

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: William Sever House

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 2 Linden Street

City or town: Kingston State: Massachusetts County: Plymouth

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national X statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A X B X C ___ D

<u>Brona Surin</u>		<u>January 28, 2019</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	SHPO	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____


Signature of the Keeper

3/7/19
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL, Georgian

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE, WOOD-Clapboard, ASPHALT, BRICK

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The William Sever House is a large and prominent two-story timber-and-plank-framed house with a hipped roof located at 2 Linden Street in the town center of Kingston in Plymouth County, Massachusetts. The house occupies a 1.5-acre lot facing south and set back from behind a small yard on a side street a short distance east of Kingston's Main Street. From its elevated location it once overlooked the docks on the Jones River where the Sever family shipping business was based. With its earliest sections having been built in ca. 1755, the five-bay front façade has a central entrance with a Classical architrave composed of fluted pilasters surmounted by a molded frieze and a pediment decorated with modillions and dentils. It contains two rooms on either side of a center-passage with fireplaces on paneled interior walls dividing front and rear spaces. The passage is distinguished by an elaborate staircase with varied turned balusters in high Georgian style. Six of the eight fireplaces are framed by pictorial, tin-glazed earthenware (Delft) tiles. A one-story kitchen wing with a hipped roof is attached to the west side of the house and, just beyond, a two-story wood frame carriage house, also with a hipped roof. East of the house is a wood-shingled aisle barn built in the mid-19th century; a historic well house and a non-historic garden shed round out the built features on the property. The buildings occupy an approximately acre-and-a-half parcel that represents the extent of the original parcel plus a small lot added to the west side in 1927. The open space at the rear of the property was terraced and cultivated with an orchard and floral and vegetable gardens; these plantings are gone and replaced with a lawn. Animals occupying in the barn evidently were pastured elsewhere. Historic iron and wood picket fences border on the street frontage. The property contains three buildings (house, carriage house and barn) and two structures (well house and fence). The non-historic garden shed is inconsequential and has not been classified or counted.

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Narrative Description

The William Sever House is a notable architectural landmark in the town center of Kingston, Massachusetts. A prosperous merchant, owner of ships involved in coastal and international trade and member of the colony's House of Representatives, William Sever (1729-1809) was prepared to erect a home of appropriate status when he married his cousin, Sarah Warren, in 1755 (PHOTOS 1-4). Although physical evidence is scant, local tradition characterizes the house as originally having had a gambrel roof that was removed and replaced with a third story and hipped roof and which in 1842 was reduced again to two stories with the existing hipped roof lowered to cover it.¹ No matter what the actual sequence of events was, hipped roofs were popular features at the turn of the 19th century—much less so in 1755—and in this case, suggests that changes were made here as well as in other parts of the house by subsequent generations of the Sever family and later owners. The area under the roof, which has a floor with evidence of prior partitions now overlaid with tie beams integrated into the roof structure is now inaccessible for any domestic use.

The Sever House employed vertical planks in the place of studs in its framing. Although they are in no way visible in the house, the thinness of the walls and the pronounced window frames proud on the exterior indicate that planks, generally one- to two-inches thick and spanning the two-story full height of the building are at the core of the walls, sandwiched between exterior clapboards and interior plaster. A minimal timber frame is limited to the corners and intersections of major load-bearing beams. This construction method relied on an abundance of pine and a prevalence of saw mills. There are documented examples of plank construction as far back as 1719, and houses built this way are common throughout New England where forests once flourished.² The south shore of Massachusetts is well-known for its historic plank houses, although no inventory has been compiled or discoverable in the state's cultural resource information system (MACRIS).³

It would not have been unusual for a house of this scale and period to have had a gambrel roof, which was a novel and popular option for one- and two-story houses in New England. It permitted the deepening of plans as its divided planes bolstered by purlins was more stable in spanning greater distances than the traditional gable frame, which often relied on lean-tos to increase floor dimensions. Gambrels also were more fashionable in terms of mid-18th-century architectural style.

¹ Boston MA, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Statewide Survey of Historic Resources, Inventory Form for William Sever House (KIN.76-78), June 1977. Doris Johnson Melville, *Major Bradford's Town: A History of the Town of Kingston, 1726-1976* (Kingston MA: Town of Kingston, 1976), 349.

² Abbott Lowell Cummings, *The Framed Houses of Massachusetts Bay, 1625-1725*. Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 1982, 89. Cummings cites a document where the Town of Manchester voted in 1719 to build a meetinghouse of plank not studs. J. Frederick Kelly, *Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut* (1924; rpt. NY: Dover Publications, 1963), 40-41.

³ Correspondence with Michael Steinitz, Director of Survey and Planning, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston MA, 20 August 2016.

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EXTERIOR

Perhaps seeming somewhat clumsy now, the gambrel roof was a part of a bilaterally symmetrical exterior in which a two-story five-bay front façade was the principal focal point (PHOTOS 1-4). The central feature is a tall entrance enframed by a Classical architrave composed of tapered fluted pilasters surmounted by an entablature and pediment decorated with modillions and dentils (PHOTO 3). The doorway is flanked by two windows on either side; the second story contains five windows aligned with the openings below. Windows retain what appear to be original 12/12 wood sash, but the louvered blinds are sympathetic replacements of unknown date. Narrow-gauge wood clapboards appear intact. The deep eave of the cornice along the roof edge is a product (and evidence) of the reputed mid-19th-century renovation removing a third story and lowering the roof. Granite slabs face the portion of the basement exposed above grade and create the steps and platform on an entry stoop.

The side walls are irregularly fenestrated in line with the function of spaces within the house; they all have 12/12 wood sash and closeable louvered blinds matching those on the front (PHOTOS 1&4). The rear façade contains five-bays with a central entrance in a simple surround topped by a transom (PHOTO 5). A narrow window to the west of the doorway is the only aberration; it was positioned to light an interior service passage, now gone. First-story windows on the west side of the rear façade are now contained within in a mid-20th-century porch enclosed with glazing in 2005. The hipped roof overhangs the walls to the same degree identified on the front. Gutters have been added to the fascia replacing gutters once contained within the roof. The two tall, square brick chimneys are in their original locations, one in front of the ridge and one behind, but reflect alterations made when the third story was removed and the roof lowered and more recent reconstruction in 2005.

There may have been a smaller summer kitchen appended to the northwest corner of the house in the 18th century, but the existing wing was constructed in the early 19th century and the kitchen moved there from its original location in the northwest corner of the house. It appears to have a full stud frame (not plank) and had a second story and a hipped roof as late as 1935 when the Historic American Building Survey recorded the building (FIG.2). Like what occurred in the main house earlier, the upper story was removed and the roof frame lowered in 1950s (PHOTOS 1,2&6). Today, the wing has a large chimney positioned off-center in the roof with a corresponding blank space on the front façade indicating the location of the fireplace within. It was reduced in height when the upper story was removed. The entrance is at extreme east side in the corner formed with the main house and offset by three windows, two paired in the kitchen space and one behind the chimney. It is into this latter space that a rear entry is located on the north wall along with one window. A single window is located off-center in the west end wall. The wing is sided with the same narrow-exposure wood clapboard and the roof edge duplicates that on the main house.

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EXTERIOR EXISTING CONDITIONS

The exterior of the main portion of the house has changed little in materials and design since its last major alteration in the 1840s when the third story on the house was removed. A balustrade running along the eave lines of the house and wing, still present in documentary photographs taken in 1935, has been removed, and the second story of the kitchen wing was demolished in ca. 1960. The plank frame is intact with its original clapboard siding and timber window frames with 12/12 wood sash. It is unlikely that the original louvered blinds have survived but the current ones seem to have been designed to reproduce them. The front entrance and its pedimented architrave are original, as are other lesser doors. The roof edge was altered when the hipped roof was lowered in the 1840s, perhaps creating more of an overhang; box gutters originally in the roof have been covered over and replaced by those currently in place at the roof edge. Brick chimneys on the house and the wing have been rebuilt above the roof line in recent years.

INTERIOR – FIRST FLOOR (room names correspond with HABS plans, FIGS.4&5)

Center Hall. In the manner of elite house models, the Sever House has a symmetrical plan with four rooms on a floor, two on each side of a center hall (FIGS.4&7). It was during this time that in better houses the center chimney was replaced with two chimneys positioned between the rooms on each side of the center passage, which traversed the space formerly occupied by the center chimney. In smaller houses with plans only one room deep, chimneys were positioned on rear or end walls. The scale and symmetry of the plan was critical to the design of large houses and the lifestyles they supported. There was a hierarchy of spaces that was reflected in the levels of decoration. The center passage was the entry point for visitors and presented an immediate statement of the owner's status. In the Sever House the entrance opens on a wide hallway with a paneled wainscot and wood cornice. Closets with paneled doors encase the inside of the entrance, and doorways into the front rooms have complex architraves. But, the centerpiece of the space is the long, elegant staircase rising up the west wall to the second floor in one straight run with the hall side enclosed with a paneled wall (PHOTO 7). The notable decorative feature is the hand rail supported by three different kinds of twist-turned balusters in series, three on each step, originating at a newel post with its twisting post hollow-carved.

Parlor. Meant to be an imposing space, the best room is located on the east side of the center hall (FIGS.4&8, PHOTO 8). It is larger than the front room on the west side of the hall and has a higher level of finish. The exterior plank walls of both rooms are studded out on the interior to create sufficient depth for window seats and jambs for recessed folding shutters. A wide fireplace is centered on the north wall beneath a chimneybreast composed of two wide panels: a narrow one above the fireplace and one much wider across the top. Both are proud of the wall and surrounded by bolection moldings. This is a paneling pattern and technique repeated throughout the house. The mantel shelf and bolection surrounding the firebox were added in the 1950s when a Federal-period mantelpiece, itself an addition, pictured in the 1935 HABS documentation, was removed. The chimneybreast is flanked by fluted pilasters that extend from the floor to the ceiling where a wood cornice wraps around them creating a capital. On the outside of the pilasters are tall narrow doors with eight panels, alternating tall and short like the paneling, opening on closets in the chimney space; the one on the east side was permanently affixed when a lavatory was created in the space behind.

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The other three walls are finished with paneled wainscoting that alternates narrow panels under the windows with wide panels in between continuing the decorative theme, as does the paneling around the interior of the window seats and the shutters. With four windows, two each on the exterior south and east walls, the parlor has more than any other room. The windows are framed with three-stage trim based on the window seats, and the cornice traverses across the tops of them. A paneled door leading to the center hall, with trim matching that on the windows, is located at the front of the west wall. A focal point in the room—as well as others in the house—is the firebox with its surrounding blue-and-white tin-glazed earthenware tiles. In this the most elaborate room in the house, tiles cover the fronts of the jambs as well. The extravagant use of tiles in this and four other rooms is a renowned feature of the house, and they are believed to be original to it. While the tiles are 18th-century in manufacture, they may have been altered, or at least reinstalled, in the early 19th century when the fireplaces were reconditioned and Federal-style mantelpieces installed. One indication of this is the unusual presence of an iron frame along the edges of the tile surrounds, a seemingly 19th-century element.

Living Room. Next in the hierarchy of spaces is the room on the west side of the hall (FIG.4, PHOTO 9). It is a smaller room as the chimney on this side of the house was shifted forward to create more space in the room behind it, which originated as the kitchen. (In this plan the front room possibly functioned as a dining room.) The fireplace is off center on the north wall because the chimney also included a bake oven on the kitchen side. This section of the chimney is concealed behind an extra section of paneling, vertically configured, on the west side of the hearth. This paneling, as well as the chimneybreast, was fabricated in a manner identical to that in the parlor, and eight-panel doors are positioned at the corners, one on the east opening on a closet and one on the west on a passageway leading to the kitchen, although a second set of stairs may have occupied this space. Like the parlor, the current fireplace is faced with blue-and-white tin-glazed earthenware tiles in an iron frame and bolection trim and a mantel shelf added in the 1950s when a Federal-style mantelpiece was removed. A wood cornice surrounds the room at ceiling level but there is no wainscot. Two windows on the south wall and one on the west wall are recessed with window seats and folding shutters contained within the jambs. The natural wood finish of the paneling and other woodwork is a ca. 1960 alteration; a documentary photograph taken in 1935 depicts the woodwork grain-painted. The trim on the doorway leading into the center hall is 19th-century in design.

