

29/31 Winthrop Street (1883)

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



29, 31 Winthrop Street

2015

Numbers 29/31 Winthrop, a Queen Anne/Romanesque three family apartment building, is a competent example of early 1880's multifamily design, with brick, brownstone, and terracotta trimming. Its main façade is enlivened by round entrance arches, projecting two-story oriels, and pleasing brick, brownstone and

terra cotta trimmings. There are brownstone banding sill courses on floors two and three. It has a three story, flat, four bay main façade with a molded metal cornice.

The building's paired entrances, each with gauged brickwork/terra-cotta arches and spring block Doric capitals without pilasters, have fanlights with narrow colored glass panes.

The entrances are flanked by tripartite windows set within raised brickwork hood lintels. Beneath each of these windows are three openings at basement level, with a center basement door recessed below street grade. The upper floors have pairs of windows with segmental brickwork arches, flanked by two story metal paneled oriel windows.



29 Winthrop entry detail 2015

Numbers 29 and 31 Winthrop Street are part of the primarily masonry wall of late 19th century residences lining the southeastern side of Winthrop Street, between Warren and Common streets. They are integral to the mid-late 19th century character of this part of Winthrop Street. Architecturally, 29/31 Winthrop St. is a competent example of early 1880s multifamily design. Its main façade is enlivened by round entrance arches, projecting two-story oriels, and pleasing brick, brownstone and terra cotta trimmings. It was built in 1883 (see Boston buildings department "application for permission to build"-July 31, 1883)

Architect: W.F. Savage, who was engaged in architectural practice from circa 1870-1890. In 1875 his office was listed at 130 Main Street, Charlestown. By 1885 his office was located at 25 Main Street. Boston Public Library architects files provide only sketchy information on Savage. He designed several commercial residential structures on Commercial Street, in Boston (number 386-390 and 466 Commercial Street) in 1880. Numbers 29 and 31 Winthrop Street were built in 1883, replacing at least one earlier structure shown in the 1848 Panoramic View and 1868 and 1875 atlases.

Builder: Denis McGillicuddy

Original owner: This building's original owners were E. J. Klous and Isaac Klous- real estate speculators and clothing/"woolen-rags" dealers.

By the early 1900s, numbers 29 and 31 Winthrop was owned by a William A. Sheafe .

Bibliography:

Atlases 1868, 1872, 187?, 1885, 1892, 1901, 1911

1848 Panoramic View

Boston directories-post 1875

City of Boston Buildings Department records

*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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