

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	HIN.627
Historic Name:	Cushing, Pyam House
Common Name:	
Address:	707-711 Main St
City/Town:	Hingham
Village/Neighborhood:	South Hingham; Glad Tidings;
Local No:	126-052;
Year Constructed:	1748
Architectural Style(s):	Georgian;
Use(s):	Multiple Family Dwelling House;
Significance:	Architecture;
Area(s):	HIN.D, HIN.S
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (04/28/1975); Nat'l Register District (07/24/1998);
Building Materials:	Roof: Asphalt Shingle; Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard; Foundation: Granite;
Demolished	No



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

HIN. 627

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

126-0052

Weymouth

D

627

MAD 15
7/21/98
20.116

LHD - 4/28/75

Town Hingham

Place (neighborhood or village) South Hingham

GLAD TIDING

707-711 Main Street

Name Pyam Cushing House

Present Three-family

Original Double residence

Construction 1748

Julian C. Loring records

Form Colonial

Architect/Builder _____

Material: _____

Foundation Granite blocks

Wall/Trim Clapboards

Roof Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures 2-car
ridge-roof garage and a garden structure.

Major Alterations (with dates) Additions: wing to
north rear, wing to south rear, 2-story bay
window, glassed in porch to south, enclosed
vestibule.

Condition Fair

Moved no yes Date _____

Acreage 33,600 sq. ft.

Setting Fronting an expanse of treed grass,
the property is located on the northwest
corner of Mill Lane and Main St., "one of
the longest streets of early houses and
unspoiled vistas in New England". (A. L.
Cummings, Patriot Ledger, 4/25/75).



Sketch Map

Draw a map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Attach a separate sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate North.

Recorded by Fannin/Lehner

Organization Hingham Historical Commission

Date (month/day/year) July 20, 1991

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *see continuation sheet*

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE *see continuation sheet*

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Although old Hingham houses are generally named for their original builder/owner, occasionally a later owner or their family is so well-known that an exception is made. This is the case of the Pyam Cushing House at 707-711 Main Street which stayed in the possession of the Cushing family for 200 years.

In 1748 Caleb Campbell (d. 1818) and Solomon Whiton built themselves a double house. They owned it jointly until 1754, the year Caleb married Sarah Dunbar (1733/1734-1821). The Campbells were the sole proprietors of 707-711 Main Street until they sold it to Pyam Cushing (1725-1776) in 1764.

A farmer by occupation, Pyam was a constable in 1755 and a selectman in 1770 and 1771. He was married to Hannah Lincoln (1729-1813), the daughter of Honorable Benjamin Lincoln (1699-1771). During the Revolutionary War he captained a militia company, was present at the evacuation of Boston, and died the following August. Pyam was a descendant of original settler Matthew Cushing (c. 1660) who emigrated from Hingham, Norfolk County, England to Hingham, Massachusetts in 1638. Matthew, who sailed into Boston harbor on the ship "Diligent," was the ancestor of all the families bearing this surname in Hingham.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

"Glad Tidings Historic District Study Committee Report," April 1975.

Hingham Journal. Nov. 24, 1911; June 28, 1912.

Lincoln, George. History of the Town of Hingham, The Genealogies, 1892, reprint ed., 1982, Vol. II, p. 37, 151-182.

Julian C. Loring Records

Robinson, Donald F. Two Hundred Years in South Hingham, 1746-1946. Hingham: Hingham Historical Society, 1980, p. 40, 41, 48, 83, 88, 230.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

HIN.627

Community: HINGHAM	Form No: D-627
Property Name:	

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

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (Continued)

707-711 MAIN STREET PYAM CUSHING HOUSE

Pyam's father was mill-owner Theophilus Cushing (1703-1779) the owner of 757 Main Street and the donor of the land for the 1742 Second Parish Church. His great grandfather, Daniel Cushing (1619-1700), served for 31 years as the third town clerk of Hingham, in addition to periodic terms as magistrate, selectman, and delegate to the General Court. Although he lived in the north part of town, he bought up most of the land fronting Main Street, at that time called "Country Road," from a point beyond the Second Parish Church, 685 Main Street, to Cushing Street, about 771 Main Street. The Cushings were by far the preponderant family in the Glad Tidings Plain until the 20th century; at least 18 of the houses extant today were built by Cushings.