Dining Room. Unlike the front rooms, where Federal Period alterations were reversed in the 1950s, the northwest room retains many of these features (FIG.4). This is because there was little to restore since the space had originated as the house's kitchen. The plan of the chimney on this side of the house suggests that the present fireplace on the south wall is a reduction of a larger one suitable for cooking; a bake oven could have been accommodated within the chimney mass as well. In the early 19th century, the third generation of Severs to live in the house modernized it by replacing the gambrel roof with a third story and a hipped roof and building a matching two-story hipped-roof kitchen wing. With the addition of a new kitchen, the old kitchen was renovated, probably into the dining room use in which it currently functions. A Federal Period mantelpiece with paneled pilasters and a thin shelf surmounting intricate, flattened molding

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survives in this room with none of the antique tiles distinguishing the “old” portions of the house. Like the living room in front of it, the firebox is off-center in the chimney and the wall and flanked by closet doors, which in this case have six panels and Federal-style trim. Other windows and doors in the room are finished in a similar manner. Plaster walls with a narrow chairrail and a wood cornice reflect the spare 19th-century taste employed in the renovation. Windows on the north side are mounted flush in the exterior plank wall and have no shutters. A doorway in the west wall leads to the kitchen wing and a doorway on the opposite wall leads to stairs to the basement, another indication of the room’s previous role as a kitchen. Another door in the east wall leads to the rear of the center hall where there once was a service passage illuminated by the small window arbitrarily inserted into the symmetrical rear façade. Part of this passage has been removed linking the dining room doorway directly to the center hall and the other part has been made into a lavatory by the current owner.

Back Chamber. The Federal-style mantelpiece in the dining room is the only one left of four installed on the first-floor in the early 19th century (FIG.4). A photograph in the 1935 HABS documentation shows a plainer version of the dining room mantelpiece in the room in the northeast corner of the house. It has elegant finishes like the front rooms of the house with the same paneled chimneybreast flanked by tall, paneled doors. In the place of the fluted pilasters in the best room are narrow raised panels running from the floor to the ceiling. And as in the front rooms, a bolection molding framing the firebox and a mantel shelf replaced the Federal-style mantelpiece in the 1950s. The firebox is faced with slate instead of the highly fashionable tiles reserved for the front rooms. A wood cornice distinguishes the ceiling line, but there is no wainscot or chairrail. The plank exterior walls contain two windows on the rear (north) side and one on the east side. Without the benefit of built-out interior walls in the front rooms, there are no jambs to neatly conceal the shutters and they are just folded back on the walls; structural posts in the corners of the room also are visible. A rear room such as this often functioned as a bed chamber and its level of decoration is consistent with the front chambers on the second story, except those have fireplaces embellished with tiles whereas this one does not. The location was appropriate for the widow’s dower once her progeny took control of the household. (This would have occurred in the third Sever generation in the early 19th-century, but not earlier.) Or, acknowledging William Sever’s erudition, business concerns and government service, he may have designated the room an office or library.

INTERIOR – SECOND FLOOR

Stair Hall. The long run of stairs from the first floor lands at the rear of an upper hall of the same commodious dimensions as the space below (FIG.5). The stair space is bordered by a balustrade with subtly different twisted turnings. A photograph from 1935 shows it to be natural in finish whereas today it is painted. A wood cornice and baseboards are the only decorative features; single windows are centered in the exterior walls front and rear.

Front Chambers. The southeast chamber, above the parlor, can be considered the best chamber, but it varies little from the chambers in the southwest and northeast corners of the second-floor plan (FIGS.5&9, PHOTO 10). It is the largest of the three and both exterior walls were built out to accommodate window seats and pockets in the jambs for shutter storage. The front (south)

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wall of the southwest chamber is the only one built out to create recesses for the two windows it contains. Differing from the room below, the west wall of the chamber was not built out and the shutters for the single window roughly centered on the wall fold back onto the plank wall rather than into pockets. While the two windows on the south walls of each chamber maintain the exterior symmetry of the front façade, the east and west end walls each contain only one window, presumably to provide wall space for locating beds. Both rooms have wood cornices and panels under the window seats but no wainscoting.

The chimneybreasts repeat the house-wide pattern of two horizontal panels of unequal size but vary from there. In the southeast chamber, the chimneybreast is flanked by an eight-panel door only on the west side; the other side contains a wall with two tiers of panels rather than a door, although the outside tier of panels was made into a door in the 1950s. This feature is an anomaly among all the other fireplace walls in the house. The paneling pattern in the southwest chamber duplicates that in the room below with an extra tier of panels inserted between the chimneybreast and door on the west side. Consistent with its high status in the room hierarchy, the tiles surrounding the fireplace opening in the parlor chamber cover part of the jambs as well as the front; the southwest chamber has tiles fronting the firebox, as well, but none on the jambs. Photographs from 1935 indicate that the addition of "modern" mantelpieces on the first floor did not extend to the second. Original bolection moldings enframing the tile-fronted fireboxes in these rooms appear to have served as models for restoring the chimneybreasts on the first floor when the Federal Period mantelpieces were removed in the 1950s. The mantel shelves added on the narrow panels above the first-floor fireplaces have no precedent, however.

Rear Chambers. Of the three principal chambers on the second floor, the northeast chamber is the least elaborate (FIG.5). While it has the same paneled chimneybreast, the woodwork ends there. The two doors flanking the fireplace are set within plastered walls and are shorter, composed of six panels rather than eight. A wood cornice and baseboard carry across the walls, which are not built out from the plank frame exterior. The aubergine-colored tiles on the face of the firebox were not present the 1935 photograph of the wall; they probably were added in the 1950s restoration of the house. The northwest chamber and its associated spaces are located above the original kitchen and was part of the service zone of the house, even after a new kitchen wing was constructed in the early 1800s, the second floor of which was linked to this chamber via a service passage taken from the chamber. A small room, roughly seven feet square, is partitioned in the northwest corner accessed from the passageway. (A bathroom was installed here in the 1950s.) It appears that this configuration, along with updating the chamber with the addition of a Federal-style mantelpiece and trim, was created at the time the kitchen wing was built. Its prior configuration and connection to the original kitchen below is not known.

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INTERIOR - BASEMENT

There is a full, stone-walled basement under the house divided into four main sections corresponding to the plan of rooms above. The freestanding arched bases of the two internal chimneys are architectural features of most interest. The floor has been paved with concrete and brick bearing walls remain under the sides of the center hall. What probably were plaster ceilings have been removed over time, primarily to make the many visible repairs and replacements to floor framing.

INTERIOR – KITCHEN WING

Based on an assessment of materials and design features, it is evident that the existing kitchen was created in the early 19th century and probably updated in the 1840s (FIG.4, PHOTO 11). Kitchen technology changed frequently in this period, as cooking hearths were replaced with stoves, and wealthy families like the Severs would have kept pace with the improvements. The fundamental plan as documented in 1935 with a kitchen, pantry, service hall connecting to the dining room in the house and outside, and a laundry behind the chimney is intact and represents a well-developed service wing associated with the best houses of the period. A second floor, removed in the 1950s, was documented by HABS as having four unheated bed chambers and a heated common room. Since 1935, stairs have been removed from the service hall (no longer needed once the second story was removed) and the dividing partition with the pantry removed to create a single pantry/hall space with cabinetry added to the long walls. A window once on the east wall of the pantry has been converted to a door, which leads to a sun porch added to the rear of the house in the 1950s. A window appears on the north wall of the pantry on the HABS floorplan; it has been removed. Extant door and window trim relate to the early 19th-century construction date. The kitchen space has two windows on the south wall, corresponding with the front façade, and one centered on the rear wall, which also have Federal-style surrounds. The masonry, woodwork and hardware used in the construction of the cooking hearth and oven associate the features with early 19th-century materials and methods. The mantelpiece and closet door above it have trim with Federal-period profiles. A wainscot of wide pine boards encircles the room; all woodwork in the space has been stripped of its paint. The functionality of the kitchen has been brought up to current standards with the recent addition of a large island containing a sink and appliances. The back of the fireplace, oven and chimney are exposed in the room behind the kitchen, that appears to have originated as a laundry space. A doorway on the north wall leads to the exterior, and there are windows on the other three exterior walls. Cabinetry and kitchen appliances have been added to the west wall and a refrigerator occupies a space that the 1935 HABS floorplan indicate was once the location of a “brick set boiler.”

INTERIOR CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT

The plan of rooms in the house is essentially intact to those documented in 1935, which was the extent it had developed under the ownership of the Sever family. The most significant alteration to occur after this point was the demolition of the second story of the kitchen wing in ca. 1960. This resulted in renovations to the service entry hall below it and the removal of stairs no longer needed. In the main section of the house, a lavatory was added in part of a service passage in the rear of the first-floor center hall, with the rest of it opened up to the hall exposing a small window in the enlarged space. By 1960 the first-floor structure had been undermined by rot and

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insect infestation, and there is evidence of numerous efforts to repair and replace damaged joists and flooring. Current finishes are consistent with documentary photos taken in 1935. The most serious losses were the removal in ca. 1950 of three Federal-style mantelpieces that had been added to the fireplaces on the first floor. With the exception of that in the kitchen, woodwork on the walls has remained painted, but plaster wall surfaces have lost the patterning of wallpaper in favor of pale paint. Documentary photos depict the main staircase and hall wainscot as unpainted; all but the balustrade is now painted. The paneling in the southwest room on the first floor (Living Room) had been grain-painted before the HABS team arrived in 1935, probably applied in the 19th century; it was stripped down to natural wood and stained in ca. 1960. Original doors and their hardware have been preserved throughout.

CARRIAGE HOUSE

A two-story wood frame carriage house is sited a few feet west of the west end of the kitchen wing and is fronted by a wide parking area linked to the street through a gateway between granite posts (FIG.3, PHOTOS 6&12). It has a hipped roof and probably was built in the same period as the wing, and as other alterations were being made to the house in the early 19th century. It contained a workshop and second-story coachman quarters in the east end closest to the house, two vehicle bays closed by doors in arched openings, and a privy at the far end, converted into a third vehicle bay in the 1950s with an antique elliptical transom and keyed architrave added. Hinged doors in all three bays are of recent construction. Four windows with 8/8 wood sash are evenly spaced across the second story of the front façade, with a first-story door and second-story window contained on the east end. An enclosed passageway depicted on an 1885 bird's-eye view and extant as a "covered walkway" in 1935 linked the entrance on the east end of the Carriage House to the rear door in the Kitchen Wing. It was removed later in the 20th century. There are two windows on each story on the rear (north) façade and one window centered in the second story on the western end. Framing members visible on the interior are sawn with major members joined by mortise-and-tenon and minor members (studs and braces) attached with cut nails (PHOTO 13). With the exception of the altered privy area, the building is intact with original wood clapboards matching the historic siding on the house.

BARN

A wood-shingled barn is located east of the house on the property line (FIGS.3&6, PHOTOS 2&14-15). It is accessed by its own driveway leading from the street and is elevated on a low terrace with a stone retaining wall. Its framing materials and methods are similar to the Carriage House but the barn's outward design suggests it was built somewhat later, closer to the mid-19th century. Its gable roof is oriented to the street with a façade containing a large wagon door with a multi-pane transom in the center and smaller doors in each corner. A window is centered high in the gable and a ventilator is positioned on the ridgeline. Side walls contain no fenestration and a pair of smaller doors and a window are centered on the rear (north) end. The interior of the barn has an aisle plan with a wide center aisle framed by tall posts running front to rear flanked by smaller side aisles under the eaves (PHOTO 16). Elevated platforms erected above the aisles provided for hay storage in the upper reaches of the building and roof while different functions associated with stabling and care of domestic animals occurred at floor level. Other than having the floor area cleared of stalls, mangers, bins and other evidence of animal husbandry, the

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structure and plan of the building is intact and is a rare surviving example of an agricultural building of this scale in a town center context.

