

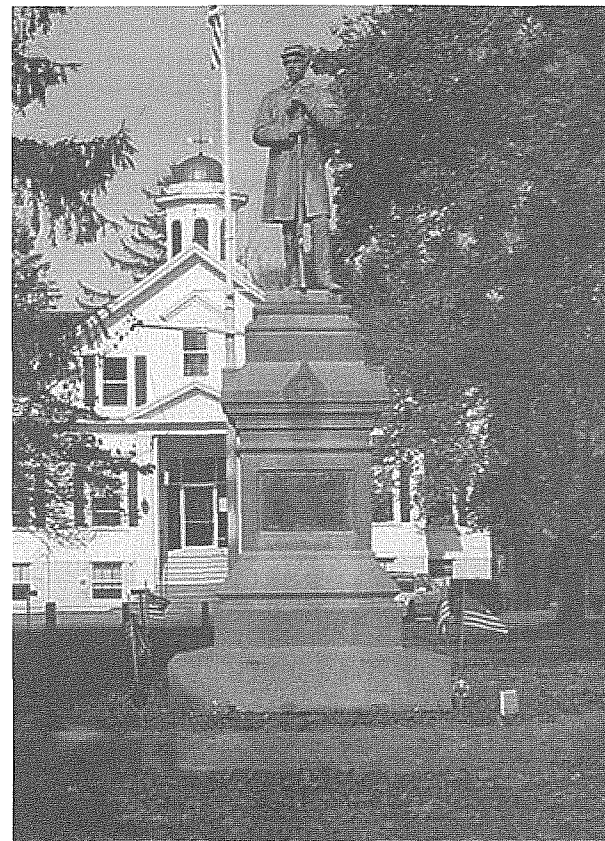
## A BRIEF HISTORY OF KINGSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

The "lands about Jones River" in today's Kingston were part of Plymouth Colony, held in common until 1627 by the Pilgrims under the repayment contract with their London backers. Prominent Pilgrims including Gov. William Bradford, Isaac Allerton, Thomas Cushman and John Howland were granted land in the Jones River area as early as 1627, but these remained a part of Plymouth until 1726. The process of separating from Plymouth began in 1717 when the 48 families of the area petitioned the Plymouth town meeting and the Great and General Court. Town meeting opposed the separation but the legislature formally set off the North Precinct with conditions that would eventually qualify a new town: "an orthodox minister and a publick reading and a writing school." The new precinct held its first election — three assessors and a collector — early in 1718 and by 1720 had raised enough money to hire a minister and build a meeting house. Major John Bradford, grandson of Gov. Bradford, had given a lot for the school house in 1714; in 1717, he provided land for the meeting house, burying ground and training green, and in 1720, land at The Point — one acre for the minister's house and two acres for the minister's gardens. The first meeting house was completed by July 1720 and the Rev. Joseph Stacy was hired.

In the early years, growth occurred primarily along the Boston and Bridgewater Roads (now Summer and Main streets), with several outlying families living near brooks that powered their sawmills, grist mills and forges. Ship-building began before 1713, with Caleb Stetson on Stoney Brook and Samuel Drew nearby on Jones River; early in the 1800s, the Bartlett and Holmes shipyards began. Over 24 "water privileges" provided power for some 80 industries before the advent of steam power: woolen and cotton mills, box factories, anchor forges, tool makers, tanneries, and factories making boot tacks for the shoe industry.

As population grew, religious expression diversified, but with some difficulty, since local taxes supported the established Congregational church until the state constitution was amended in 1834. Nevertheless, a Baptist Society was formed in 1802 and built its first meeting house on Main Street at the corner of Maple Avenue.

## HISTORIC VILLAGE WALKING TOUR KINGSTON, MASSACHUSETTS



This walking tour has been produced by the Kingston Historical Commission. It was funded through a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



Special thanks to Doris Johnson, Mary Hathaway and Deirdre Brotherson for their help and assistance.

## TOWN OF KINGSTON HISTORY (cont.)

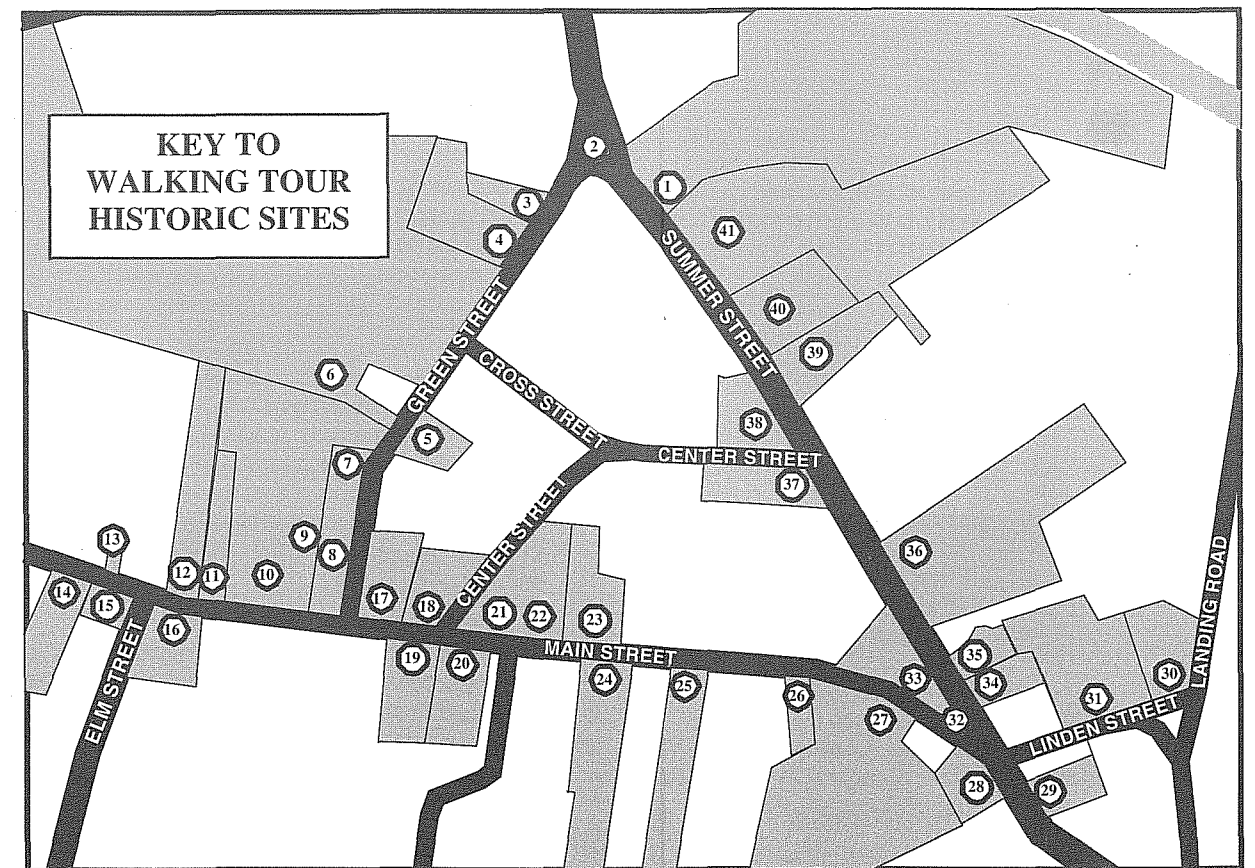
The Baptists' second church was built at its present site in 1835 and was replaced in 1886 by today's building (Tour Site # 21).

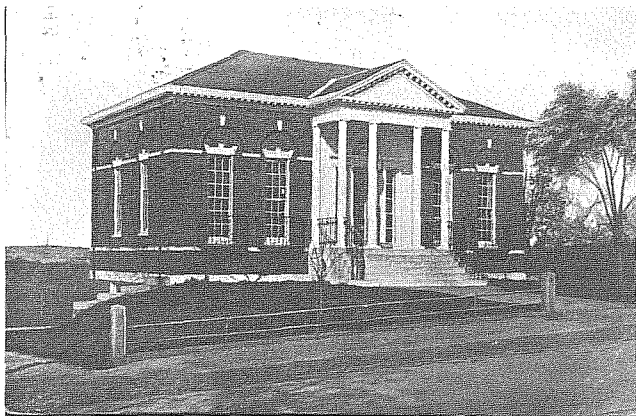
A schism within the established churches in Massachusetts — trinitarian versus unitarian beliefs — was reflected in Kingston. In 1828, the conservative trinitarian members of the First Parish left to establish the Second Congregational Society, now known as Mayflower Congregational Church. Legal disputes about church funds and property rights occurred in Kingston as well as throughout Massachusetts.

When the First Parish church became unavailable for town meetings, the Town House was built on Green Street in 1841. The religious/civic/commercial center remained along today's Main Street, with businesses — dry goods, groceries, millinery — operated from a portion of the owner's

residence. That began to change after the Old Colony Railroad, with Kingston's John Sever as president, was built in 1845 between Plymouth and Boston. After the Kingston Depot was built, businesses relocated to be near the new traffic generator.

Early in the 1900s, the farmland of the Rocky Nook peninsula was divided into tiny parcels for summer homes which, by the last quarter of the 20th century, were gradually converted to year-round dwellings. Modest residential subdivisions were built after World War II. In the 1990s, three major impacts on the town were the opening of Independence Mall, a 100-store regional mall; restoration of passenger service (halted in 1958) on the Old Colony Railroad; and widespread residential development.



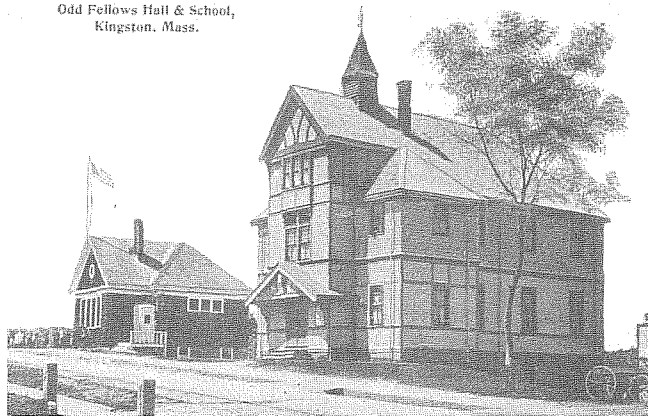


1. **FREDERIC C. ADAMS LIBRARY** 1898  
33 Summer Street The Adams Library is an excellent and well preserved example of the Georgian Revival style. Funds made available by the will of Frederic C. Adams allowed for the construction of the library in 1898. The building was designed by Joseph E. Chandler of Plymouth, who also designed the Duxbury and Sandwich libraries. The Adams Library has elements of earlier Georgian style buildings, which first became popular in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, such as the portico with four slender Corinthian columns, the entry door design with a circular fan light above and sidelights on either side of the door, as well as the elaborate cornice around the top of the building. The large windows on the front of the building set into recessed arches with marble keystones, are other characteristics of the Georgian style. The town ceased utilizing the building as a library in December 1994, when the library moved across the street to the former AT&T building. The Adam's Library is planned to house the town's future Heritage Center and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places with the U.S. Department of the Interior.

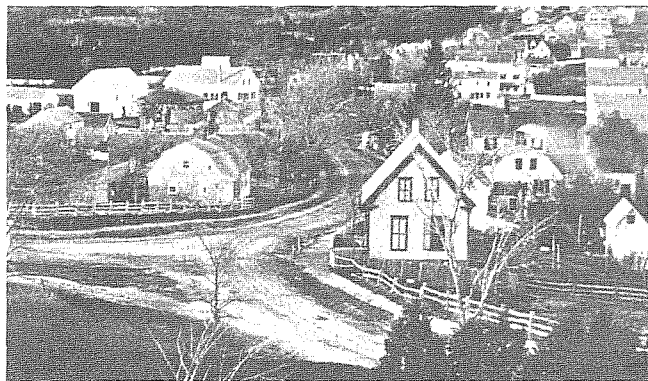
2. **WORLD WAR I MONUMENT** 1926  
Corner of Green and Summer Streets The World War I Monument was erected in 1926 in honor of the town's residents who participated in the war, and is constructed of Westerly granite mounted on a base of Deer Island granite. A bronze plaque bears an inscription and the names of those who served in the war. A view of the monument's location is shown to the right in a photo taken prior to its erection.

3. **ADAMS LODGE IOOF** 1900  
7 Green Street (In foreground of photo below)  
The Adams Lodge of the International Order of Odd Fellows was built in the Stick Style of wood shingles/ clapboard construction with a granite block foundation.

Odd Fellows Hall & School,  
Kingston, Mass.



