

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number
46/82

USGS Quad
Plymouth

Area(s)

Form Number
117

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

Town Kingston

Place (neighborhood or village) Jones River Village



Address 11 Summer Street

Historic Name James N. Sever House

Uses: Present residential

Original residential

Date of Construction 1831

Source sign on house/1831 map

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder _____

Exterior Material:

Foundation stone

Wall/Trim clapboard/wood

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures large, gable-roof barn
(mid-to-late 19th c.)

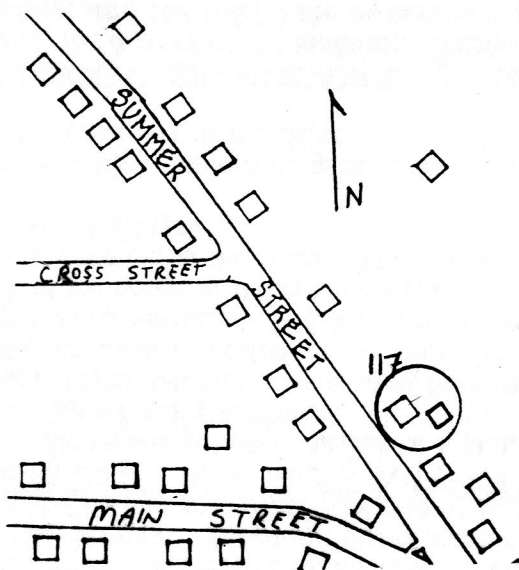
Major Alterations (with dates) 2½story, gable-roof ell
(mid-19th c.), 1-story, shed-roof ell (mid-19th c.)

Condition good

Moved X no yes Date _____

Acreage 3.12 acres

Sketch Map



Recorded by V.Adams, N.Avery, M.Harrington, C.Meagher, J.Snow Setting set back approx. 75 feet from street; gravel drive

Organization The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. to S; wood fence along N; stone retaining wall and high

Date (month/day/year) June 1997 hedge to W; open lawn to S; grass, trees, shrubs

JUL 22 1997

MASS. HIST. COMM.

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION — *see continuation sheet*

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

11 Summer Street is a 2½-story, 4-by-2 bay, end-gable, Federal-style house sheathed in clapboard and set on a stone foundation. The house features a simple wood cornice, returns, and corner boards. A large, 2½-story, gable-roof ell (mid-19th century) clad in clapboard with a stone foundation is located on the north end of the rear (E) elevation. A 1-story, clapboarded hyphen connects the 2½-story ell to an oversized 1-story, shed-roof ell (mid-19th century) which was originally an outbuilding on the property which was attached to the house in the early-20th century, before 1903 (1903 Walker map). The building's main entrance is located in the east bay of the facade (S) and consists of a simple wood door flanked by three-light sidelights and Doric pilasters supporting a blank entablature. This entrance is housed in a 1-story, hipped-roof, full-facade porch with simple Doric columns which wraps around both the north, west, and south elevations. A secondary entrance with a similar surround is located on the south elevation of the 2½-story ell. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with simple wood surrounds and louvered shutters. Two interior, brick chimneys mark the roof line of the main block of the house at the ridge on each end. Two additional, interior, brick chimneys pierce the roof line of the 2½-story ell, at the ridge. This house is one of a number of outstanding examples of the Federal style in this part of Kingston.

A large, 2-bay, gable-roof barn (mid-to-late 19th century) clad in clapboard is located to the southeast of the house, at the end of the drive.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE X *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.

In 1717, 41 residents of the northern part of Plymouth petitioned the General Court to be set off from Plymouth as a separate township or a precinct. They were allowed to become the north precinct of Plymouth on the condition that they maintain a suitable minister (Bailey 1920:33). At that time, the central part of the present town of Kingston belonged largely to Major John Bradford who gave the precinct fourteen acres of land in 1717. This land was to be used for the town woodlot, the Training Green, a burying ground, and a meetinghouse (Bailey 1920:36). In 1726, the north precinct, after having been a part of the town of Plymouth for 106 years, acquired its independence and became the town of Kingston (Bailey 1920:41).

The lower portion of today's Main Street was known as the Boston Road from the Plymouth line northward to "the Point" at Summer Street, and then north on Summer Street to the Duxbury town line. Today's Main Street from "the Point" westward was known as the Bridgewater Road (Melville 1976:377). It was around this intersection, on the slight hill which rises from the Jones River below, that the Kingston town center developed. Main and Summer streets (Route 3A) had been the town's first macadamized surface in 1906-7. By 1921,

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES X *see continuation sheet*

- Bailey, Sarah Y. *The Story of Jones River in Pilgrim Plymouth, 1620-1726*. Kingston, MA, 1920.
- Bailey, Sarah Y., and Emily F. Drew. *The Civic Progress of Kingston [and] A History of Her Industries, Two Hundred Years, 1726-1926*. Kingston, 1926.
- Board of Registrars. *Persons Listed by the Board of Registrars in the Town of Kingston for the Year 1953*. Board of Registrars, Kingston, Massachusetts, 1953.
- Drew, Emily. *Kingston: the Jones River Village*. 1944 (Edited and annotated by Doris M. Johnson, 1995).
- Drew, Thomas Bradford. "History of Kingston," in D.H. Hurd, *History of Plymouth County, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia, 1884.
- Jones, Henry M. *Ships of Kingston*. Memorial Press, Plymouth, MA, 1926.
- Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Reconnaissance Survey Report: Kingston*. Boston, 1981.
- Melville, Doris Johnson. *Major Bradford's Town: A History of the Town of Kingston, 1726-1976*. Kingston, 1976.

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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEETCommunity:
KingstonKIN.117
Property Address:
11 Summer StreetMassachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Facility
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)

Form No.
117**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (continued)**

traffic along Summer Street (Route 3A) necessitated the widening of this road. In 1921, \$8,500 was appropriated for land-taking damages for the proposed widening; in 1922 the road south of the library was broadened resulting in the removal of several buildings (Melville 1976:143).

According to a sign on the house, 11 Summer Street was constructed in 1831. The building appears on both the 1876 and 1879 maps as belonging to the heirs of James N. Sever, a merchant (1867 Directory). The Sever family were wealthy land owners in Kingston, who at the end of the 19th century, in partnership with the Faunce family, owned more than one-tenth of the town's total taxable acreage (Melville 1976:121). James died in April 1869, and with him, the male line of the Sever name ceased in Kingston (Melville 1976:269). In 1876, the house was occupied by Mrs. James Sever, presumably James' widow (1876 map). By 1903, the house was occupied by Mrs. Gordon Page and a small outbuilding shown on the 1879 map had been attached to the house. Harold J. Weston, a 69-year-old mill president, was residing at the house in 1953 (Board of Registrars 1953). Today, the house is owned by Walter and Virginia Birge (Town Database Records 1997).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (continued)

Plymouth County Directory. Stillman B. Pratt & Company, Middleboro, Massachusetts, 1867.
Thompson, Elroy S. *History of Plymouth, Norfolk, and Barnstable Counties, Massachusetts*. New York, 1928.
Town Database Records. Assessor's Office, Kingston Town House, Kingston, Massachusetts, 1997.
Vertical Files located at the Local History Room of the Kingston Public Library.

Maps

1820-1830 *Five School Districts*. Anonymous.
1831 *Map of Kingston*. John Gray.
1876 *Map of the Town of Kingston, Plymouth County, Mass.* E.N. Boyden.
1879 *Atlas of Plymouth County*. George E. Walker & Co.
1903 *Atlas of Plymouth County*. George E. Walker.
1928 *Map of Kingston with Key*. Anonymous.