

30, 32 Austin Street (circa 1820s)

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



30, 32 Austin Street date(?)



30 Austin Street

2015

Number 30 Austin Street is a Federal house with a three Bay main façade and a granite block basement. It has a side hall plan. The house is clad in synthetic siding over brick - a brick sidewall and cornice are in evidence. Two granite steps lead to

a slightly recessed entrance. A gable roof dormer is at the center of the main façade's roof slope.



32 Austin

2015

Number 32 Austin Street is a late Federal/Greek Revival house with an Italianate oriel window. It has a wood frame main façade, clad with several modern siding treatments. The house

stands with its gable end to the street. It has a side hall plan. The entrance was probably originally recessed with no outer door or fanlight. It is flanked by paneled Doric pilasters. Above the front door is a deep-bracketed door hood, which supports a cornice-headed oriel window. The house is enclosed by a gable roof with shallow return eaves.

Although presently covered with modern siding, these houses retain their basic circa 1820s late Federal form (with later stylistic accretions). Together with the sidewall of the Italianate/Queen Anne multiple family building at 18, 20 Lawrence Street, these houses convey a sense of Austin Street's now much altered 19th-century streetscape.

Austin Street was set out circa early 1800s, running from Main Street to the Prison Point Bridge. It was named in honor of Charlestown's prominent Austin family in 1817. The Austin family of Charlestown is descended from Richard Austin, who became a freeman of the town in 1651. The Austin block on Main Street, faced with outer Brewster Island stone, and number 27 Harvard Sq. (also stone) have historical associations with the Austin family.

Middlesex deeds indicate that these houses date to circa mid-1820s, although a closer reading of these deeds and additional deed work is necessary to pinpoint construction dates more exactly.

By 1875 Tabatha R. DeBlois owned number 30 and Solomon Parsons, "Secretary, 1 Tremont Temple, Boston, owned number 32. By 1885 Mr. Parsons owned both properties. By 1911 number 30 was owned by J. A. Kirby and 32 was owned by Charles J. Brady.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1852

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

Charlestown directories-19th century

Middlesex deeds-number 32-1126:670, 325:51, 209:438

*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.

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