

12 726 Columbia Road

Number 726 Columbia Road was the home of John McCormack, Congressman from 1928 to 1790 and Speaker of the US House of Representatives from 1962 to 1970. McCormack helped to pass the “Great Society” anti-poverty legislation and was a sponsor of NASA.

13 Roseclair Street

During the late 1890s the introduction of the Columbia Road parkway radically changed the St. Margaret’s/Boston Street area. The construction of the roadway through the William Andrews estate resulted in the construction of Roseclair Street, running parallel to and following the great bend in Columbia Road. The trio of Queen Anne style houses at 70, 72, and 74, and the towered, mirror-image houses at 61 and 63 are noteworthy.

14 231 to 247 Boston Street

Although masonry row housing is common in Boston, the only example of this type of construction in this area of Dorchester is the red brick Queen Anne row numbered 231 to 247 Boston Street.

15 Mayhew Street

Set out as a cul-de-sac named Clapp Place, Mayhew’s north side is built up with wooden 1803s and 1840s dwellings constructed as a compound for members of the Clapp family. The first house was probably 8 Mayhew Street, the William Channing Clapp House. 31 Mayhew is an Italianate house owned by A.H. Clapp; 32 Mayhew is a sparsely ornamented Greek Revival owned by Alfred H. Clapp. Number 38 was occupied by Frederick Weiss who married Mary Clapp; 42 was occupied by William Blake Trask who married Mary’s sister Rebecca.

16 Boston Collegiate Charter School

The school buildings at 11 Mayhew Street began as the convent (1914) for St. Margaret’s Church and the second parochial grammar school (1923), known as St. Rita’s School. The school later became Msgr Ryan

High School; then in 2004 the whole complex became the Boston Collegiate Charter School.

17 221-223 Boston Street

Although not the original owner, Martha Clapp, widow of Frederick and daughter-in-law of William Clapp, the tanner, owned this mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival style house from the 1890s into the early 1900s.

18 St. Margaret Street

Like Mt. Vernon Street and Harvest Street to the north, St. Margaret Street was cut through the former Clapp orchards during the 1890s. Number 50 St. Margaret Street is related to Mayhew Street’s development judging by its massing and Greek Revival characteristics.

19 Mt. Vernon Street

Developed over part of the Clapp orchard, Mt. Vernon Street street has a good collection of early 1870s Italianate/Mansard residences, including 8 Mt. Vernon, a ca. 1870 double house, and 57 Mt. Vernon, a charming Italianate/Mansard cottage. 31 and 33 Mt. Vernon Street three-deckers were built by W.T. Henderson from designs by William Duff.

20 180 to 196 Boston Street

In the early 1900s the group of three-deckers at 180 to 196 Boston Street replaced the original wooden St. Margaret Church building, when the new building was constructed at Dorchester Avenue and Columbia Road.

21 Site of Revolutionary War Redoubt

In 1775 Dorchester citizens fearful of an attack from the British built a fortification to protect against invasion. Made of wood and dirt, the redoubt crossed Boston Street at approximately Dorset Street. The natural contour of the land made Boston Street a narrow causeway in and out of the calf pasture (now South Boston). The redoubt, therefore, was able to command the passage from the north into Dorchester

proper. [You may walk a half block along Harvest Street to view the Roger Clap School.]

22 Lemuel Clap House

Originally built in the early 18th century, the Lemuel Clap House was extensively remodeled into a Georgian-style residence by Capt. Lemuel Clap in 1765. The house served as a barracks for colonial troops prior to and during the action at Dorchester Heights. Lemuel operated a tanning business across the side street. The early members of the family operated a tidal grist mill at the South Bay using the access from the Bay to the sea as the means of transportation for exporting mill and farm products.

23 William Clapp House

Lemuel’s son, William Clapp, expanded the tanning business, earning a healthy income, which he used in 1806 to build this house in the Federal style. In the 1830s he constructed an ell at the back of the house to provide space for his family and to expand the family’s agricultural pursuits. Each of William’s three sons contributed to a new horticultural venture, developing many varieties of pears. Orchards extended outward from both sides of Boston Street.

Directions: Take the Southeast Expressway to the Columbia/JFK exit #15. **From the North:** The exit ramp takes you to Columbia Road. Turn right on Columbia Road and proceed through the second traffic light. Look for street parking. The Blake House is about blocks along on the left. **From the South:** The exit ramp forces you to turn right on Columbia Road when you really want to turn left. Proceed right, go all the way around the traffic circle and come back on Columbia Road and proceed through the third light. Look for street parking. The Blake House is about blocks along on the left. **By T:** take the red line to the JFK/UMass station. When you come out of the station, turn left on Columbia Road, go under the Expressway and walk 5 or 6 long blocks. You will see the Blake House on the left.

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