

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number
36/84

USGS Quad
Plymouth

Area(s)

KIN.69
Form Number
69

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

Town Kingston

Place (neighborhood or village) Jones River Village

Address 33 Summer Street

Historic Name Frederic C. Adams Library

Uses: Present civic

Original library

Date of Construction 1898

Source Melville 1976

Style/Form Georgian Revival

Architect/Builder Joseph Everett Chandler

Exterior Material:

Foundation brick

Wall/Trim brick/marble, wood

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures small gable-roof shed (late 20th c.)

Major Alterations (with dates) 1-story rear ell (1964)

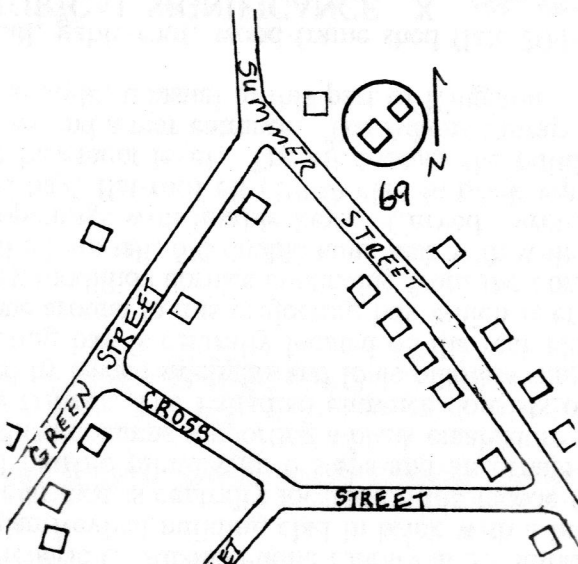
Condition excellent

Moved X no yes Date

Acreage

Setting set back approx. 30 ft. from street; land slopes to rear; grass, trees, shrubs; granite posts, footings, and low pipe iron rail at front (W); pipe fencing along perimeter

Sketch Map



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

Organization The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Date (month/day/year) May 1997

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 Frederic C. Adams Public Library at 33 Summer Street is a 1-story, 5-by-2 bay, rectangular, hipped-roof, Georgian Revival building clad in brick with a brick foundation fully exposed on its sides and rear (E). The main entrance is centrally located on the facade (W) within a 1-story, 1-bay, end-gable portico reached by a raised marble plinth with 6 steps and an ornate, wrought iron railing. This portico features four, slender Corinthian columns supporting a blank entablature with modillion blocks, beading, and the name of the library in the frieze. The Palladian entrance consists of a single-panel wood door set below a leaded fanlight and flanked by leaded sidelights and Ionic pilasters supporting a modillion cornice. A large, 1-story, round, brick, projecting bay is centrally located on the rear elevation. String courses from the main block of the building continue around to this projecting bay which is enclosed by a curved porch supported by Doric columns with a heavy modillion cornice continuing from the cornice of the main building. Windows on the main block and curved ell are tall, 6/6 double-hung sash with white marble sills and splayed lintels set within recessed, round-arch openings with marble keys. Curved, wrought iron balconies appear on the front windows. A 1-story, 3-by-5 bay, flat-roof ell (1964) clad in brick with a concrete foundation is located on the rear (E) elevation, at the basement level. The ell doubles the building's footprint at the basement level and features three-part windows and a rear entrance. The Adams Library is an excellent and well-preserved example of the Georgian Revival style, unusual in this part of Kingston.

A small, gable-roof, wood-frame shed (late 20th century) with plywood sheathing is located to the rear.

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.

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" 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. Main and Summer streets (Route 3A) had been the town's first macadamized surface in 1906-7. By 1921,

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES X *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.
 Cingolani, Liliias. "Adams Library Has Proud History," *Brockton Daily Enterprise*, April 13, 1973.
 Connell, Lisa D. "Historic Kingston library checks out," *Kingston Reporter*, December 1994.
 Connell, Lisa D. "Town needs approval to use Adams building," *Kingston Reporter*, December 14, 1995.
 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.
 Lindgren, James M. *Preserving Historic New England; Preservation, Progressivism, and the Remaking of Memory*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.

X 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:**
33 Summer Street

KIN. 69

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Massachusetts Archives Facility
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traffic along Summer Street (Route 3A) necessitated the widening of this road. In 1921, \$8,500 was appropriated for land-taking damages for the proposed widening; in 1922 the road south of the library was broadened resulting in the removal of several buildings (Melville 1976:143).

Early attempts at establishing a library in Kingston include the Kingston Library Association, established in 1871, which collected some 1,850 books which were available for the general public. In 1890, the "Lend-A-Hand Club" raised money for the establishment of a free library. Members of this club were mostly school children, and the collection of books was housed at a local store where they could be obtained every evening during business hours (Cingolani 4/13/1973). Funds made available by the will of Frederic C. Adams allowed for the construction of the Frederic C. Adams Library on Summer Street in 1898. Frederic C. Adams was born in 1821. In the mid-1800s, Frederic's father, George, had a slaughterhouse and a stockyard next to his home, which was torn down in the 1960s to build Tura's Pharmacy at 85 Summer Street next to Stony Brook (Melville 1976:323). Frederic, along with his brother, George T. Adams, continued his father's stockyard and slaughterhouse following his father's retirement. Frederic was married to Eveline Holmes Adams, the widow of his other brother Horatio. Frederic died in 1874, and the town of Kingston became the "legatee of last resort" in a lengthy will Frederic wrote in 1872. When his wife Eveline died in 1895, all the other beneficiaries had predeceased her, and the town fell heir to \$24,000 for the construction of a public library and \$5,000 for lectures and prizes (Melville 1976:132-133). In 1895 the town voted to appropriate \$13,000 for the building, \$3,000 for books, statuary, and pictures, \$1,000 for incidentals. George T. Adam's (Frederic's brother) widow and son donated the land on which the library was built. The first board of library trustees was elected in 1898 (Connell 12/14/1995).

