

Brookline Preservation Commission Demolition Application Report

Address: 123 Fuller Street
Applicant: 123 Fuller LLC
Building Type: House (Full)
National Register Listing (if Applicable): None



Historical/Architectural Significance:

The home at 123 Fuller Street was built in 1909 for Henry Bothfeld, designed and built by Charles F. Jones. Mr. Bothfeld, a resident and 10th mayor of Newton (1895), was a real estate developer with an office at 101 Tremont Street in Boston. Bothfeld was very active in Brookline with close ties to the McKay development, purchasing many lots from Martha McKay after her husband passed away, serving as a Trustee for Martha's own will, and also as a Trustee for the Babcock Hill Trust. Additionally, Bothfeld served from 1910-1915 as a State Representative for the 4th Middlesex District and was the publisher of Hearst Newspapers in Boston. In his private life, Bothfeld was known as an avid historian and a recognized authority on ship models and antique furniture.

The lot at 123 Fuller Street was created during the subdivision of the former John Gibbs estate between 1893 and 1900. The land from Harvard Street to Gibbs Street was rapidly converted to a suburban environment in those years as the McKay family extended roads and divided the parcel into building lots. Bothfeld acquired and built several adjacent lots on this section of Fuller Street at the same time as 123, all built in the period from 1909-1912: #'s 107, 111, 116, 119, and 120. Charles F. Jones was the architect for all of these homes.

The 2 ½ story rises from a concrete foundation to a side gabled asphalt roof. The architectural detailing of the home is simple, exhibiting influences of Shingle Style and Colonial Revival design. Shingle cladding flares slightly at the first & second floors as well as the cornice line on the side elevations, supported by molded trim bands at the second floor and cornice line. On the left elevation, this detail is accentuated by two bay windows with curved asphalt shingle roofs. The

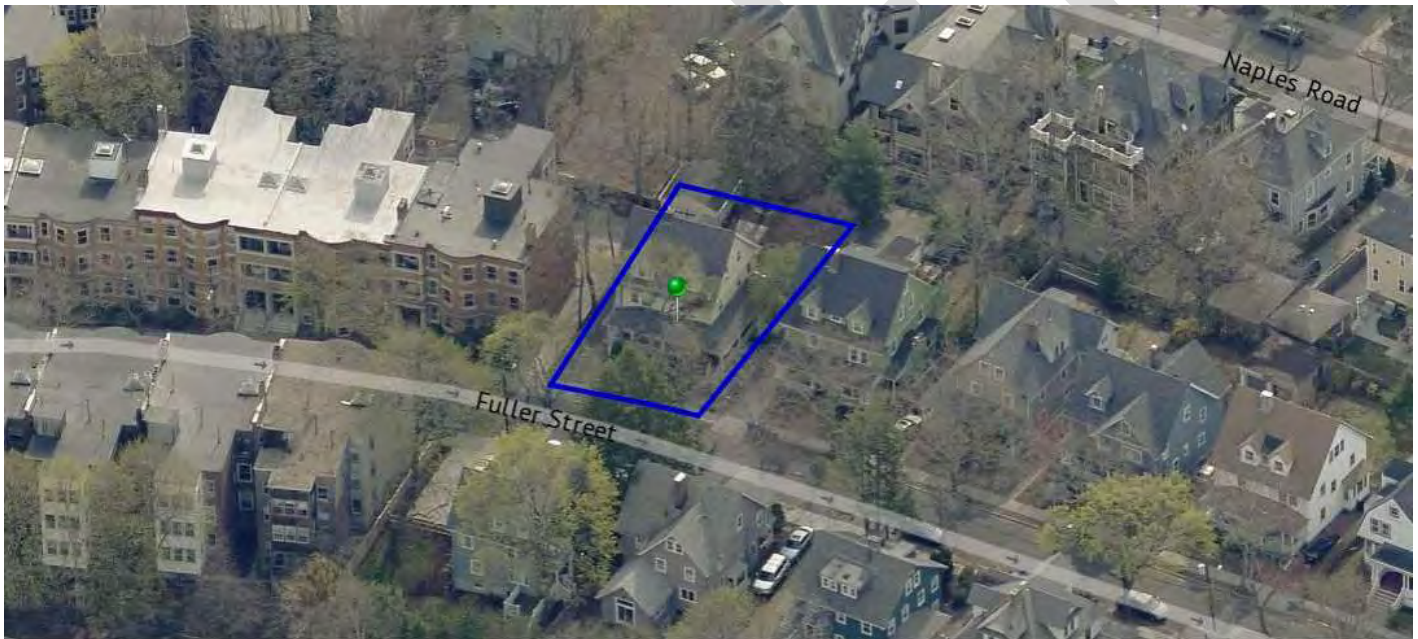
bay windows are supported by decorative brackets similar to those on the cornice. A single story hipped roof porch on the façade wraps around the right elevation; the rear of the porch on the right elevation is enclosed.

Changes to the home over time include the installation of new gutters in 1993, new asphalt roofs in 1993 & 2007. It appears that the original windows were replaced but no permit could be located for this work. In 1923 a metal storehouse was constructed at the rear of the property; this building was demolished in 2003 to construct the present garage. An application for demolition of the garage was also received, but a Certificate of Non-significance has been issued for the building.

The house at 123 Fuller Street meets the following criteria for an initial determination of significance:

- 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.

The building at 123 Fuller Street retains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, materials, and workmanship.



Aerial view of 123 Fuller Street, looking east.



Aerial view of 123 Fuller Street, looking north.



Aerial view of 123 Fuller Street, looking west.



Aerial view of 123 Fuller Street, looking south.



Photo of façade, 123 Fuller Street.



Views of right elevation from Fuller Street.





View of left elevation from Fuller Street (top); close up of bay windows (bottom).





Town of Brookline Atlas, 1913



Town of Brookline Atlas, 1927