Upon Pyam's death in 1776, the Colonial house was inherited by his son, Robert Cushing (1756-1825), a farmer and deacon in the church, who resided there until his death in 1825. His son, Pyam Cushing (1789-1865), was a bucket-maker, farmer, and selectman in 1847 and 1848. Buckets were perhaps the best known nineteenth-century product of Hingham. Beginning in 1830, the bucket industry became so pervasive that Hingham acquired the name "bucket town."

The younger Pyam's son, Caleb Cushing (1822-1893), followed him into farming, and inherited the paternal homestead following his father's death in 1865. He and his wife, Caroline Stodder (b. 1823), resided at 707-711 Main Street until Caleb died in 1893, the property passing to third generation farmer, Isaiah Cushing (1850-1907), their youngest living son.

Isaiah Cushing passed away in 1907, but his wife, Lydia Marie Jones, lived until at least 1931. Their daughter, Ada (b. 1878), retained ownership of the Pyam Cushing House until 1964, completing exactly 200 years of Cushing family ownership. MJF

HIN.627

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Hingham	Form No: D-627
Property Name:	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE 707-711 Main Street
Pyam Cushing House

The 1748 Pyam Cushing House is one of five Colonial houses in the Glad Tidings Local Historic District. Hingham is fortunate to have still in existence over one hundred and twenty Colonial houses which were built between 1637 and 1775. Many of the high styled examples reflect the classic Georgian mode which came with the English settlers. The style, developed by Inigo Jones, Christopher Wren and James Gibbs, was based on the Italian Renaissance vision of order, balance and dignity and on architectural details emanating from Roman antiquity. As the colonies became more established and prosperous, leading merchants and farmers were using pattern books (Batty Langley, Abraham Swan, William Salmon and others) to construct elegant Colonial houses. In small towns, vernacular versions were built; they were simpler and less grand, yet they retained the formal symmetry and classicism of their prototypes. The Pyam Cushing House is a fine example of a Hingham additive Colonial house which has grown incrementally. It was first constructed as a double residence, and later when it became a triple residence, further additions were built. Although the house has lost its original compact massing, it still retains the classical symmetrical facade, the central entrance, the five window front with the sash windows set tightly under the eaves, the eaves flush at the gable ends, and the large central chimney, all typical characteristics of the Colonial style of the mid-18th century. The additions include a two-story Italianate bay window to the south, a one-story room to the south, a ridge roof with dormers wing to the south rear with its own addition, a one and one-half story wing to the north rear, and in the Colonial Revival period, an enclosed vestibule was built onto the front. The Pyam Cushing House is an important component of the Glad Tidings Local Historic District for its association with one of Hingham's prominent families, the Cushings and as an example of a pleasant additive Colonial residence. MBL

