

65, 67 Winthrop Street (ca. 1852-58)

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



65 Winthrop Street

2015

Number 65 Winthrop Street is a Greek Revival/Italianate three-story bow front house. It has a high granite faced basement and a main façade with a 2 bay swell front and a flat entrance bay. The building culminates in a shallow cornice table with a deep, projecting cast-iron cornice with small scroll brackets and modillion blocks, and a flat roof. The northwest wall has low linked chimneys.

A short flight of granite steps with curving granite "shoulders" leads to double Victorian front doors surmounted by a heavy pedimented entablature. The windows have simple brownstone sills and lintels and 2/2 wood sash; the first-floor windows open onto an ornate ornamental cast iron railing.

Builder: unknown

Original owner: Nathaniel Brown

At first glance one might assume that number 65 originally was enclosed by a gable roof with pedimented dormers similar to those of number 67 Winthrop. The 1868 Sanborn Atlas suggests that 65 has always been a three-story flat roofed masonry structure. Both houses exhibit nearly identical surface treatments below the cornice level. Number 65's heavy cast iron cornice, with its small scroll brackets and modillion blocks strikes an unmistakably Italianate note and it must have made number 67-with its gable roof, pedimented dormer, and linked chimneys-appear hopelessly retardataire in comparison. Numbers 65 and 67 Winthrop were built circa 1852-1858. These house's lots cover lots 8,9, and 10 as shown on a "plan of lots in Charlestown belonging to G Washington Warren, trustee, April 1849. G Washington Warren, a prominent lawyer/jurist and mayor of Charlestown had acquired a large tract of land from the John Binney estate in 1849. This tract was subdivided into 20 house lots. Warren's tract bordered the

Bunker Hill Monument association's 115-lot tract at Monument Square. Warren was for many years president of the Bunker Hill Monument Association and resided at 7 Monument Square.

Neither the Mallory Panoramic View of Charlestown/Boston (1848) nor the McIntyre map of 1852 shows numbers 65, 67 Winthrop. On June 26, 1852, Nathaniel Brown, furniture dealer, bought 65's land from G Washington Warren. The "Plan of Nathaniel Brown's land in Charlestown"-June 8, 1855, seems to indicate that number 65's land was still vacant, but evidently 65 was extant by July 8, 1858, as at that time Nathaniel Brown became the mortgagee of John L Rogers for \$8000. The Browns owned 65 until 1866. From 1866-69 it was owned by Thomas L Swan and from 1869-circa 1890 by William B Stearns, president of the Fitchburg Railroad. During the 1890s and early 1900s, 65 Winthrop was owned by Frederica Hartung. Also living at this address during the 1890s was Eugene Hartung, a clerk, 343 Washington St., Gustaf Hartung, a bookbinder and Bruno Hartung, a clerk. By 1911 a Sarah A F Kane owned 65.

67 Winthrop Street (ca. 1852-1858)

Number 67 Winthrop is a freestanding, Greek Revival three-story bow front house. It has a high granite faced basement and a main façade with a two bay swell front and a flat entrance bay. It is similar to 65 Winthrop, but with a gable roof. A short flight of granite steps with curving shoulders leads to a single entrance door flanked by multi-pane sidelights. The front door is surmounted by a heavy pedimented entablature. The



67 Winthrop Street

2015

windows have simple brownstone sills and lintels and 6/6 wood sash; tall windows on the first floor open onto an ornate ornamental cast iron railing. The building culminates in a shallow brickwork cornice table, and has a gable roof with tall linked chimneys at the sides. There are two gable roof dormers with pedimented lintels.

Builder: ? Nathaniel F. Tufts

Original owner: ? Nathaniel F. Tufts, miller and grain dealer

Evidently 67 Winthrop was also built ca. 1852- 1858, however 67's deed chronology is difficult to trace. Grantee index listings at Middlesex are numerous for Nathan T Tufts, owner of 67 from at least 1875 until as late as circa 1915. Further research is needed to determine if a Tufts family member built number 67. Nathan F Tufts is listed in the 1874 Charlestown directory as "Nathan F. Tufts and Son, Millers and Grain Dealers, rear 553 Main and 52 Warren Avenue, house 67 Winthrop Street." By the 1920s an Ellen A Crotty owned this house.

Bibliography:

Maps- 1818, 1852

Panoramic View-Mallory-1848

Atlases-1868, 1875, 1885, 1892, 1901, 1911, 1922

Middlesex deeds-591:269, 791:304, 831:86, 971:470,
1071:250

Charlestown/Boston directories

*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.

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