

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
	21

PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

Town Rehoboth

Address 96 Davis St.

Historic Name Kingsley House

Use: Present residence

Original residence

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1680

Source architectural detail, deeds

Style First Period

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric shingles

Outbuildings see text

Major alterations (with dates) see text

Moved no Date _____

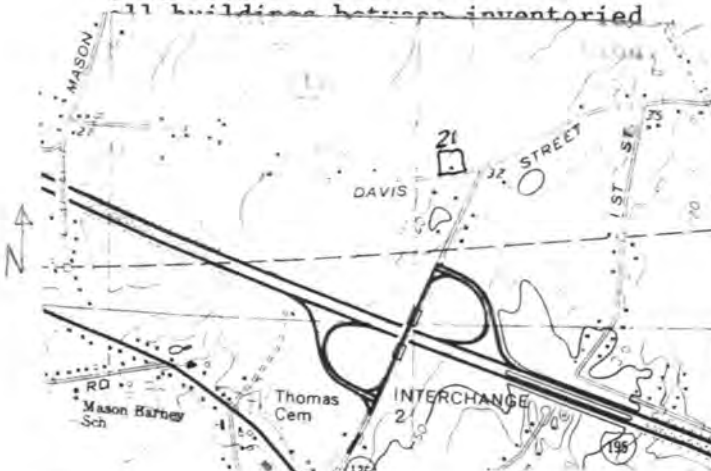
Approx. acreage 3

Setting 50 feet from road, surrounded

by fields

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation
to nearest cross streets and/or
geographical features. Indicate
~~all buildings between inventoried~~



UTM: 19/312110/4627500

Recorded by Leslie C. Abernathy III

Organization Rehoboth Historical Commission

Date April 1976; revised 1981

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

The Kingsley House is Rehoboth's stellar example of First Period domestic architecture, little changed since the mid 19th century.

Traditionally considered to be the oldest house in town with a probable construction date of ca.1680, it fits well into the medieval architectural tradition of mid to late 17th century houses in southern New England. The east portion may have originally been a one-room two-story "stone ender" with a subsequent one room

(Continued)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

The builder of the Kingsley House appears to have been John Kingsley. He was among the first Rehoboth proprietors, his name appearing in the first tax list of 1671. His pleading account dated 1676 is the only surviving written record of the terror and decimation brought to the first Rehoboth settlement by King Philip's War. It appears that, almost immediately, he moved east to rebuild and erected this house in 1677, leaving the house, lands and goods to his third wife, Mary at his death in 1678 (will dated 1677). When she died in 1678, the property then passed to his eldest son, Eldad Kingsley, an early settler of both Rehoboth and Swansea. He is listed as a non-resident taxpayer on the Rehoboth tax list of 1671 and two years earlier was listed as a resident of Swansea. Eldad's will, dated August 1679, was made as a resident of Rehoboth and gives to his wife all lands and housing given to him by his father.

The next documented owner is Aaron Kingsley, great-grandson of John Kingsley. Records show him to have purchased land of Edward Thurber in 1740. Aaron ran a sawmill on Rocky Run River and amassed a considerable estate in land and goods. He was one of Rehoboth's wealthiest men and headed the tax lists of both 1765 and 1769. At the time of his death in 1785, his loans to town residents totaled four hundred fifty-three pounds twenty-four shillings, more than four times his taxable value in 1769. His estate and land, including the sawmill, were divided amongst his wife and two daughters. Mention of the old and upright part of the house in his will helps date the rear ell.

~~The house and portions of the property remained in the Kingsley family until at least~~

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher) (Continued)

This account draws heavily from a paper written by Stephen A. Cole in 1978 and additions made to it by George Nan Burridge in 1980.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Rehoboth

Form No:

21

Property Name: Kingsley House

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Architectural Significance (Continued)

addition to the west. Framing varies slightly, especially in the roof, on either side of the chimney, as does internal room size (by about three feet) and front facade fenestration. Another interesting, though not determining factor, is the location of the original cellar, now a half cellar under the eastern portion. If truly an addition, the west side probably did not postdate the east side by more than a few decades. Definite major additions are a rear (north) lean-to added sometime before 1785 and a nineteenth century ell to the north end of the west side of the house.

Architectural evidence for this early construction date is seen in the chimney tree, or immense squared oak beam sixteen inches in width and the stairs. The latter consist of solid oak logs cut diagonally so that steps ten inches deep result. They are fastened to halved logs or string with large hard-headed spikes. This type of stair construction is typical of the seventeenth century.

