



# Allston Preservation Priorities Report

December 2011

BOSTON  
PRESERVATION  
ALLIANCE

In partnership with Historic Boston Incorporated and  
The National Trust for Historic Preservation

# Allston: Places Worth Preserving, Stories Worth Telling

## A Historic Preservation Priorities Report by the Boston Preservation Alliance

December 2011

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## 1.0 About Us

This report was prepared by the Boston Preservation Alliance from March 2010 through early August 2011. It grows out of a process led by the Neighborhood Preservation Partnership, a collaboration between two local historic preservation organizations, the Boston Preservation Alliance and Historic Boston Incorporated, in partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and neighborhood organizations including East Boston Main Streets.

### Who We Are

- The Boston Preservation Alliance (the Alliance) is the primary non-profit historic preservation advocacy and education organization serving the city of Boston.
- Historic Boston Incorporated (HBI) is a revolving loan fund and non-profit real estate organization that rehabilitates historic and culturally significant properties in Boston.
- The National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) is a national membership non-profit organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing communities. The NTHP Partners in the Field Program supports outreach into traditionally underserved communities throughout the U.S. – in our case, Boston’s neighborhoods, in order to help save “places that matter.”
- Allston Village Main Streets (AVMS) is part of the national Main Streets program, which is an outgrowth of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. AVMS revitalizes the Allston Village commercial district by investing in its historic buildings.

Through series of neighborhood-based workshops, the Boston Preservation Alliance strives to identify neighborhood priorities for future historic preservation advocacy and education. The priorities discussed in this report reflect what we heard from people who live and work in Allston during a series of workshops and one-on-one communications from the spring of 2010 to the summer of 2011. This report will be circulated to key agencies and organizations in Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including the Boston Landmarks Commission, the Massachusetts

Historical Commission, the Boston Redevelopment Authority, and the City of Boston’s Department of Neighborhood Development, and will inform the Alliance’s priorities regarding potential advocacy in Allston in the years ahead.

In conjunction with this report, HBI has authored a Commercial Casebook chapter for the Allston Village Main Streets District, which identifies priorities for its future real estate development and preservation of its historic commercial properties. The Allston Commercial Casebook chapter will be part of a Casebook for Main Streets districts throughout the city, which will be distributed to key agencies and organizations in Boston and the Commonwealth. The Allston chapter will inform HBI’s priorities regarding potential real estate development assistance in Allston in the future.

This report represents the final product of a sixteen-month information gathering process in Allston, which included the following components:

- Informal information gathering from one-on-one communications with a broad spectrum of neighborhood residents and community members
- Primary and secondary source historical research, with sources including Boston Landmarks Commission Building Information Forms, existing neighborhood reports and surveys, and the Massachusetts Historical Commission’s online MACRIS (Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System) research tool

- A Historic Preservation Walking Tour of the Allston Village Main Streets District for Allston residents and other interested individuals, co-presented by the Alliance and Allston Village Main Streets in April 2010
- HBI's preparation of a Commercial Casebook chapter on Allston Village
- Interactive presentations at three Allston/Brighton civic and neighborhood association meetings
- A culminating workshop on June 29, 2010, called "Places Worth Preserving, Stories Worth Telling," at which community leaders and residents gathered to learn about the information gathered to date and to provide additional information for the report

Allston community members have expressed the following hopes or visions for Allston historic preservation efforts:

- Information sharing and engagement of the business community regarding the history of the buildings they work in, and the history of the commercial district as a whole
- Community education about potential benefits of historical designation, and other incentives to improve the aesthetics of the neighborhood's historic properties
- Development of neighborhood pride around local history and historic preservation, in order to build a grassroots movement to protect and improve the neighborhood's historic properties

Additionally, participants at the neighborhood workshops raised the following needs and interests:

- Education of landlords about their buildings' histories and encouraging them to maintain or restore these buildings
- Building a sense of place with visual anchors that define the neighborhood for residents and visitors
- Documentation and public education about Allston's transportation history, the history of institutional development and land acquisition in Allston (especially by Harvard University and Boston University), and the history and evolution of North Allston and Allston Village
- Outreach to Allston's non-native-English-speaking communities, including Korean and Russian communities; attention to the history of immigration and immigrant populations in the neighborhood
- Outreach and education to college and university student populations in the neighborhood
- Creation of a standing exhibit in the Honan-Allston Branch Library regarding neighborhood history and historic preservation
- Removal of street-level signs that hide historical architecture, continuation of efforts to upgrade the appearances of commercial buildings, and removal of litter and graffiti

The neighborhood priorities discussed in this report represent many voices from the Allston community; the information about each entry is drawn from a combination of the following: neighborhood residents' memories and knowledge, written records and reports, and discussions with representatives of neighborhood and city organizations and agencies.

The properties and places mentioned in this report include both those that still exist and those that no longer stand. In Allston as in any neighborhood, there are lessons to be learned from these past places, some of which were lost to neglect and/or demolition. These lessons can build a foundation for responsible preservation efforts in the future.

While the priorities identified in this report do not necessarily reflect the priorities of the Boston Preservation Alliance, the Alliance will use this report to help focus our educational and advocacy efforts in Allston in the near future.

At a neighborhood workshop in another Boston neighborhood this spring, community members stated their desire for a teaching tool that would identify neighborhood buildings with historic designations, and explain what those designations mean. As a result, the Boston Preservation Alliance has begun to create in each Neighborhood Preservation Priorities Report a map that illustrates where designated properties lie and that provides a summary of these designations' impacts. The map for Allston, attached as an appendix to this report, is not all-inclusive of the geographical area included in the report, and is meant to be an initial teaching tool that may be expanded in the future. Additionally, within the report, historic designations are indicated where relevant at the end of each property's description.



## 2.0 Historic Preservation Opportunities in Allston: an Introduction

The following sections represent themes that arose during this project's information gathering phase. Each section includes a brief introduction, followed by a short list of identified priorities, and then a more comprehensive listing of properties or issues mentioned by community members that relate to the theme.

*Properties mentioned below that also appear in Historic Boston Incorporated's Commercial Casebook Chapter (attached as an Appendix to this report) are marked\* with an asterisk.*

### 2.1 Historic Preservation Opportunities: Neighborhood Schools, Milestones and Other Special Features

Milestones from the 18th century, which served to direct postal service employees on their routes, emerged as a significant community priority for public education and preservation in the Allston neighborhood workshop series. Currently located in a heavily trafficked area, one of these historical milestones was seriously damaged when a truck backed into it in July 2011. Ownership and responsibility for maintenance has been unknown to residents and the Boston Police Department prior to summer 2011, presenting a significant barrier to advocacy for this and other milestones.

Some residents have suggested the possibility of moving historical milestones located in dangerous or high-traffic locations to a central, protected location such as a park and placing replicas in the original locations, although a number of community

members have expressed the strong feeling that uprooting the markers from their original locations would detract from their historical meaning in context. Some community members have suggested moving the markers slightly to offer them protection, or building a sidewalk extension and a protective barrier around the sidewalk marker. The community feels strongly about ensuring that these historical features receive attention and care.

Special neighborhood features include the granite lions that currently reside behind the Honan-Allston Branch Library, Harvard Stadium, and 20th-signage, including Union Square's Twin Do-Nuts neon sign. Historical schools, including one named after Revolutionary War hero Thomas Gardner, are also included in this section of the report.

## 2.1a Neighborhood Schools, Milestones and Other Special Features: Priority



### “6 miles to Boston” Milestone

142 Harvard Avenue  
(1729)

This milestone is included in a group of Boston-area milestones that were listed in the National Register in 1971 as "1767 Milestones." The group includes milestones placed earlier, including this one carved with the date "1729" and the initials "PD." The initials refer to Paul Dudley, then Attorney General of the Massachusetts Colony, who set this stone, among others, and was later appointed Chief Justice.

