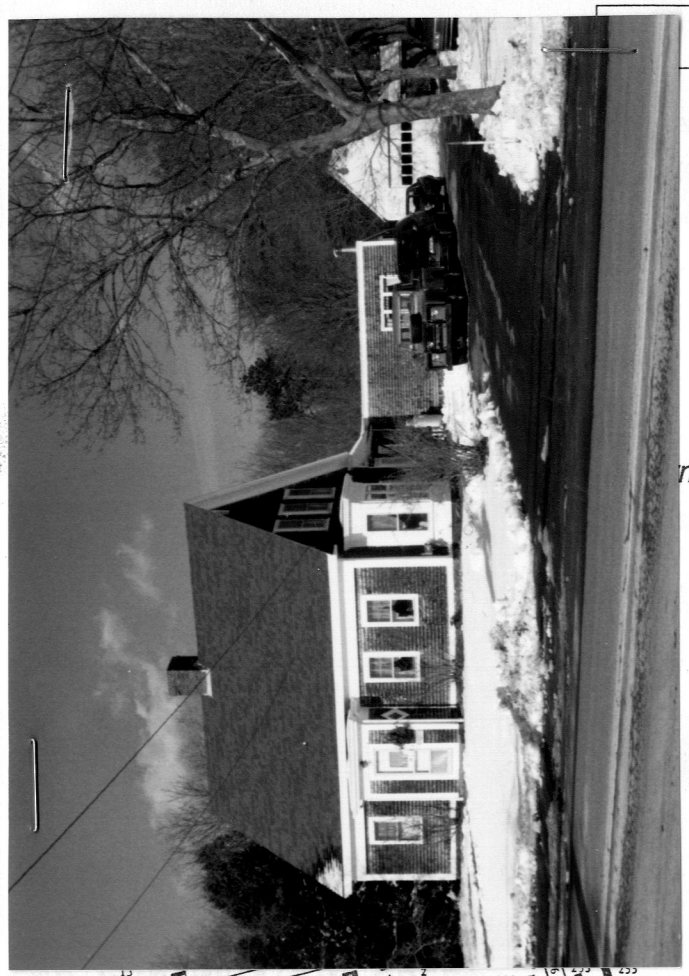
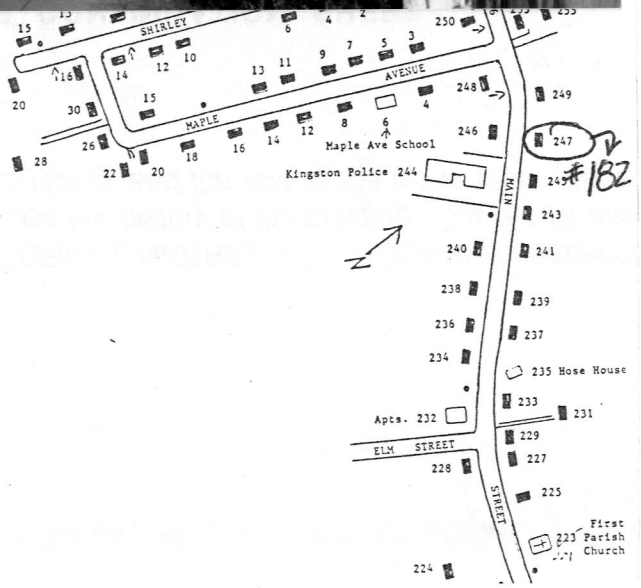
FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
	Plymouth	B	182

KIN.182





Town Kingston

Place *(neighborhood or village)*

Address 247 Main Street

Historic Name

Uses: Present residence

Original residence

Date of Construction c.1768

Source Bartlett papers

Style/Form 3/4 cape

Architect/Builder Gershom Cobb

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite block

Wall/Trim wood shingles

Roof asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures
garage

Major Alterations *(with dates)*
roof pitch changed c. 1859

Condition good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage .75 acres

Setting
linear village

Recorded by Deirdre Brotherson

Organization Kingston Historical Commission

Date *(month/year)* May 1998

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Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions when completing this form.

BUILDING FORM

KIN.182

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☒ *see continuation sheet*

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☒ *see continuation sheet*

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

☐ 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

Community: Kingston

Property Address: 247 Main Street

KIN.182

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)	FormNo.
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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The residence at 247 Main Street was built c.1768 by Gershom Cobb as a 3/4 cape. This 4x3 bay, wood frame, 1-1/2 story building sits on a granite block foundation. The building is clad with wood shingles. The steeply pitched side gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney is centered at the ridge. The entrance projects from the wall plane and contains a 20th century wood panel door with a square glass pane. The door surround is flat with a molded drip cap. The windows contain 6/1 wood sash with flat surrounds. The cornerboards are flat. The building has a wide frieze with a box cornice. The east elevation has a bay window with 1/1 sash. A rear one story ell has a shed roof and extends beyond the side of the building. A one bay, front gable garage sits toward the rear of the property.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE:

FROM: Bartlett, Cornelius A. Houses, Occupants, etc. in Kingston, Massachusetts (Between the Forge Bridge and the Great Bridge): 1867-1879. Annotations of 1942 by E.F. Drew and of 1972 by Doris M. Johnson, Kingston, MA. 1879.

