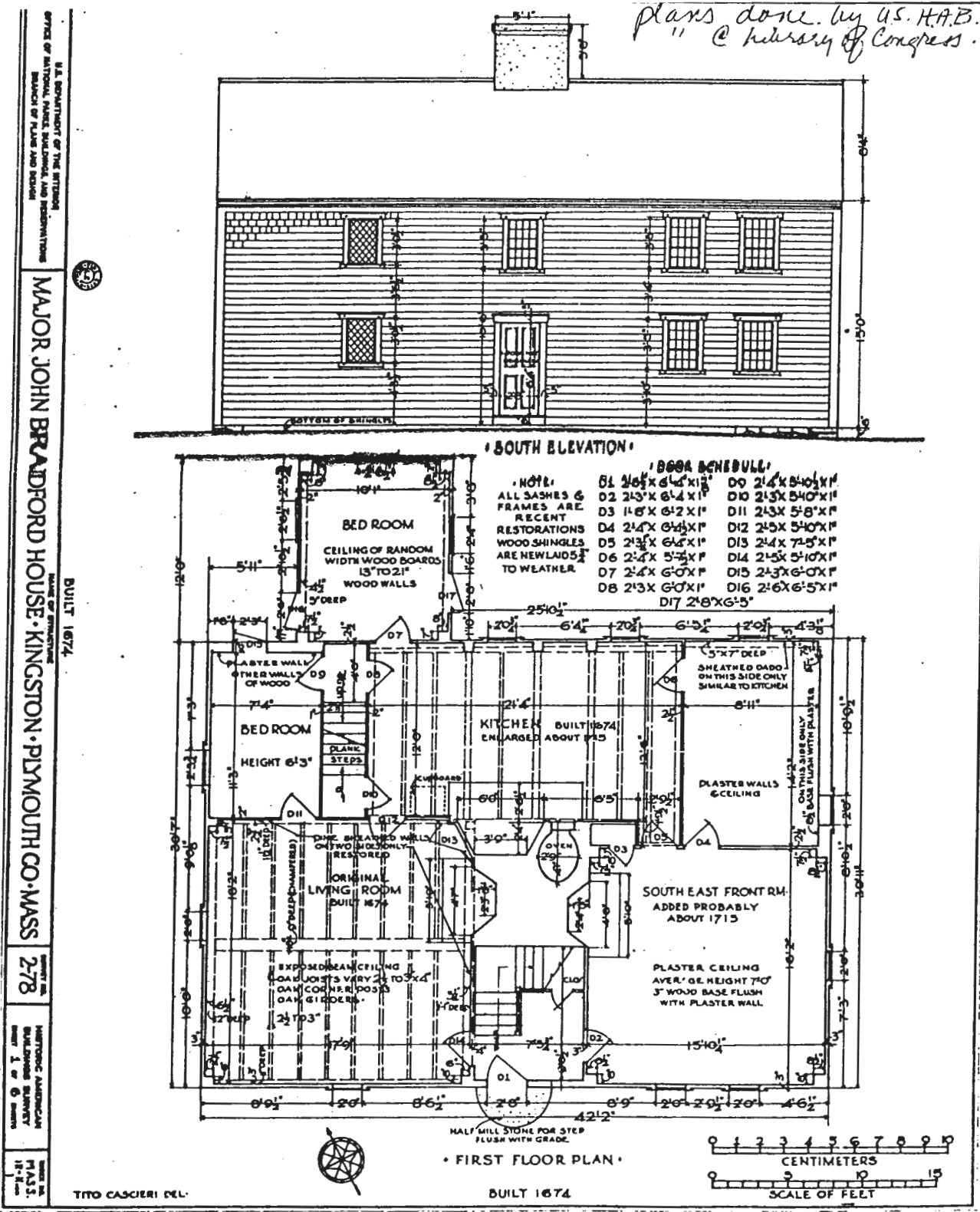
Kingston

Maple/Landing Rd.

Area(s) Form No.

--	--

South Elevation and First Floor Plan (HABS sheet 1 of 6)



[illegible]

KIN.1

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property Address

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Kingston

Maple/Landing Rd.

Area(s) Form No.