WELL HOUSE

A well is located just behind the kitchen wing (FIGS.3&11, PHOTO 17). It is contained in a wood housing that has a steep-pitched shed roof sheltering the well and its drawing mechanism. Sheathed in horizontal plank siding, the side walls are notched out back to the crankshaft. The sweeping curve of the opening begins at the roof and descends to a low front wall over which a pail can be retrieved and dumped into a trough protruding through the west side of the enclosure. Well-documented by the HABS team in 1935, the structure and its mechanism appear to date to the 19th-century; however, its exact construction history is not known. The well, itself, probably was dug at the time the house was built.

GARDEN SHED

A building is depicted in this location on the site plan drawn for HABS in 1935 and identified as a "summer house," and although the footprints are similar, the existing garden shed bears little resemblance in design and materials to such a building (FIG.3, PHOTO 14). It is a non-historic building.

SITE & LANDSCAPE

The HABS team documented the landscape existing in 1935 in great detail including mature linden and tulip trees along the street in front of the house within iron and wood picket fences and gates with granite posts, which continue to exist (FIGS.3&10, PHOTOS 1-4). It also pictured numerous fruit trees planted on terraces stretching on the incline running from the house to the rear lot line and in an orchard in the northwest corner. The two uppermost terraces were planted with vegetables. Groupings of American arborvitae and lilacs distinguished the southern and western edges of the terraces. Few if any of these plantings survive and the rear yard is largely defined by lawn. Yet the survival of the parcel approximate to its original dimensions is significant and provides an authentic setting for the historic buildings.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

William Sever House
Name of Property

Plymouth, Massachusetts
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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1755-1968

Significant Dates

ca. 1755
ca. 1825 Roof & interior altered, kitchen wing added
ca. 1842 Third story removed
ca. 1950 Second story of wing removed, interior restoration actions

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

William Sever

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

William Sever House
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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The William Sever House and its associated outbuildings and landscape is significant at the local and state levels of significance under National Register Criterion B for its association with a successful merchant and shipbuilder who served in the legislature of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and the Commonwealth and who played an important role in the Revolutionary War and contributed to the progress of commerce in the Town of Kingston and the City of Boston. William Sever (1729-1809) joined the commercial shipping business started by his father, Nicholas Sever (1680-1764), shortly after graduating from Harvard College in 1745. In 1754 he was elected to the colony's House of Representatives and the following year he married Sarah Warner and they began planning a house in which to live in Kingston. Sever became president of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress when it first met on July 26, 1775 and was in charge of its official correspondence throughout the War of Independence. In Kingston, acting as an agent of the government, Sever and shipbuilder William Drew constructed, armed and supplied privateer vessels, the spoils from which he sold for the benefit of the rebellion. After the war, William Sever spent two terms in the Massachusetts Senate and locally as a judge of the Court of Common Pleas. He then retired to his Kingston home where he pursued "literary pursuits, agricultural amusements and social intercourse." The house is also significant under Criteria A and C at the local level. Under Criterion C, it is significant as a distinctive example of 18th-century Colonial domestic architecture associated with a successful merchant who served in the legislature of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and the Commonwealth and under Criterion A for its association with William Sever's role in the progress of commerce in the Town of Kingston and the City of Boston. The substantial fashionable house he built for his family survives essentially intact from the roof down with its elegant entry hall distinguished by a long, paneled staircase with elaborate turned balustrade and principal rooms containing paneled fireplace walls with fireboxes framed by Delft tiles. The plank-frame house, reputedly constructed with a gambrel roof, epitomized the design of elite houses built in mid-18th-century on the South Shore. It likely was Sever's grandson, James N. Sever (1793-1869) who replaced the gambrel roof with a third story and hipped roof and added a two-story kitchen wing sometime after he married Mercy Foster Russell in 1819. Other than moving the kitchen into the new wing, few changes were made to the house other than the addition of Federal-style mantelpieces to the existing paneled chimneybreasts. The roofline was changed again in ca. 1842 when the third story was removed and the hipped roof lowered to its current position. The top story of the kitchen wing was removed and its hipped roof lowered in the 1950s. By that time the house had finally been sold out of the Sever family after 200 years and four generations. The house maintains its village presence on an approximately two-acre landscaped lot with an early-19th-century carriage house, a mid-19th-century barn, an antique well house, and a terraced back yard once planted with gardens. The house retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Its period of significance begins in 1755, the year it was built, and ends in 1968, 50 years from the present.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

Architecture

The William Sever House is a significant example of elite domestic architecture in Southeastern Massachusetts from the 18th and early 19th centuries, particularly in its two-story scale, formal fenestration, central entrance with a Classical architrave, luxury of rooms and copious amounts of interior woodwork. Built for the scion of a prosperous Boston merchant trader in his native town where his ships and storehouses were based, the house reflects his status with wood-paneled interiors and a staircase with an elaborate balustrade made up of varied twisted newels and balusters rivaling those in the best Boston residences. Constructed with a plank frame, that is with a joined timber frame with interstitial studs replaced by thick planks attached to the sills and roof plates and fully enclosing the exterior and into which openings for doors and windows were cut. Plank construction is believed to have been common on the South Shore, and examples are to be found throughout New England, but it is possible that Sever's choice of this construction method was related to his business of shipping an abundance of lumber from Kingston up and down the Atlantic coast. A third story and hipped roof are said to have replaced a gambrel roof considered outmoded by the next generation of Severs to occupy the house in ca. 1825. A two-story, hipped-roof kitchen wing also was added in that period as household technology advanced, and it was fashionable to relegate domestic work to modern appendages as a sign of progress. The kitchen was updated a generation later and the third story of the house was removed and the hipped roof lowered, perhaps for structural reasons. The unheated chambers above the kitchen were removed with the second story of the wing in the 1950s. With improvements and changes in decorative treatments during the nearly 200 years the Sever family owned and occupied it, the house is a significant artifact reflecting the continuity and change in the historic domestic architecture of the state.

Commerce

The William Sever House is a significant landmark in the commercial history of Kingston and of coastal and international trade in the 18th and 19th centuries. From the time William Sever's father, Nicholas Sever, began the family's enterprises in the 1720s until the late 1800s when his grandsons divested from maritime trade, the Severs had an important presence in the state's commerce. From the small town of Kingston, set inland from a small bay on the Jones River, the Severs commanded a large fleet of sloops and schooners that transported goods along the Atlantic coast and made voyages to the West Indies and Europe; they also owned boats that fished on the Outer Banks and captured whales. The scale and wide reach of their activities far exceeded the Kingston context. Their financial success involved the family in the development of shipbuilding, lumbering, iron making, canal and railroad building, and banking. The buildings and structures associated with the Severs' business no longer exist, directing focus on the house as the representation of this significant history.

William Sever House
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Maritime History

Related to the commercial theme, the Sever House is significant in the family's association with maritime history. Due to their commercial activities, the Severs fostered the development of the Jones River landing in Kingston into a major shipbuilding center and trading center. By one accounting, the Severs owned seventeen ships in the 18th century, all of them constructed by Kingston builders. During the Revolutionary War, William Sever was an agent of the Provincial Congress directing the building of ships for privateer actions against British shipping and selling the booty for the benefit of the patriot cause.

Politics/Government

As a community leader, William Sever held a number of local municipal and judicial positions during his lifetime, but he also served in the House of Representatives of the Massachusetts Colony and on the Governor's Council. From there he shifted his loyalties to the Provincial Congress at the beginning of the Revolutionary War Era. An experienced statesman, Sever was appointed head of this body on a number of occasions and was informally known as the "President of Massachusetts." He also was active in the local Committee of Correspondence and applied his knowledge of the sea to direct the building of ships for the colonists' privateer navy. He remained involved in government briefly after the war, as a state senator, a representative at the Massachusetts convention to ratify the U.S. Constitution, and a member of the convention casting electoral votes in the first two presidential elections.

BACKGROUND

William Sever (1729-1809), sometimes called Judge Sever or Squire Sever, a local honorific, was born in Kingston, Plymouth County, Massachusetts, where his father, Nicholas Sever had settled the year before and married his mother, Sarah Warren Little. Nicholas Sever (1680-1764) was a native of Roxbury where his grandfather, Robert Seaver [*sic*], had settled upon arriving from England in 1634. Graduating from Harvard College in 1701, Nicholas studied for the ministry and answered a call in 1711 from the Congregational Church in Dover, New Hampshire. Apparently, he was not suited for the vocation; he was dismissed from the church in 1715 and returned to Harvard as a tutor. There is a gap in his personal history for the next decade before he stopped at Little's Tavern in Kingston while "on a horseback journey to Cape Cod for the benefit of his health."⁴

It was there he met and married the Widow Little and took up residence at her tavern (still extant at 191 Main Street, KIN.90). Yet, Sever was attracted to Kingston for more than romance, for he quickly invested in shipping and trade in the small Atlantic port; he also evidently brought with him the financial resources to undertake the venture. According to one account, with his first sloop, named "Harvard," he engaged in the wood trade. "This was the nucleus of a fleet which sought out the cod and the wale of the north, the molasses of the Islands, and the manufactured

⁴ *Report of the Proceedings and Exercises at the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of Kingston, Mass., June 27, 1876 (1876)*, 111.

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goods of Europe.”⁵ As Nicholas Sever became successful in business, he emerged as an important figure in local affairs as the administrator of many estates, school committee member, town assessor, justice of the peace, and moderator of town meetings.

Nicholas and Sarah Sever had three sons—William, James, and John—all born in Kingston. James died young and when they came of age (and graduated from Harvard), William and John joined their father in the shipping business. The firm of Nicholas Sever and Sons are known to have owned seventeen vessels.⁶ They also owned an interest in an iron furnace in Bridgewater.⁷ John Sever died in 1760 leaving his brother, William, sole heir to the family’s enterprises and fortune. He also continued his father’s role in public service both locally, as town clerk and justice of the peace, and in Boston when in 1754 Kingston sent Sever to the House of Representatives.

On December 2, 1755, William Sever married Sarah Warren (1730-1797), daughter of James Warren and Penelope Winslow of Plymouth, and they built a large new house on approximately three acres on the hillside above his parents’ home. Square in plan and two stories in height with a gambrel roof, the house was a local showplace. William and Sarah Sever eventually had three sons, named William, James, and John, and two daughters, Sarah and Ann.

William Sever returned to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1766 where he voted with the Whig majority in opposition to the liquor tax and the recall of the Circular Letter.⁸ In 1769 he was elected to the Governor’s Council, a position he held until 1774 when he joined the Provincial Congress. Because of his experience and seniority, Sever was appointed to head the Congress and under the powers formerly held by the General Court was declared “President of Massachusetts” and endowed with the governor’s executive powers; he also was head of the Standing Committee of Both Houses, which was the government when the General Court was not in session. Sever would serve in this capacity, on and off, for the duration of the Revolutionary War Era and carried on much of the official state correspondence with the provincial congress and military. He also was a member of the Kingston Committee of Correspondence and headed the committee to buy firearms.⁹

As the Agent for the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts for the southern district, William Sever arranged for the construction, arming and supplying of vessels of war, or privateers, and

⁵ Clifford K. Shipton, *Biographical Sketches of Those Who Attended Harvard College in the Classes 1701-1712* (Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society, 1937), 94.

⁶ Henry M. Jones, *Ships of Kingston* (Plymouth MA: Memorial Press, 1926), 15.

⁷ Shipton, *Biographical Sketches of ... Harvard Classes 1701-1712*, 94.

⁸ The Massachusetts Circular Letter was a statement written by Samuel Adams and James Otis Jr., and passed by the Massachusetts House of Representatives in February 1768 in response to the Townshend Acts. Reactions to the letter brought heightened tensions between the British Parliament and Massachusetts, and resulted in the military occupation of Boston by the British Army, which contributed to the coming of the American Revolution.

