

## 8, 10 Prospect Street (1903)

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



8, 10 Prospect Street

2016

Numbers eight and 10 Prospect Street is a three-story, six family Queen Anne/Georgian Revival double apartment building. It has a brick basement and each half has a four bay main facade.

Horizontal accents are provided by banding of limestone between the basement and first floor and above the four center windows at the third floor. The building has a heavy dentilated and modillion block copper cornice, and a flat roof.

The entrances are paired and have replacement outer doors and transoms. They are enframed by limestone (?) Trim in a modified Georgian Revival manner. The entrances are flanked by tripartite windows. The second floor, center, pair of windows is surmounted by wedge shaped lintels with console keystones. There are copper-clad oriel windows above the tripartite first-floor windows, with rectangular apron panels and sunbursts over their center windows.

Architect: W H Basarick

Builder: Jeremiah P O'Riordan

Original owner: Jeremiah P O'Riordan

Architecturally, 8 and 10 Prospect Street is a solid, well-executed example of turn of the century masonry multifamily housing in Charlestown. This six family apartment holding is the work of prolific late 19/early 20th century architect William H Basarick. He was active in Boston architectural practice from circa late 1880s until 1926. For many years his office was located at 15 School Street, in Boston. He designed a number of private homes in West Roxbury and Dorchester during the 1880s and 1890s, and he was the architect of the Savin Hill Yacht Club and Dorchester Club (see South Boston BLC survey form on 936 E. 4th St.). He designed a number of residences and several commercial blocks in South Boston during the 1890s/early 1900s. (See "One Man Architect File at BPL Fine Arts Department. (Obituary, source unknown, October 22, 1926).

Numbers eight and 10 Prospect Street's lot appears vacant on the 1901 Charlestown atlas and was labeled John H McCaffrey. Boston building department records include an "application for a permit to build" dated June 12, 1903. The original owner of 8, 10 was Jeremiah O'Riordan. He was the son of prominent late 19th century Charlestown builder/contractor Patrick O'Riordan. Still extant is a similarly designed family apartment at 59-61 Elm Street designed and built by Patrick O'Riordan in 1906 (see form).

Judging from the 1848 panoramic view of Charlestown, Prospect Street had yet to be laid out. However, by 1852 Prospect Street is clearly shown, apparently as part of Edgeworth Street, an L shaped thoroughfare running from Adams Street to Ferrin Street. Prospect Street was set out circa 1848-1852 although in 1852 it was bordered by only one house, which was located at the northwest corner of Prospect and Adams (Lowney Way) Streets just below and possibly including part of 8, 10 Prospect Street's lot.

#### Bibliography:

Atlases-1892, 1901, 1911

Boston Building Department records, June 12, 1903

\*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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