

25 Harvard Square (circa 1820s)

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



25 Harvard Square

2015

Number 25 Harvard Square is an early 19th century wood frame vernacular house rising two stories to a gabled roof. It has a three bay main façade facing Harvard Mall and a narrow

two bay wall facing Harvard Square. The edges of the house are accented by new corner boards. There is a modern dormer addition at the rear roof slope.

The main façade, at the end wall gable, has a center entrance, which is recessed, with outer enframing of pilasters and cornice-headed lintel. The front door is flanked by multi-pane sidelights and is an appropriate replacement. The windows are fully enframed and feature raised moldings and 6/6 wood sash.

Builder: Charles Thompson?

Original owner: Charles Thompson?

Together with numbers 27, 29 Harvard Sq. and 2 Henley Street, this house forms a charming, modestly scaled quartet of dwellings bordering the northeastern side of Harvard Square. These houses recall and celebrate the human scale of Charlestown before the mid--late 19th century urbanization. This house has historical associations with Charlestown's prominent Thompson family. On January 12, 1821 Timothy Thompson Junior, merchant in Charlestown paid William Gray of Boston \$3400 for a lot of land that extended from Harvard Square along "Centers? Alley" to Main Street. No buildings are mentioned in the Gray/Thompson deed. This house may have been built at the same time as of the Phoenix Building to the rear, on Main Street, which was constructed circa late 1820s. By the mid-1860s Charles Thompson (evidently the prominent real estate speculator/auctioneer) had purchased this house and part of the Phoenix building, to the rear, for \$5600.

By 1819 this house was owned by Isaac and Isidore Klous, dealers in "woolen rags". This house remained part of the Klous family's extensive Charlestown real estate holdings until at least 1911.

Listed in the National Register of historic Places Town Hill
District

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1852

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

Middlesex Deeds-235: 446, 921:383

*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.

R. Dinsmore