

History

Captains Landing Condominiums - 23 Washington St. Beverly, MA



Two notable citizens of Beverly, Captain James Bryant and Captain Charles Odell, have lived in this house at 23 Washington Street.

James Bryant was the first owner of the house, having purchased the land upon which it sits in 1837 from Samuel P. Lovett. The builder was Warren Prince.

Captain Charles Odell, who purchased the Bryant estate, was perhaps an even better known citizen of Beverly. Early in his life he was a sailor and then a shipmaster sailing to such diverse locations as Calcutta and Bombay India, China, and the East and West Indies. Later, when he retired from the shipping business, he served in a number of the official government positions including being elected the second Mayor of Beverly in 1895.

This house was probably built during the early part of the Greek Revival period. The house displays a number of features typical of that style, most notably the entranceway recessed between paneling and surrounded by a band of glass lights. Other details worth mentioning are the corner pilasters, the decorative holes underneath the eaves, and the entrance porch with its Greek style columns. (Note: the fluted columns on the house itself (not the front porch) do not have bases and the porch railing leads into them.)

Some of the other notable details including the large dormers with the closed pediments were probably added during the later Colonial Revival period when architectural features from the early colonial period to the Greek Revival were being imitated.

Photo of Charles Odell taken in 1880 at Taylor & Preston studio in Salem, MA

<https://beverlyhistory.pastperfectonline.com/photo/F4A44D7E-0376-4582-8D9B-576216863913>