

49 Warren Street (1901-1902)

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



49 Warren Street

2015

Number 49 Warren Street is a boxy four-story Romanesque Revival/Queen Anne masonry parochial school. Constructed of brick with granite trimmings and polychromatic surface treatments; it has three bays on Warren Street and 13 bays on Winthrop Street.

The building retains multipaneled double entrance doors. The main entrance at the narrow Warren Street end wall has a granite keystone inscribed with a cross; above the keystone is rock faced stone inscribed "St. Mary's School"

The basement windows have heavy rock-faced granite lintels, and there are granite lintels at floors two and three. The fourth floor windows have wide header brickwork arches (six rows of header bricks). Groups of five windows are set within the corbelled arches of the cornice, which is corbelled and arched in a vaguely Romanesque manner.

Architect: Keeley and Houghton

Builder: Stephen Brennan- mason work, Charles Logue-woodwork

Owner: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston

Built in 1901-1902, the former St. Mary's Roman Catholic Parochial School, together with the Gothic St. Mary's R C Church (1887-92) at 55 Warren and the highly eclectic bow front house at 59 Warren (1871), form one of Charlestown's most interesting Victorian streetscapes. St. Mary's School blends Romanesque Revival arches with Queen Anne polychromatic treatments. Its design has been credited to the Brooklyn, New York-based firm of Keeley and Houghton-successor firm to Patrick C Keeley, a prolific mid to late 19th century New York and New England church architect. St. Mary's Parochial School had been housed in the old Training Field, or Common, School at 3 Common (see form). The "new" St. Mary's School at 49 Warren was built to "contain nine classrooms 34 x 25' in dimensions". The Common Street School had only six classrooms.

The new St. Mary's School was described in a *Charlestown Enterprise* article dated September 28, 1901 as being built of "Barrington brick with granite trimmings and will have a frontage of 40 feet on Warren Street and 100 feet on Winthrop Street. Long corridors will extend the length of the building on

the east side with stairways at either end of iron and fireproof materials. There will be toilet rooms on each floor and in the basement. The framing of the building will be of hard pine and the interior finish to be of ash and oak. The building will be warmed by steam heat and the illumination will be electric lights”.

Bibliography:

Maps-illegible

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

Charlestown Enterprise, September 21, 1901, columns 1,2,3

*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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