Located inches from the street along the sidewalk's edge in front of a thrift store on Harvard Avenue once occupied by TruValue Hardware, this milestone suffers from visible damage and has been marked with graffiti on one side. In 2010, a truck hit the milestone, cracking it at its base; another truck damaged the milestone in July 2011.

Ultimate responsibility for this historic milestone lies with the Massachusetts Highway Department/Department of Transportation (DOT). At the time this report was prepared, the Boston Preservation Alliance was working with the DOT and community partners to plan short-term and long-term solutions addressing this milestone's existing damage and extreme vulnerability. This process may include convening a group in Fall 2011 to discuss a long-term preservation plan.

The 1729 "6 Miles to Boston" milestone in summer 2011, as seen from the street (above left) and from the sidewalk (above right)

## 2.1a Neighborhood Schools, Milestones and Other Special Features: Priority



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD

### Milestone

240 North Harvard Street  
(1729)

This milestone is located in a privately owned front yard, behind a cement retaining wall, and is visible from the sidewalk. Like the milestone at 142 Harvard Avenue, this milestone is included in a group of Boston-area milestones listed in the National Register in 1971 as "1767 Milestones," and imprinted with the initials "PD" for Paul Dudley. Although this marker occupies a less vulnerable position than the milestone at 142 Harvard Avenue, residents are equally interested in ensuring its long-term preservation and care.



## 2.1b Neighborhood Schools, Milestones and Other Special Features: Additional Properties of Note



PHOTO COURTESY OF CBI CONSULTING INC.

### Harvard Stadium

60 North Harvard Street  
(1903)

This Harvard University stadium was designed by De Gersdorff, Hollis, Johnson, McKim, Olmsted, and Worcester in the Classical Revival style.

Historic Designations: National Register Individual Property, National Historic Landmark



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD

### Granite Lions

Found at site of American Building and Wrecking Co.

### Granite Blocks

Found along Western Avenue

These granite lions and blocks were found during preparations for the planned Harvard University Science Center. According to a 2008 Harvard Crimson online news brief (See "Lion's Den" in References), Christopher M. Gordon of the Allston Development Group explained that the site "was formerly a construction dump area, so the [approximately 12 granite] lions [found there] may have once graced the tops of a building somewhere in Boston." At that time, a historic research company had begun to research the lion heads' origin. According to Ken Johnson, a member of the original project team (email to Erica Lindamood, 11/29/2011), the team believed that the lion heads were used as column capitals (a feature "not uncommon in turn of the 20th century commercial buildings"). The team's lack of knowledge of the geographic area that the wrecking company served made the possibility of locating the building of origin improbable.

Allston community members have expressed an interest in learning about the history of these lions and blocks.

Pictured above: Three of the granite lions currently reside at the new Library Park behind the Honan-Allston Branch Library.

## 2.1b Neighborhood Schools, Milestones and Other Special Features: Additional Properties of Note



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD

### Thomas Gardner School (Gardner Pilot School)

30 Athol Street  
(1906)

This school was built in honor of Revolutionary War Colonel Thomas Gardner (1724-1773). (See also Thomas Gardner House, in "Residential Properties and Neighborhoods" section below.s)



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD

### David L. Barrett School

25 Travis Street  
(1933)

This Art Deco-style school building was one of a number of pre-Works Progress Administration (WPA) public works projects of the early 1930s, constructed under Mayor James Michael Curley (Marchione 1986: p. 116).

The school building is currently owned by Harvard University, and houses Harvard Business School offices.

## 2.1b Neighborhood Schools, Milestones and Other Special Features: Additional Properties of Note



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD

### Signage

#### Twin Do-Nuts

501 Cambridge Street  
(1955)

#### Blanchard's

99-119 Harvard Avenue  
(ca. 1975)

The bright Twin Do-Nuts sign at 501 Cambridge Street has been a memorable part of Allston since 1955. The Blanchard's signs are also a distinctive neighborhood feature.