⁹ Clifford K. Shipton, *Biographical Sketches of Those Who Attended Harvard College in the Classes 1741-1745* (Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society, 1960), 576-577.

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disposed of their prizes for the benefit of the war effort. In 1776 the building of the brig "Independence" was completed in Kingston by William Drew and launched.¹⁰ How many other ships were built and/or put into the service under Sever's supervision is not known. Under the new constitution of Massachusetts, Sever served two terms as senator from Plymouth County and was a member of the convention to ratify the Constitution of the United States. He served four times as president of the conventions casting the state's electoral votes for presidents George Washington and John Adams. An ardent Federalist, he "beheld with aversion all partiality, duplicity and subterfuge in the administration" of Thomas Jefferson.¹¹

At the end of the war, William Sever turned his shipping and trade interests over to his sons and retired to devote his attention to "literary pursuits, agricultural amusements, and social intercourse." However, this did not prevent him from promoting a proposal to dig a canal through the Barnstable isthmus or becoming president of the Plymouth Bank. He was one of the founders of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences on Boston and supported both religious and educational institutions in Kingston. He had served as an Overseer of Harvard College since helping to restore its library following a fire in 1764. His three sons all graduated from the institution. Sarah Warren Sever died in 1797 and William Sever was married for a second time to Mercy Russell a year later.¹²

William Sever's house descended in the family of his son John Nicholas Sever (1766-1803) who predeceased him by six years. His son William, who had relocated to Worcester, Massachusetts, died in 1798 and his son James Nicholas, lived in a house he built on Summer Street in Kingston. The 1810 U.S. census for Kingston lists John N. Sever's widow, Nancy Russell Sever (1767-1848), as head of a household on Linden Street containing their six children: William (b.1791), John (b.1792), James N. (b.1793), Charles (b.1795), Winslow W. (b.1796) and Sarah W. (b.1798). When he came of age and married Mercy Foster Russell (a different Mercy Russell from the one who married the elder William Sever in 1798) in 1819, her son James Nicholas Sever (1793-1869) became head of household and with his brothers John and Charles continued in the family's navigation and foreign trade.¹³ In addition to his association with the Sever family business, John Sever (1792-1855) has been described as keeping a general store and running a large farm in Kingston. The agricultural schedule of the 1850 census for Kingston revealed that John Sever owned 68 acres of improved land and 350 acres unimproved valued at \$10,000. (James N. Sever also owned 60 acres of improved farmland and 450 acres unimproved.) John Sever also was an organizer and the first president of the Old Colony Railroad.¹⁴ Charles Sever (1795-1834) lived in Plymouth where he practiced law.

¹⁰ Jones, *Ships of Kingston*, 17.

¹¹ Shipton, *Biographical Sketches of ... Harvard Classes 1741-1745*, 577.

¹² *Ibid.*, 578.

¹³ William Thomas Davis, *Plymouth Memories of an Octogenarian* (1906), 219.

¹⁴ *The Story of the Old Colony Railroad* (1919), 161.

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When James N. Sever died in 1869 his widow Jane R. Nichols obtained title to his grandfather's house under probate. She was his second wife; they married in 1845 after his first wife, Mercy Foster Russell died in 1844. In 1870 the census enumerated Jane N. Sever as head of a household in which only James's 36-year-old unmarried daughter Charlotte remained of the seven children raised in the house. When Jane N. Sever died shortly after, James N. Sever's nephew Charles William Sever (1834-1904), son of his brother Charles of Plymouth, was conveyed the property by the probate court. Charles W. Sever was a partner in a book publishing firm, Sever, Francis & Co. in Boston and lived in Cambridge with his wife Mary Caroline Webber (1841-1923) and five children: George F. (b.1866), Francis W. (b.1870), Martha (b.1874), Jane E. (1876-1956) and James W. (b.1878). Later, Charles operated Charles W. Sever & Co. with partner George H. Kent at 1354 Massachusetts Avenue; the firm sold books and was the publisher for Harvard University. Local Kingston directories list him as a summer resident on Linden Street.

Charles W. Sever and his family continued to reside in Cambridge, perhaps sharing the old Sever homestead with other cousins as a weekend and summer retreat. The house contained all the furnishings and collections amassed by the family since William Sever's time. When Charles W. Sever died in 1904, his widow had dower rights to the house, and when she passed away in 1923, still a resident of Cambridge with three unmarried children—George, Francis and Martha—it all was conveyed to George F. Sever in probate court. George Francis Sever (1866-1954) was a college professor who appears to have taught briefly at Columbia University in New York City (1910) and later at Harvard. He had retired by 1930 when he was the sole occupant in the Linden Street house; the 1940 census enumerated him there as well. In 1927 he acquired a small adjoining lot behind the carriage house from neighbor Arthur B. Holmes, and in 1931 he obtained a \$5,000 mortgage from the Plymouth Savings Bank, which he evidently spent on improvements to the house, such as adding indoor plumbing.¹⁵ A few years later the property was documented by the Historic American Building Survey. The project was partially funded by the Massachusetts Emergency Relief Agency and was directed by Boston architect Frank Chouteau Brown, Massachusetts District Officer, and George H. Higgins, Project Manager. Higgins was one of seven field workers, along with four delineators and photographer Walter C. Haskell. Twenty-five sheets of measured drawings were prepared including an unusual site plan (Fig.3). In addition, six exterior and thirteen interior photographs were filed.¹⁶ The most conspicuous alteration since that time is the removal of the second story of the kitchen wing, at which time it is likely that the 6/6 Federal-style windows in the wing—visible in the 1930s HABS photos—were changed to 12/12 Georgian-style windows in the remaining single-story section.

Arthur E. Beane, Jr. of Kingston purchased the house from George F. Sever in 1951.¹⁷ At the time, Beane was employed by the John Hancock Insurance Company. He and his wife Mary Elizabeth Beane were acquainted with the Sever family and they worked diligently to restore the

¹⁵ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1544 Page 273, Dec. 3, 1927 and Book 1608 Page 249, Feb. 3, 1931.

¹⁶ <https://www.loc.gov/resource/hhh.ma0872.sheet?st=gallery>.

¹⁷ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 2157 Page 438, July 23, 1951.

William Sever House
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old building. Thirty-five years later the Beanes sold the house to Olive Irene Smith and her husband, Sherwood S. Smith.¹⁸ The current owner, David N. Thomas, acquired the property from the Smiths' estate in 2003.

¹⁸ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 7389 Page 1, Dec. 30, 1986.

William Sever House
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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- Bradford, Alden. *Biographical Notices of Distinguished Men in New England*. 1842.
Davis, William Thomas. *Plymouth Memories of an Octogenarian*. 1906.
Hurd, Duane Hamilton, Ed. *History of Plymouth County, Massachusetts with Biographical Sketches of Many of its Pioneers and Prominent Men*. 1884.
Jones, Henry M. *Ships of Kingston*. Plymouth MA: Memorial Press, 1926.
Melville, Doris Johnson. *Major Bradford's Town: A History of Kingston, 1726-1976*. Town of Kingston, 1976.
Plymouth MA. Plymouth County Registry of Deeds.
Report of the Proceedings and Exercises at the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of Kingston, Mass., June 27, 1876 (1876), 111.
Shipton, Clifford K. *Biographical Sketches of Those Who Attended Harvard College in the Classes 1701-1712*. Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society, 1937.
Shipton, Clifford K. *Biographical Sketches of Those Who Attended Harvard College in the Classes 1741-1745*. Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society, 1960.
The Story of the Old Colony Railroad (1919), 161.
Washington, D.C. Historic American Building Survey. Documentation on the Squire William Sever House and others in southeastern Massachusetts.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # Mass 135
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

William Sever House
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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): KIN.76

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1.92

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 41.992238 | Longitude: 70.725206 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property is comprised of two parcels: a 1.43-acre lot on the north side of Linden Street that contains all the buildings and structures associated with the property and their landscape setting and a 0.49-acre lot opposite the first on the south side of Linden Street characterized as an open lawn that provides an open foreshore for the house. Boundaries are more precisely defined by a survey map appended to this nomination form.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary represents the historic dimensions of the property plus a small addition made in 1927.

William Sever House
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Neil Larson, Larson Fisher Associates, preservation consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC

organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission

street & number: 220 Morrissey Blvd.

city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125

e-mail betsy.friedberg@sec.state.ma.us

telephone: 617-727-8470

date: January 2019

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Figure List

Fig.1: Detail of 1885 Bird's-Eye View of Kingston, MA. William House pictured in center; Little's Tavern (Nicholas Sever's house) is the gambrel roof building above it.

Fig.2: Exterior view from SW, Arthur C. Haskell, photographer, Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), 1936.

Fig.3: Site Plan, HABS, 1935.

Fig.4: First floor plan, HABS, 1935.

Fig.5: Second floor plan, HABS, 1935.

Fig.6: Third floor plan & details, HABS, 1935.

Fig.7: Center hall elevations, HABS, 1935

Fig.8: First-floor parlor elevations, HABS, 1935.

Fig.9: Second-floor front chambers, elevations, HABS, 1935.

Fig.10: Fence, elevation & details, HABS, 1935.

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Photographs

Photo Log

Name of Property: William Sever House
City or Vicinity: Kingston
County: Plymouth State: Massachusetts
Photographer: Neil Larson
Date Photographed: 2016-2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 17. Exterior view from SW.
- 2 of 17. Exterior view from south, barn on right.
- 3 of 17. Detail of front façade from south.
- 4 of 17. Exterior view from SE.
- 5 of 17. Exterior view from NE.
- 6 of 17. Exterior view from NW, carriage house on right.
- 7 of 17. First floor center hall & stair looking north.
- 8 of 17. First floor parlor looking NE.
- 9 of 17. First floor living room looking NE.
- 10 of 17. Second floor parlor chamber looking north.
- 11 of 17. First floor kitchen looking west.
- 12 of 17. Carriage house exterior from SE.
- 13 of 17. Carriage house interior, upper story.
- 14 of 17. Barn exterior from SW, garden shed on left.
- 15 of 17. Barn exterior from NE.
- 16 of 17. Barn interior.
- 17 of 17. Well house from SE.

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Fig.1: Detail of 1885 Bird's-Eye View of Kingston, MA. William House pictured in center; Little's Tavern (Nicholas Sever's house) is the gambrel roof building above it.

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Fig.2: Exterior view from SW, Arthur C. Haskell, photographer, Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), 1936..