(#14) This house was built by Joel Ransom, I am told. In 1754, this house and place is described as belonging to Hannah Drew. The exact time this house was built I do not know. Probably about 1750. Mr. Gershom Cobb was the builder.
It is now owned by the heirs of the late Mrs. Sally C. (Johnson) Bradford, who was the wife of Mr. Peleg Bradford. She died Aug. 28th, 1864, ae 58y-9m-1d. A remarkable worthy woman, ever cheerful and kind. Always ready to visit the sick, and attend the dying. Mr. Asaph Holmes, her former husband, died March 19th 1845, ae 41. This house was originally gabled roofed. In April 1859, Mr. Bradford (with other alterations) put the present pitched roof on, leaving the old gable roof , which still remains. Mrs. Dinah Phillips, the wife of Luther, lives in this house now, and Mr. Bradford boards with her. Mrs. Phillips has one son, and two daughters with her - &c - The above house has been occupied by many different families - Rev. Parris, Rev. S. Glover, Rev. _____ Jackson &c &c &c.
Foot Note: The latter part of the last century, this house was occupied by Mr. Thaddeus Ransom & his family. He died Dec. 11th 1783, ae 42. Martha, Wid. d. Feb. 17, 1812, ae 76.
Notes, E.F.D. I do not find any record of a Joel Ransom. I do find a deed from Samuel Foster to Thaddeus Ransom in 1768. Also I think Mr. B. is wrong about its being the Hannah Drew house. There was a house at No. 18a [no longer extant], where a Hannah Drew lived. The house (No. 14 [247 Main Street]) (original) was gambrel-roofed, and that type of house was built in Kingston between 1753 and 1765, so it seems reasonable to place the date of this house a bit later than 1750 (1768 would be allowable). About 1900, Mr. Waldo Foster bought this place, and he and his widow lived here until death in 1940 (He died in _____). The present (1942) owner is Frank Keefe who bought in 1941. He and his wife occupy. John Brewster - No. 17 [240 Main Street]) - Check town map for frontage of lots of Wm. Drew, John Washburn, Nathl Foster, Jos. Holmes (now C.W. Whiting) for lot of Thaddeus Ransom - if it is not No. 14 [247 Main Street].

According to maps in 1876 Edward D. Chandler owned this property in 1876 and 1870. By 1903 N.W. Foster owned this property. No names were attached to this property on earlier maps.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community: Kingston

Property Address: 247 Main Street

KIN.182

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)	FormNo.
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BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Bartlett, Cornelius A. Houses, Occupants, etc. in Kingston, Massachusetts (Between the Forge Bridge and the Great Bridge): 1867-1879. Annotations of 1942 by E.F. Drew and of 1972 by Doris M. Johnson, Kingston, MA. 1879.

Melville, Doris Johnson. Major Bradford's Town: A History of Kingston: 1726-1976. Kingston, MA., 1976. [KPL]

MAPS:

1726 Kingston. John Gray [MHC]
1795 A Plan of the Town of Kingston. John Gray. [MHC]
1820-30 Five School Districts [KPL]
1876 Town of Kingston. Boyden (w/directory). [KPL]
1876 Town of Kingston, Enlargement of Village. Boyden. [KPL]
1879 Atlas of Plymouth County. George E. Walker. [MHC]
1896 Bird's Eye View of Kingston [KPL & MSL]
1903 Atlas of Plymouth County. George E. Walker. [KPL]
Sandborn Insurance Company Maps:
Plymouth: 1896 June
1901 April (1896, 1901, 1906 include Kingston Village
1906 Feb. and Factories in Kingston)
Kingston: 1912 (6 sheets)
1925 (7 sheets)
1943 (7 sheets)
1954 (8 sheets)

