

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number
46/70

USGS Quad
Plymouth

Area(s)

Form Number
90

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

Town Kingston

Place (neighborhood or village) Jones River Village

Address 191 Main Street

Historic Name Little's Tavern

Uses: Present residence

Original residence/tavern

Date of Construction 1714

Source Melville, 1976

Style/Form Colonial/Georgian

Architect/Builder _____

Exterior Material:

Foundation stone

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures none

Major Alterations (with dates) Georgian details, ca. 1780,
ell extension ca. 1922-1950

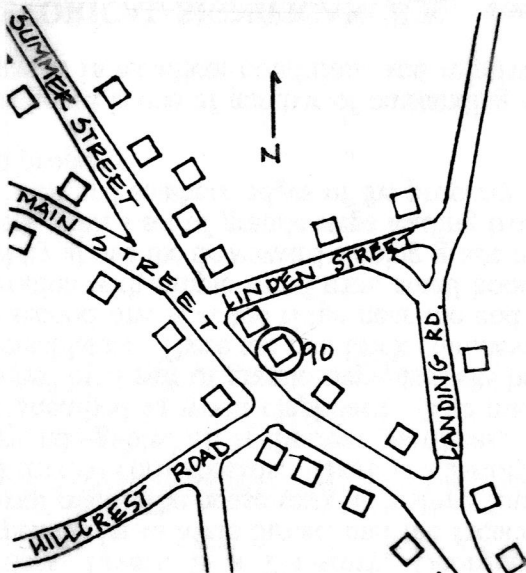
Condition good

Moved X no yes Date _____

Acreage less than one acre

Setting Main Street to west, side yard and parking to east,
office/apartment complex to north, residence to south. Yard
enclosed by fence. Property raised above street.

Sketch Map



Recorded by V.Adams, N.Avery, M.Harrington, J.Safdie

Organization The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Date (month/day/year) February 1997

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BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION — *see continuation sheet*

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

Little's Tavern is a 2½-story, Georgian-style house with a 4-bay facade. The gambrel-roof line is perpendicular to Main Street, and the facade faces south. The gambrel has a four inch step at the top change in roof pitch. The house rests on a stone foundation and is clad with wood clapboards, with a wooden cornice and narrow cornerboards. There is a 2-story, side-gabled ell attached to the west side of the house, with a 1½-story side-gabled ell at the rear, northeast corner of the house. These ells also rest on brick foundations and are sheathed in wood clapboard. The main entrance is off-center on the south facing facade. The door is reached by a pair of granite steps, and sits below a dentiled, gabled pediment supported by Doric pilasters and an entablature. There are two brick chimneys on the house. One is at the center of the ridge of the main block; the second one is at the ridge near the end of the western ell of the house. Windows are 12/12 double-hung operation with simple wood trim, small hoods, and louvered shutters. The southern end of the property is set slightly above the downward sloping grade of Main Street to the west. A stone retaining wall runs along Main Street, with a set of granite steps leading from the sidewalk up to the front yard. A tall picket fence runs along the west and southern edges of the property with overgrown Privet. There are no outbuildings associated with this property.

This house is one of number of outstanding examples of the Georgian style built in Kingston town center. The house is in excellent condition, and relatively unchanged in appearance from the time of its construction.

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.

Charles Little was one of the 41 original petitioners who founded the town of Kingston in 1726 (Map 1928; Melville 1976:27). It is not known where Little's first house was located. However, records indicate that in 1714 Charles Little built the existing house on Boston Road (191 Main Street) on a parcel of land purchased from Major John Bradford (Melville 1976:27). The lower portion of today's Main Street was known as 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 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. Little served on early town committees and was voted the first assessor of the town in 1718, along with Eleazer Ring and Elisha Bradford (Melville 1976:69). Charles died in 1728, leaving his widow Sarah with no immediate means of income. Sarah opened a tavern in her residence to support herself, which became known as the (Widow) Little's Tavern, reputed to be the first tavern in the town (Drew 1926:42). Benjamin Sampson, another early inhabitant of the town, ran a tavern of his own a few doors up the street at "the Point." Sarah operated the tavern for a number of years until she married her neighbor, Nicholas Sever, one of the wealthiest ship captains in the area. Sarah's younger sister Patience had

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES X *see continuation sheet*

Bailey, Sarah Y., and Emily F. Drew. *The Civic Progress of Kingston [and] A History of Her Industries, Two Hundred Years, 1726-1976*. Kingston, 1926.

Bartlett, C.A. Ms. on the history of Kingston. n.d.

Drew, Emily F. *Kingston: the Jones River Village*. 1944 (Edited and annotated by Doris M. Johnson, 1995).

Melville, Doris. *Major Bradford's Town: A History of the Town of Kingston, 1726-1976*. Kingston, 1976.

MHC Reconnaissance Survey: Kingston. 1981.

Town Database Records. Assessor's Office, Kingston Town House, Kingston, Massachusetts, 1997.

Vertical Files. Kingston Public Library, Local History Room. (Historic Views, ca. 1922).

MAPS

1876 *Map of the Town of Kingston, Plymouth County, Mass.* E.N. Boyden, Boston.

1928 *Map of Kingston with Key*. (No publisher)

—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:**
Kingston**Property Address:**
191 Main Street**Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Facility
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125****Area(s)****Form No.**
90**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE** *continued*

married the Reverend Joseph Stacey, first minister of the town, in 1721 (Melville 1976:169), whose house is at 4 Summer Street (MHC 113, 1721). No longer needing the tavern income, Sarah closed the business by the middle of the 1700s. The house passed through a number of owners during the following decades, being used as both a private residence and an apartment house at times. The house remained in the Sever family as late as 1876 when the property was owned by Jane Sever and rented by Davis Bowker (Map, 1876). In the 1920s the house was home to the Telephone Exchange, which in the 1940s moved two doors up to 195 Main Street (MHC 93, 1940) (Vertical files, Kingston Public Library). The house today is owned by a real estate company and appears to continue to be used as a residence, perhaps in conjunction with the family services office next door (Town Database Records 1997).