The building was designed by Joseph Everett Chandler (1864-1945) of Plymouth. Chandler was educated at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and had an independent office in Boston, Massachusetts. Chandler was a prominent New England restoration architect in the early 20th century who worked with other early preservationists such as Norman Isham and William Sumner Appleton, Jr., the founder of the Society for Preservation of New England Antiquities (Lindgren 1995:74). He was an authority on Colonial architecture and was the author of numerous books and articles. Chandler worked on the restoration of historic buildings such as the Paul Revere House, the Old Corner Book Store, and the Old State House in Boston, as well as the House of Seven Gables in Salem. He also supervised the construction of the "Colonial Village" housing project in Springfield, Massachusetts (Withey 1970:117).

The town voted \$500 to run the library during the first year. There were 3,809 books, including those donated by the Kingston Library Association and the Lend-A-Hand Club, both of which disbanded when the Adams Library opened. Ten years earlier, the legislature had authorized towns to support public libraries and to elect trustees (Melville 1976:133).

Additional land for the library was deeded to the town in 1918 by Lillie H.C. Marshall and Betsy Sampson Beal. The Marshall parcel was located to the north of the library and the Beal parcel was located to the east (rear) (Bailey 1917 map). The library underwent extensive renovation of the main building and construction of a children's wing at the rear in 1964. This rear wing was officially opened in March of 1965 (Melville 1976:161). By 1973, the library held approximately 27,000 books (Cingolani 4/13/1973). The building closed as a public library in December 1994 when the library moved to the former AT&T building across the street on Green Street. In 1995, a committee looked into the reuse of the building as a possible Heritage Center (Connell 12/14/1995). Town Conservation Commission and Historical Commission meetings are currently held in the childrens' wing.

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Area(s)

Form No.
69**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES** (*continued*)

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, 1976.
"Outline Specifications for Alterations to the Frederic C. Adams Public Library, Kingston, Massachusetts,"
May 26, 1961 (located in Vertical Files at Local History Room of the Kingston Public Library).
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.
1917 *Plan of Land in Kingston Conveyed by Mrs. Marshall & Miss Beal to the Kingston Public Library*. Thomas W. Bailey.
1928 Map of Kingston with Key.



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Community:
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33 Summer Street

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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 Frederic C. Adams Library is an excellent and well-preserved example of the Georgian Revival style, unusual in this part of Kingston. The building possesses integrity of location, design, feeling, materials, workmanship, and association. The library was constructed from funds obtained from the will of Frederic C. Adams and designed by architect Joseph E. Chandler, known as an authority on Colonial Revival architecture who restored the Paul Revere House in Boston. Its architectural form, age, and well-preserved setting are all important elements of its local significance. It meets criteria B and C of the NRHP. The library's period of significance extends from 1898 to 1947. Additional historical research will be required to complete a nomination.

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
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4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric Brick

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features _____

Altered Lower section new Date _____

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less _____ Over one acre ☒ 2 ACRES

Approximate frontage 150'

Approximate distance of building from street

25'-35'

6. Recorded by Ed Vella

Organization Kington Hist Comm

Date 1/11/84

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Land "Adams"

Original use Library

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

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

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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town

Kingston

Property Address

33 Summer St.

Area(s)

Form No.

KIN 69

BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT—DISTRICT POLICE

PLAN RECORD

CASE	C	RACK	2	APART.	11	NO.	5651
BUILDING	Adams Library					STORIES	1B
CITY OR TOWN	Kingston					STREET	
TO BE USED FOR	Library Purposes					CLASS	Misc Bldg Wood
OWNER	Town of Kingston						
ARCHITECT	J. R. Chandler						
CERTIFICATE APPROVAL—SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENTS—REFERRED							
DATE	Aug 4/98						
INSPECTOR	Brown						
FORM 41. 10,000. 2-2-18.							

KIN.69

Original yellow form: Eligibility file _____

Copies: Inventory form ☒ _____

Town file(w/corresp.) _____

Macris _____

NR director _____

MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Received: _____ Date Due: _____ Date Reviewed: 10/20/99 Community: Kingston

Type: ☒ Individual _____ District (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name: Frederic C. Adams Library Inventory Form: 69

Address: 33 Summer St

Requested by: LHC

Action: ☒ Honor _____ ITC _____ Grant _____ R & C _____ Other: (MPPF)

Agency: _____ Staff in charge of Review: _____

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

DISTRICTS

☒ Eligible
_____ Eligible, also in district
_____ Eligible only in district
_____ Ineligible
_____ More information needed

_____ Eligible
_____ Ineligible
_____ More information needed

CRITERIA: ☒ A _____ B _____ ☒ C _____ D

LEVEL: ☒ Local _____ State _____ National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE by Peter Petrisko

The Frederick C. Adams Library, 33 Summer Street, Kingston is an 1898 Colonial Revival library built by Joseph Everett Chandler, a major architect. The library has a 1 story rear addition built in 1964 which is not visible from the street and is not a major change to the property. The library ceased being a library in 1994 and is now used for Town Conservation and Historical Commission meetings.

The library meets Criteria A and C on the local level, meeting Criterion A for the role the library has played in the continuing evolution of the town and Criterion C for its excellent representation of the Colonial Revival style of architecture built by a major architect, Joseph Everett Chandler.