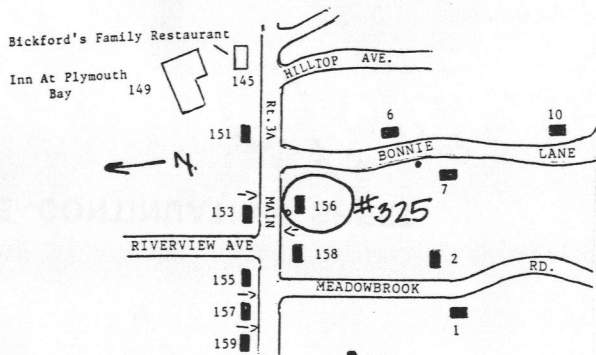




Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.



Recorded by Deirdre Brotherson
 Organization Kingston Historical Commission
 Date (month/year) May 1998

Form's number _____ USGS Quad P 121 Area(s) _____ Form Number 325

Town Kingston

Place (neighborhood or village) 141

Address 156 Main Street

Historic Name John Thomas House

Uses: Present residence

Original residence

Date of Construction c. 1720

Source maps & local history

Style/Form Georgian style

Architect/Builder _____

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite

Wall/Trim brick ender with wood clapboards

Roof asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures
barn & garage

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date _____

Acreage 1.5 acres

Setting
set back from road on rise - on busy Rt. 3A

RECEIVED

AUG 25 1998

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

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.

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*

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.

	325
--	-----

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The residence at 156 Main Street was built c. 1720 in the Georgian style. This 5x3 bay, wood frame, 2 story building sits on a granite foundation. The building has brick ends with clapboards on the facade. The hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Paired brick chimneys are at each end of the building. The center entrance contains a 6-panel wood door flanked by fluted pilasters with capitals and a floral motif. The door is surmounted by a 5-light transom and semi-elliptical hood. The fenestration is symmetrical. The windows contain 6/6 wood sash with projecting window hoods on the first story. The cornerboards are thin and flat. The cornice is boxed. A side ell on the east elevation is a 3x2 bay, 2 story building with a hip roof on a granite foundation. A narrow walkway connects a one story square, hip roof building to the ell. The small square building is clad with wood clapboards with quoins enhancing the corners. A large garage and barn are on the rear of the property.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE:

This house was built in the 18th century by John Thomas. The hill on which this house sits was labeled "Col. Thomas Hill." According to a lecture given by Kingston's 19th-century historian Doctor Drew in 1897; The most famous of the 92 Kingston men serving during the war was John Thomas, who lived in the house at the top of the hill named for him now 156 Main Street. Thomas was a doctor and had been commissioned in March 1746, as second surgeon in a body of troops raised by the Province to be stationed at Annapolis Royal. Dr. Thomas had been appointed surgeon's mate in Shirley's regiment 1755. He was appointed Colonel in the same regiment in 1759 and reappointed by Gov. Pownall in 1760, and commanded his regiment part of both these years in Nova Scotia. The Thomases and Severs were among the wealth Kingston families who owned slaves before the Revolution and some, if not all, of the four blacks who later lived at Parting Ways (nicknamed "New Guinea" during the 1800's) belonged to these families. By 1775, Thomas was a general of the army and commanded the Patriot forces at Roxbury and Dorchester Heights until General George Washington arrived to take command of the Continental Army. General John Thomas then was put in command of an expedition to Ticonderoga and Crown Point on Lake Champlain, where he died in 1776 after a few months of the campaign (Melville 1976 p.89, 90, 92). By 1876 through 1903, William A. Thomas resided in this house.

According to Melville, this house was damaged by fire in the late 1700's and rebuilt. This is an excellent example of a Georgian style residence.

