

5 Albion Place (1834-1842)

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



5 Albion Place

ca. 1980s

Five Albion Place is a Greek Revival house with a side hall plan and a two-story Queen Anne octagonal bay addition to its main façade. It has a brick basement. The house is clad with wood

shingles accented by Doric corner boards and enclosed by a gable roof with return eaves.

A short flight of granite steps leads to the main entrance. There are heavy, paneled Doric pilasters and entablature with a prominent cornice- enframed, recessed entrance. The front door is flanked by slender Doric pilasters with sidelights. The two-story bay has apron panels with incised rectangular forms. Particularly noteworthy is a sunburst motif panel at the center of the second floor bay. In general the windows are simply enframed and have 1/1 sash.



5 Albion Place

2015

Original owner: Smith Dyar

Architecturally, 5 Albion Place represents an interesting, highly successful marriage of well detailed two-story Queen Anne octagonal bay to an unmistakably Greek Revival main block, i.e. a side hall plan with substantially proportioned elements.

This house was built for Smith Dyar, a leather dealer, in Boston, at some point between 1834 and 1842. In 1832 he is listed as a Morocco dresser and occupant of 6 South Training Field. By 1842, Dyer is listed as a leather dealer with house on Albion Court (The original name for Albion Place). Dyer lived on Albion Court until the autumn of 1860; he sold 5 Albion Court to A B Shedd et al on September 27, 1860. By that time he was living in Berlin, Worcester County, Massachusetts. The deed notes that Dyar "has entered into a composition with his creditors whom they have agreed to discharge and release him from all his debts to them due", including his "factory estate" and "Albion Court estate". (See Middlesex deed 841:188).

During the 1860s this house was owned by Henry M Currier, a fruit dealer, 15 merchants Row, Boston. Currier, in turn, sold the house to Jacob W Roberts, grocer, 148 Blackstone, Boston, on August 8, 1870 (Middlesex deed 1125:387), for \$4800. In 1866 J W Roberts' home is listed at 330 Main Street. In 1875, in addition to J W Roberts, this was the home of Frank J Roberts, a clerk at 148 Blackstone. By the 1890s the house was owned by a Florence G Henry.

Albion Place was set out by circa 1830 and along with the lower portion of Auburn Street (Hall Street) and Eden Street, is one of the oldest streets Northwest of Walker Street.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1833, 1839, 1848, 1851

Atlases-1875, 1885, 1892, 1901

Charlestown directories-1834-1874, 1841:188, 1125:387

*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.

R Dinsmore