William Sever House
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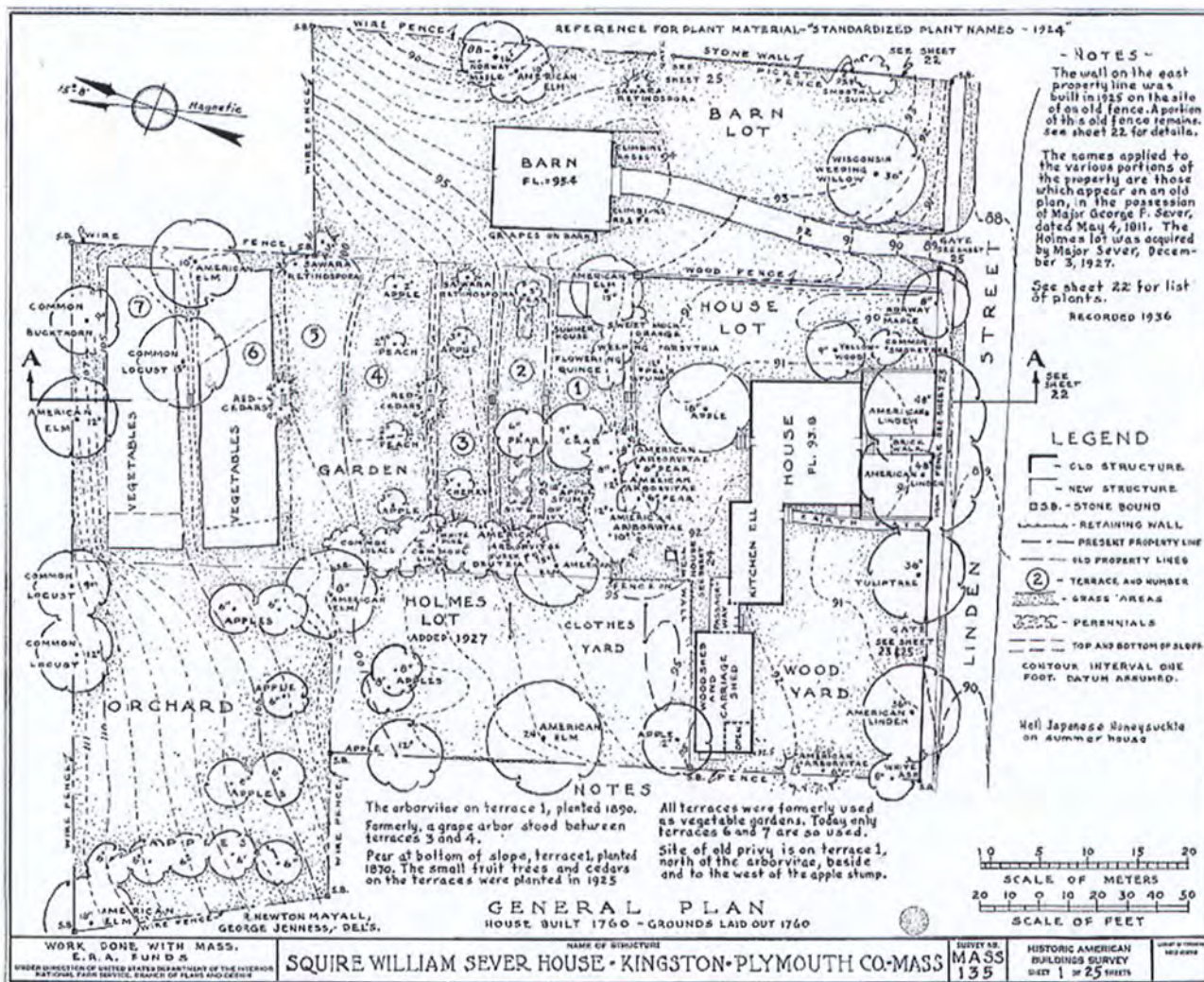


Fig.3: Site Plan, HABS, 1935.

William Sever House
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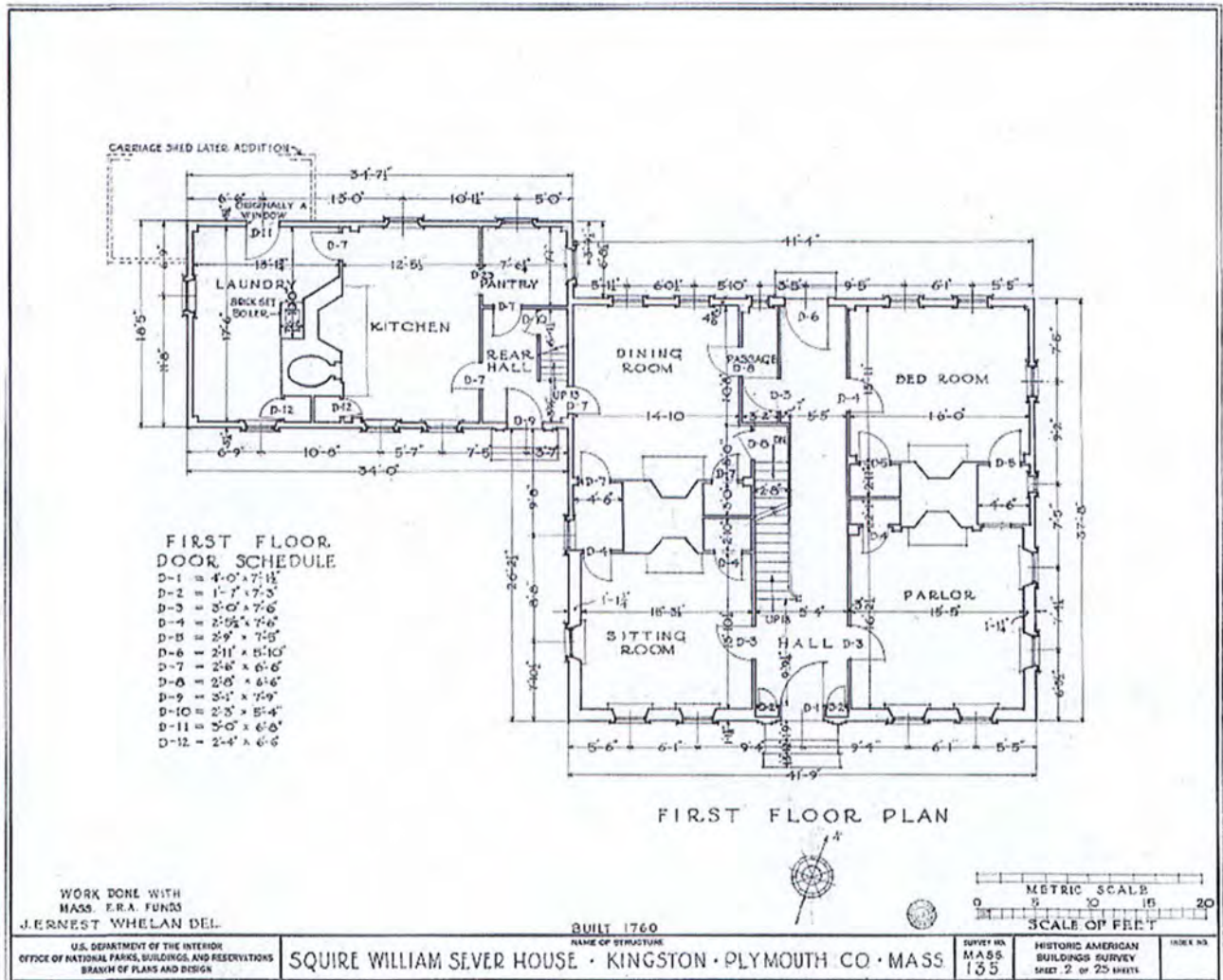


Fig.4: First floor plan, HABS, 1935.

William Sever House
 Name of Property

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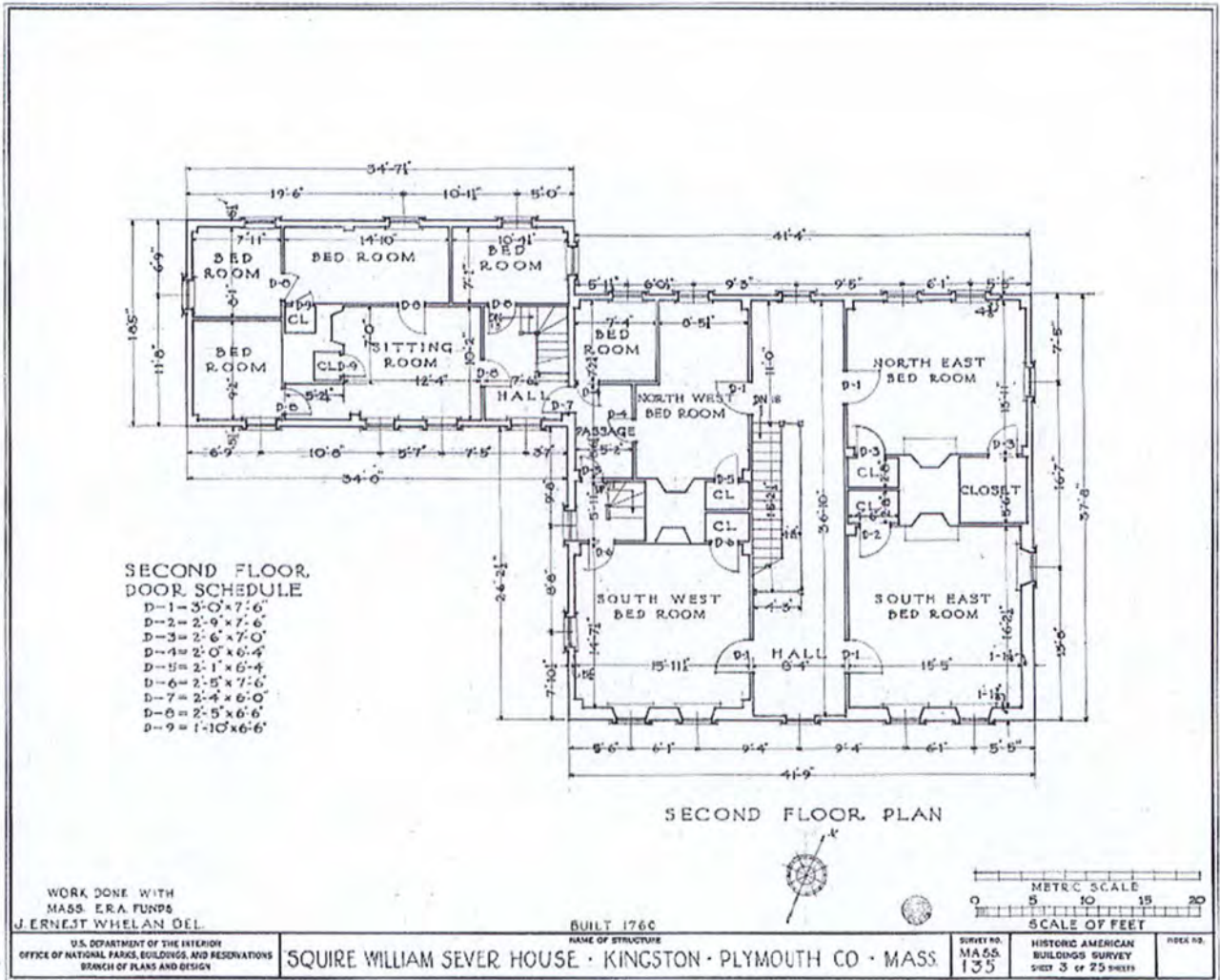


Fig.5: Second floor plan, HABS, 1935.

