

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number  
46/125

USGS Quad  
Plymouth

Area(s)

Form Number  
4

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

Town Kingston

Place (neighborhood or village) Jones River Village

Address 16 Green Street

Historic Name Centre Primary School/Faunce School

Uses: Present civic

Original school

Date of Construction 1844

Source Melville 1974

Style/Form Greek Revival

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation stone

Wall/Trim clapboard/wood

Roof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures none

Major Alterations (with dates) rear room added (1888);  
interior renovations (1908); restored (1973)

Condition excellent

Moved X no yes Date

Acreage less than one

Recorded by V. H. Adams, N. Avery, M. Harrington

Organization The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

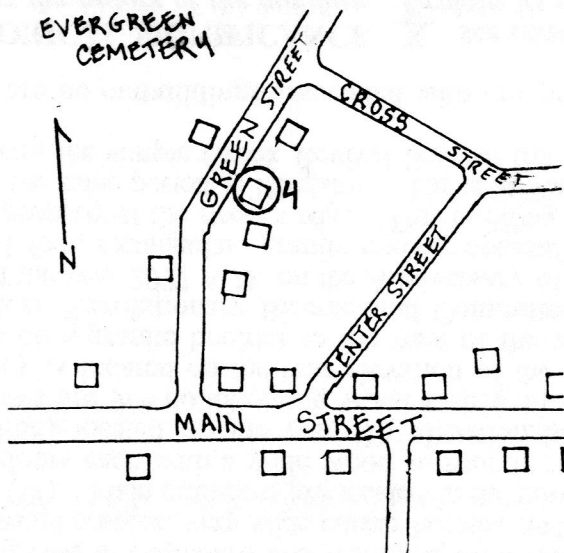
Date (month/day/year) May 1997

Setting set back approx. 50 feet from street; paved drive

at front (W); metal fence along S and E; level lot; grass,  
trees, shrubs



Sketch Map



RECEIVED

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.*

The Faunce School on Green Street is a 1-story, 3-by-4 bay, rectangular, end-gable Greek Revival-style building clad in clapboard and resting upon a stone foundation. Prominent features of the building include a blank wood cornice, very wide corner boards, and an enclosed pediment with louvered, triangular vent on the facade (W). Main entrances are located in the north and south bays of the facade and consist of simple paneled wood doors each with a wide wood surround, concrete stoop, and four-light transom. A 1-story, end-gable ell (1888) located on the rear (E) elevation houses a secondary entrance with a handicap access ramp. Windows are 9/9 double-hung wood sash with simple wood trim and louvered shutters. An exterior brick chimney is located on the rear elevation of the main block, to the south of the ridge. An engraved bronze plaque on a granite boulder to the west of the entrance drive reads: "Center Primary 1844 Faunce School, American Revolutionary Bicentennial Committee, Town of Kingston time capsule, buried 1977 A.D. to be opened the year 2077 A.D. on the Anniversary of the Kingston Tricentennial Celebration." An approximately 12-by-1 foot, rectangular, granite marker commemorating Kingston's war veterans is located on the west end of the property at the street's edge. This building is one of three similar, one-room school houses constructed during the same period in Kingston. Those at Rocky Nook and Stony Brook have been highly altered and do not retain the simple Greek Revival lines of the period.

There are no outbuildings associated with this property.

### HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE ☒ *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).

In 1759, today's Green Street was laid out as a shortcut from the Boston Road (Summer Street) to the Bridgewater Road (Main Street) and named Meeting House Lane. Between 1800 and 1840, the town's population grew from 1,004 to 1,440 residents, an increase of 40 percent. This area in Kingston was fast becoming the town's civic center with the construction of the Centre/Faunce School, the Town House (MHC 3, 1841), the First Parish Meeting House (MHC 71, 1851), and the Academy (at 249 Main Street) all in the 1840s (MHC 1981:1).

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☒ *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.
- 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.
- Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Reconnaissance Survey Report: Kingston*. Boston, 1981.
- Melville, Doris Johnson. "Re-dedication of the Faunce School," pamphlet located in Vertical Files of Local History Room at Kingston Public Library, 1974.
- 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 SHEET**Community:  
KingstonKIN.4  
Property Address:  
Green Street

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

Area(s)

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

It was during this time that the State of Massachusetts established several new policies regarding public education. Under the new state laws, each town had to elect a single school committee to administer all the schools within a town and present the town with an annual report on the schools. A school house for the middle district was constructed on Green Street in 1805 (constituting a portion of 19 Green Street). By 1839 this building was able to accommodate only one-third of the district's 150 students. Kingston's first school committee report of 1839 condemned the current situation of school houses and recommended the construction of five new schools to accommodate the growing number of students. The town did not immediately act upon the recommendations of the committee until 1844 when it received \$3,485.40 as its share of federal surplus revenue and decided to spend this money on schools (Melville 1974).

The Faunce School, originally known as the Centre Primary School, was constructed in 1844. In 1888, a small rear room was added to the building. Up until the early 1900s, one or two teachers taught first through fourth grades at the two-room school. By 1908, overcrowding at the school led to a town meeting vote of \$5,000 for the construction of a new school on Maple Avenue and an additional \$500 for repairs of the Centre Primary School. The building's roof was re-shingled, new floors were laid, walls replastered, and new outhouses built at a cost of \$772.78.

In 1924 the school was renamed in honor of Walter H. Faunce, a former teacher, superintendent of schools, and town selectman. The building was abandoned as a school in 1926 and stood empty until 1934 when it was sold by the town to the Kingston Grange No. 323 for \$400. The Grange occupied the building until 1959 when it sold the building back to the town for \$4,000. The building then served as the Town House Annex, providing space for the Welfare Department until the building was damaged by a fire in November 1970. In 1973, the town voted to spend \$40,000 on the restoration of the building for use as a meeting place for both public and private organizations. The town retained Brigham, Eldridge, Limon and Hussey of Boston as restoration architects and Mannix Company of Canton as contractor for the project (Melville 1974).

In 1977, as part of the town's extended Bicentennial Celebration, the town buried a time capsule beneath a granite boulder at the front of the Faunce School to be opened in 2077.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (continued)**

Mills, Maggie. "Then and Now: Faunce School," *Kingston Reporter*, September 13, 1984.  
Thompson, Elroy S. *History of Plymouth, Norfolk, and Barnstable Counties, Massachusetts*. New York, 1928.  
Vertical Files located at the Local History Room of the Kingston Public Library.

**Maps**

1831 *Map of Kingston*. John Gray.  
1876 *Map of the Town of Kingston, Plymouth County, Mass.* E.N. Boyden.  
1903 *Atlas of Plymouth County*. George E. Walker.  
1928 *Map of Kingston with Key*.

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## 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 Center Primary School/Faunce School possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and associations with the development of the public school system in Kingston. This building is one of three similar, one-room school houses constructed during the same period in Kingston. Those at Rocky Nook and Stony Brook have been highly altered and do not retain the simple Greek Revival lines of the period. Its architectural form and age are both important elements of its local significance. It meets criteria A and C of the NRHP. The period of significance extends from 1844 to 1947. Additional historical research will be required to complete a nomination.



KIN.4

1972

4

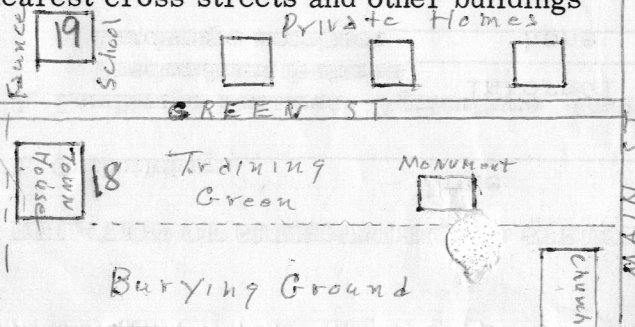
Location Kingston *PI. KIN.*  
Street address Green Street *117 Plymouth*  
Name Faunce School *SE 17 A*  
Use: original & present School - Vacant  
Present owner Town  
Open to public Yes  
Date 1844 Style Colonial

Literature Indians Source of date Town  
Music Other  
Development of town/city Architect Local  
Architectural reason for inventorying: Part of Historical Area including Church, Training Green, Old Bburying Ground  
Town House and Cemetary OR part of Area #  
3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material Stone  
WALL COVER: Wood Wood Brick Stone Other  
ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard Ridge  
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 None  
PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 None PORTICO None Balcony  
FACADE: Gable end Front/side Ornament None  
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 50  
Property has 100 feet frontage on street

Recorder [Signature]  
For Town of Kingston

Photo # 117 Plymouth Date Dec 4 1972

SEE REVERSE SIDE

## RELATION OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURE

KIN.4

1. Outbuildings None
2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal  
Predominant features Informal Lawn, Shrubs and large trees  
Landscape architect None
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  
Government

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

This building is adjacent to a seven acre parcel of land given to the Parish (now town) in 1717, for use as a site for a Meeting House, Burying Ground, and Training Green. The third building of the First Parish Church was erected on the site of the original church building in 1852 and is still in use. The Town Office Building was built on the northerly end of the Training Green about 1849. The Training Green remains as an open area upon which a Civil War Monument was placed in the late 1860s. During World War One the Home Guard used the green for training. The Old Burial Ground is maintained by the Town, and the building used to house the Town Hearse is still standing near the entrance to the Burying Ground.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

This building is the last of three similar one-room school houses build about the same time and was used as a school house from 1844 until the late 1920s. It was later used for several years as a meeting place for the local Grange, then converted to office space for Town Departments. As part of the 250th. Anniversary of the Town in 1976 plans are being formulated to restore the building as a typical one-room school house, to be used as a meeting and exhibition hall for Town and Community organizations and committees.

RESTRICTIONS None

Original Owner: Town of Kingston

Deed Information: Book Number 2710 Page 217 Plymouth County Registry of Deeds

**MHC INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

*MHC Inventory scanning project, 2008-2012*

MACRIS No. KIN.4

