

## 50 Harvard Street (? Mid-1860s, or 1890s)

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



50 Harvard

2015

Number 50 Harvard Street is a three-story clapboard-clad, four bay, two or three family house with a side hall plan. The building has a shallow bracketed cornice and flat roof. It has two doors within a deeply recessed entrance with edges defined by narrow base and corner boards.

Above the main entrance is an angled two-sided oriel spanning floors two and three, which continues the rhythmic repetition of projecting structural forms beginning at the Washington Street/Harvard Street corner and culminating with number 50's angular oriel. The flat remainder of 50's main façade functions visually as a kind of unfurled scroll.

Builder: unknown

Original owner: Eliza M Poole (1880s or 90s)? Patrick Scanlon? 1860s

More detective work is necessary to solve the mystery of this house's construction date. Architecturally, the house is something of an enigma. With the exception of a bracketed cornice, it is devoid of stylistic elements. Its' highly unusual angular two sided oriel window continues the rhythmic repetition of projecting structural forms which begins at Washington/Harvard Street corner and culminates in number 50s angular oriel. It appears to have been extant in 1868 but Honeywell (*A Century of Town Life*, 1888), refers to a much older house, which may have been located on its lot. Hunnewell (*A Century of Town Life*), in reference to numbers 42-48 Harvard St. mentions that "there now stand four, three storied brick houses with swell fronts and across the North end an old two storied wooden house with a hipped roof". Further research is needed to determine if this old two-story wooden

house was ever located on number 50s a lot (as late as 1888) or whether the three-story building shown on the 1868 Atlas is the present number 50.

In 1875, the owner of the house on this lot was an Edward Glufing, "constable, and bridge house owner". Glufing had acquired this property in 1872 from Ann H. Scanlan whose husband (?) Patrick Scanlan, a Boston trader, acquired the house in 1861. Patrick Scanlan may have been the first occupant if it were built during the 1860s.

The positioning of the front doors suggests a circa 1880s or 90s multifamily formula. If this is the case, Eliza M Poole, owner in 1885, 1892 and 1901 may have been the original owner. By 1911, a Mary A. Hyde owned this property.

#### Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1852

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

Middlesex deeds-226: 305, 376:476, 721:167, 791:354,  
821:322, 861:191

Hunnewell-*A Century of Town Life*

\*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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