William Sever House
 Name of Property

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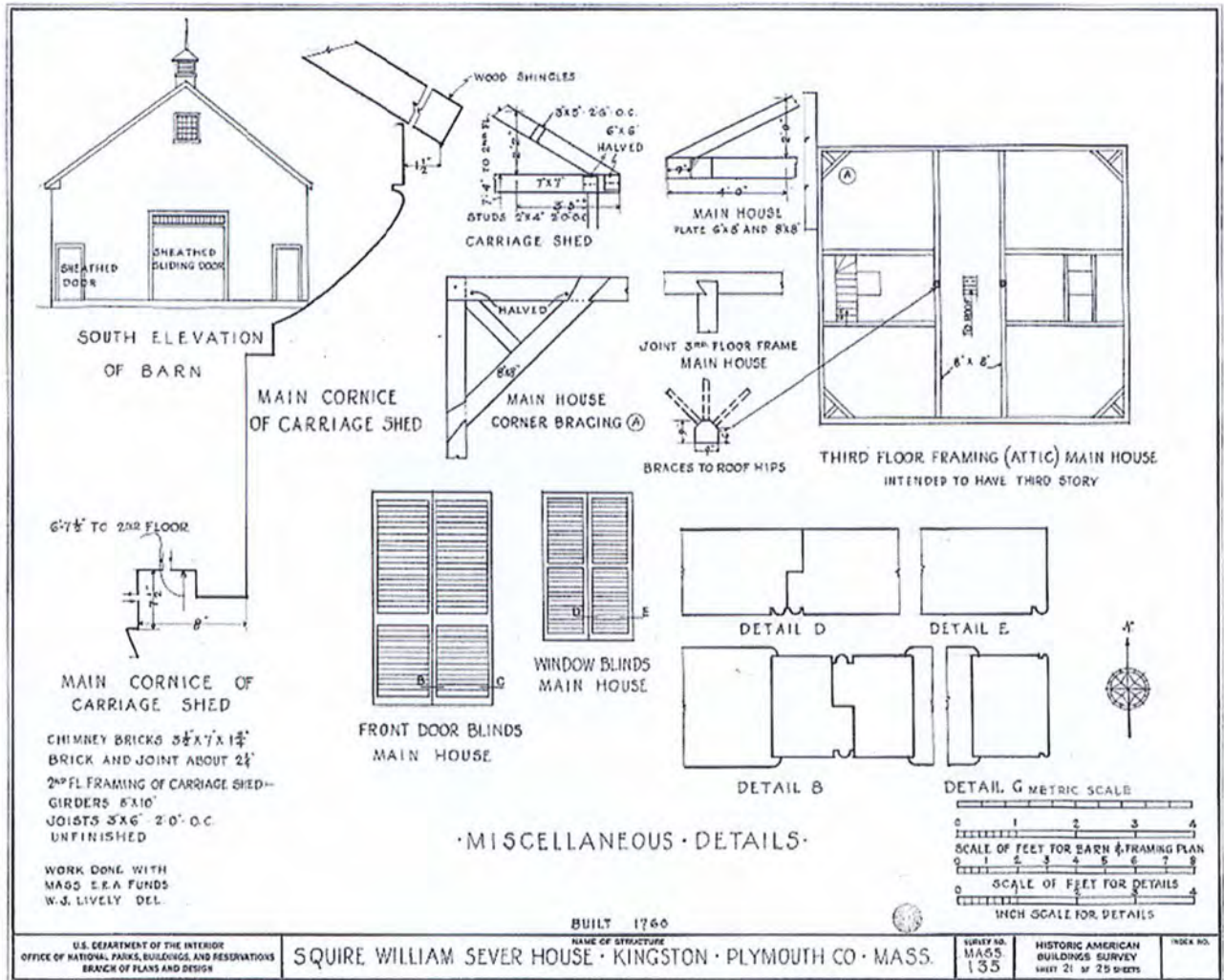


Fig.6: Third floor plan & details, HABS, 1935.

William Sever House
 Name of Property

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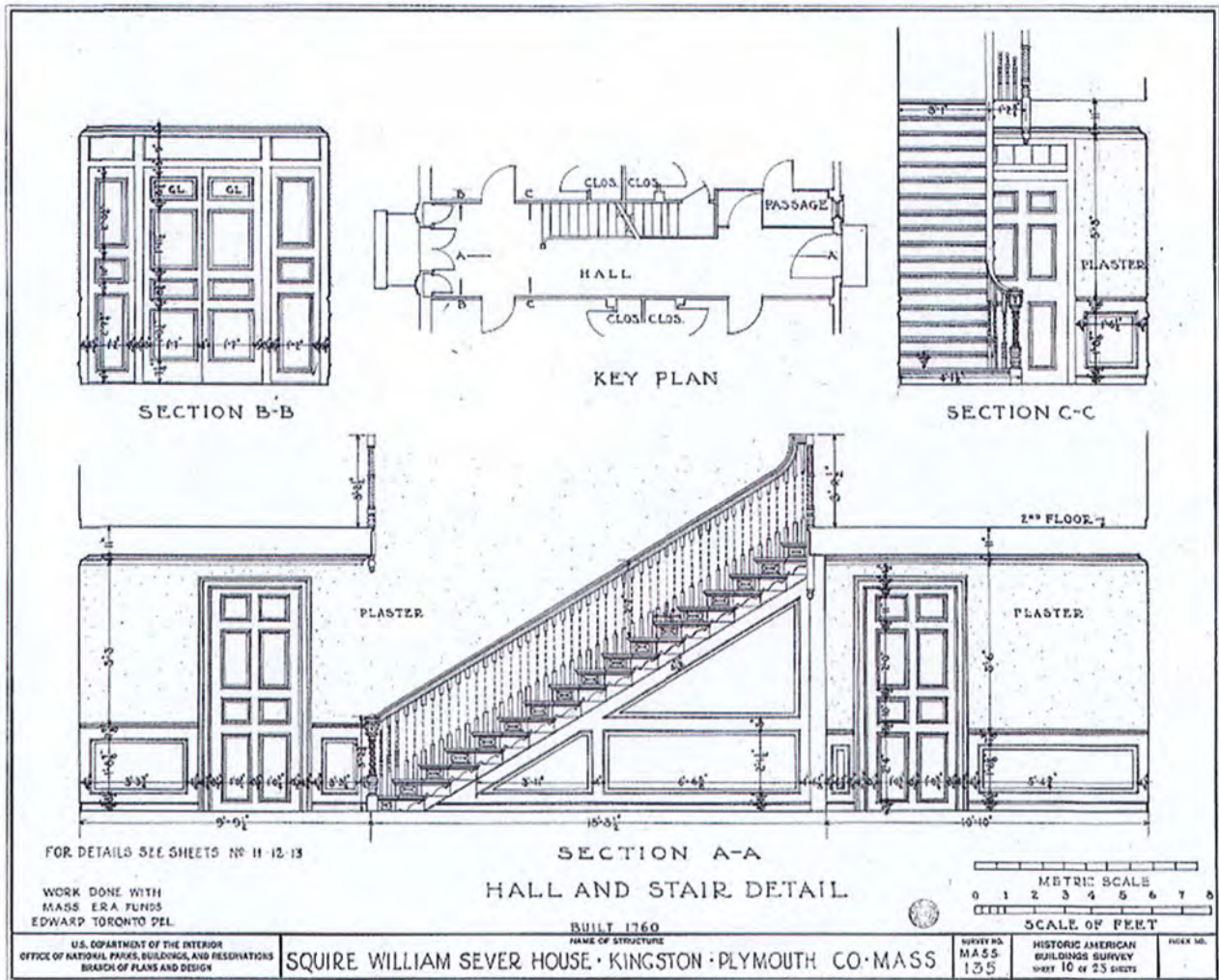


Fig.7: Center hall elevations, HABS, 1935

William Sever House
Name of Property

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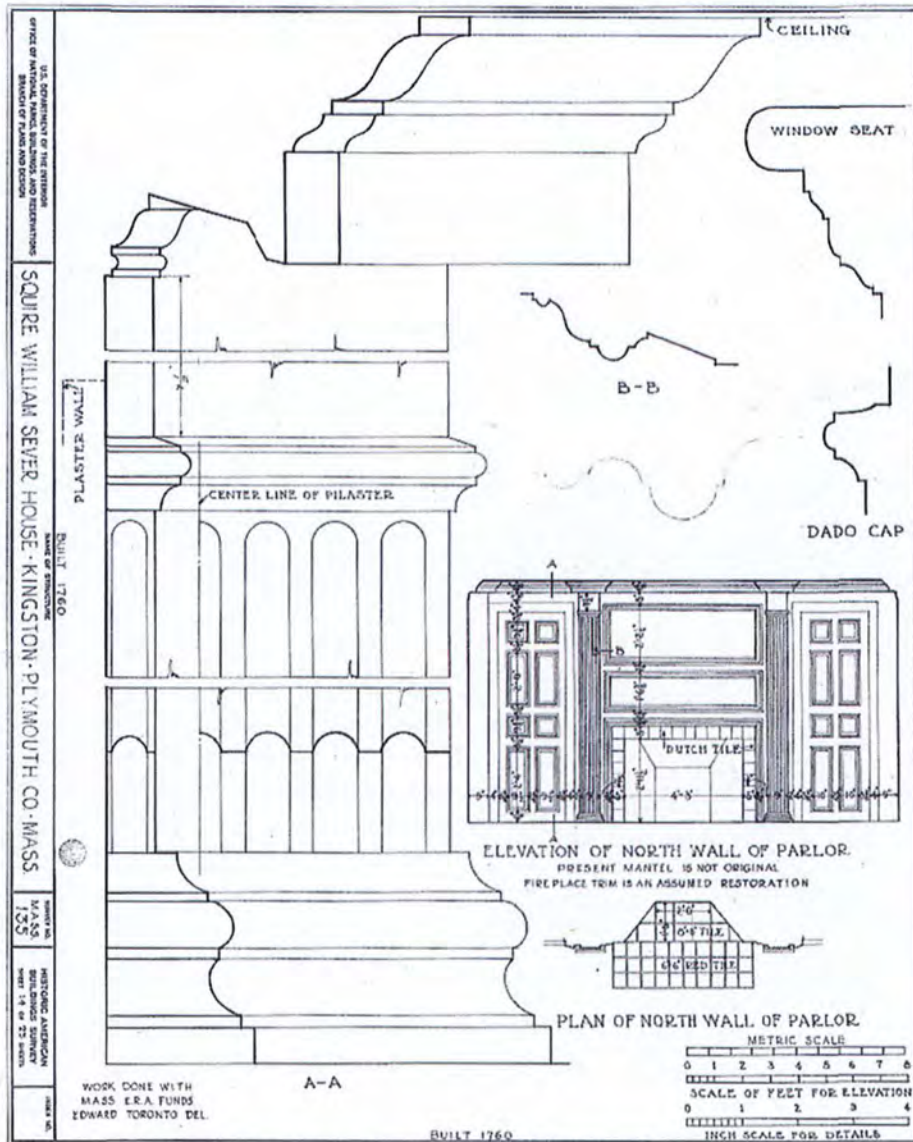


Fig.8: First-floor parlor elevations, HABS, 1935.

William Sever House
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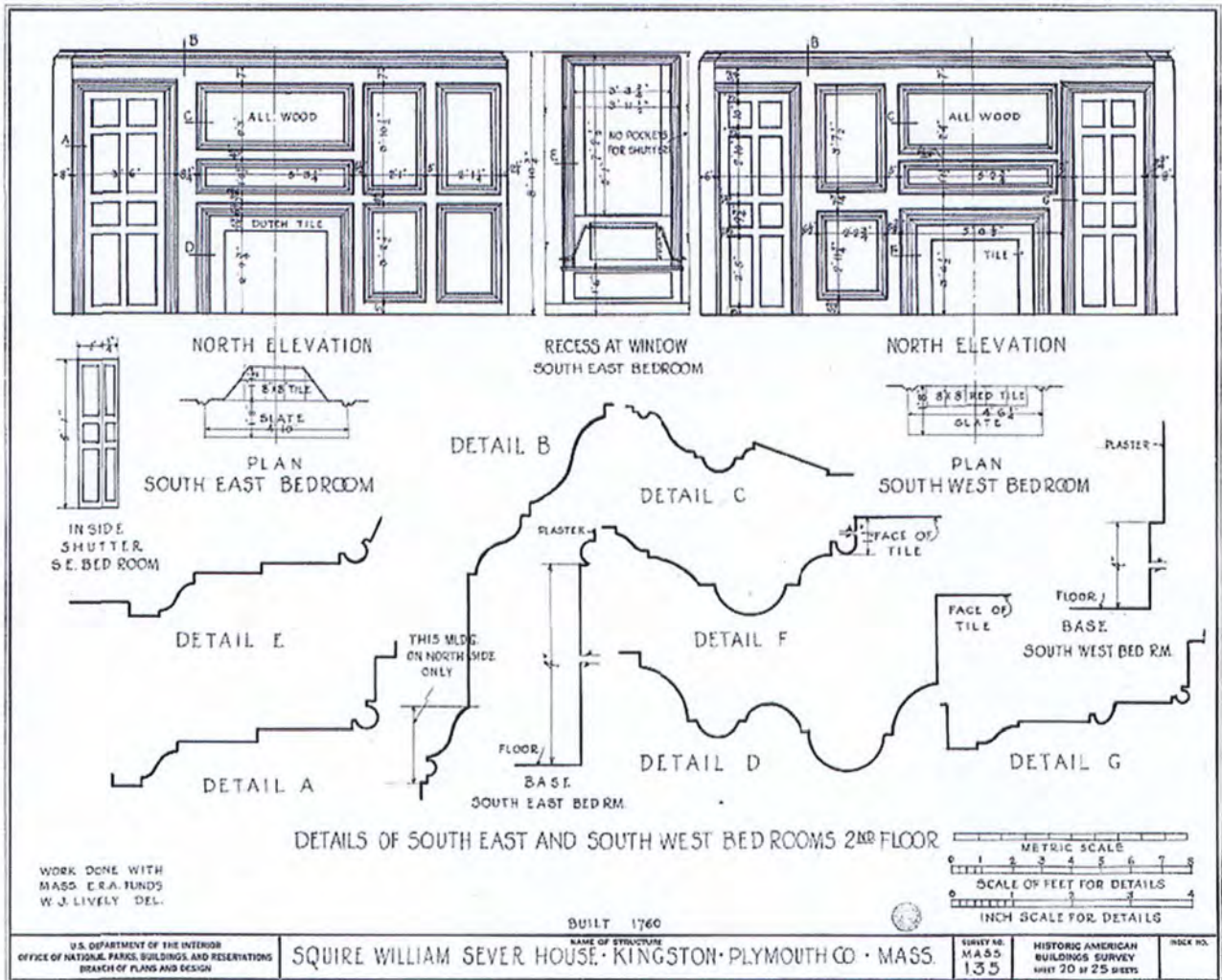


Fig.9: Second-floor front chambers, elevations, HABS, 1935.

