

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number
46/90

USGS Quad
Plymouth

Area(s)

KIN.128
Form Number
128, 129

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

Town Kingston

Place (neighborhood or village) Jones River Village

Address 31 Summer Street

Historic Name George T. Adams House

Uses: Present residential

Original residential

Date of Construction late 19th century/1880

Source 1876 and 1879 maps/sign on house

Style/Form Italianate

Architect/Builder _____

Exterior Material:

Foundation stone

Wall/Trim clapboard/wood

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures large, 2½-story, cross-gable barn (MHC , late 19th century)

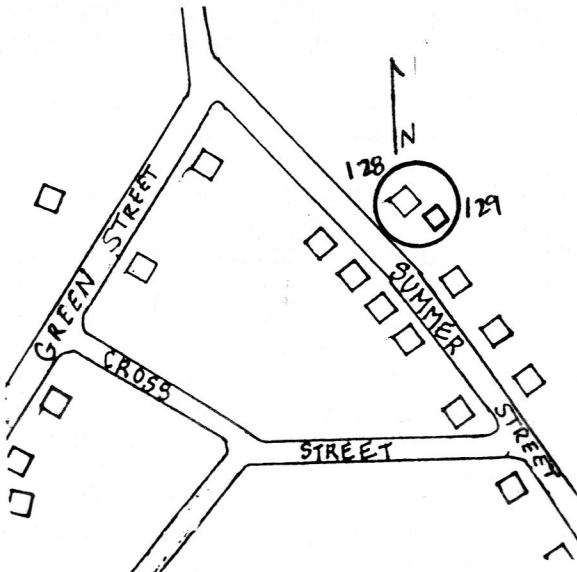
Major Alterations (with dates) numerous ells (late 19th c.)

Condition good

Moved X no yes Date _____

Acreage 4.37 acres

Sketch Map



Recorded by V.Adams, N.Avery, M.Harrington, C.Meagher, J.Snow

Organization The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Date (month/day/year) June 1997

Setting set back approx. 100 feet from street; extensive grounds; land slopes down to N; gravel drive to S; paved walk to front; granite posts along sidewalk; grass, trees, shrubs

JUL 22 1997

MASS. HIST. COMM.

BUILDING FORM**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION** X *see continuation sheet*

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

31 Summer Street (MHC 129, late 19th c./1880 is a large, elaborate, 2½-story, cross-gable, Italianate-style house clad in clapboard with numerous ells to the rear (E). This complex house features an overhanging wood cornice, returns, cornerboards, paired brackets, and bracketed hoods on the main block of the house and its ells. A large, 2½-story, gable-roof ell is set perpendicularly to the house on its rear (E) elevation, forming a T shape. Attached to the south end of this ell is a 1½-story, gable-roof ell which projects two bays to the south. A 1½-story, gable-roof, 1-bay wide ell is set perpendicularly to the second ell. A small, 1-story, flat-roof ell is attached to the east side of the third ell. All ells are clad in wood clapboard, set upon a stone foundation, and embellished with the same decorative details as the main block of the house. The main entrance is located in the south bay of the facade (W) within an enclosed, 1-story, 1-by-1 bay, end-gable entrance vestibule with a pair of wood outer doors with decorative mullions flanked by narrow sidelights with criss-cross mullions. This entrance vestibule connects with a 1-story porch on the north side of the facade which wraps around to the north elevation. The porch includes turned baluster rail, square posts with Doric capitals, a wood floor, lattice underpinning, and paired brackets. A 1-story, shed-roof porch with decorative supports, no rail, and paired brackets wraps around the west and south elevations of the second ell. Windows are 2/1 double-hung sash with simple wood trim, louvered shutters, and bracketed hoods. There are three brick chimneys: an interior chimney at the ridge of the main block of the house, an exterior chimney on the east elevation of the first ell, and an interior chimney at the ridge of the third ell. 31 Summer Street is an elaborate and well-preserved example of the Italianate style, popular in Kingston during the late 19th century.

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.

X **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.128
Property Address:
31 Summer StreetMassachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Facility
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)

Form No.
128, 129**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION (continued)**

A large, 2½-story, cross-gable barn (MHC 129, late 19th century) clad in wood clapboards and set upon a stone foundation is located to the southeast of the house. A 1½-story, gable-roof ell with interior brick chimney and a stone foundation is attached to the south end of the barn. The barn is embellished with the same details as those found on the house, including a simple wood cornice, returns, paired brackets, and bracketed window hoods. A squared cupola projects from the roof of the main block of the barn. A 1-story, hipped-roof, enclosed entrance vestibule is centrally located on the west elevation of the main block of the barn. This vestibule is lit by windows with the same decorative mullions as the vestibule on the house.

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, 31 Summer Street was constructed in 1880. The house was the home of George T. Adams and his wife, Lydia Bradford Adams. They had a son, Horatio, named after George's deceased brother. George's other brother, Frederic, married Eveline Holmes Adams, the widow of their brother, Horatio. In the mid-1800s, George's father, George Adams, had a slaughterhouse and a stockyard next to his home, which was torn down in the 1960s to build Tura's Pharmacy at 85 Summer Street (Melville 1976:323). George, along with his brother, Frederic, continued his father's stockyard and slaughterhouse following their father's retirement. The Loring Cranberry building on Maple Street was built as a butcher shop by George T. Adams. When Frederic Adams died in 1874, he left \$24,000 for the construction of the Frederic C. Adams Library at 33 Summer Street (MHC 69, 1898) (Melville 1976:132-133). After George T. Adams death, his widow and son, Horatio, donated the land on which the Frederic C. Adams Library at 33 Summer Street (MHC 69, 1898) was built.

The 1879 Walker map shows a building and drive that differ dramatically from the building and drive shown on the 1903 map. By 1903, the building's footprint and drive appear as it does today, and the property is identified as the residence of Horatio Adams (1903 Walker map). In the 1970s, George Griggs, an artist, designed the current landscape. Today, the house is owned by Lois V. Eck (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.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community:
Kingston

KIN.128
Property Address:
31 Summer Street

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

Area(s)

Form No.
128, 129

PHOTOGRAPHS



BARN
(KIN.129)



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

Community:
Kingston

KIN.128
Property Address:
31 Summer Street

Area(s)

Form No.
128, 129

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible only in a historic district
☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

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

Statement of Significance by The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The George T. Adams House is an elaborate and well-preserved example of the Italianate style in Kingston, popular during the late-19th century. The house possesses integrity of location, design, workmanship, feeling, and materials. Its architectural form, age, and well-preserved setting are all important elements of its local significance. It meets criterion C of the NRHP. The house's period of significance extends from ca. 1880 to 1947. Additional historical research will be required to complete a nomination.