

18, 20 Lawrence Street (1892)

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



18, 20 Lawrence Street

2015

Numbers 18, 20 Lawrence Street is a three-story, six family wood frame, clapboard-clad Queen Anne house. It has a brick basement, a six bay main façade and four bay sidewalls. The edges are outlined by narrow base and corner boards. The building has a deep-bracketed cornice and a flat roof. Its main façade has paired entrances at the center.

The entrances are recessed, with wooden steps, which lead to double, multi panel doors, evidently original. The entry walls have a well-executed paneling of wood. The windows are fully

enframed with rather curious lintel treatments consisting of cornices with tabs, and 2/2 wood sash. Particularly noteworthy are deep-bracketed oriels, which project from floors two and three. The oriel at the Lawrence/Austin Streets corner addresses its intersection in an eye-catching way.

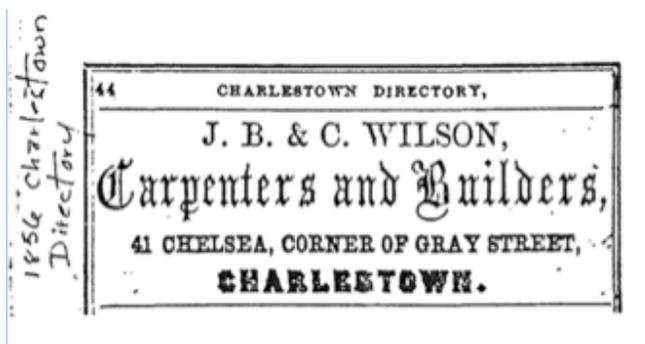
Architect: J B Wilson

Builder: J B Wilson

Original owner: Joseph F Kirby

Architecturally, 18, 20 Lawrence Street is significant as a remarkably unspoiled example of multifamily Queen Anne housing, retaining its clapboards, window enframements, entry paneling etc. Together with the much earlier houses next-door at 30, 32 Austin Street (circa early 19th century), 18, 20 Lawrence forms an interesting streetscape in an area which has been drastically transformed by mid-20th-century urban renewal, shopping mall development, etc.

Numbers 18, 20 Lawrence Street serves as a sort of "gateway" structure to the Union Street/Washington Street area's interesting collection of 19th century houses. It is of interest as a late work by prolific Charlestown builder John B Wilson, who was active in circa 1830-early 1900s (see form on 47, 49 Monument Avenue for biographical information).



The building was originally owned by Joseph F Kirby (occupation?). The "probable cost of land" was \$35,000. By 1911 the building was owned by Catherine Campbell.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1852

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

Boston Buildings Department-Application for Permit to build, April 12, 1892

*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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