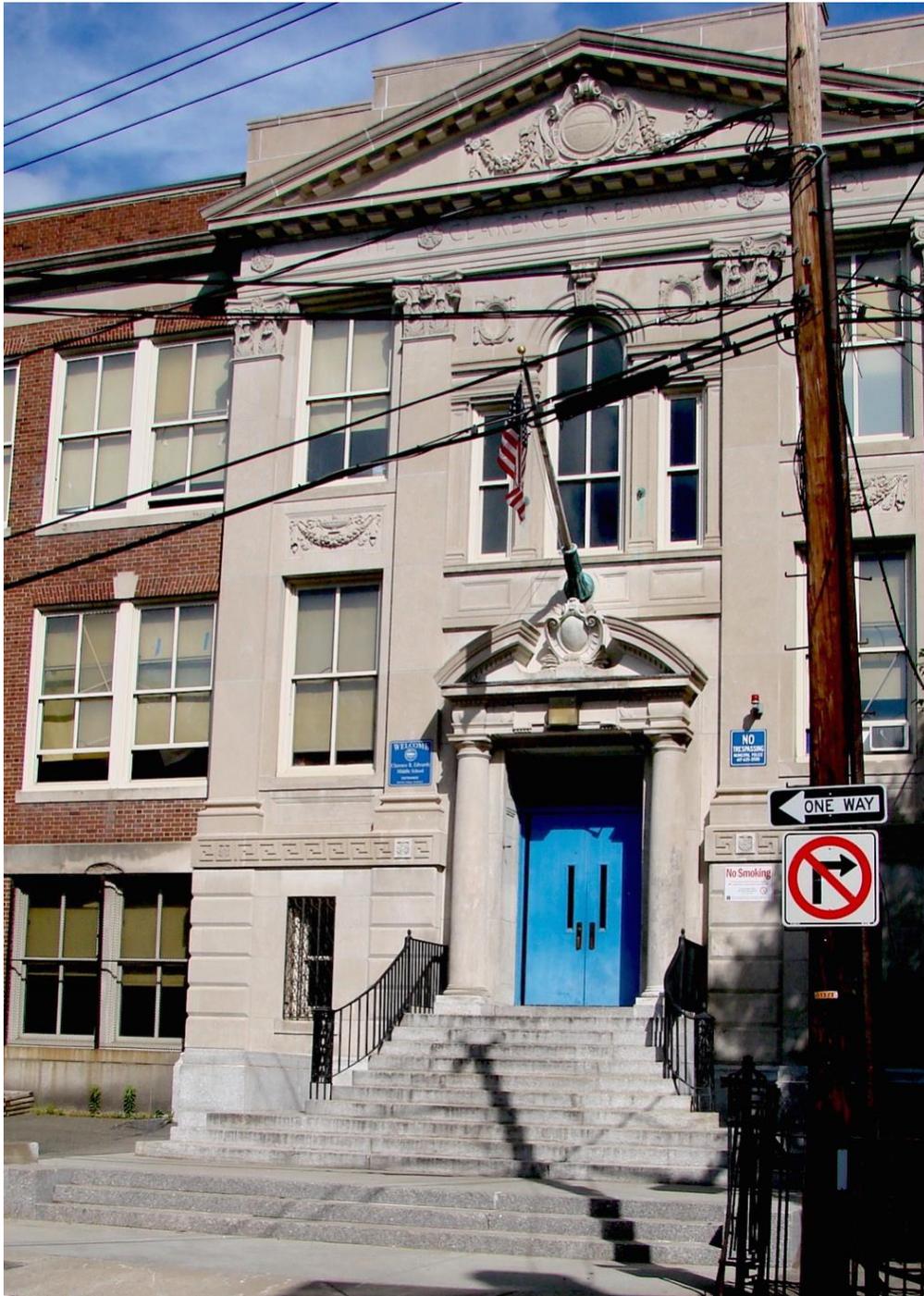


30 Walker Street, the Clarence R Edwards School (1931)

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



30 Walker Street

2015



30 Walker Street, North Wing

2016

Number 30 Walker Street is a large, U-shaped public school building. Its main façade is divided into a three bay center

pavilion, nine bay flanking segments, and five bay wings. Designed in Georgian Revival style, with most of the surface architectural focus on the pedimented center pavilion. Ranged across the center pavilion's main façade are four Corinthian pilasters. The tympanum of the pavilion's pediment has the circular seal of the city of Boston surrounded by high relief draperies and swags.

A stairway leads to the main entrance, which is flanked by Tuscan columns supporting an entablature with a broken pediment. Above this is a Palladian window. Between the second and third story windows are swag cast stone panels in high relief.

The flanking wing segments have Greek key banding between the basement and ground floors. The windows have simple stone sills and gauged brickwork lintels with keystones. Above the third-floor windows is a continuous stone band and high brick parapet. The northern wing has a range of six pilasters and a center window with a console-bracketed cornice.

Architect: J H Gray Company
Original owner: City of Boston

The Clarence R Edwards School is surrounded on three sides by mid-late 19th century houses. Its south wall faces a parking area, and Main Street. Stylistically it represents a conservative foray into the Georgian Revival style with most of the architectural interest focused on the details of the main façade's center pavilion-here the main entrance is set within heavy Tuscan columns and broken pediment. Pilasters, Palladian window, gauged brickwork lintels, and Greek key banding courses are all part of this building's inventory of Georgian Revival architectural elements.

The school is the work of John H Gray Company. John H Gray is first listed as a draftsman at 20 Beacon Street in 1912. By 1920 he is listed as an architect at 169 High Street (Charlestown?), with his house at Salem. He is listed at 175 High Street during late 1920s-1950s. By 1960 his practice is listed at 3 Larchmont Road, Salem, which was also his home address. By 1981 a Francis J Gray is listed as an architect under the John H Gray Company name in Salem. Further research is needed to determine other Boston area work by John H (Gray.

Bibliography:

Boston directories-1919-1981

Boston landmarks commission school file

*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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