

73 High Street (1928)

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



73 High Street

2015

Number 73 High Street is a large and well-designed masonry institutional building in Georgian Revival style. It has a five bay

main façade with a center entrance. A broad belt course runs the length of the façades between floors one and two. Ionic pilasters appear at the building's corners and "support" an entablature on the main facade that reads "George Robert White Fund."

The entrance is framed by fluted Doric pilasters and surmounted by an entablature inscribed with "Health Unit". Above the entablature is a broken pediment edged with modillion blocks. In the center of the broken pediment is a well-carved pineapple.

There is a modillion block stone cornice and balustrade. The balustrade features square panels containing engaged balusters.

Owner: city of Boston

The Georgia Robert White health Fund Unit is a well-designed example of a late 1920s Georgian Revival institutional building. Its façades are characterized by a pleasing symmetry and polychromatic redbrick/white stone trim contrasts. It is situated in a densely settled residential area of mid-19th-century dwellings. During the late 19th century this lot was occupied by three contiguous wooden structures, forming an L-shaped configuration, owned by A P Toppan.

This building was erected with funds from the George Robert White Fund. George Robert White (1847-1922) was the owner of the Potter Drug and Chemical Company. He was an investor in real estate and for many years was known as the largest individual taxpayer in Boston. His philanthropy encompassed the funding of a building for the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy (see Fenway survey) and generous sums donated to

the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Massachusetts General Hospital, Children's Hospital, as well as a trust fund "to be used for the creation of works of public utility and beauty". He also provided the funds for the stadium at Franklin Field.

Further research is needed on this building's architect and builder. Boston Building Department materials did not yield information on this building's construction cost, architect, etc.

Bibliography:

Atlases-1875, 1885, 1892, 1901

Boston evening transcript, January 28, 1922

Boston Yearbook 1924-1925

*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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