The Georgian style of American building dominated the English colonies for most of the 18th century. The style grew from the Italian Renaissance, which emphasized classical details and reached remote England only in the mid-16th century. There, Renaissance classicism first flourished during the period 1650-1750 under such master architects as Indigo Jones, Christopher Wren, and James Gibbs. The style did not, however, begin to replace Post medieval traditions in the American colonies until about 1700, when an expanding and increasingly prosperous population began to seek more fashionable buildings. It was brought to the New World principally through architectural building manuals known as pattern books. These ranged from expensive treatises stressing Italian models-the same books from which Jones, Wren, and Gibbs received much of their inspiration-to inexpensive carpenters' handbooks showing how to construct fashionable doorways, cornices, windows, and mantels.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Melville, Doris Johnson. Major Bradford's Town: A History of Kingston: 1726-1976. Kingston, MA., 1976. [KPL]

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]

Sanborn Insurance Company Maps:

Plymouth: 1896 June

1901 April (1896, 1901, 1906 include Kingston Village

1906 Feb. and Factories in Kingston)

Kingston: 1912 (6 sheets)

1925 (7 sheets)

1943 (7 sheets)

1954 (8 sheets)

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community Property Address
Kingston 156 Main Street

Area(s) FormNo.

	325
--	-----

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 Deirdre Brotherson

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

This building is individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance as one of the best examples of Georgian style architecture in Kingston. The property may also be eligible under Criterion B for its significance as the home of John Thomas.

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

P. KING
1163 Rymond
SEPTA

KIN.325

In Area no.	Form no.
	17



Town Kuegion
Address 156 Main St. (Route 3A)
Name The General Thomas House
Present use residence

Present owner _____

Description:

Date early 1700s

Source local records

Style Classical/Federal

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric _____

Outbuildings (describe) library-study
elaborate

Other features off formal gardens,
fine tiles around several
fireplaces; excellent paneling

Altered rebuilt after Date 1790s
major fire

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size: 1.5 a.

One acre or less _____ Over one acre ☒

Approximate frontage _____

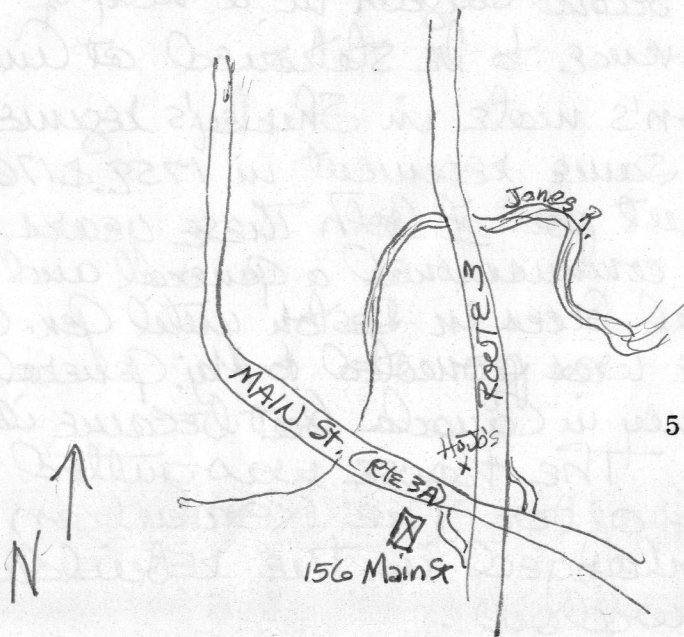
Approximate distance of building from street _____

6. Recorded by Burchill/Varricolarone

Organization TRV Historical Soc

Date Dec. 18, 1978

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known)

John Thomas

Original use

residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal

Agricultural

Architectural

The Arts

Commerce

Communication

Community development

Conservation

Education

Exploration/
settlement

Industry

Military

Political

Recreation

Religion

Science/
invention

Social/

humanitarian

Transportation

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

John Thomas not only was a Kingston selectman in the 3rd quarter of the 1700s, but a surgeon who received military training when he was commissioned "second surgeon in a body of troops raised by the Province to be stationed at Annapolis Royal" and was "surgeon's mate in Sherkey's regiment in 1755... Colonel in the same regiment in 1759... & 1762, and commanded his regiment part of both these years in Nova Scotia." He was commissioned a general and was in command of Continental forces in Boston until Gen. George Washington arrived; he was promoted to Maj. General & put in charge of the army in Canada but became ill and died there in 1776. The house was gutted in a fire in the years after the Revolution and was considerably enlarged in the rebuilding by his well-to-do widow.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

* Dr. T. B. Drew: manuscript of his lecture in 1897
local records