

CHARLESTOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDING
110 Bunker Hill Street
Charlestown
Suffolk County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-1254

HABS
MASS
13-CHAR,
11-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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- Location: 110 Bunker Hill Street
Charlestown, Suffolk County, Massachusetts
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
19.330420.4693550
- Significance: The Municipal Building, known locally as the "Muni," has been an important focus of community life for most of its 140+ years. Although drastically altered, the building retained much of its original Greek Revival character and civic presence in the community.
- Description: The building faces Bunker Hill Street, a major commercial/residential Charlestown street. The brick and limestone trimmed building was originally two stories with a pedimented attic; the third floor was added in the early 20th century. The facade contains three bays, the main entrance flanked by full-height openings. All have limestone frames. A broad, low flight of granite steps spans the facade. Greek Revival elements adorn the facade enframements. Windows of second floor have simple limestone frames and lintels. The third floor windows have limestone sills and brick, round arch heads.
- History: According to the Charlestown Enterprise (Jan.26,1918), the building was erected in 1847 as the Winthrop School. The architect is unidentified. It was named the Winthrop School in honor of John Winthrop, leader of Charlestown's first company of settlers (1629). The building symbolizes Charlestown's "building boom" of the 1840's, precipitated by the immigrant influx. It is also symbolic of Charlestown's transition from town to city status; Charlestown was incorporated as a city in 1847. The third floor gym with suspended running track was a later addition, probably in the early 20th century, which accounts for the extended walls and new roofline. The building is scheduled for demolition in late 1991 to allow for construction of federally subsidized elderly housing.
- Sources: Boston Landmarks Commission building information form.
"Charlestown Enterprise" January 26, 1918. "The Point Boys and The Point Girls Received a Good Schooling in the Old Winthrop Before Annexation."

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Sources:
(cont'd)

Old Charlestown School Boys Association, 2nd Banquet,
Boston City Club, April 10, 1916. (contains photograph)

(The Boston Society for the Preservation of New England
Antiquities was searched for additional information.)

Researcher:

Bill Boehm
Public Facilities Department
City of Boston
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