

LOWELL CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

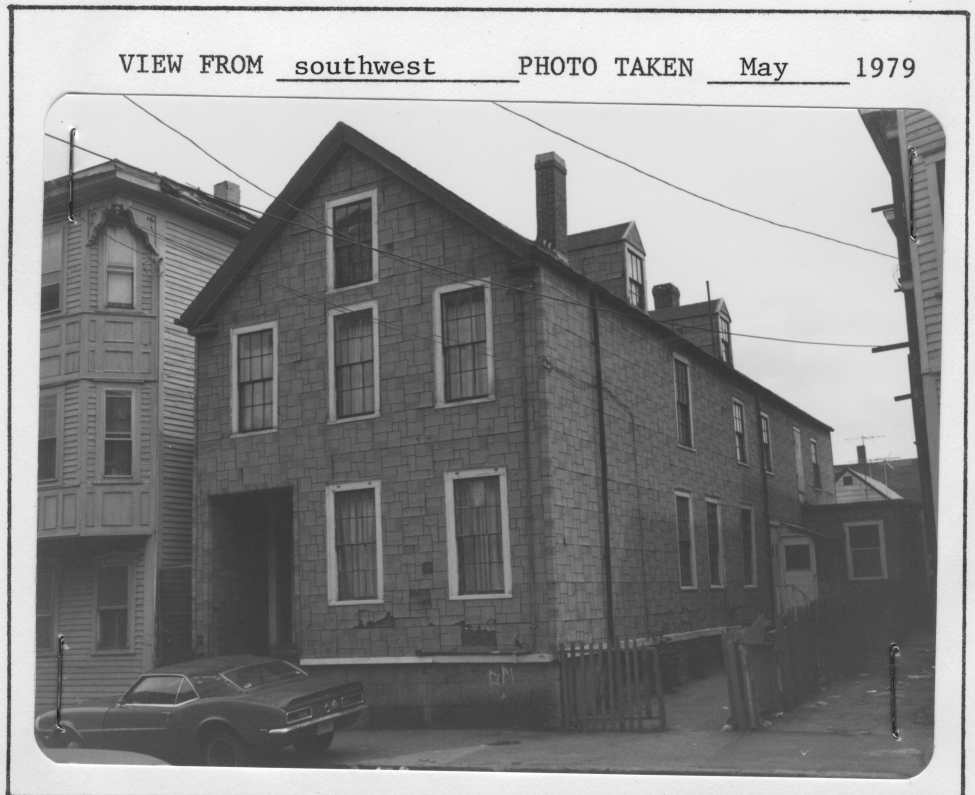
IDENTIFICATION 173 ADAMS STREET MAP SHEET # 11
1) CURRENT OWNER Robertine DuFresne OWNER OCCUPIED yes
2) HISTORIC NAME Edward Costello House
3) CURRENT NAME same
4) PROPERTY TYPE single family dwelling 5) ZONING CLASSIFICATION B1
6) TAXES: PAYMENTS current STATUS clear
7) WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF LHPD

HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

1) CONSTRUCTION DATE ca. 1850s
SOURCE estimated: stylistic
2) ARCHITECT OR BUILDER unknown
3) HISTORIC OWNER Edward Costello ca. 1896
4) ORIGINAL USE: GF residential UF residential
5) PREVIOUS BLDGS ON PROPERTY no DATE _____
SOURCE _____

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

1) ARCHITECTURAL STYLE
mid 19th C. vernacular
2) PRESENT USE:
GF residential
UF residential
3) NO OF STORIES 2½
4) PROP SQ FT 2062
5) PLAN rectangular
6) ROOF facade gable
7) STRUCTURAL SYSTEM
wood frame
8) OUTBUILDINGS
none
9) MATERIALS:
FOUNDATION
granite & rubble
FACADE all sides; asphalt shingle
TRIM wood
10) NOTABLE SURFACE & LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS none



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VISUAL ASSESSMENT

- 1) CONDITION OF BUILDING FABRIC needs minor repair
- 2) IF DETERIORATED, CAUSES lack of maintenance
- 3) INTEGRITY OF HISTORIC BLDG FABRIC: GF major but revers changes
UF major but revers changes
- 4) SURROUNDING LAND USES residential
- 5) INTEGRITY OF PROP'S HIST SETTING intact historic setting
- 6) IMPORTANCE OF PROP TO HIST SETTING integral to character

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

This is a simple mid-nineteenth century vernacular residence with late Greek Revival rather vertical massing and side-entry plan.

A long narrow building with a small addition at the right rear, this building has lost its original clapboard finish. Other original decorative features were covered over or removed when modern asphalt shingles were applied. Original features remaining are side and transom lights at the recessed entry and six-over-six window sashes.

The foundation is faced on the front with large granite slabs, rough-faced and painted with black lines to mimic small ashlar blocks. This represents an interesting attempt to imitate surrounding late nineteenth century buildings which are mostly ashlar-faced.

ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Stylistic evidence would place the building's date as 1850s. Although not specifically mentioned in deeds of the 1860s and 1870s, the amount paid for the property in the transactions cited below suggests that a house as well as land was transferred.

T. G. McLandry sold the property to John McCann on May 10, 1864. Then John McCann sold it to William White for \$1000, a price far above that of an empty lot in the Acre. (North Middlesex Registry, 44:574). William White sold to Thomas H. Elliot in 1874. Thomas H. Elliot sold the property to Edward Costello on May 7, 1874 for \$3500. (Ibid., 101:426).

Most of the deeds for the above transactions contain the following interesting restrictions: "No building or obstruction shall ever be placed less than seven feet to Adams Street and said seven feet shall be kept open for a sidewalk and also shall be subject to any and all rights of drainage, if any through the premises by any party what ever...and subject to the right to drain water from the well situated on said premises." The building remained in the hands of the Costellos until after 1824.

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Sources

Research Report on the Acre.

1850 map.

1879, 1896, 1906, 1924, 1936 atlases.

North Middlesex Registry 44:574, 101:426.

ARCHEOLOGICAL COMMENT

The first building activity occurred on this site in the 1850s. Archeological remains that could be recovered from the small yard would relate to the subsequent domestic use of the site.