

## 14 Monument court (circa 1840, by 1848)

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



14 Monument Court

1980



14 Monument Court

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Number 14 Monument Court is a two and one half story wood shingle (replacement) clad Greek Revival house. It has a brick basement and a three bay main façade with a side hall plan.

Handsome entrance enframements include heavy Doric pilasters and a cornice-headed entablature. The windows are fully enframed with raised outer moldings and have 6/6 wood sash.

There is a gable roof and one gable-roofed dormer on the main facade roof slope.

Original owner: Seth F Sawyer?

Architecturally, 14 Monument Court is a straightforward example of a wood frame, side hall plan Greek Revival house. The house is responsible for much of Monument Court's mid-19th century charm; this cul-de-sac is bordered primarily by the rear ells of houses facing Winthrop Street and Soley Street.

It is difficult to pinpoint this house's construction date via deeds-for many years 14 Monument Court's lot was included in deeds which also referred to number 56 Winthrop Street, which property is located to the rear of 14 Monument Court. Number 14 Monument Court's lot was purchased from the Southwick family by William Gray, owner of 56 Winthrop, (1803-1827) in 1819. The Southwick/Gray deed (221:225) does not mention buildings on this site. Mid-19th-century panoramic views and maps present conflicting information regarding the presence of buildings on number 14's lot. The 1848 panoramic view of Bunker Hill and vicinity shows a house (three bay main façade, single attic dormer, which is almost certainly number 14 Monument Court, while the McIntyre map of 1852 does not show a building on this site.

Stylistic elements (e.g. Doric entrance enframements) suggest that this house is a product of the early 1840s.

Seth F Sawyer, a victualer, bought 14's lot in 1832 [see form on number 56 Winthrop St.] along with 56 Winthrop (built circa 1798). Seth F Sawyer probably built number 14 as an investment property circa 1840. The 1875 atlas clearly shows both 14 Monument Court and 56 Winthrop as being owned by Sawyer. (In fact, 14 and 56 are shown as one continuous house).

Seth F Sawyer was a prominent City Square merchant and victualler- by the late 1860s he was evidently involved in the restaurant business. Sawyer sold 56 Winthrop and 14 Monument Court in 1879 to George H Pendergast and Jonathan B Dearborn. Pendergrass and Dearborn owned this property until at least 1911.

The 1818 Peter Tufts map of Charlestown indicates that Monument Court follows the old property line between a Samuel Henley's estate and several lots fronting on Winthrop Square. It was set out circa 1820s-the 1852 map indicates that Monument Court was originally an L shaped thoroughfare which linked high Street (later Monument Square) with Winthrop Street.

### Bibliography

Maps: 1818, 1852

Atlases: 1875, 1885, 1892, 1901, and 1911

Panoramic views-1848 [copies at S. P. N. E. A. And state house library}

Boston/Charlestown directories-19th century

Middlesex deeds-130: 131, 132; 152:434; 154:225; 278:212; 231:225; 901:588

Suffolk deeds-1468: 57

\*Digitized and edited without change in content from the scanned record in the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System, with the 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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