

## 58, 60 Winthrop Street (ca. 1900)

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



58, 60 Winthrop Street

2015

Numbers 58, 60 Winthrop Street is an attractive polychromatic brick and limestone turn-of-the-century Georgian Revival apartment building. Its front façade has 6 bays and is curved, conforming to the curve of the

street. Paired keystone-arched center entrances are framed in limestone. The doors have single pane arched transoms. The windows have 1/1 wood sash and there are stone lintel band courses at the first and second floors, turning to the first bays of the sidewalls, and stone quoins. The building has a bracketed cornice and a flat roof.

Architect: J Franklin Seavey

Original Owner: Harriet B Murray, wife of William Clark Murray, a partner in William Murray and sons dry goods, 67 Main St.

Together with the circa 1798 wood frame Federal house next door at 56 Winthrop Street, 58-60 Winthrop illustrates the story of Charlestown's domestic architectural development from its late 18th century post Revolutionary war period of rebuilding, to the early 20th century when multifamily buildings were being erected on the few available vacant lots.

The building was designed by J Franklin Seavey. Further research is needed on Mr. Seavey's architectural career-information is sketchy. The B P L Fine Arts Department's architectural file mentions only one building designed by Mr. Seavey. In 1900 he designed for himself a one-family wood frame dwelling on Park Street near Martin Street in West Roxbury. He may be related to the William Seavey who owned number 278 Bunker Hill Street (see form) during the mid-19th century.

Numbers 58, 60 Winthrop's original owner was Harriet B (Coolidge) Murray. At the turn of the century she resided at 3 Dexter Row. She was the wife of William Clark Murray (1848-1890); for many years he was a partner in William Murray and Sons, Dry Goods, 67 Main Street (see form on John Hurd house, 71 Main St.). He married Harriet B Coolidge of Oswego New York on April 14, 1878. William C Murray was "also interested in real estate and with his father was owner of several estates, having built a number of apartment houses, and he was considered by many to have the best judgment in real estate matters of any person in

Charlestown" in addition, he was "well versed in local history, having made the chronicle of his native town a special study."

Note: pre-1900 atlases of Charlestown indicate that an L-shaped house owned by the heirs of John Southwick was located on this site.

Bibliography:

Maps-18? 1852

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

*Charlestown Enterprise*- "50th anniversary of Bunker Hill Monument"-  
special publication on leading figures of Charlestown circa 1893

City of Boston Buildings Department-"Application for Permit to Build"

\*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