

5 Washington Street (circa 1858-1859)

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



5 Washington Street

1980s

Five Washington Street is a free standing, three story red brick Italianate/Mansard townhouse. It has a rusticated granite basement, granite/brownstone trim, and a three bay by two bay main block, without a rear ell. It has a side hall plan. The building culminates in a dentillated fascia board with deep-bracketed cornice and a Mansard roof. Two dormers, a double and a single, are pedimented, with keystones.

The entrance is deeply recessed, with a badly weathered arch of brownstone-ropé molding, spring blocks, and keystone. Six granite steps lead to front door with sidelights and a narrow transom with a larger transom above. The windows have simple sills and cornice-headed brownstone lintels with 2/2 wood sash. There is an oriel window at the second floor in the center of the main façade, with a dentillated fascia board.



5 Washington Street

2015



Original owner: Moses A. Dow

Five Washington Street faces a group of Mansard houses at 6-12 Washington Street and is prominently sited at the corner of Washington and Prescott streets. It is part of Moses A Dow's remarkable circa late 1850s residential development on Town Hill. Dow's enclave of elegant masonry Italianate/Mansard row houses includes numbers 18-24, 34-38 Harvard Street, and 1-4 Harvard Place, as well as number 5 Washington Street.

Situated at the corner of Washington and Prescott streets, near Harvard Street, 5 Washington Street faces a circa late 1860s non-Dow related group of mansard row houses; it has the air of a row house in search of its row. It is the only freestanding row

house in Dow's enclave. Dow's own house at number 28 Harvard Street is not part of the row per se but abuts numbers 30, 32 Harvard/Street/2 Washington Street.

Architecturally, five Washington Street is a handsome example of mid-19th-century Charlestown Italianate/Mansard housing. It is similar in entrance enframements, rusticated basement, and dentillated, bracketed cornice to the Dow-related houses at numbers 18-24, 34-38 Harvard.

For further information on Moses A Dow and Harvard Street's development in the 19th century, see the form on 28 Harvard Street. Moses A Dow owned 5 Washington Street until his death in 1886. Joseph H Cotton, a lawyer and trustee of Dow's estate owned the house during the late 1880s-early 1900s, along with other trustees. By 1911 number 5 was owned by Dow's daughter, Mary D Scott.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1852

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

*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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