

22 Monument Ave. (1875-1885)

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



22 Monument Avenue 2015

Number 22 Monument Ave. is a substantial three-story Italianate house with a granite faced basement, a flat roof, and a distinctive boxy form. It stands with its narrow two bay sidewall facing Warren Street. The building has dentillated cornice boards and a deep-bracketed cornice. There are fire escapes on the main façade's second and third floors. The main entrance is at the center of its five bay main façade.

The original multipanel double doors are still intact, and the entrance is surmounted by a deep-bracketed door hood, which supports an oriel window. The windows have brownstone sills and lintels with incised Eastlakin motifs, and have 2/2 wood sash.



22 Monument Avenue cornice and lintel detail

Original owner: T R B Edmands

Number 22 Monument Avenue functions visually as a "gateway" house to Monument Avenue's collection of handsome mid-19th century residences. Architecturally, 22 Monument is a late, substantial example of masonry Italianate mansion. Its boxy three-story form and orientation to the street (narrow two bay end to Warren Street) recalls the form and siting of early 19th century federal houses in Charlestown (e.g. to Wood Street, corner Main Street). The 1868 Charlestown Sanborn Atlas indicates that at that time 22's lot was a wood yard owned by Alfred Carlton (listed as Alfred Carlton, wood and coal, Monument Avenue, corner Warren, house 104 Main Street). This large lot was occupied by two small wooden structures labeled "wood piles".

In a sense the Bunker Hill Monument Association's plans dating back to the early 1850s for Monument Avenue to be a "public ornament" were not realized until the completion of 22 Monument Avenue, as an undoubtedly unattractive wood and coal yard was replaced by a handsome, substantial Italianate mansion. With 22's construction, Monument Avenue finally had an appropriately imposing "gateway" house to its fine inventory of mid-19th century residences.

For more information on Monument Avenue's development see form on numbers 44, 46, 48, 50 Monument Ave.

Number 22 was built at some point between 1875 and 1885. In 1875 this lot was still owned by Alfred Carlton and contained part of a large triangular house with only one small building at the center of the Monument Avenue side.

Evidently Thomas R B Edmands was this house's first owner. Edmands' business is listed at 41 Medford Street, Charlestown.

He apparently owned but never occupied number 22. During the 1870s and 1880s he is listed at 52 Monument Ave. during the early 1900s this house was owned by the heirs of Patrick O'Riordan.

Note: the many grantee listings for TR B Edmonds preclude deed work within the timeframe of this survey.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1852

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

Charlestown directories-1860s, 1870s

*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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