

14 Concord Street (circa 1846-48)

From: Boston Landmark Commission's Charlestown Historic Resources Study 1981 (E. W. Gordon, Consultant)*:



14 Concord Street

2015

Number 14 Concord Street is a wood frame, wood shingle-clad Greek Revival house of modest scale. The house was originally clad with clapboards. It has an unusual form, standing with its narrow, two bay wall facing Concord Street, and the main entrance on its three bay façade facing Concord Avenue. The edges of the house are crisply defined by narrow base and corner boards. A single gable roofed dormer is at the center of the Concord Street roof slope. A low, one story shed-roofed ell projects from the sidewall.

The house has a recessed entrance flanked by Doric pilasters, surmounted by a pedimented entablature. The entry walls are paneled with wood. The windows are fully enframed with 1/1 wood sash.

Builder: Edward Pratt

Original owner: Andrew Byrnes

Number 14 Concord Street is the uppermost component of the streetscape of mid-19th century wood frame dwellings, mostly altered, which border the western side of Concord Street from Concord Avenue to Bunker Hill Street.

Built circa 1845, much of this house's interest stems from its unusual form. It is unusually narrow, standing with its narrow two bay end wall facing Concord Street. Its main façade, a three bay end wall gable, faces Concord Avenue, a narrow alley-like passageway, partially cobblestone paved. The house has the appearance of a remnant of a larger house, although this was never the case. Also curious is the low, one story shed-roofed ell that projects from the sidewall. The single concession to style is the center entrance's Greek Revival enframements. Indeed, this house's center hall plan is of interest as a somewhat retardataire feature, necessary given the limitations

of frontage along Concord Street. By 1845 most Greek Revival houses were built with side hall plans.

Number 14 Concord Street evidently represents the work of Charlestown carpenter Edward Pratt. He was active in Charlestown building trades from circa early 1830s to mid-1850s. (For more information on Pratt, see form on 9-13 Bartlett Street.) Andrew Byrnes of Boston, a tailor, was the house's original owner. He paid Pratt \$1550 for this house's land, with no buildings, on January 7, 1846. Presumably, Pratt built 14 at some point circa 1846-48.

Byrnes sold the land "with the buildings thereon" to Samuel Fickett of Charlestown (occupation?) on September 25, 1848 for \$1565. Later owners included James H Allen (possibly the "table maker", of the same name, at 4 Salem Street), 1874; Ruth M McCoy, 1880s and 90s; and John C Sullivan, early 1900s (also the owner of 16 Concord Avenue).

This house occupies a portion of lot number 50 on an S M Felton plan of Monument Square and vicinity dated September 25, 1839. It is part of a 115-lot tract developed by the Bunker Hill Monument Association beginning in 1839. The modestly scaled houses bordering Concord Street, Monument Street, and Lexington Street were the first houses built in this development, beginning circa 1840. The mansion scale houses bordering Monument Square date to 1847 to circa 1860s. The development of the BHMA tract for primarily residential purposes, with 15 acres set aside for the monument, was precipitated in part by Charlestown's being more closely linked to Boston and surrounding towns by a free bridge (1836), railroads (mid 1830s), and evidentially by the waves of European immigrants during the 1840s.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 18 62

Atlases-1868, 1875, 1885, 1892, 1901, 1911

Charlestown Directory-1834-1874

Boston Directories-late 19th century

Middlesex deeds-472:477, 531:26

Suffolk deeds-2103:289

Panoramic view of Charlestown, 1848

*Digitized and edited, without change in content, from the scanned record in the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System, and with addition of current photographs. In the case of houses that have been altered since the survey, these photographs may not entirely correspond to the architectural description. If earlier photographs of suitable quality are available, these have been included.

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