Town-Winthrop

Place (neighborhood or village)  Winthrop Highlands

Address  63 Temple Avenue

Historic Name  Palmer-Green - Ferdinand House

Use:  Present  private single family residence

Original  same

Date of Construction  c.1887-1895

Source  Winthrop Atlases

Style/Form  Shingle Style, rectangular

Architect/Builder  undetermined

Exterior Material

Foundation  rubble stone
Wall  wood shingles
Roof  gambrel w/asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures  N/A

Major Alterations (with dates)  Very intact

Condition  good

Moved  yes  x  no

Acreage  less than one acre

Setting  Situated on south slope of Highlands, corner lot, ample set back from Highland-extensive side lawn.

Recorded by  Edward W. Gordon
Winthrop CDO+Historic Comm

Organization

Date(month/day/year)  September, 1993
ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION □ see continuation sheet

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

63 Temple Avenue is a well preserved example of the Shingle Style in Winthrop Highlands. Here, the distinctive textural and sculptural qualities of this style are everywhere in evidence from the rubble stone and stone block foundation, to its weathered wood clapboards and shingles and distinctive gambrel end walls. #63 is the best preserved of two houses in the Highlands that are almost identical. The second house is at #Cliff Avenue. This house's form and roof lines speak to the fact that the Shingle Style looked to Colonial Era saltbox and gambrel houses of coastal New England for inspiration. Here, the front portion of the house is enclosed by a gambrel roof. This segment's roof configuration displays lines reminiscent of Dutch Colonial houses while the rear portion of the house is enclosed by a typically New England gambrel roof. This house is really more of a 1.5 story cottage situated on a high stone basement. The first floor is clad with clapboards while the attic is sheathed with wood shingles. Its edges are accented by narrow corner boards. The Temple facade features an open side porch beneath the roof slope of the gambrel. Projecting from the north roof slope above the side porch is a pedimented dormer. To the left of the entrance bay is a gambrel end wall with first floor octagonal bay. To the left of the entrance is a 2-bay square and projecting bay. To the left of this bay is a recessed wall which is devoid of windows. The Highland Avenue wall exhibits a square bay topped by a heavy gable roofed wall dormer while the remaining half of this wall exhibits a broad end wall gambrel.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE □ see continuation sheet

Discuss the 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.

63 Temple Avenue was built c. 1887-1893. Its first known owner was Herbert A. Palmer, bookkeeper. He is listed in the 1890's, however, at 24 Cliff Avenue. This house ranks among the first houses built in the Highlands. This area was owned by the City of Boston from 1869-1883. In the latter year, the streets of the Highlands began to be set out. much of the land was originally owned by Boston leather merchant William B. Rice. By 1886, this lot was part of parcel J and was delineated with house lots. By 1906, this house had passed from Palmer to Emeline Green, wife of Winthrop real estate magnate and Boston saloon keeper, Jeremiah Green. The main Green House was 90 Highland Avenue. This house was owned by Mrs. Green until c.1915 and was evidently utilized as an income producing property. From c.1910-1925, this was the home of Hattie M. Ferdinand and later Ralph E. Ferdinand, salesman. By 1931, this house was occupied by Anna H. and Charles Saben, barber. This house was vacant during the mid 1930's-mid 1940's. Temple Avenue was named by the Winthrop Shore Land Company in honor of the family of Sir John Temple. His daughter married Lt. Governor Thomas Lindell Winthrop, Colonial era owner of the old Winthrop Farm.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES □ see continuation sheet

Winthrop Maps/Atlases-1886,1896,1906,1914
Chelsea/Winthrop Directories-1887,1890, 1892, 1895/96,1901,1906
Our Streets: How we got them and their Names-by the Winthrop Seinor Citizens Constitution Bicentennial Committee.

☑ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

See File AREA E