## 2.2 Historic Preservation Opportunities: Allston Village Main Streets Commercial District

Included in this section are a variety of historical and contemporary neighborhood features. These include a 19th-century fire station, late 19th-century commercial blocks and a single-family house, and an 1880s train depot currently used as a restaurant.

### 2.2a Allston Village Main Streets Commercial District: Priority



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIGHTON-ALLSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD

#### Harvard Avenue Fire Station\*

16 Harvard Avenue  
(1891)

Designed by Harrison Henry Atwood and Robert R. Mayers in the Renaissance/Colonial Revival style, Engine House No. 40 replaced an earlier wooden firehouse that had been built in the late 1870s. The larger, better-equipped brick fire station responded to the needs of an expanding residential and commercial base. In the 1980s, the fire department relocated to Cambridge Street, and since then the 1981 fire station has been adapted for re-use as a store. An antique shop resided here at one time, and at another time a café used the courtyard. More recently, a yoga/dance studio and a Brazilian immigrant club have occupied the upper floors, and a karaoke bar the basement level. The building is accessed from a side alley.

Community members have identified restoration and cleanup of the fire station as a priority issue. Of particular concern has been the ivy that covers much of the building's surface, which may cause masonry damage.

Historic Designations: National Register Individual Property. Part of the Harvard Avenue National Register District.

above left: Fire Station ca. 1900

above right: The fire station building in July 2011



## 2.2a Allston Village Main Streets Commercial District: Priority



### Shepard-Longfellow Building\*

4-12 Franklin Street  
(1880)

Built in 1880, 1890, and 1895, respectively, the Shepard-Longfellow Building, Allston Hall, and the Allen Building represent the early development of Allston Village as a commercial center. Along with the Chester Block (see p. 16), these buildings replaced wood frame buildings that had been constructed just after the Civil War.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Henry W. Longfellow (thought to be a cousin of Cambridge poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow) owned a grocery store on the street level of the Shepard-Longfellow Building and resided above. Frank Shepard was likely this building's architect and developer.

The Shepard-Longfellow Building, Allston Hall, and the Allen Building currently store auto parts for the Jack Young Company, whose offices are located

in the Allen Building. Since the 1990s, Shepard-Longfellow Building's and Allston Hall's facades have been adorned by murals by local artist Elli Crocker.

Pictured above: Chester Block (discussed on p. 16), Shepard-Longfellow Building, and Allston Hall

## 2.2a Allston Village Main Streets Commercial District: Priority



### Allston Hall\*

4-12 Franklin Street  
(1890)

Allston Hall was built for book publisher and real estate magnate Samuel Hano. In its early years, the building housed Newton Savings Bank, a meeting hall, and residential apartments on the two uppermost floors. During the 20th century, it housed real estate offices, and through mid-century the second floor was used for events and meetings.

(See "Shepard-Longfellow Building," p. 12 above, for information about current building use.)

## 2.2a Allston Village Main Streets Commercial District: Priority



PHOTO COURTESY OF HISTORIC BOSTON INCORPORATED

### Allen Building\*

344 Cambridge Street  
(1895)

The Allen Building was designed by Henry Kendall, Kendall and Stevens, and is the largest building in the district. The Cambridge Street side of the building was originally home to small businesses on the first level with apartments above them. The Linden Street side of the building housed three stories of residential apartments.

(See "Shepard-Longfellow Building," p. 12 above, for information about current building use.)



## 2.2b Allston Village Main Streets Commercial District: Additional Properties of Note



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD

### The John English House

390 Cambridge Street  
(ca. 1870)

The John English House stands across the street from from the Chester Block (p. 16). This house is the oldest existing building in the commercial district and the district's only remaining single-family house from its era. The English House gives us a glimpse of the late 19th-century suburban neighborhood with single-family residences on large lots.