--	--

North and West Elevations (HABS sheet 3 of 6)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS, AND MONUMENTS
BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGNS

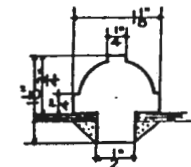
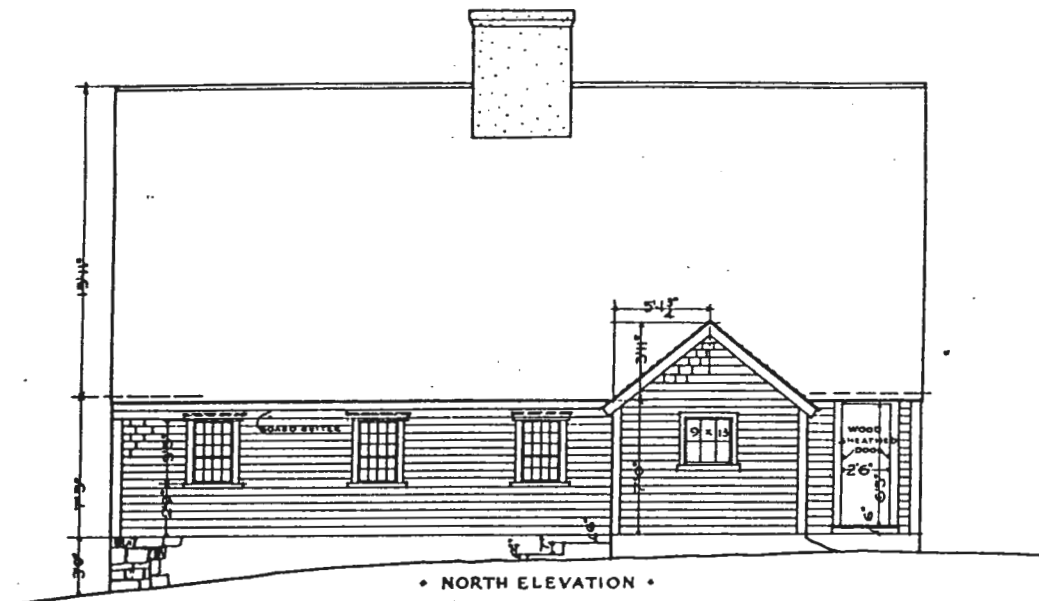
MAJOR JOHN BRADFORD HOUSE • KINGSTON • PLYMOUTH CO. MASS

BUILT 1874.

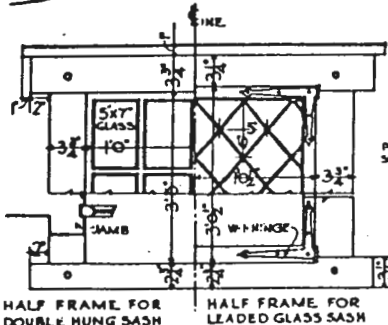
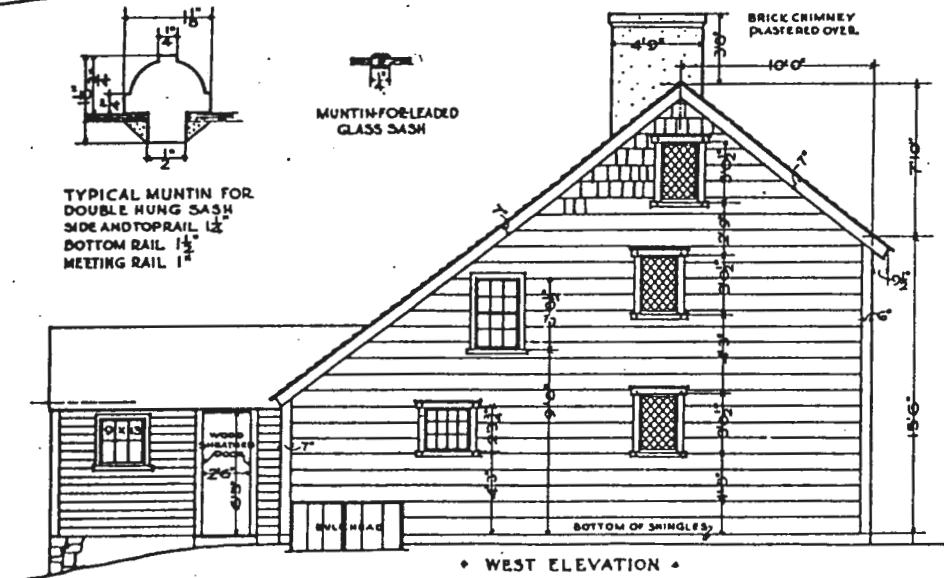
2-78

NATIONAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARCHIVES SURVEY

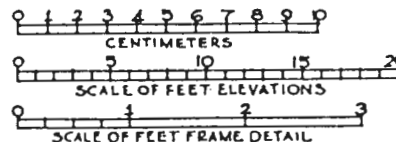
18-1-100



MUNTIN-FOR-LEADED GLASS SASH



MODERN SPLIT CYPRESS SHINGLES ON WEST SIDE LAID 10" TO WEATHER. SHINGLES ON NORTH SIDE LAID 5" TO WEATHER. SHINGLED ROOFS. ALL SASHES AND PLANK FRAMES ARE RECENT RESTORATIONS. LEADED GLASS CASEMENTS SWING OUT.



TITO CASCIARI DEL.

BUILT 1874

KIN.1

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property Address

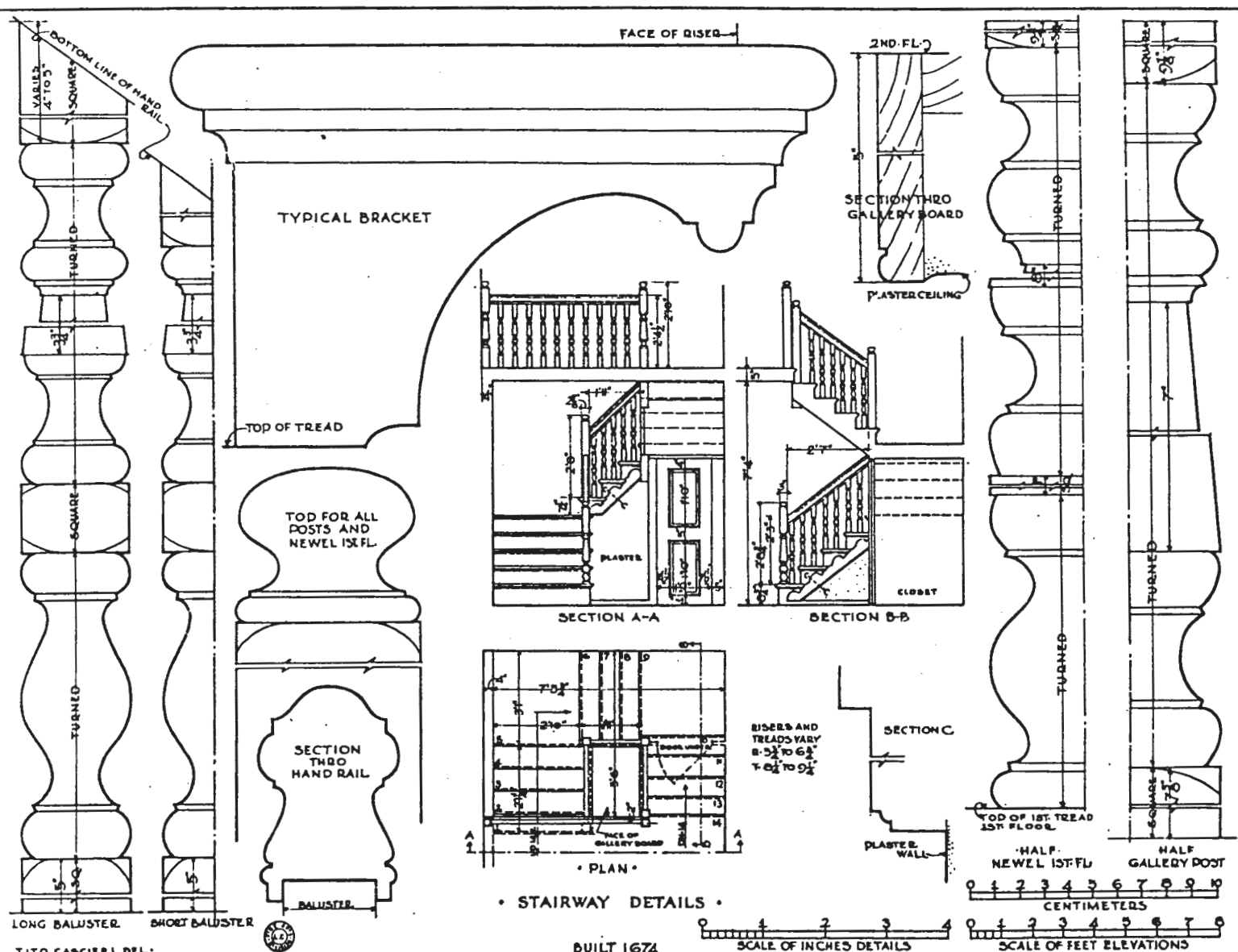
Massachusetts Historical Commission
 Massachusetts Archives Building
 220 Morrissey Boulevard
 Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Kingston

Maple/Landing Rd.

