

27 Winthrop Street (by 1848? mid 1850's?)

From Boston Landmark Commission's Charlestown Historic Resources Study 1981*:



27 Winthrop Street

2015

Number 27 Winthrop Street is a red brick, three-story Greek Revival/Italianate row house with a three bay flat front façade and four bay sidewall. It has a granite block basement and a side hall plan. The house has a flat roof and, particularly noteworthy, a cast iron cornice with dentils and small scroll brackets

The recessed entrance is wood paneled and the front door is flanked by multi-pane sidelights. There is a cast-iron foot scraper at the first step. Over the entrance are a pedimented lintel with tabs, and an oriel window with multi-panel aprons, narrow windows, and dentillated cornice head. The windows have 1/1 wood sash and simple stone sills and lintels. .

Architect/builder: unknown

Original owner(s): Joseph Smith? Further research is needed to solve the mystery of this property's construction date and original appearance.

The house's date is uncertain. For many years it was included within a large multi-building parcel bordering Winthrop and Warren streets. An 1848 panoramic view of Charlestown shows a three-story gable roof structure on this site; it is possible that the gable roof was later removed and replaced with a flat roof, and an oriel window added. Its present appearance probably dates from the mid 1850s by virtue of its Italianate elements (oriel window, bracketed cornice), while its high granite basement strikes a distinctly Greek revival note.

Evidently Joseph Smith acquired a large parcel at the corner of Warren and Winthrop Streets on May 9, 1832 from a David Smith of Truro, Massachusetts for \$25,000. Smith's heirs owned this property until at least the mid-1880s. By 1892 it was owned by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston, part of the St. Mary's School complex.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1852

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

Middlesex deeds-314:18, 19, 390:496

Suffolk deeds-1990:609, 610; 1838:95

Panoramic View of Charlestown, 1848

*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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