Historic Designation: Part of the Harvard Avenue National Register District

(above) The John English House today, with lot of former Washington Allston School to right of building. All that remains of the former school is a granite retaining wall, visible in this photograph.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIGHTON-ALLSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### The Washington Allston School

Adjacent to 390 Cambridge Street  
(Opened 1879; destroyed by fire 1977)

The area to the right, currently undeveloped green space, previously housed the Washington Allston School. First opened in 1879, the Queen Anne-style school was originally named the Allston Grammar School; the name was changed in 1893. All that remains of the school today is a granite retaining wall. The current owner of 390 Cambridge Street also owns the adjacent lot to its west.

Historic Designation: Part of the Harvard Avenue National Register District

(above) The Washington Allston School (with the John English House visible in left background).



## 2.2b Allston Village Main Streets Commercial District: Additional Properties of Note



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD

### Chester Block\*

373-385 Cambridge Street  
(1876-1885)

373-385 Cambridge Street was built for developer W.R. Chester between 1876 and 1885; the addition of 387-91 was built for him ca.1892. The building's western third (the later-built portion) was designed by architect Franz J. Untersee, who is known for his design of many churches, including St. Anthony of Padua in Allston (included in "Additional Religious Properties of Note," below).

Staples & Towse Apothecaries and Holman's Dry Good Store were two early businesses on the first level of 387-91. Businesses during the 1940s and 1950s included Royal Café, William B. Fitzgerald, Tailor, Handi Sales Co., Allston News Co., Aema Electric Co., and Wesley W. Gould, plumbers.

In 1973, businesses included a furniture store, catering and restaurant, sign painting shop, barber shop, upholstery shop, and sheet metal fabrication shop. The building is currently owned by RCG, LLC property management group; businesses on the first floor include an insurance company, a luxury barber/spa, a glass company and a men's clothing boutique.

Historic Designation: Part of the Harvard Avenue National Register District



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD

### Gordon Building\*

149-175 Harvard Avenue  
(mid-1920s)

The façade of the Gordon Building, a mid-1920s commercial block, follows the curving line of Harvard Avenue. Its storefronts and large second-floor windows are interspersed with plaster-covered piers. The second floor's first tenant was the Allston Branch of the Boston Public Library. During the 1930s, the building housed Shawmut National Bank, a cobbler, two dentists, a small department store, a billiard parlor, and an early A & P grocery store, among other businesses. Today the building houses a variety of businesses, including Allston Village Main Streets.

Historic Designation: Part of the Harvard Avenue National Register District

## 2.2b Allston Village Main Streets Commercial District: Additional Properties of Note



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD

### Union Square

Union Square has been a crossroads in Allston for two hundred years. In its early days, it led to the stockyards in Brighton. During the 19th century, the corner now occupied by the fire station was home to the Brighton Avenue Baptist Church, built in 1857. Twin Donuts stands today at the former location of Odd Fellows Hall. The current site of the Jackson Mann School (which opened in 1976) used to house another, smaller school.

Some community members have commented that the monument area/park in Union Square deserves cleanup and attention.

Twin Donuts today occupies the prominent location at the intersection of Cambridge Street and Brighton Avenue.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD

### Allston Depot\*

353 Cambridge Street  
(1886-1887)

The Allston Depot was built in 1886-1887 by the firm Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge. This building, which replaced the original wood frame depot built in 1867, was one of 32 passenger stations planned by the Boston & Albany Railroad in the early 1880s, and designed by architect Henry Hobson Richardson and his successors in typical “Richardsonian railroad station” style, featuring granite block with brownstone trim (Harvard Avenue Historic District nomination, 2000, p. 8). Most other B&A stations built during the 1880s were demolished when the Massachusetts Turnpike was extended in the early 1960s. In past years, landscape designed by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted surrounded the depot.

From 1972 to 2010, the Arcand family owned the depot and operated a restaurant (the Sports Depot) in the building. Regina Pizzeria currently occupies the building. The depot’s original ticket window (pictured on the report cover) remains inside the building.

Historic Designations: Boston Landmark, and part of the Harvard Avenue National Register District

## 2.2b Allston Village Main Streets Commercial District: Additional Properties of Note



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD

### 20 Linden Street

(1924)

The property at 20 Linden Street consists of two brick buildings. The larger building was originally home to the H.F. Livermore Co., a loom-repair parts factory, and the smaller one housed the Ston-Craf Co., a cement tray company.