Additional First Period elements include: chamfered summer beams, of which at least one has a lamb's tongue stop; gunstock posts; corner wind braces; and an originally all-stone chimney, later bricked above the roofline. Blocking of fireplaces, addition of nineteenth century mouldings, mantels and doors, plastering over the structural elements, and enlargement of windows appear to be the only alterations in the main or "upright" section of the house. The one-room deep plan remains unchanged, except for the installment prior to ca.1869 of a dividing wall in the second floor west room. With the exception of the doors and windows, all these alterations could easily be rectified. One original door remains leading to the attic. The windows were probably enlarged in the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century, perhaps at the time of the lean-to or ell additions. The windows throughout the house are relatively uniform, however, which serves as a visually unifying element, and the asymmetry of the front facade appears unchanged.

A fifth fireplace was added to the north side of the chimney stack at the time of the lean-to addition. Originally the lean-to probably comprised a large central kitchen flanked by two smaller rooms. Installment of a modern bathroom in the twentieth century has probably made the kitchen smaller. Interesting eighteenth century features are an early corner cupboard, with recently applied details, found in the westernmost room and two six over six windows with crown glass panes.

The ell addition to the west of the main structure is a single room with walled-in fireplace and late nineteenth century architect'ral details. Another small room projecting behind (north) is a former back entry, now a kitchen.

This house is one of, if not the oldest, still standing in Rehoboth. Certainly it is the most intact. The characteristics of asymmetry and vertical simplicity of form which are the hallmark of English medieval architecture are still clearly apparent.

Two structures dating from the seventeenth century which remain extant in nearby communities reveal a similar style and sequence of growth. These are the Philip Walker House formerly of Rehoboth, but now in East Providence, Rhode Island of 1679, and the Makes Homestead, dated ca.1664, of North Swansea.

(Continued)

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Rehoboth	Form No: 21
Property Name: Kingsley House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Architectural Significance (Continued from page 2)

Two other major structures stand today associated with the Kingsley House. The most distinguished is a handsome end opening barn northeast of the house probably built between 1830 and 1900. This is the second barn on the property replacing one mentioned in Aaron Kingsley's will of 1786. A long nineteenth century wagon shed nearby contains a very early batten door with strap hinges, said to have been removed from the Kingsley House. Although no archaeological survey has been conducted, the area in the vicinity of the house should be considered to contain subsurface material culture.

Historical Significance (Continued)

The house and portions of the property remained in the Kingsley family until at least the 1870s.

The Kingsley family were active in the local Baptist community as early as 1660. Construction of this house in the extreme southern part of Rehoboth represents a significant early effort to avoid persecution by settling far removed from the political and religious (Congregational) center of Rehoboth in present day East Providence, Rhode Island (est. 1743).

For the period and quality of its architectural design and construction and for its association with a prominent early family, the Kingsley House meets criteria B and C of the National Register of Historic Places individually.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 3 of 4

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Rehoboth Multiple Resource Area
State Massachusetts

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Goff Farm

Substantive Review

Keeper

Thomas L. Dwyer 6/6/83

Attest

22. Goff Homestead

Entered in the
National Registerfor
KeeperDelores Byers 6/6/83

Attest

23. Hornbine Baptist Church

Entered in the
National Registerfor
KeeperDelores Byers 6/6/83

Attest

24. Hornbine School

Entered in the
National Registerfor
KeeperDelores Byers 6/6/83

Attest

25. Horton, Welcome, Farm

Entered in the
National Registerfor
KeeperDelores Byers 6/6/83

Attest

26. House at 197 Hornbine Road

Entered in the
National Registerfor
KeeperDelores Byers 6/6/83

Attest

27. House at 30 Kelton Street

Entered in the
National Registerfor
KeeperDelores Byers 6/6/83

Attest

28. Ingalls-Wheeler-Horton
Homestead SiteEntered in the
National Registerfor
KeeperDelores Byers 6/6/83

Attest

29. Kingsley HouseEntered in the
National Registerfor
KeeperDelores Byers 6/6/83

Attest

30. Knapp, Seth, Jr., House

Entered in the
National Registerfor
KeeperDelores Byers 6/6/83

Attest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Horton, Welcome, Farm (Rehoboth MRA)
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 4/25/83Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84Date Due: 5/26/83 - 6/9/83Action: ☒ ACCEPT 6/6/83Entered in the ☐ RETURN
National Register ☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments: _____

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

☐ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below
☐ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name2. Location3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal Description6. Representation in Existing Surveyshas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UNIT References

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



3:2

Kingsley House
Rebecca MRA, Ma

3:1-4-26 10



RAHS# 21

3:1

Kingsley House
Rehoboth MAA, Mr



96 Davis Street
Kingsley House (form 21)
Town of Rehoboth Property Map
scale 1"=200'
1978

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000292