



Project's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Plymouth

219

KIN. 219

Town Kingston

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 111 South Street

Historic Name Octagon House

Uses: Present residence

Original residence

Date of Construction c.1854

Source maps

Style/Form octagon

Architect/Builder George Faunce master bldr

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite

Wall/Trim wood

Roof asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition good

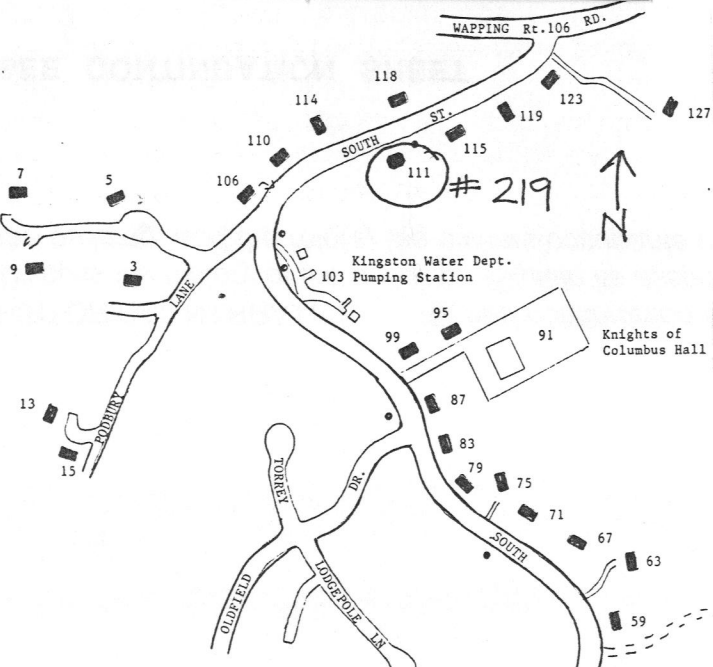
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes

Date

Acreage 1.5 acres

Setting

in wooded area outside of village setting



Recorded by Deirdre Brotherson

Organization Kingston Historical Commission

Date (month/year) May 1998

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

RECEIVED

AUG 25 1998

MASS. HIST. COMM

BUILDING FORM

KIN.219

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



☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

If checked, you must attach

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s) FormNo.

219

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The building at ~~211~~ (111) South Street was built in the octagon plan. The octagon house is easily recognized by the eight-sided shape of the exterior walls. This is a very rare style. According to Virginia and Lee McAlester in *A Field Guide to American Houses*, probably only a few thousand were originally built, mostly in New York, Massachusetts, and the Midwest. The octagon was promoted by, Orson Squire Fowler, a lecturer and writer from Fishkill, NY, who in 1849 published *The Octagon House, A Home For All*. Fowler had promoted the octagon not only for its economy but also as the most healthful of house plans. All rooms were open to the central hall, providing cross ventilation and increasing sunlight throughout the house. In addition, Fowler pointed out that trimming the corners of the conventional square plan reduced by one-fifth the amount of wall necessary to enclose any given interior. However in Fowlers plan, major rooms remained rectangular, while leftover triangles of space, were used for closets, pantries, dressing rooms, and bathrooms. This meant that the main rooms usually had only a single exposure (window/door) while the increased sunlight and ventilation went into the triangular spaces. Fowler did not promote exterior decorative treatment beyond "the beauty of the octagon form itself."

The residence at ~~211~~ (111) South Street was built c. 1854 in the octagon style/plan. This wood frame, two story building sits on a stone foundation. The building is clad with wood shingles. The roof is covered with slate shingles. The center brick chimney is also octagonal. The entrance contains a 4 panel wood door with full sidelights and flat surrounds. The first floor windows contain 6/9 wood sash floor to ceiling windows with flat surrounds. the second floor windows contain 6/6 wood sash. The cornerboards are thin and flat. The cornice is boxed with brackets at each section. A one story porch with a shed roof encompasses four panel of the octagon. The posts are simple square posts. A one story, five bay ell with a gable roof extends from the back of the building. Again the details are plain, flat casings and corner boards and a simple molded cornice are the only details on the building. A small, one story, gable roof shed is the only outbuilding on the property.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE:

According to notes by Emily Drew, the land on which the octagon house stands had been owned by the Cook family for generations. The house was built in 1854. Mr. Cornelius A. Bartlett made the following entry in his diary: 1854, April 15th - snow storm, 6 inches. Working about town until the 24th when I commenced work on an octagon house for Mr. Josiah Cook (Jr.). Near Crosman Pond. Mr. George Faunce, master carpenter. The home of Josiah Cooke Sr. stood slightly to the south of the octagon house (now demolished). Josiah Sr. died in 1853 and Josiah Jr. built the octagon house in 1854. The property was originally used as a farm as is seen in the collection of glass slides (#83 and #106).

In 1876 and 1879 Kingston town maps shows that the house is owned by Josiah T. Cook. The 1903 map indicates ownership by S. B. Small. The Sanborn maps do not cover this area of town. the 1903 maps do not show any buildings on this site but I believe this is an error. By 1926 Clarence Ertman owned the property. Ownership by members of the Ertman family continued through the 1950s.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

collection of glass slides & description by Emily Drew at KPL (#83 and #106).

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]

KIN.219

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community Property Address
Kingston 111 South Street

| Area(s) | FormNo. |
|---------|---------|
| | 219 |

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:



- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individually eligible | <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible only in a historic district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing to a potential historic district | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 may be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an excellent example of the octagon style/plan. This is the only octagon house in Kingston and it retains its architectural integrity.