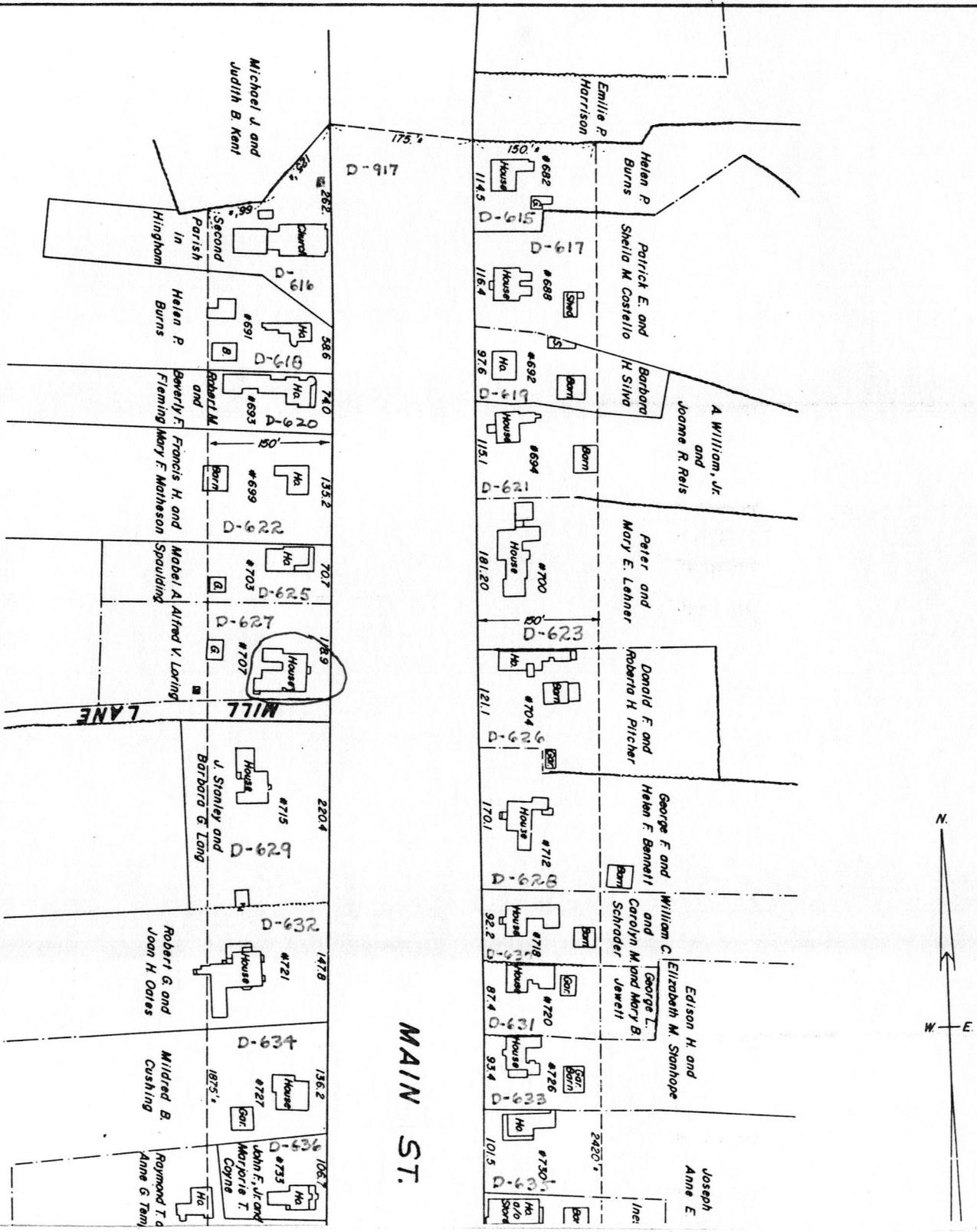
INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

HIN. 627

Community: Hingham	Form No: D-627
Property Name: 707-11 Main Street	

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



Staple to Inventory form at bottom

Area D HIN.627 154

FORM B - STRUCTURE SURVEY
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

2. Town Hingham
Street 709/91 Main St. (627)
Name Pyram Cushing
Original Use dwelling
Present Use home
Present Owner Alfred Loring
Date pre 1830 ¹⁷⁵⁰ Style _____
Source of Date 1830 map
Architect _____

1. Is this structure historically significant to:
Town _____ Commonwealth _____ Nation _____

Structure has historical connection with the following themes: (See also reverse side)

- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Art/Sculpture
- Education
- Government
- Literature
- Music
- Commerce/Industry
- Science/Invention
- Travel/Communication
- Military Affairs
- Religion/Philosophy
- Indians
- Development of Town/City

3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered _____

IMPORTANCE of site to area: Great Little None SITE endangered by _____

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: _____

WALL COVER: Wood clapboarding Brick Stone Other _____

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Cluster Elaborate Irregular

ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency _____ Simple/Complex

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony _____ Recessed _____

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork _____

FACADE: Gable End: Front/Side Symmetrical/Asymmetrical Simple/Complex Ornament

Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features: entrance way, side lights

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied 6/2

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured _____

OUTBUILDINGS _____ LANDSCAPING ✓ - fence.

5. Indicate location of structure on map below 6. Footage of structure from street _____
Property has _____ feet frontage on street

Recorder AW
For MHC SEP 1967

68,1050 Photo IX#16 E-12-131-1-159

NOTE: Recorder should obtain written permission from Commission or sponsoring organization before using this form. (See Reverse Side)

FOR USE WITH IMPORTANT STRUCTURES (Indicate any interior features of note)

Fireplace

Stairway

Other

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

REFERENCE (Where was this i

BIBLIOGRAPHY



Original Owner: _____

Deed Information: Book Number _____ Page _____, _____ Registry of Deeds