

Massachusetts Historical Commission
 80 Boylston Street
 Boston, Massachusetts 02116

69-201

Marlborough

E

161



Town Marlborough

Place (neighborhood or village) _____

Mount Pleasant Hill

Address 35 Water Street

Historic Name Philip J. Byrne House

Uses: Present Dwelling

Original Dwelling

Date of Construction ca 1888

Source Maps; style

Style/Form Queen Anne

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation fieldstone, granite, and rubble

Wall/Trim wood clapboard and shingle

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures _____

none

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

none

Condition excellent

Moved no yes Date N/A

Acreage less than one acre

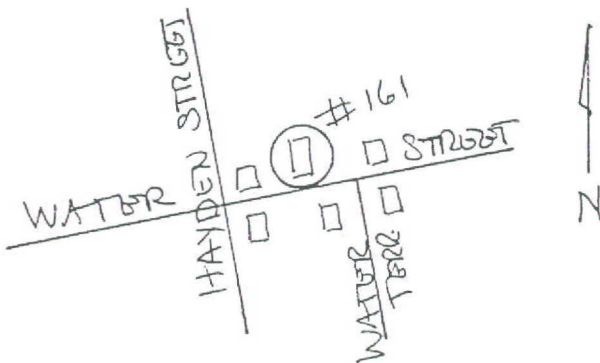
Setting On banked, narrow lot; concrete

steps at front. On street of 1880's-1890's

wood-frame houses

Sketch Map

Draw a map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets, including route numbers, if any. Attach a separate sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate north.



Recorded by Anne Forbes

Organization for Marlboro Hist. Comm

Date 8/15/94

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [] *see continuation sheet*

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The best-preserved and most elaborately-detailed of the Queen Anne houses in the Mount Pleasant Hill area, the Byrne House is an excellent example of one type of tall, pedimented-gable-end, side-hall-entry house that was built throughout the center of Marlborough in the 1880's and '90's. It is 2 1/2-stories, with a two-story rear wing and a shallow cross-gabled bay on the east side. The facade is three bays wide, with a full-width, shed-roofed porch on bracketed, lathe-turned posts. The windows are 2-over-2-sash; a shed-roofed double dormer breaks the west roof plane. The main entry has a large double-leaf, glass-and-panel door with large lights surrounded by small panes.

The house is highly decorated, with detail enhanced by a four-color paint scheme. The facade gable is embellished with an intricate arched gable screen with saw-cut detailing, and the east side gable has a king-post truss and large, continuous cornice brackets under the pediment. The east bay also has a spandrel-bracketed, shingled skirt, and the main side walls of the house are delineated by horizontal banding at the top and bottom of the windows.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE [] *see continuation sheet*

Explain history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

35 Water Street is illustrative of the close connection between the residents of the Mount Pleasant Hill area and the work force in Marlborough's local shoe industry at the end of the nineteenth century. A majority of the heads of households in the neighborhood were employed in the nearby shoe factories, most as skilled workmen or mid-level managers. This house belonged to **Philip J. Byrne**, a skilled "crimper" in the finishing process of shoe production. He was also an agent for the Boot & Shoe Worker's Union, and lived here during the volatile year of 1898-99, when the Marlborough Shoe workers staged a six-month strike against their employers. As a union representative he undoubtedly played a significant role in the course of those events. Philip Byrne, apparently of Irish descent, would also have been typical of the union leadership in general, which tended to come from the large Irish-American component of the work force.

The strength of the boot- and shoe-workers unions in Marlborough grew gradually from the 1870's through the '90's, until in 1898 1500-2000 workers, (half to two-thirds all the shoe workers in the city), were union members. The strike effectively broke the power of the unions at the local level, however. In addition to the Boot and Shoe Worker's Union, other important local organizations were the Knights of St. Crispin and the Lasters' Union #59. Only the Lasters' Union survived the strike intact, and it took many years for both the industry and the living standard of the workers to recover from the effects of the strike.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES [] *see continuation sheet*

Dodd, Martin. "Marlborough Mass. and the Strike of the Shoeworkers, 1898-1899." 1976.
Maps and Atlases: 1889.
Marlborough Directories: 1887, 1897.

[X] Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, a completed National Register Criteria Statement form is attached.*

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community Property Address
Marlborough 35 Water Street

Area(s) Form No(s).

 E 161

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible Eligible only in a historic district
 Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: A B C D

Criteria Considerations: A B C D E F G

Statement of Significance by Forbes / Schuler
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Philip J. Byrne House meets Criteria A and C of the National Register. It is representative of housing for the skilled workers and mid-level management in the flourishing shoe manufacturing industry of the late nineteenth century. Philip Byrne, first owner of this dwelling, worked in a shoe factory and was an agent for the Marlborough Boot & Shoe Worker's Union which grew gradually in power from the 1870s until 1898-99 when the major strike occurred. The property is the best preserved and most elaborately detailed Queen Anne house in the Mount Pleasant Hill area. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.