

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number
46/72

USGS Quad
Plymouth

Area(s)

KIN 93
Form Number
93

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

Town Kingston

Place (neighborhood or village) Jones River Village

Address 195 Main Street

Historic Name New England Telephone Building

Uses: Present commercial

Original commercial

Date of Construction 1940

Source Melville 1976

Style/Form Colonial Revival /reproduction Cape

Architect/Builder _____

Exterior Material:

Foundation concrete

Wall/Trim brick

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures 1-story utility shed
to the north (late 20th c.)

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition good

Moved X no yes Date _____

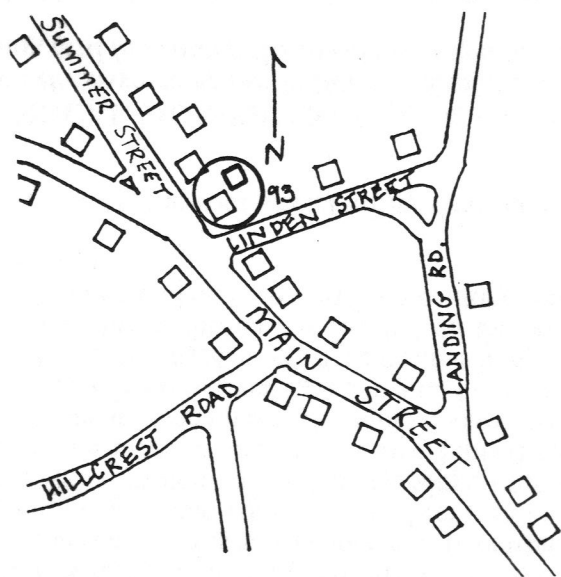
Acreage less than 1 acre

Setting grass, trees, shrubs; set back approx. 15 feet

from Main Street; parking lot to west; post and rail fence
along perimeter; paved walk to front entrance.



Sketch Map



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

Organization The Public Archaeology Lab Inc.

Date (month/day/year) June 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.

195 Main Street is a rectangular, brick, side-gable, 1-story, 5-by-2 bay, reproduction Cape style building with a wood cornice and returns and a concrete foundation. The main entrance is located in the second bay from the north on the facade (W) and consists of a plain metal door surrounded by wood pilasters which support an entablature embellished with dentils. A 1-story, hipped-roof, brick hyphen is located to the rear (E) of the main block and connects to a large, oversized, 1-story, hipped-roof ell located to the east of the main block. The ell rests on a concrete foundation and has multi-light windows set in arched brick openings. The windows on the north elevation of the ell have been bricked in and a small oculus is located in the attic story of the south elevation. Windows on the main block and hyphen are 8/12 double-hung sash with brick sills, splayed lintels, and fixed louvered shutters. One interior brick chimney is located on the southeast roof slope of the main block. This building is a well-preserved example of early-to-mid-20th century commercial architecture designed as residential architecture in this part of Kingston.

A small, 1-story, flat-roof, metal utility shed (late 20th c.) is located to the north of the building.

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.

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, 1726-1926*. Kingston, 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.
- 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, 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.
- Town Database Records, Assessor's Office, Kingston Town House, Kingston, Massachusetts, 1997.

— 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 SHEETCommunity:
KingstonKIN.93
Property Address:
195 Main Street**Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Facility
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125**

Area(s)

Form No.
93**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE** *(continued)*

195 Main Street was constructed in 1940 by the New England Telephone company (Melville 1976:69). It sits on the site of two earlier buildings. One lot included land which was given by Major John Bradford in 1714 for the purpose of building a schoolhouse for the north end of Plymouth (now Kingston) (Melville 1976:69). The 1714 schoolhouse was a 1-story, 4-bay, side-gable building sheathed in clapboards, set right at the street's edge. The schoolhouse served as a school for nearly a century prior to being used as a bakery and other functions. It was taken down in 1922 to allow for the widening of Summer Street (Melville 1976:346). The other lot was the site of Mr. John Brewster's house. This house was built circa 1730 and Mr. Brewster used the house as an inn. In the 19th century this house was sold to James N. Sever, who built a store adjoining the house. Sever sold the store to Mr. R. B. Bradford who moved the post office into the store after it was removed from the store at 196 Main Street (MHC 94, 1785). (Bartlett 1879:51). The house was later the home of Miss Marcia Stetson and her niece Miss Annie Ames Fuller. It was taken down in 1922 to allow for the widening of Summer Street (Drew 1942 annotation of Bartlett 1879:51).

The 1940 New England Telephone Building was not the first telephone building in Kingston. The house at 191 Main Street, (MHC 90, 1714) was used as a telephone exchange in the early 20th century until at least 1926 (Melville 1976:343). The New England Telephone Building at 195 Main Street was the second building to be used for the telephone service. The building at 195 Main Street is still owned by New England Telephone Company and in use as a telephone company facility (Town Database Records 1997).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *(continued)*

Vertical Files located at the Local History Room of the Kingston Public Library.

Maps

- 1820-1830 *Five School Districts*. Anonymous.
- 1831 *Map of Kingston*. John Gray.
- 1876 *Map of the Town of Kingston, Plymouth County, Mass.* E.N. Boyden.
- 1879 *Atlas of Plymouth County*. George E. Walker
- 1903 *Atlas of Plymouth County*. George E. Walker.
- 1928 *Map of Kingston with Key*.