William Sever House
Name of Property

Plymouth, Massachusetts
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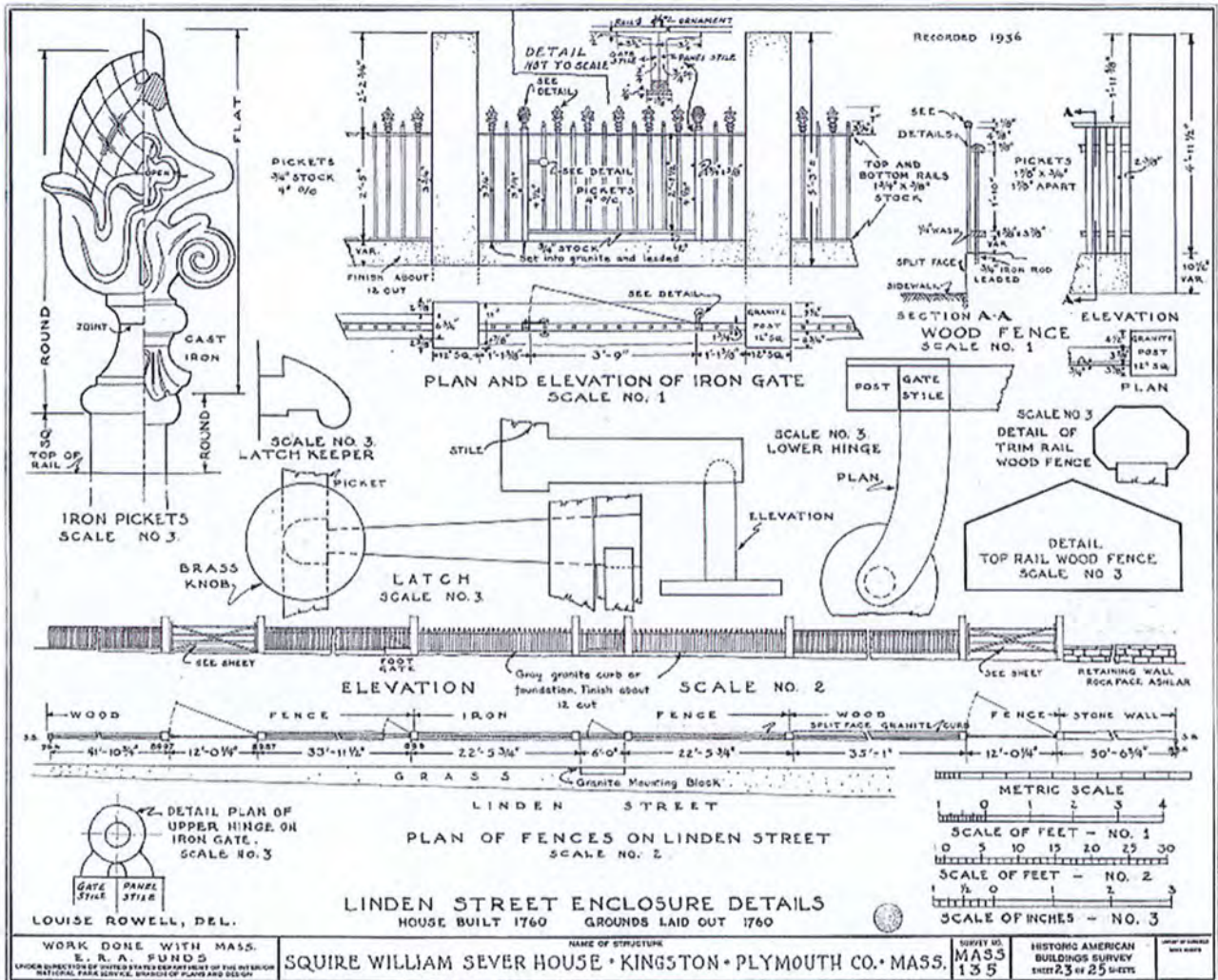


Fig.10: Fence, elevation & details, HABS, 1935.

William Sever House
 Name of Property

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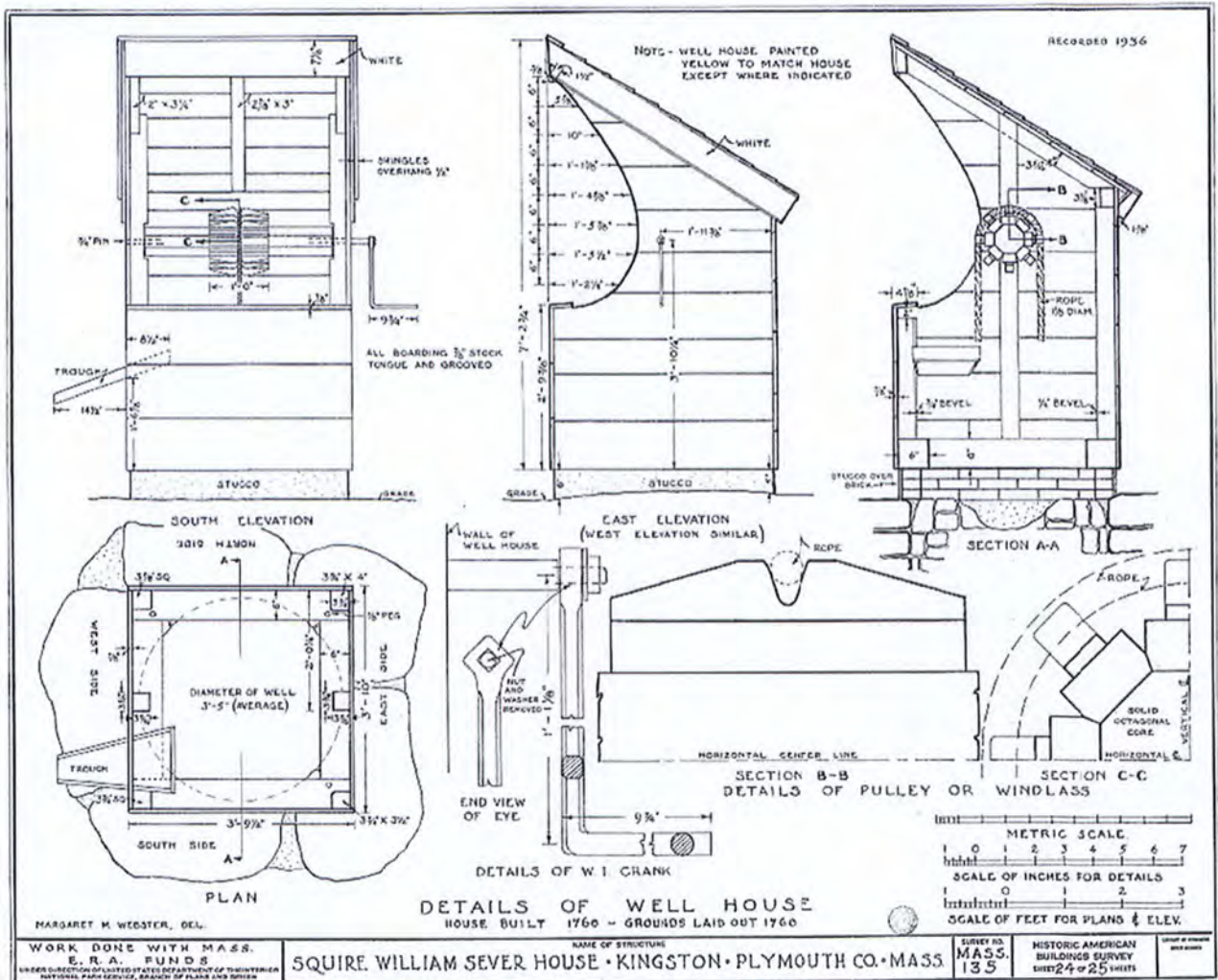


Fig. 11: Well House, HABS, 1935.

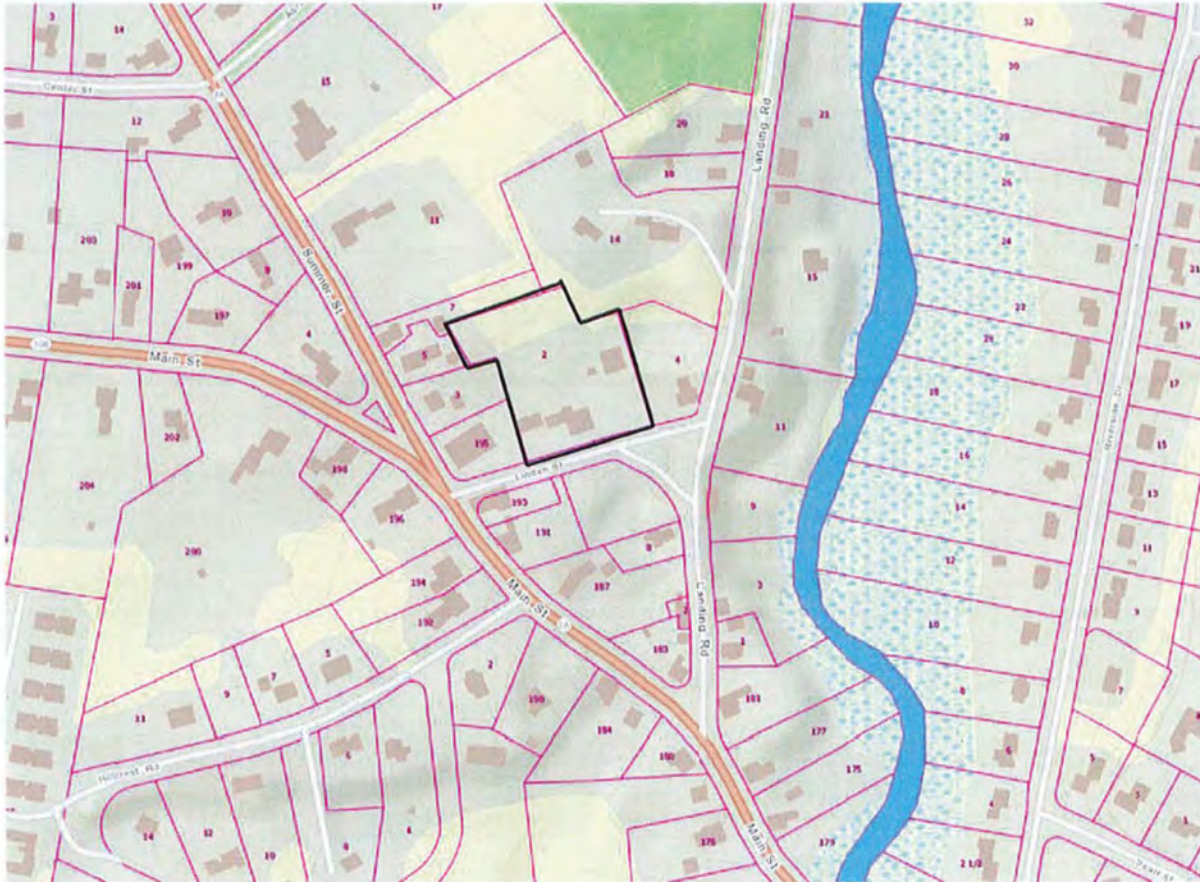
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

