

Brookline Preservation Commission Demolition Application Report

Address: 1680 Beacon Street

Petitioner: Trustees of 1680 Beacon Street Trust

Building types: remove slate from roof of building

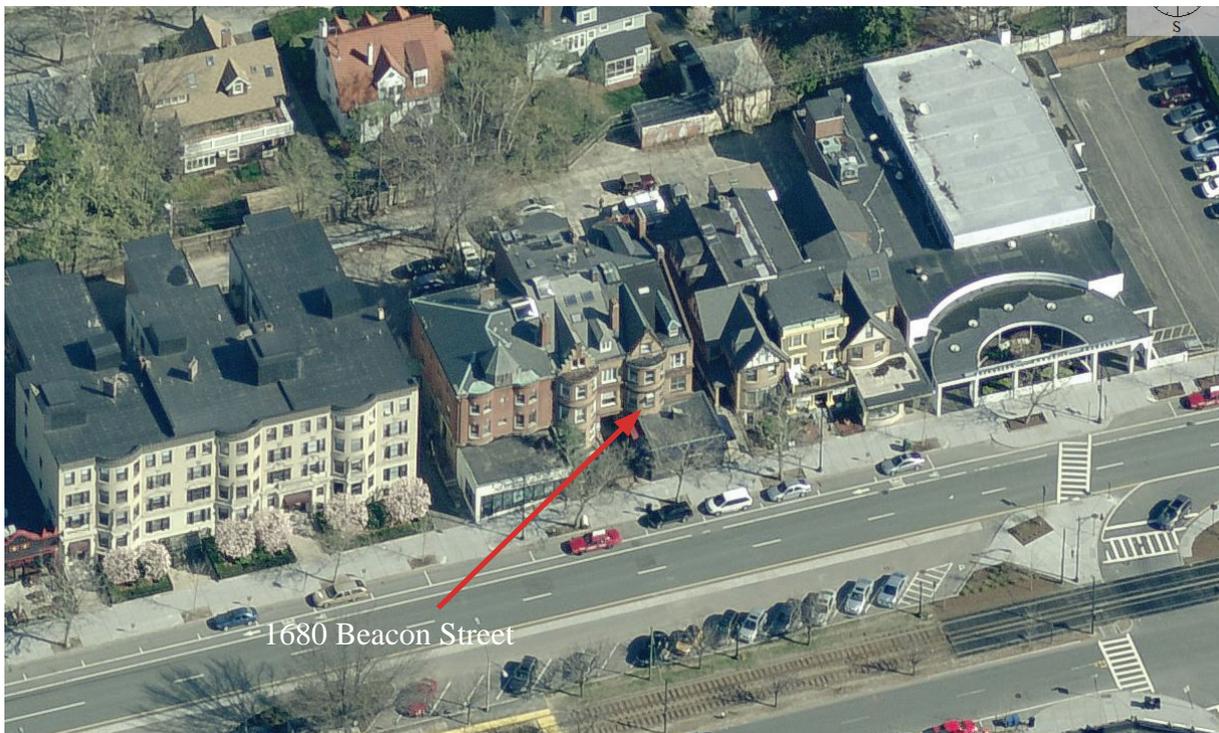
National Register Listing (if Applicable): Beacon Street NR district



Historical/Architectural Significance:

This address is part of a double townhouse at 1680-1682 Beacon Street in the National Register district. It was designed in High Flemish Revival style by architect Obed Smith in 1891 for owner Uriah Coffin. One of five double or two-family houses on this section of Beacon Street; it is also one of the most elaborately detailed. The gables are stepped, with scrolls around the eaves and carved stone finials. The dark yellow-brick facade has patterned brick and granite trim and the rounded bays are surmounted by iron railings. The gray slate roof tiles are a character-defining feature of the building.

A storefront addition was installed at 1680 Beacon Street in 1946.



Architect Obed Smith had offices at 7 Kilby Street in Boston and at 23 Court Street in Newton Center. He designed a number of detached single-family houses in Brookline, mostly in Queen Anne style, and two of the earliest apartment hotels in the Boston metropolitan area: the Kempsford on Walnut Street and the Adelaide on High Street, both in panelled brick.

Uruiah Coffin was a builder who lived in Boston and constructed many townhouses in the Back Bay, including ones on Commonwealth Avenue, also designed by Smith. By 1896 Coffin had sold 1680-1682 Beacon Street to J. Harris Aubin of New Hampshire.





The townhouse at 1680 Beacon Street meets the following criteria for an initial determination of significance:

- a. The building is listed or is within an area listed in the National or State Register of Historic Places;
- c. The building is associated with one or more significant historic persons or events, or with the broad architectural, cultural, political, economic, or social history of the Town or Commonwealth; and
- d. The building is historically or architecturally significant in terms of its period, style, method of construction, or its association with a significant architect or builder, either by itself or as part of a group of buildings.

1680 Beacon Street retains its integrity on terms of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association. Together with 1682 Beacon Street, it represents one of the best examples of Flemish Renaissance Revival style on Beacon Street. The slate roof contributes to the character of the building and should not be removed.