This property is currently owned by Andrian Shapiro. The larger building houses the Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation (CDC), along with Arbat Russian Restaurant, a day care, a ballroom dance studio, a Russian bath house, and several other businesses. The smaller building houses a senior day care program for Russian elders.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD

### 541 Cambridge Street

(ca. 1880)

This building outside Union Square formerly housed a women's club, then the Knights of Columbus, according to neighborhood residents. Currently it houses Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers for the Disabled, a nonprofit organization that trains monkeys to provide assistance to people with severe disabilities. Helping Hands purchased the building in 1999, and opened the business on site in 2004.

## 2.2b Allston Village Main Streets Commercial District: Additional Properties of Note



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD

### 244 Brighton Avenue

(ca. 1899)

This commercial building formerly housed the laboratory of the Angier Chemical Company (See Massachusetts Historical Commission Report, 1981). The company made Angier's Emulsion, which was prescribed for a variety of maladies.

Community members have expressed interest in this four-story commercial block, which is located diagonally across the street from the fire station in Union Square.



## 2.3 Commercial Properties Outside the Allston Village Main Streets District



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD

### Packard's Corner buildings, including Packard Motor Car Company Building

Commonwealth Avenue near intersection of Brighton Avenue  
(1909-1930)

Residents would like to learn more about the two former car dealerships, which used to be part of a larger strip of car dealers in the Packard's Corner area, on the north side of the junction of Commonwealth and Brighton avenues. According to the Brighton-Allston Historical Society, the Packard Motor Car Company building's façade has been altered, but still retains some of its early Automobile Age characteristics.

For information on Packard's Corner area architecture, including apartment buildings and the Motor Car Company building, see the Brighton-Allston Historical Society's online article, "Packard's Corner Architecture."

Pictured above is the Packard Building, 1079-1089 Commonwealth Avenue.

## 2.4a Residential Properties and Neighborhoods Outside the Commercial District: Priority

### 2.4 Residential Properties and Neighborhoods Outside the Commercial District

Neighborhood residents and other community members have called attention to a range of residential properties deserving of attention and care, including the oldest existing house in Allston (ca. 1750), well-preserved late-19th-century homes, century-old apartment buildings, and the Allston Heights neighborhood.



### Thomas Gardner House

26-28 Higgins Street  
(ca. 1750)

In 1747, Richard Gardner, father of the famous Revolutionary War hero Thomas Gardner, purchased a 110-acre estate that included land on both sides of Harvard Avenue or "the lower Roxbury Highway." Gardner's house stood at the northwest corner of Harvard and Brighton avenues. The house still stands, although in altered condition, on Higgins Street, where it was moved in 1850. It is the oldest existing house in Allston.

Born in 1723, Thomas Gardner was in the forefront of those urging resistance to the King's dissolution of the General Court in 1774. Gardner was the second highest-ranking American officer killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775. The Gardner name lives on in Allston's Gardner Street, and in the Massachusetts town of Gardner, named in 1785.

Residents would like to see increased awareness of this historical home.

## 2.4b Residential Properties and Neighborhoods Outside the Commercial District: Additional Properties of Note



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD

### 14 and 16 Farrington Avenue (ca. 1890)

Residents have brought attention to these two intact, relatively unaltered, historic single-family homes, and noted that #14 (pictured above left) is particularly well preserved.

Historic Designation: Part of the Harvard Avenue National Register District



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD

### The Spofford 18-22 Park Vale Avenue (ca. 1911)

### The Hinkley 10-14 Park Vale Avenue (ca. 1911)

Residents are interested in these adjoining, triple-decker brick apartment buildings and the housing cooperatives that have existed in them for nearly a century. The Spofford houses the Spofford Housing Cooperative, and the Hinkley houses the Park Vale Housing Cooperative.