William Sever House
Name of Property

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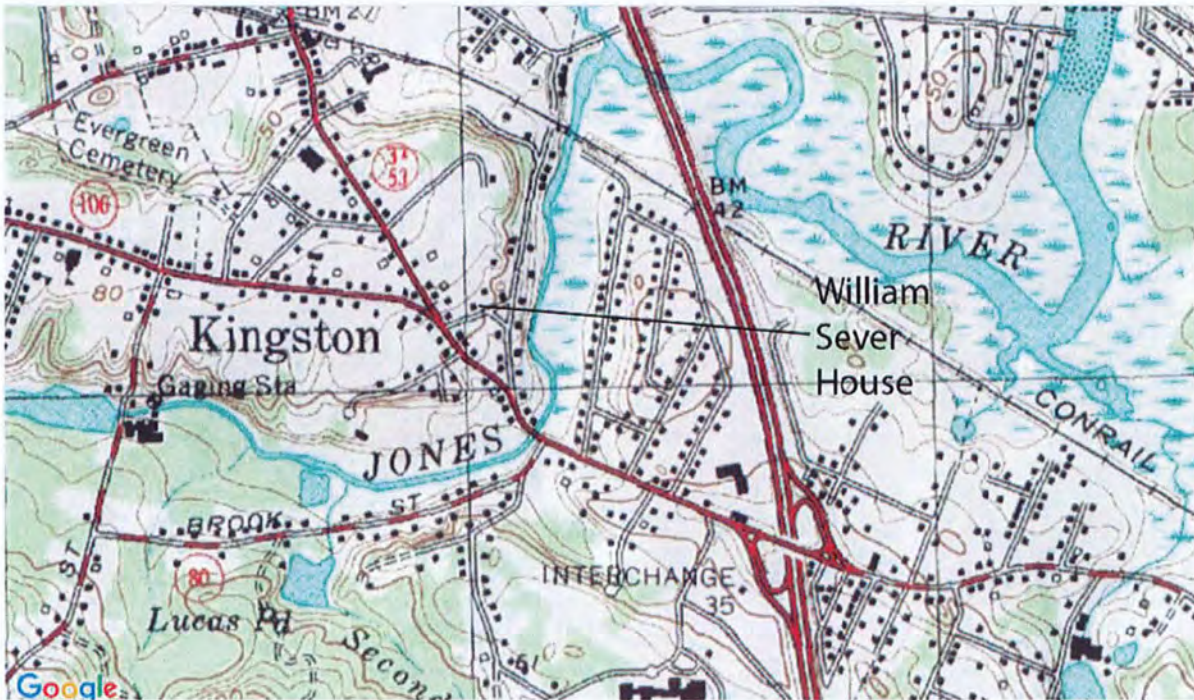
Maps



Nominated property outlined with heavy black line. Source: Mass GIS Oliver Parcel Viewer.

William Sever House
Name of Property

Plymouth, Massachusetts
County and State

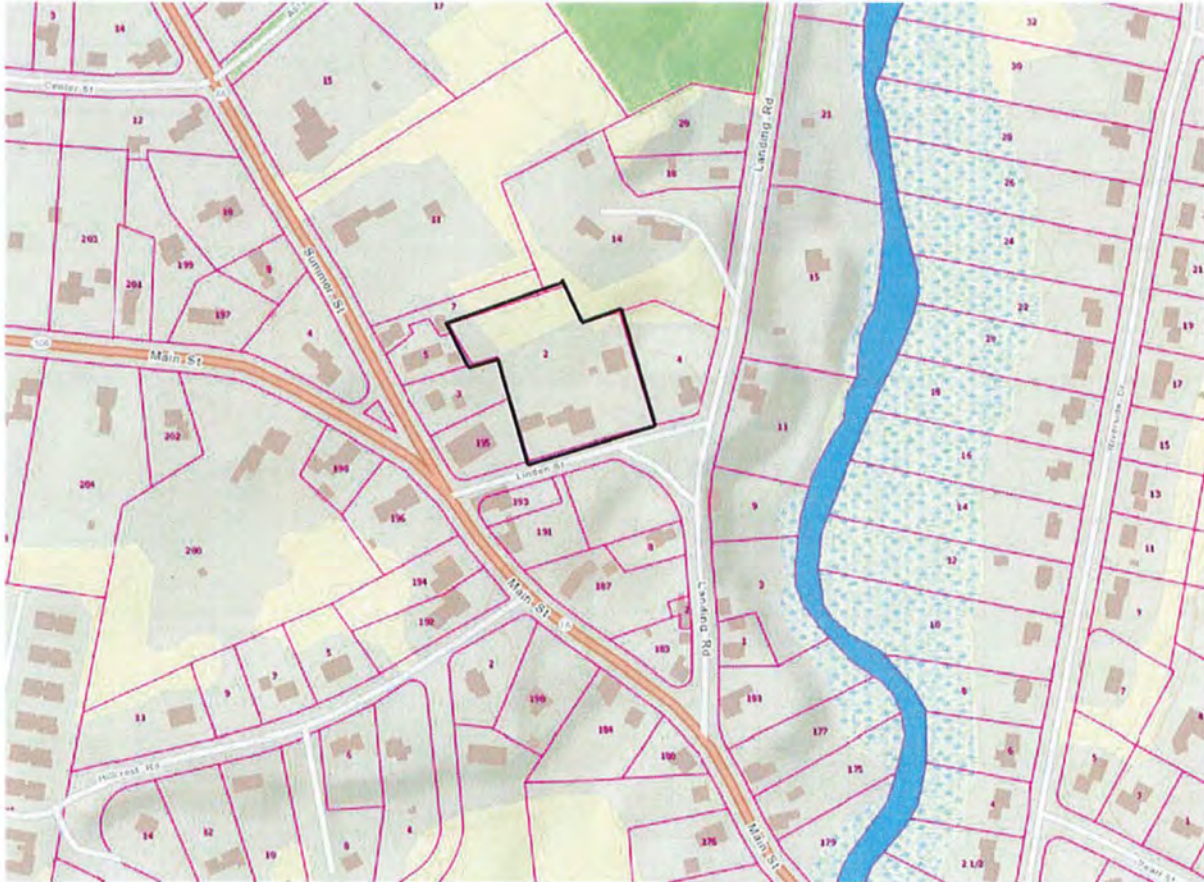


U.S.G.S. Topographic Map, Plymouth Quadrangle.

William Sever House
Name of Property

Plymouth, Massachusetts
County and State

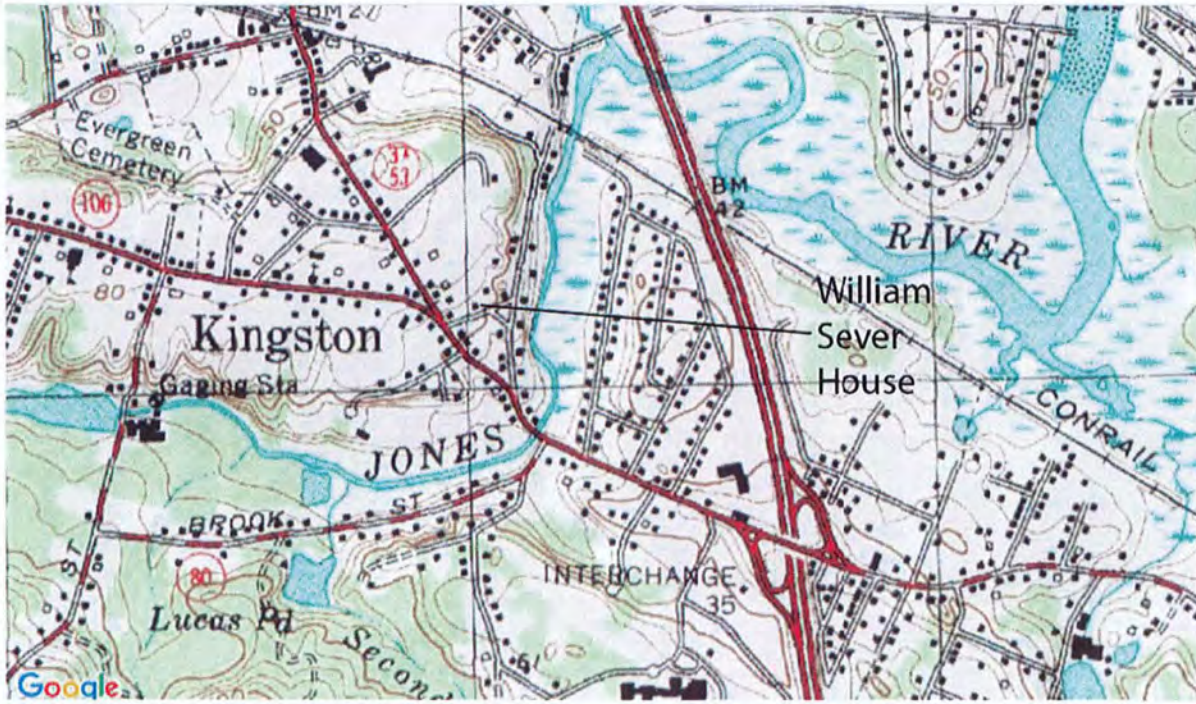
Maps



Nominated property outlined with heavy black line. Source: Mass GIS Oliver Parcel Viewer.

William Sever House
Name of Property

Plymouth, Massachusetts
County and State



U.S.G.S. Topographic Map, Plymouth Quadrangle.

William Sever House, Kingston (Plymouth Co.), MA



1. Exterior view from southwest.



2. Exterior view from south, barn on right.

William Sever House, Kingston (Plymouth Co.), MA



3. Detail of front façade from south.



4. Exterior view from southeast.

William Sever House, Kingston (Plymouth Co.), MA



5. Exterior view from northeast.



6. Exterior view from northwest, carriage house on right.

William Sever House, Kingston (Plymouth Co.), MA



7. First floor center hall & stair looking north.



8. First floor parlor looking northeast.

William Sever House, Kingston (Plymouth Co.), MA



9. First floor living room looking northeast.



10. Second floor parlor chamber looking north.

William Sever House, Kingston (Plymouth Co.), MA



11. First floor kitchen looking west.



12. Carriage house exterior from southeast.

William Sever House, Kingston (Plymouth Co.), MA



13. Carriage house interior, upper story.



14. Barn exterior from southwest, garden shed on left.

William Sever House, Kingston (Plymouth Co.), MA



15. Barn exterior from northeast.



16. Barn interior.

William Sever House, Kingston (Plymouth Co.), MA



17. Well house from southeast.





































The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

January 28, 2019

Dr. Julie Ernstein
Deputy Keeper
Acting Chief, National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW, Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Dr. Ernstein:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

William Sever House, Kingston (Plymouth County), Massachusetts

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: David N. Thomas
Neil Larson, consultant
Craig N. Dalton, Chair, Kingston Historical Commission
Elain A. Fiore, Chair, Kingston Board of Selectmen



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission



January 29, 2019

Dr. Julie Ernstein
Deputy Keeper
Acting Chief, National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW, Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Dr. Ernstein:

Enclosed please find the signed first pages of the following nominations that were sent in their entirety yesterday with the first page of each not signed:

George Close Company Building, Cambridge (Middlesex County), Massachusetts
William Sever House, Kingston (Plymouth County), Massachusetts
Samuel Edelman Apartments, Boston (Suffolk County), Massachusetts
Intervale Street-Columbia Road Historic District, Boston (Suffolk County), Massachusetts

My apologies for the oversight.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben Haley".

Ben Haley
National Register Assistant
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure