

# Jonathan Kingsbury House (1779)



This is the oldest standing house in Needham Heights, and the 11th oldest house in town overall. The Kingsbury family was one of the original settlers of the Dedham Grant in 1636, and held large tracts of land in the North Parish (later Needham), especially along the central stretch of Webster Street between Great Plain Avenue and Highland Avenue. Webster Street was called Kingsbury Street until about 1850. There are numerous antique Kingsbury houses still standing in this part of town, and old maps show that there were many more.

Jonathan Kingsbury was a weaver. He served with the East Company of the Needham militia at Lexington in 1775, and also at Dorchester Heights and Boston in 1776 and 1778. At the time of his marriage to Jemima Skinner, he was sharing a house with his uncle, but as his family began to grow (they would have at least ten children) he needed more room and built a house for himself in 1779.