

FORM C - OBJECT

Assessors's number  
46/91

USGS Quad  
Plymouth

Area(s)

Form Number  
914

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

Town Kingston

Place (neighborhood or village) The Point/Jones River  
Village

Address or Location intersection of Main and Summer  
Name Highway Marker

Ownership  Public  Private

Type of Object (check one)

- statue
- bust
- group composition
- religious shrine
- boundary marker
- other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- monument
- milestone
- marker
- bust

Date of Construction 18th century

Overall Condition good

Source Melville 1976

Designer/Sculptor unknown

Materials granite

Alterations (with dates) none

Condition good

Moved  no  yes Date \_\_\_\_\_

Acreage less than one

Setting on triangular parcel of land formed by intersection  
of Main and Summer; grass, shrubs; level lot

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

Organization The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Date (month/day/year) June 1997



Sketch Map



JUL 22 1997

MASS HIST COM

**OBJECT FORM****DESIGN ASSESSMENT** \_\_\_ *see continuation sheet*

The Point (MHC 916) is a triangular parcel of land located at the intersection of Main (106) and Summer (3A) streets in the Jones River Village of Kingston. The lot is bordered on its northern edge by a low stone retaining wall which separates this parcel from the property to the north which contains the Reverend Joseph Stacey House at 4 Summer Street (MHC 113, 1721). A concrete sidewalk extends along the east side of the lot which terminates at a point on its southern end. The lot is approximately 45 feet at its widest point, running east to west, and approximately 70 feet running north to south. Within this grassy, triangular lot stand three stone markers. A vertical granite highway marker, located near the edge of Summer Street at the north end of the lot. The marker is approximately 3½-feet high, 20 inches across, and 6 inches wide. The marker bears the town seal on its front (E) side which has been cut/smoothed; all other sides remain uncut/natural.

Also on the lot, at the site of the former town well, against the stone retaining wall at the north end of the lot, is a large granite watering trough (MHC 915, 1888) set there in 1888 and an undressed granite stone at the south end of the lot with a bronze plaque affixed to its south side which reads: "In Memory of Departed Members of the Kingston Fire Department/ 1953." The edges of the lot are landscaped with flowers.

**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE** — *see continuation sheet*

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 (MHC 916)" 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.

The triangular parcel of land known as the Point was the site of the old point well which was the original water supply for the neighborhood for over 150 years until it was covered under the stone wall on the site in the 19th century (Melville 1976:73). The 90-foot deep well was owned jointly by Samuel Foster, Benjamin Sampson, and Rev. Joseph Stacey, all Kingston residents who lived in the Point section of town (Drew 1944:36). The granite highway marker on the site served as a marker along the Boston Post Road, the major north-south route through the town. Markers were used on early main roads as a locational device for travelers.

**ENTIRE INSCRIPTION** (*if applicable*):

"Kingston [seal] to Plymouth←4M, to Boston 41M→."

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES** X *see continuation sheet*

- Bailey, Sarah Y. *The Story of Jones River in Pilgrim Plymouth, 1620-1726*. Kingston, Massachusetts, 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, Massachusetts, 1926.  
 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, Massachusetts, 1879.

\_\_\_ **Recommended as a National Register District. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.**

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community:  
Kingston

KIN.914  
Property Address:  
Summer and Main streets

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

Area(s)

Form No.  
914

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

- 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.
- 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, Massachusetts, 1976.
- The Plymouth County Directory*. Stillman B. Pratt & Co., Middleboro, Massachusetts, 1867.
- 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.