KIN.182

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community: Kingston

Property Address: 247 Main Street

Area(s)	FormNo.
B	182

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

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

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

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

Statement of Significance by Deirdre Brotherson

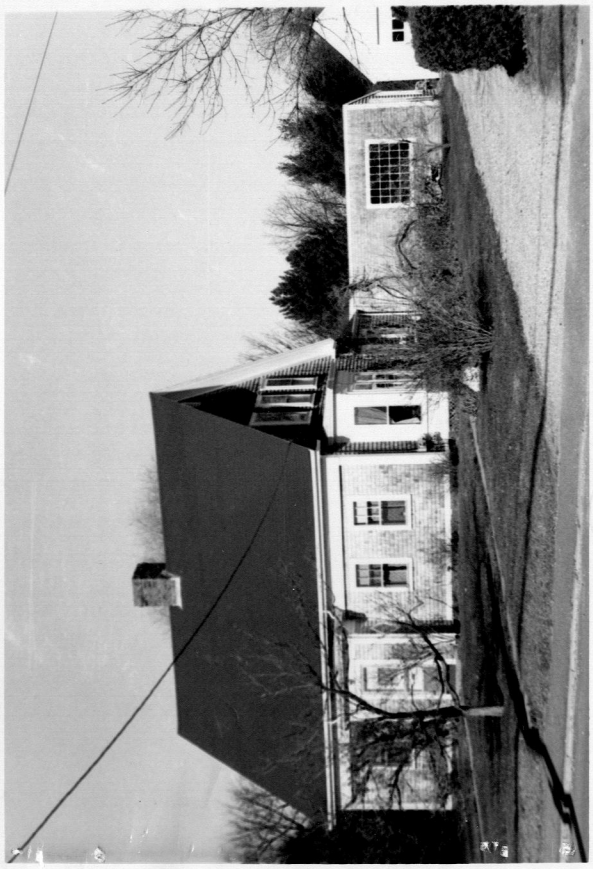
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

This property is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing building to a Historic District (Area B). This district is eligible under Criterion A (associated with events that have made a contribution to the broad pattern of our history) as a building which is part of a linear village on Main Street which has evolved from a village area to a residential neighborhood (there are few commercial establishments on Main Street - they have shifted to areas near the railroad) but the architecture in this linear district continues to tell the story of the evolution of this area through the variety and high quality of the architectural styles (Criterion C: the building embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction - as a contributing architectural member of this district.)

Pl. Kin
USGS - Plymouth
SE 2 A

KIN. 182

In Area no.	Form no.
	33



SSION
ston

1. Town Kingston 182

Address 247 Main St.

Name

Present use residence - 2 family

Present owner estate of Priscilla Sprague

3. Description:

Date c. 1750

Source CA Bartlett

Style Cape Cod

Architect

Exterior wall fabric shingle

Outbuildings (describe)

Other features

Altered roof changed Date 1859

Moved Date

5. Lot size: .8 a.

One acre or less ✓ Over one acre

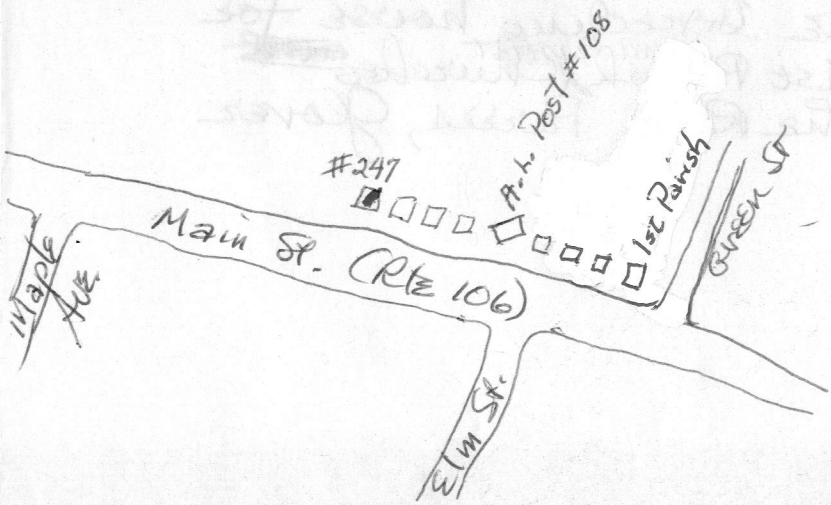
Approximate frontage 120'

Approximate distance of building from street 40'

6. Recorded by

Organization

Date



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DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant

MHC Photo no.

(over)

KIN.182

7. Original owner (if known) Joel Ransom; builder, Gershom Cobb

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal		Conservation		Recreation	
Agricultural		Education		Religion	✓
Architectural		Exploration/ settlement		Science/ invention	
The Arts		Industry		Social/ humanitarian	
Commerce		Military		Transportation	
Communication		Political			
Community development	✓				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

CA Bartlett wrote: "In April 1859, Mr. Bradford (with other alterations) put the present pitched roof on, leaving the old gable roof which still remains" — perhaps "gable" = gambrel. Bradford (Peleg) was husband of Sally (Johnson), whose 1st husband was Asaph Holmes. A favorite boarding house for ministers of nearby 1st Parish and Baptist Churches CA Bartlett mentions the Revs Parris, Glover and Jackson.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

CA Bartlett manuscript