According to one neighborhood resident, the Parkvale Housing Cooperative may have been the first housing cooperative in Boston. Recent research by a member of the cooperative indicates that the cooperative was established in August 1920.

Historic Designation: Part of the Harvard Avenue National Register District

## 2.4b Residential Properties and Neighborhoods Outside the Commercial District: Additional Properties of Note



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD

### Allston Heights

The compact neighborhood of Allston Heights began development in 1808 with the laying out of Cambridge Street. The area stretches from Commonwealth Avenue to North Beacon Street. Most residential development in the area, however, occurred post-Civil War, with the houses designed in ornate Queen Anne and Shingle styles. Residents note that the neighborhood appears to be well-preserved. Today, the area consists mostly of rental property and condominiums.

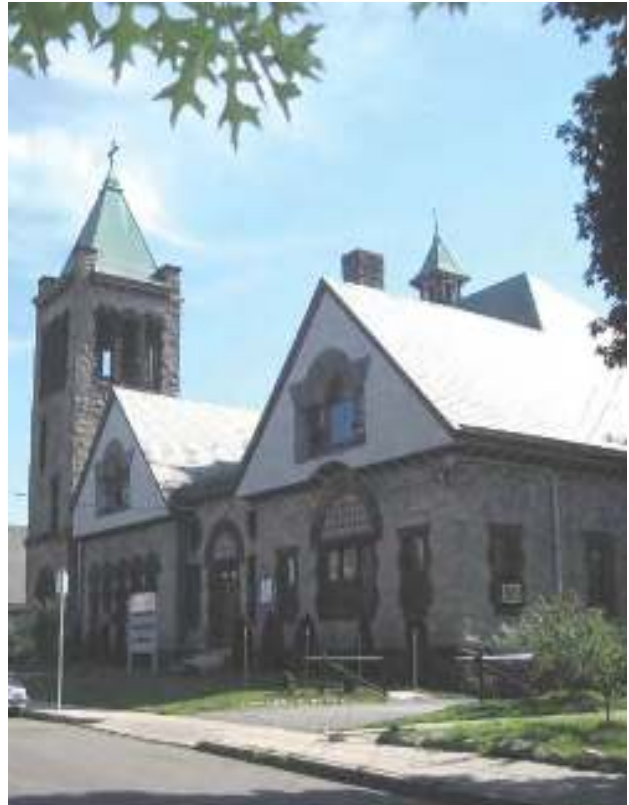
Above: Cambridge Terrace, across from 541 Cambridge Street. Below: Numbers 36 and 40 Gordon Street.



## 2.5a Religious Properties:Priority

### 2.5 Religious Properties

Community members have called attention to a variety of religious properties in Allston dating from 1891 to 1930. Current uses of the historic buildings mentioned in this section of the report include a Palestinian cultural center and mosque, Baptist and Roman Catholic churches, a private bilingual school, and housing for seniors.



#### Allston Congregational Church

41 Quint Avenue  
(1891)

This Richardsonian Romanesque style church was designed by Eugene Clark, Hook and Hastings, and Woodbury and Leighton. In 2003, members of the Allston Congregational Church decided to sell the church; since then, the property has been owned by Anwar Faisal and houses the Palestinian Cultural Center for Peace and Yousef Mosque. At the time of the property sale in 2003, HBI accepted the donation of a preservation restriction (easement) on the property. Since 2010, some neighbors have expressed concerns about changes the owner has made to the landscape surrounding the church—elements that are not clearly defined in the easement.

Historic Designations: Individually listed on the National Register and subject to a Preservation Restriction (Easement) held by Historic Boston Incorporated.

## 2.5b Religious Properties: Additional Properties of Note



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIGHTON-ALLSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Brighton Avenue Baptist Church

30 Gordon Street  
(1930)

Brighton Avenue Baptist Church was founded in 1853; the first church building was constructed in 1857 on the site of today's Union Square Fire Station. Pictured above left is the current Tudor Gothic Revival style church building, built in 1930. The church was designed by Blackall Clapp & Whittemore. A neighborhood resident has expressed concern about the building's current use and future well being.