4. **PATUXET SCHOOL** 1895  
9 Green Street (In background of photo above)  
This structure was built c. 1895 as a school house. Originally known as the Green Street School, it served the local surrounding area, and was one of eight schoolhouses in the town of Kingston. In 1901, Hoyt H. Tucker, Superintendent of Schools, made special mention of the school in one report because it was new and "well equipt with modern heating and sanitary appliances". By 1926 the schoolhouse held a mix of first and second grade classes. The small schoolhouses were closed as the town consolidated the students into a single elementary school. The Patuxet School was vacant for a time until the present owners converted the building into a private residence.



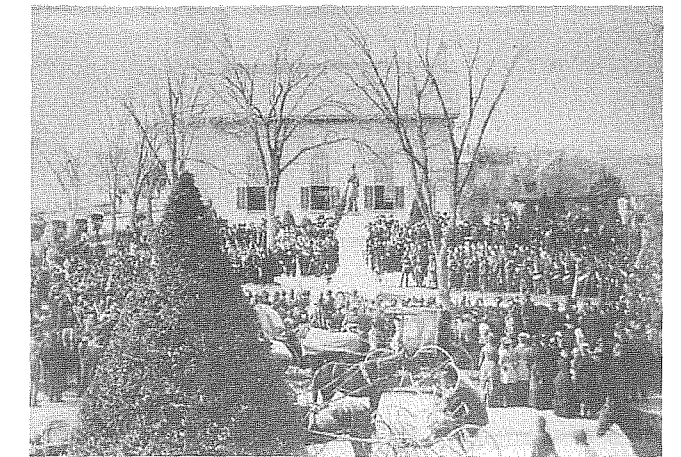
5. **CENTRE PRIMARY / FAUNCE SCHOOL** 1844  
16 Green Street. A one story Greek Revival style building, the Faunce School was constructed in 1844. Features of the Greek Revival style include the siting of the building, with the narrow end facing the street, a gabled roof with a cornice line emphasized with wide bands of trim, very wide corner boards, and an enclosed pediment with a louvered triangle vent on the facade. Up until the early 1900's one or two teachers taught first through fourth grades at this two room school. In 1924 the school was renamed in honor of Walter H. Faunce, a former teacher, superintendent of schools and town selectman. Abandoned in 1926, the building stood empty until 1934 when it was sold to the Kingston Grange, which in turn sold it back to the town in 1959. It has been used since then as a community meeting house.

6. **EVERGREEN CEMETERY**  
Green Street The Evergreen Cemetery (earliest death date 1854) is located on the west side of Green Street, extending to Evergreen Street and covering approximately 31 acres. It is a good example of a 19th century "rural cemetery". It was laid out in 1853, adjoining the Old Burying Ground. Many prominent members of the Kingston community have been buried in Evergreen Cemetery over the years, including Dr. Henry Jones, Thomas Drew, Thomas Beal, Cornelius Bartlett, and members of the Sampson, Faunce, and Stetson Families.

7. **TOWN HOUSE** 1841  
23 Green Street In 1717, the central part of the present town of Kingston belonged largely to Major John Bradford, who at that time, gave the fledgling precinct land to be used for the town woodlot, Training Green, a burying ground and a meeting house. A portion of the land was used immediately as a Training Green and burying ground. The first meeting house was built in 1720, where the present First Parish Meeting House is today. In 1833, the construction of a town house on this property was first proposed. Following this, in 1839, an extension to the Bradford parcel was added by a lot purchased from Captain Daniel Adams. This additional land was most likely the lot on which this Town House was built. Records seem to indicate that the First Parish did not give consent to having the Town House erected on Parish land, as The Green was then considered to be. The original, and smaller Town House was built in 1841. Prior to the construction of the Town House, the town meetings were held in the First Parish Meeting House. Once built, the Town House and the surrounding area became the community and civic centers of Kingston. By the 1870's the town was considering the construction of a new Town House. Apparently a decision was made to alter the old Town

**TOWN HOUSE (cont.)**  
House instead, because in 1877 the Town House was turned around and enlarged by adding 20 feet to its length and raising the foundation to provide an additional floor. Thus, the Town House has served Kingston continuously since 1841. The Town House, as shown on the cover of this pamphlet, is an unusual and well preserved example of the Greek Revival Style and is one of the architecturally distinguished buildings in the town.

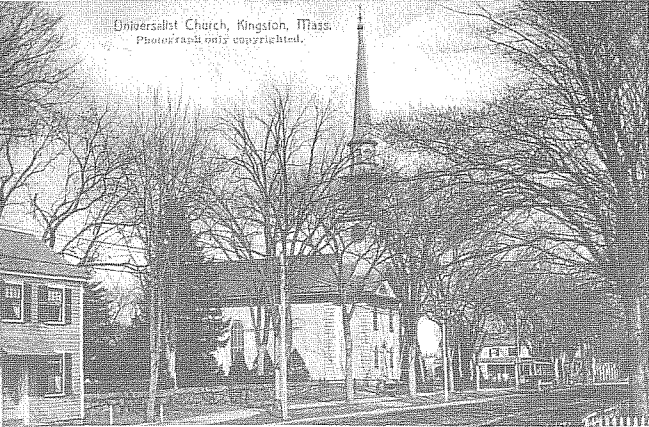
8. **CIVIL WAR MONUMENT** 1883  
**TRAINING GREEN** c. 1720  
The Civil War Monument (shown below) is located in the southern portion of the Training Green, a rectangular parcel of land (approx. 40' x 200') to the south of the Town House and east of the Old Burying Ground. The monument commemorates 154 individuals from Kingston who served in the Civil War. Sixteen of these were either killed in action or died in service. The photo below, taken from 217 Main Street, shows the monument being dedicated.



9. **OLD BURYING GROUND**  
The old Burying Ground (earliest death date c. 1717) surrounds the First Parish Church on three sides and covers approximately 3.5 acres. A number of multiple family tombs are located on the east side of the cemetery and the names of many of the founding families of Kingston are found within the cemetery, including Holmes, Churchill, Bradford, Bartlett and Cushman. A single large obelisk monument dedicated to the Adams family is located in the center of the burying ground.



10. FIRST PARISH MEETING HOUSE 1851  
221 Main Street (Shown below) The First Parish Meeting House is a rectangular Greek Revival/Italianate building which rests on a stone foundation, and is the third church structure to be built at this site. The original meeting house was built in 1720 on land given by Major John Bradford in 1717 when the North Precinct (of Plymouth) was first established. In 1798, a larger meeting house was needed and a new, two-steepled building was erected on the same site. Over the next 40 years the congregation decreased in size and the state constitution was changed withdrawing tax support for the church. Thus, in 1850, the building, being too large for the congregation and also suffering from structural difficulties, was replaced with the present church building. A clock, donated by Mr. Joseph Holmes, was installed in the tower in 1852. Toppled by the 1938 hurricane, the steeple was replaced in 1939 with a reproduction made according to the 1851 plans.



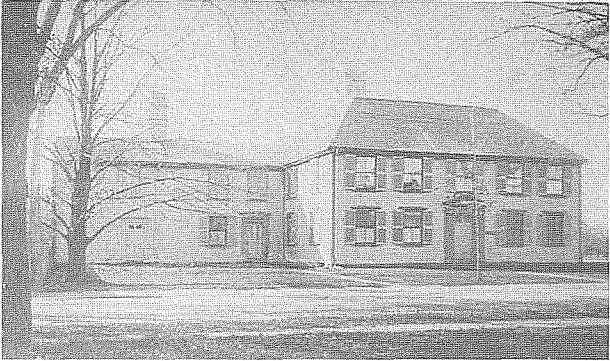
11. CAPTAIN DANIEL ADAMS HOUSE c. 1828  
225 Main Street (Shown in forefront above) This house was built for Captain Daniel Adams in the Federal style, and has served as both a grocery store and a dwelling.

12. THANKFUL ADAMS HOUSE c. 1830  
227 Main Street This residence was built as a half cape by Miss Thankful Adams (daughter of Francis). Structures on this site have served as both shops and dwellings.

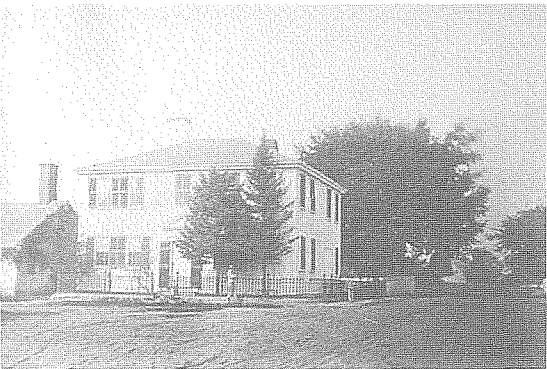
13. SURPRIZE HOSE HOUSE  
235 Main Street The only hose house still owned by the town and maintained by the Fire Department, was purchased from Caleb Bates for \$500 in 1888 to provide quarters for Surprise Hose Co. No. 1. (cont. above right)

SURPRIZE HOSE HOUSE (cont.)  
The hose tower was added onto the building in the same year. The building was used as a hose house until 1918 and in 1925 it became a storage building. Kingston is very proud of this facility and today it is used to host functions and display Fire Department history and memorabilia.

14. BILDAD WASHBURN TAVERN c. 1774  
234 Main Street (Shown below) This house was originally built in Marshfield for D. Isaac Winslow about 1774. In 1796 it was moved to its present site by packet boat and oxcart by Bildad Washburn, a stone cutter, where it became a tavern. The upstairs on the North West side was used as a dance hall. In 1798, when the 2nd meetinghouse was razed, the tavern served as a focal point for the community until the new meetinghouse was constructed. The property served as a store which sold “East and West India Goods” and a “dame school” in the 1800s and a medical practice in the early 1900s.



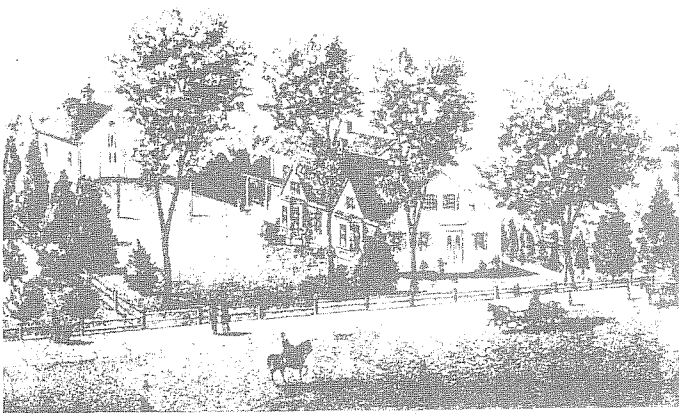
15. LEMUEL HOLMES HOUSE c. 1797  
232 Main Street This building was built by Lemuel Holmes in 1797 in the Federal Style. This building has served as both a grocery store and as a dwelling. It is shown to the right, prior to being moved slightly to the south in 1931, for the widening of Main Street.



16. CAPTAIN PELEG TUPPER HOUSE c. 1809  
228 Main Street This Federal style house was built by Captain Peleg Tupper, a retired sea captain. This house is part of the linear village on Main St., that evolved from a village commercial area to the residential neighborhood of today.

17. HORACE HOLMES HOUSE 1841  
217 Main Street This is a Greek Revival building which sits on a stone foundation. It was built by Horace Holmes, a storekeeper. The lot on which the house stands was originally owned by Mr. Winsor, wheelwright, and Mr. Harrison White, a blacksmith who had shops on the site. In more recent times, it served as a local dress shop.

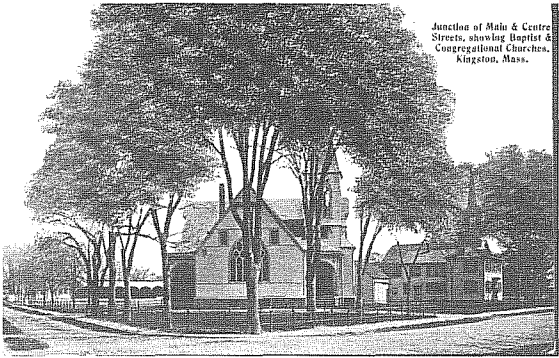
18. WILLIAM JONES HOUSE 1804  
215 Main Street This Federal style house rests on a stone foundation and was built by William Jones, a harnessmaker who came to Kingston from Waltham. In the early 1900s, the house was known as “The Candy House” where confections were made by “Kingston girls - the daughters of good families”.



19. DAVID BAKER BARTLETT HOUSE c. 1834  
220 Main Street (Shown above) The Bartlett House was built by David B. Bartlett, a builder and contractor. This house is a well preserved example of the Gothic Revival style, notable for its large gabled dormers.

20. SOLOMON THOMPSON HOUSE c. 1831  
218 Main St. This house is a modest example of Federal style architecture. This was the fourth house that Solomon Thompson built on Main Street.

21. BAPTIST CHURCH 1886  
213 Main Street (Shown below in forefront) A large scale Gothic Revival building, the church, the third built by the Baptist Society, rests on a raised brick foundation. The building is notable for its large Queen Anne style tower and over-sized Gothic windows.



22. SOLOMAN THOMPSON HOUSE 1829  
211 Main Street (Shown on right in photo above). This Federal style house was built by Soloman Thompson, a wheelwright, responsible for the construction of four other houses along Main St. This is probably the second house he built in Kingston. The house was sold to Captain Eli Cook, who in turn gave it to the Baptist Society in the 1830’s for use as a parsonage.

23. MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 1829  
209 Main Street. This is a Greek Revival Church with Gothic details. It was built by the Second Congregational Society, which split from the First Parish in Kingston.

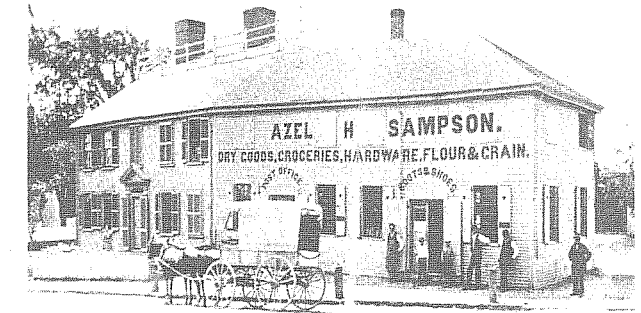
24. ZACHARIAH BRIGDEN HOUSE 1804  
210 Main Street This Federal style house was built by Brigden, a carriage maker and painter. He died in 1829 and the house was sold to Jonah Willis in 1830. During the 1800’s the property included outbuildings of a soap factory, try-works and a paint shop.

25. DR. HENRY JONES HOUSE 1875  
204 Main Street This is the second Empire style house built by Dr. Jones, and is the second house to be located on this site. The first house was a Cape style built in 1785 by Benjamin Sampson, an inn and storekeeper. Dr. Jones, a physician, was also the owner and founder of the Henry M. Jones and L.E. Ford & Company tack factory.

26. ABIAL WASHBURN HOUSE 1808  
200 Main Street This Federal style house was built by Abial Washburn, cordwainer (shoemaker) and hardware store proprietor. The house was originally located on the lot on which the Beal Meeting House/Sampson Memorial Hall now stands. In 1870 this house was sold to Captain Theodore Bliss Cunningham who made many alterations to the house and added new chimneys. The property remained in the Cunningham family until at least 1944.

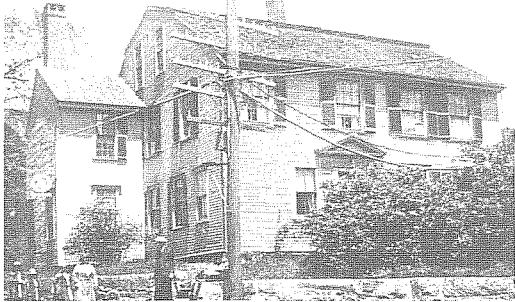
27. BENJAMIN SAMPSON HOUSE c. 1700  
198 Main Street This Georgian/Federal style house was built by Benjamin Sampson on land which he had purchased from his father-in-law Jacob Cooke. When built, this location was considered a wilderness eight years before the first “highway” was constructed. Sampson lived in the house and operated it as an inn in the early 1700’s.

28. THE COUNTRY STORE c. 1785  
196 Main Street (Shown below) David Beal purchased this land in about 1785 and opened a small wooden wares shop on the property. His articles were in demand, as the fishermen of the region and the local housewives made good use of the tubs, buckets and casks which were sold there. The store was expanded to a general store and remained in business for over a century. The photograph below was taken before the store section was removed from the main house which is still standing.



29. LITTLE’S TAVERN 1714  
191 Main Street This Colonial Georgian house was built by Charles Little on Boston Road on a parcel of land purchased from Major John Bradford. (cont. above right)

LITTLE’S TAVERN (cont.)  
Little was one of the 41 original petitioners who founded the town of Kingston, served on early town committees and was voted one of the first assessors of the town in 1718. He died in 1728, leaving his widow Sarah with no immediate means of income. Sarah opened a tavern in the residence to support herself, which became known as the (Widow) Little’s Tavern. She soon married Nicholas Sever eliminating the need for the income, but the name stuck. Later, this building was used as the town’s early telephone exchange building.



30. CORNELIUS DREW HOUSE Before 1800  
4 Linden Street This is a rectangular, side-gabled, Federal style cape on a stone foundation. This building was constructed in the late 18th century on land which Cornelius Drew purchased from Major John Bradford in 1727. The property remained in the Drew family until at least 1903.

31. WILLIAM SEVER HOUSE 1768  
2 Linden Street This is a hip-roofed Georgian Style building on a granite foundation. This house was constructed for Squire William Sever, who served as Kingston’s representative to the General Court starting in 1750, when he was only 21 years old.



32. THE POINT (Shown to the right) 18th Century  
The point is a triangular parcel of land in the Jones River Village of Kingston at the intersection (cont. above right)

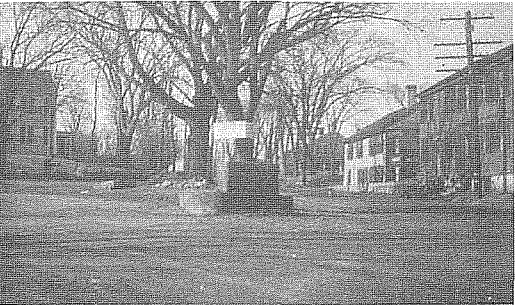
THE POINT (cont.)  
of Main and Summer Streets. There are many interesting items within this triangular parcel of land which include three stone markers and a watering trough. It is also the site of the “Old Point Well”, which was the original water supply for the neighborhood for over 150 years until it was covered under the stone wall.

33. REVEREND JOSEPH STACEY HOUSE 1721  
4 Summer Street This Colonial style building rests on a stone foundation. It was built by Reverend Stacey on three acres of land at “The Point” given to him by Major John Bradford. It was around this intersection, on the slight hill which rises from the Jones River, that early Kingston developed.

34. COLONIAL REVIVAL STYLE HOUSE 1879 - 1903  
3 Summer Street This is a typical Colonial revival style building sheathed in wood shingles with a side-gabled saltbox roof. It was constructed in the late 19th century as an out-building to a house which no longer stands, and was used as such until as late as 1958. It is located on a site of a building built in the late 18th century by John Brewster, a cordwainer, for his son, Wrestling Brewster the baker. In the 1970’s the building was moved forward to the present site and extensively renovated and rebuilt.

35. SAMUEL STETSON HOUSE c. 1750  
5 Summer Street This is a Colonial style home sheathed in wood shingles and resting upon a stone foundation. The house was constructed by Joshua Cushing. John Brewster owned it by 1776 when he gave it to his oldest daughter Huldah upon her marriage to Samuel Stetson, the town treasurer from 1809 - 1826.

36. JAMES SEVER HOUSE 1831  
11 Summer Street This is an outstanding example of the Federal style in this part of Kingston. It is sheathed in clapboard and set on a stone foundation. This building appears on both the 1876 and 1879 maps as belonging to the heirs of James N.



Sever, a merchant. The Sever family were wealthy land owners in Kingston, who, at the end of the 19th century, in partnership with the (cont. above right)

JAMES SEVER HOUSE (cont.)  
Faunce family, owned more than one tenth of the town’s total taxable acreage.

37. JOSIAH CUSHMAN HOUSE c. 1800  
12 Summer Street This house is a hipped-roof, Federal style built by Josiah Cushman who kept a boarding house on the second floor prior to the construction of the Kingston Inn (today’s library property) in 1854. The growth of local industry in this period created a demand for better boarding facilities and numerous boarding facilities sprang-up throughout this section of town.

38. STEPHEN DREW HOUSE 1790  
14 Summer Street This is a Federal style building set upon a stone block foundation, notable for its brick end walls. By 1876 this house was owned by William Symmes, a sea captain.

39. BRADFORD WATERMAN HOUSE c. 1800  
21 Summer Street An example of a side-gambrel, Colonial style house.

40. SAMUEL FOSTER HOUSE 1752  
25 - 27 Summer Street (Shown below) This is a Colonial style house set on a rubble stone foundation and was constructed in 1752 by Samuel Foster. Foster was a member of the "committee" that hosted the committee of the Great and General Court that visited the North precinct in 1726. He was also one of three owners of the well at “The Point”.



41. GEORGE T. ADAMS HOUSE c. 1880  
31 Summer Street This is an elaborate and well preserved cross-gable, Italianate-style house popular in Kingston in the late 19th century. The house was the home of George T. Adams and his wife Lydia Bradford Adams.