

# Kingston Historical Commission Dateboard Application and Checklist

Date Application was Submitted to the Historical Commission: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Owner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Researcher Name (if other than owner): \_\_\_\_\_

Researcher's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Researcher's E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) on board to read as follows: \_\_\_\_\_

**Date on board to Read:** \_\_\_\_\_ If Exact Building Year is known  
*If approximate date of building is known within 5 years, preface the date with a small "c" \_\_\_\_\_*

To receive a dateboard for your home, please submit the following:

- Copies of any information used to determine the chosen name and date. A short write-up of why that/those name or names was/were chosen including a brief history of the house which could include any anecdotes and interesting information about the original owners you discovered.
- NOTE: you can list both the male and female owner's/builders of the house.
- Descriptions of any significant interior or exterior features of the house.
- Photos of the house, showing where you intend to place the plaque, which should be on the oldest part of the house/structure facing the street.

The information above will be kept on file by the Commission. Please retain a copy for your own records. If approved, please send the Commission a photo of the completed sign once mounted on your home for our records.

Once your research has been reviewed, you will receive a pdf copy of this application via email and a paper copy via mail, with the signature of approval by the Historical Commission. You may then take the signed form to the supplier (Currently Signarama at 1 Royson Drive, Units 9 and 10. 781-585-1355) to order the dateboard. You will be responsible for any deposits and the final cost (Currently \$135 per sign).

**NOTE: The sign company will not produce the dateboard until they receive a copy of this application signed by the Kingston Historical Commission.** The sign company will contact you when the dateboard is ready for pick-up.

Application Received on: \_\_\_\_\_

On \_\_\_\_\_ at a meeting of the Kingston Historical Commission, the Commission voted to approve this application of for Kingston house dateboard as described below:

Approved Name on dateboard: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Approved Date on dateboard: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ (Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

(Printed) \_\_\_\_\_

**The above section to be completed by the Kingston Historical Commission**

## Sources and Suggestions for Researching the History of Your Property

1. Kingston Online GIS (Geographical Information System): This is a good place to begin researching your home. Locate your property on Kingston GIS at <https://www.axisgis.com/KingstonMA/> Print a “property card” which will list the recent owners and the book and page numbers where the corresponding deeds can be found at the registry of deeds.
2. Maps: The Kingston Public Library Local History Room has made several historical maps of Kingston available online at <http://kplma.org/maps.htm> Most of these maps indicate the names of property owners, particularly the 1830, 1857, 1879 and 1903 maps. If the location of your house is clear enough, you may be able to determine at a glance who owned your home in the above years. This can serve as a “jumping off” point for any deed research seeking the original owners/builders.
3. Registry of Deeds in Plymouth: This is where the bulk of your research can be done. Research can be done online at <http://www.plymouthdeeds.org/home/pages/search-records> Deeds back to 1885 are readily available through their online search page. Deeds prior to 1885 are available online but can be difficult to access. Generally, it is best to research pre-1885 deeds at the Registry of Deeds which is located at 50 Obery Street near Exit 5 off of Route 3.
4. Whether researching online or at the registry, begin with a copy of the deed to the current owner of the house. Towards the end of the deed, a book and page number will be indicated to find the deed belonging to the previous owner. Find this deed and note the book and page number of the previous owner’s deed and so on. You should be able to trace the ownership of your home back to the first owner. Note that each deed should mention a “dwelling” or “building” or “homestead.” When you find a deed that does not mention a building, you may have found what you are looking for. The “grantor” on the earliest deed that mentions a dwelling is probably the “builder” of the home. Then, by uncovering personal information of the people involved, such as a marriage date or birth date of a child, it is possible to pinpoint a year in which the house was built on the land.
5. Registry of Probate: The Registry of Probate is located at 52 Obery Street in Plymouth. You may find that the progression of deeds for your property is interrupted by the death of an owner. In this case, it may be necessary to go to the Probate Registry to look up the will and note its provisions regarding passage of ownership of the property.
6. Kingston Vital Records to 1850: To help determine when a house was built and by whom, you may need to consult this volume. It lists births, deaths and marriages. By looking up pertinent people involved with your house’s history, you may further pinpoint a specific date for your house. For instance, if you find from deed research that John Smith acquired your property with no dwelling on it, looking up Smith’s marriage date could suggest he built a house on the property in the year of his marriage. The volume can be read and search online at <https://archive.org/details/vitalrecordsofki00kings>

**Submit your completed application to the Kingston Historical Commission**  
**Kingston Town House 26 Evergreen St. Kingston, MA 02364.**  
Any questions: email the Commission at [khc@kingstonma.gov](mailto:khc@kingstonma.gov)