Above: Today's Brighton Avenue Baptist Church

Below: ca. 1910 image of the earlier Brighton Avenue Baptist Church building in Union Square



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD

### Hill Memorial Baptist Church

279 North Harvard Street  
(1903)

According to community members, this Shingle style church replaced an earlier Baptist church, which in the 19th century was located on Western Avenue near the current location of the Footes Painting store.

## 2.5b Religious Properties: Additional Properties of Note



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD

### Saint Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church Complex

#### Church

37 Holton Street  
(1894)

#### Rectory

43 Holton Street  
(1896)

The community mentioned the St. Anthony of Padua complex as important to them. The church (pictured above) was designed by Franz J. Untersee (see also “Chester Block” in “Additional Main Streets Properties,” p. 16).

The rectory (pictured below) was designed in Colonial Revival style by architect Timothy Sullivan, and today continues to be used as a rectory.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD

### Saint Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church Complex

#### School

57 Holton Street  
(1915)

#### Convent

69 Holton Street  
(1930)

Since 2007, the Craftsman-style school building (pictured above) has housed the German International School of Boston, a private bilingual school for preschoolers through high school students.

This English Revival style convent (pictured below) is commonly known as McNamara House. Today, the building is used as housing for seniors. Visible in the left background of the picture is the newer adjoining building.

## 3.0 Next Steps for Neighborhood Historic Preservation: Additional Notes on Community Views, Interests, and Actions

### College and University Students: Outreach and Participation

Participants in the June 29 neighborhood preservation workshop included Harvard University and Boston University students. A BU student has offered to help with follow-up research regarding the history of institutional development in the neighborhood and other topics; a BU student group has begun to plan educational and civic engagement events for students, including a neighborhood history walking tour.

### New Forums for Community Education

New, planned and potential forums for community education in Allston include the following:

- With funding from the Harvard Allston Partnership Fund, the Brighton-Allston Historical Society and Heritage Museum has installed historical markers in front of the Honan-Allston Library and at the corner of Everett Street and Western Avenue. The Historical Society has applied for funding to support two additional historical markers in the community.
- The Brighton-Allston Historical Society has recently announced that it plans to participate in the Mass. Memories Road Show, sponsored by UMass Boston and providing for the sharing and saving of memories from each city and town in the Commonwealth.
- The Brighton-Allston Historical Society also will offer a program in Spring 2012, featuring architectural historian Emily Wolf of the Boston Landmarks Commission, that highlights historical landmarks and pending landmarks in the community.

- Allston Village Main Streets, in collaboration with the Boston Preservation Alliance and other neighborhood groups, has begun to develop multi-media products that will allow Allston community members and visitors to take self-guided historical tours of the neighborhood.

- Youth focus groups and workshops on neighborhood history and planning may provide forums for additional public education in the future. A pilot youth focus group, convened by the Alliance's Education Coordinator in March 2010 (see West End House in References), provided a preliminary model for similar programming. Participating youth were invited to explore historical images of Allston places, and provided feedback on changes they would like to see to make the neighborhood more youth-friendly.



## 4.0 Historic Preservation Success Stories in Allston

The following property represents one recognized historic preservation “success story” in the neighborhood, in the form of successful re-use of a historical commercial building.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA LINDAMOOD

### Market Trust Company Building

132 Brighton Avenue  
(ca. 1913)

This building at the corner of Brighton and Harvard avenues was built for hotel owner E. Willard Frost ca. 1913 on the site of a former ca. 1800 wooden farmhouse. The granite-trimmed, tapestry brick structure was long identified with the Market Trust Company, which occupied the building’s central third. During the 1930s, tenants included a bank, a beauty shop, and on the second floor doctors, dentists and law offices. The building is currently occupied by the Sunset Grill & Tap and Big City pool hall.

Historic Designation: Part of the Harvard Avenue National Register District

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**West End House Boys and Girls Club Teen Focus Group (Convened by Erica Lindamood)**

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