Area(s) Form No.

Stairway Detail (HABS sheet 4 of 6)



KIN.1

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property Address

Massachusetts Historical Commission
 Massachusetts Archives Building
 220 Morrissey Boulevard
 Boston, Massachusetts 02125

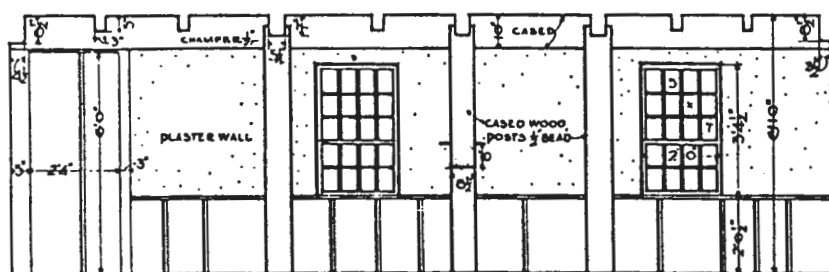
Kingston

Maple/Landing Rd.

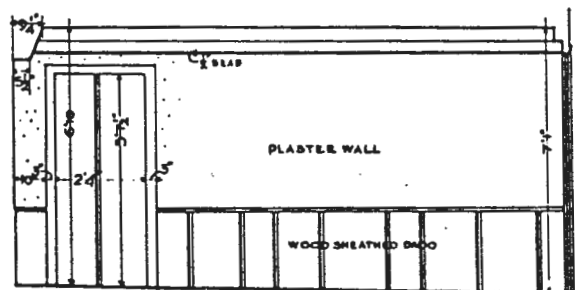
Area(s) Form No.

--	--

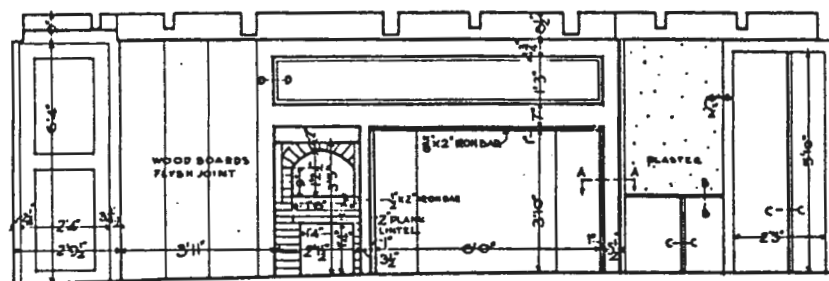
Kitchen Details (HABS sheet 5 of 6)



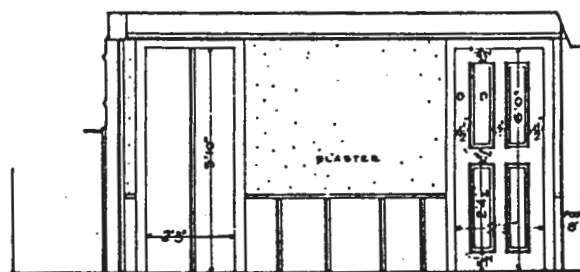
• NORTH WALL •



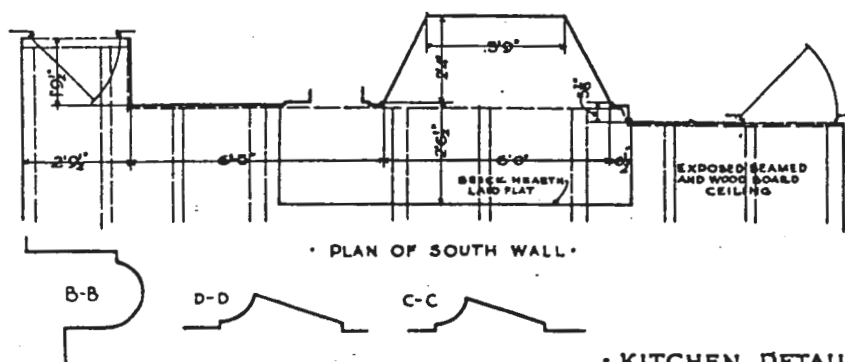
• EAST WALL •



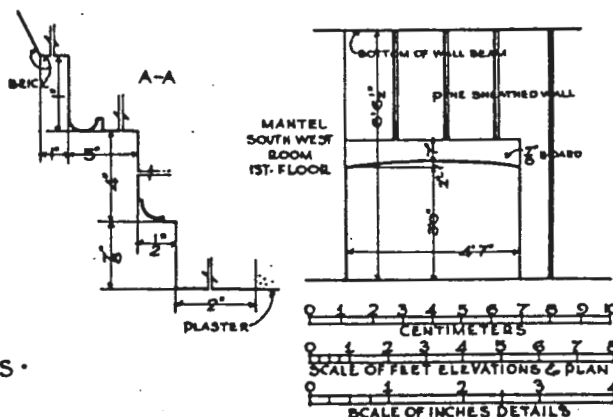
• SOUTH WALL •



• WEST WALL •



• PLAN OF SOUTH WALL •



• KITCHEN DETAILS •

TITO CASCIERI DEL.

BUILT 1674

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS, AND RESERVATIONS
 BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

MAJOR JOHN BRADFORD HOUSE • KINGSTON • PLYMOUTH CO. MASS

SURVEY NO.
278

HISTORIC AMERICAN
 BUILDINGS SURVEY
 SHEET 5 OF 6 SHEETS

SHEET NO.
 MASS.
 12-K-100
 1

MASS.
12-11-44

Massachusetts Historical Commission
 Massachusetts Archives Building
 220 Morrissey Boulevard
 Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community
Kingston
 Area

Property Address
Maple & Landing
 Form #

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible.

☐ Eligible only in a historic district.

☐ Contributing to a potential district.

☐ Potential historic district.

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by **Claire W. Dempsey**.

This property was surveyed by students in the Boston University Preservation Studies Program for its First Period Survey of the Old Plymouth Colony. Using MHC's MACRIS database, properties believed to have been constructed before 1720 were visited by students, to examine their interiors for physical evidence to support this claim. In this example, portions of an exposed and decorated frame were visible, confirming it as an example of First Period building traditions. In addition, the building is an important remnant of the town's early settlement period. This property retains integrity of materials, design, workmanship, location, setting, feeling, and association, and is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C, certainly at the local level and likely at the state level of significance.

KIN.1

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community

Kingston

Property Address

Maple/Landing Rd.

Area(s) Form No.

--	--



SOUTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION DETAIL

KIN. 1

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property Address

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Kingston

Maple/Landing Rd.

Area(s) Form No.

--	--



VIEW FROM NORTH



WEST ELEVATION

KIN. 1

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property Address

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Kingston

Maple/Landing Rd.

Area(s) Form No.

--	--



VIEW FROM SW



VIEW FROM NE

KIN.1

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property Address

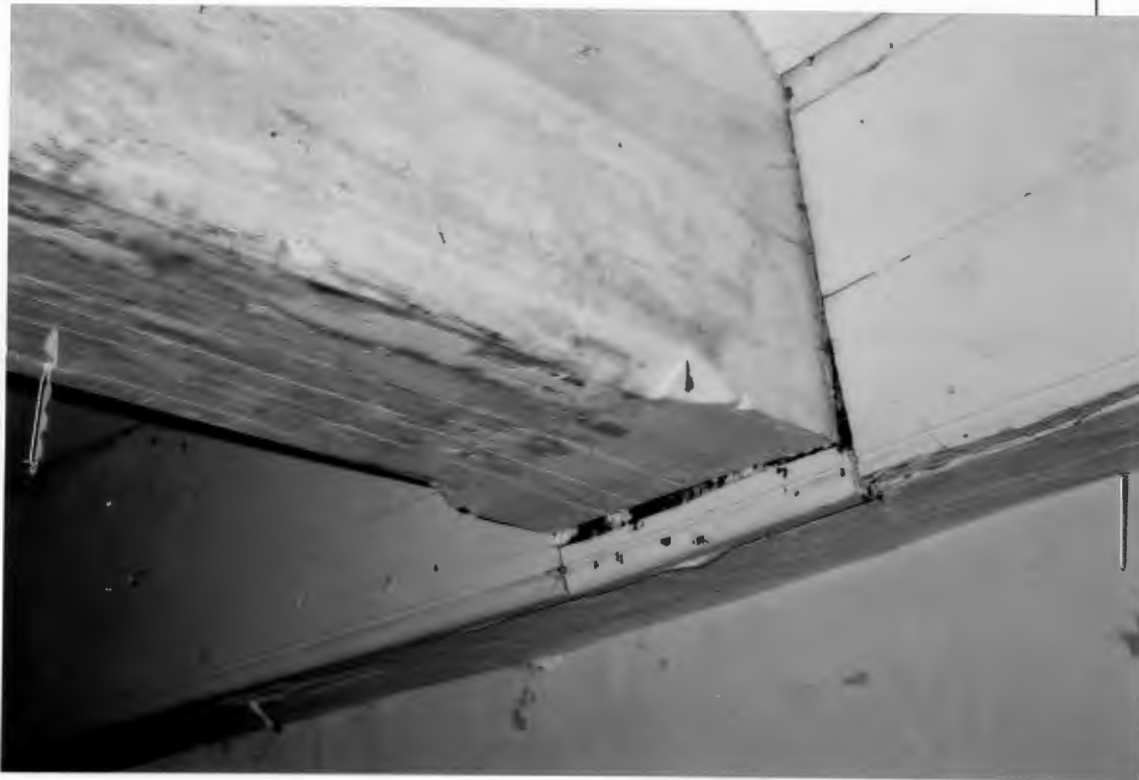
Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Kingston

Maple/Landing Rd.

Area(s) Form No.

--	--



SUMMER BEAM IN
CHAMBER ABOVE
ROOM 1.



SW CORNER OF
CHAMBER ABOVE
ROOM 1.

KIN.1

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property Address

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Kingston

Maple/Landing Rd.

Area(s) Form No.

--	--



HEARTH PANELING →
(ROOM 2)



HEARTH PANELING
CHAMBER
ABOVE ROOM 2



REAR ROOM 1ST FLOOR

KIN.1

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property Address

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Kingston

Maple/Landing Rd.

Area(s) Form No.



REAR ROOM
1ST FLOOR.

KIN.1

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community

Kingston

Property Address

Maple/Landing Rd.

Area(s) Form No.

--	--



STAIR AT NORTH ENTRANCE



MAIN STAIR DETAIL

KIN.1

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property Address

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Kingston

Maple/Landing Rd.

Area(s) Form No.

--	--



HEARTH WALL
(ROOM 1)



EAST END OF
SUMMER BEAM
(ROOM 1)

HN.1

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property Address

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Kingston

Maple/Landing Rd.

Area(s) Form No.

--	--



EAST GIRT/CHAMFER ↗
IN SW ROOM (ROOM 1)

KIN. 1

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property Address

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Kingston

Maple/Landing Rd.

Area(s) Form No.

--	--



EAST WALL OF ROOM NORTH ↗
OF CHAMBER ABOVE ROOM 2



SW CORNER POST
(ROOM 1)



HEARTH -
CHAMBER ABOVE ROOM 1



		KIN. 1
--	--	--------

2. Town KINGSTON
 Street address MAPLE ST. AND LANDING RD.
 Name MAJOR JOHN BRADFORD HOUSE
 originally the home of Major John Bradford;
 Use: original & present now historic museum
 Present owner Jones River Village Historical Society
 Open to public Yes
 Date 1674 Style 17th Century
 Source of date Town records; Historical society records.
 Architect /2/

OR part of Area # _____
 Priorated Moved Altered Added _____

DESCRIPTION

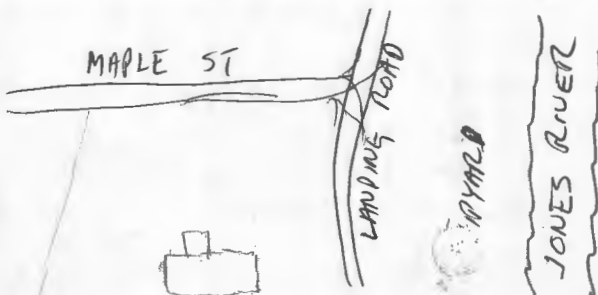
FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low _____ Material stone
 WALL COVER: Wood shingles Brick Stone Other _____
 ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard _____
 Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork _____
 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Interior Irregular Cluster Elaborate
 STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed
 PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 none PORTICO _____ Balcony
 FACADE: Gable end: Front/side Ornament _____
 Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details: _____
 Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied
 Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

5. Indicate location of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings

6. Footage of structure from street 184
 Property has 120 feet frontage on street

Recorder John J. Funkhouser
Jones River Village Historical Society
 For and Kingston Historical Commission

Photo # _____ Date 1973



SEE REVERSE SIDE

JUN 25 REC'D

RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

KIN.1

1. Outbuildings none extant

2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal
 Predominant features on hill
 Landscape architect /2/

3. Neighboring Structures

Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.
 Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern

Use: Residential Commercial Religious Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

The plot of land where the house stands was part of the original tract deeded to Governor William Bradford at the time the original colonists were given original landholdings by the crown. Major William Bradford received the land upon his father's death. The house was built by Major John Bradford in 1674. The portion of land upon which the house stands was deeded to him by his father in 1685. Bradford owned much of the land in what is now Kingston Center and some of it which is now publically owned was his gift to the town.

The early section of the house represents late Pilgrim Century construction. The structure was moved a few yards, enlarged, and remodeled in 1717 reflecting the family's increasing size and prosperity with the interior wall treatment, tiles, and windows.

The house remained a residence until about 1900. In 1921 the house was purchased and restored by the Jones River Village Club, forerunner of the Jones River Village Historical Society. It has been maintained as an historic house and museum since that time. Recently the site has been the site of an archeological dig by the Plimoth Plantation under the guidance of Dr. James Deetz. It is felt to be an important site because it represents basically a farmhouse of the late seventeenth century with surrounding land which is relatively undisturbed and it is hoped that evidence of early outer structures and buildings may be found.

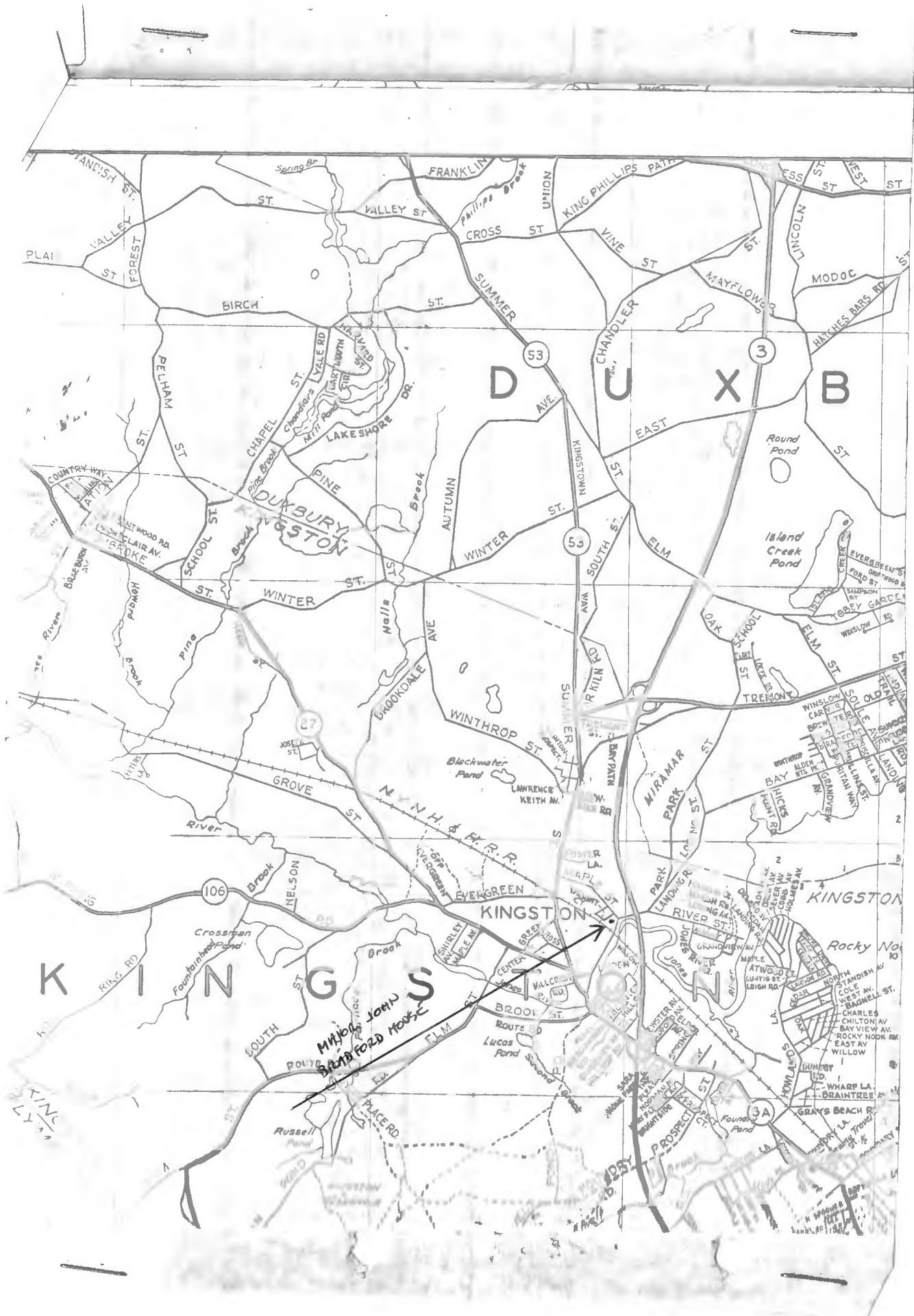
BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

