

19 Tremont Street (circa 1852-1868)

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



19 Tremont Street

1980s



19 Tremont Street

2016

Number 19 Tremont Street is a substantially altered Greek revival double house (?). It has seven bays on its main façade, four bays on its gable end, facing the street, and a three (?) bay ell to the rear. Permastone covers the street-facing gable to the level of the attic, and there is stucco wall covering at the attic level and on the sidewalls and wing. The building has a broad gable roof, with return eaves. In general, the windows are fully

enframed with raised surrounds that are slightly segmental-headed. Off-center main entrances are on the sidewalls, with a later porch addition projecting from the Prospect Street entrance.



Prospect Street entrance (21 Tremont Street) 1980s

Prominently sited at the corner of Prospect and Tremont Streets, the rear gable and ell serve as an interesting focal point for the head of Mount Vernon Street. Number 19 Tremont is something of an enigma. It appears to be a large masonry Greek Revival schoolhouse. It may have been covered with stucco originally. Its prominent siting, relatively substantial scale, and a notation on the 1868 Sanborn Atlas indicating that this building had contained a "store" points to usage beyond domestic, as a school meeting house, clubhouse, etc. Further

research may reveal its original purpose. This building's lot appears as lot number 26, labeled "Macomber", on "plan of house lots in Charlestown owned by Charles Tufts, June 1845 (Middlesex plan book 2B, plan 63).

Deeds are not useful in determining a more exact date of construction for this building. Evidently, Charles Tufts never lived here. This building appears labeled Charles Tufts on the 1875 Charlestown atlas. The house does not appear on the 1848 Panoramic View of Charlestown and Boston, (However, the Panoramic View suggests that 19 Tremont Street was half finished at that time- it has the appearance of one half of a double house midway through construction). Nor does it appear on the 1852 McIntyre map. It does appear on the 1868 Sanborn Atlas.

Charles Robinson Jr owned this house from circa 1880 (Suffolk deeds 1498:161, July 14, 1880) until approximately the 1890s. Robinson's heirs owned the building during the early 1900s.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1852

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

Middlesex deeds-plan book 2B, plan 63

Suffolk deeds-1498:161

Mallory 1848 Panoramic View

*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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