Town records.
 Historical society records.
 County deeds.
 Thacher's History of the Town of Plymouth

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: Major William Bradford

Deed Information: Book Number 4 Page 117, Plymouth County Registry of Deeds



KINGSTON- #1
MAPLE ST
KIN.1



Original yellow form: Eligibility file _____
Copies: Inventory form ☒ _____
Town file(w/corresp.) _____
Macris _____
NR director _____

KIN.1

Community: Kingston

MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Received: 10/12/00

Date Due:

Date Reviewed: 10/18/00

Type: ☒ Individual ☐ District (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name: Major John Bradford House

Inventory Form: KIN.1

Address: Maple Street and Landing Road

Requested by: John Burrey, Jones River Historical Society (owners)

Action: X? ☐ Honor ☐ ITC ☐ Grant ☐ R & C ☐ Other:

Agency:

Staff in charge of Review: MST

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

☒ Eligible
☐ Eligible, also in district
☐ Eligible only in district
☐ Ineligible
☐ More information needed

DISTRICTS

☐ Eligible
☐ Ineligible
☐ More information needed

CRITERIA: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☒ D

LEVEL: ☒ Local ☒ State ☐ National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE by Michael Steinitz

The Major John Bradford House is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A, C and D at the local and possibly state level. The building has significant historical associations with the locally and regionally prominent Bradford family and the early settlement of Kingston, as well as with Kingston's 18th and 19th century history, the 20th century Pilgrim Tercentenary and the founding of the Jones River Historical Society. Architecturally, the property is significant as a rare regional survival of First Period architecture in the Old Colony region, as an example of the evolution and adaptation of these buildings in the 18th and 19th centuries, and also as a reflection of architectural restoration practices of the early 20th century. The architectural fabric of the building also may have the potential to yield additional information on an array of research questions related to First Period building practices in the Old Colony and in Massachusetts generally.

The earliest core of the building, a two-story with integral leanto "half house" with a reported ca. 1674 construction date, exhibits the distinctive exposed and decorated timber-framing features characteristic of First Period construction. The building is believed to have been enlarged to a full, central chimney plan ca. 1715, as evidenced by the lobby stair and possibly period surviving fielded paneling in the newer part of the main block. The building, purchased in 1921 by the Jones River Village Club (later the Jones River Historical Society), underwent an extensive "restoration," reportedly under the supervision of George Francis Dow. Recent photos taken as part of a Boston University Preservation Studies survey of early buildings in the region suggest that insertion of interior paneling, significant reworking of the chimney stack, and addition of diamond-paned sash as some of the results of this "restoration" campaign. A nomination would require an architectural historian familiar with early construction practices to more fully assess the physical evolution of the building from its First Period core through its Tercentenary restoration to the present.