



## CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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October 4, 2023

To: Members of the Historical Commission

From: Charles Sullivan

Re: Addendums to Landmark Designation Report L-144, 10 Buckingham Street  
and 4 and 6 Buckingham Place

I am attaching the results of continued research into the history of the Markham and Kelsey buildings and a short concluding statement that was not included in the September 30 version of the report.

I have also attached an updated version of the report containing these addendums.

cc: BB&N School

The architects of Miss Markham's School, the firm of Andrews, Jaques & Rantoul, was one of the most prestigious operating in Boston at the time. Robert Day Andrews (1857-1928) studied at MIT and trained in the office of Henry Hobson Richardson. In 1885 he joined Herbert Jaques (or Jacques, 1857-1916), another MIT graduate, in an independent practice, and in about 1890 Harvard graduate Augustus Neal Rantoul (1864-1934) became a partner. In addition to city and suburban residences the firm was responsible for an addition to the Massachusetts State House (1895-1913); high schools in Brookline and Jamaica Plain; the Worcester County Courthouse; office buildings in Denver and Des Moines; and buildings for Colorado College. The firm was responsible for over twenty residences in Cambridge, and one of these, the house at 113 Brattle Street designed in 1887 for Richard Henry Dana and Edith Longfellow Dana, undoubtedly earned them the commission for Miss Markham's School in 1892.



113 Brattle St. (1887, Andrews, Jaques & Rantoul, architects)

Richard Henry Dana III (1851–1931) grew up on Berkeley Street with Longfellow's children, the budding ornithologist William Brewster, and Brewster's close friend, the future sculptor Daniel Chester French. Dana graduated from Harvard Law School in 1877 and married Edith Longfellow (1853-1915) a year later. He was as devoted to reform as his father and advocated for civil service and the secret ballot. Although he served on commissions that built the Charles River Dam and the Longfellow Bridge, the greatest part of his public service was performed as a trustee of organizations ranging from the Episcopal Theological School to the Cambridge Boat Club. Edith Dana ("Edith with the golden-hair" from her father's poem "The Children's Hour."). According to the National Park Service,

Edith was a devoted mother in raising her six children: Richard Henry IV, Henry W.L. ("Harry"), Frances Appleton, Allston, Edmund Trowbridge ("Ned"), and Delia Farley. She also participated in civic activities, namely the Cambridge Historical Society, the Humane Society, and the Holy Ghost Hospital for Incurables. Inspired by her husband, she joined the Woman's Auxiliary to the Civil Service Reform Society. Like much of her family, she was fascinated by history, particularly the history of her childhood home and its connection to George Washington.<sup>1</sup>



Richard and Edith's six children were all born between 1879 and 1889, so providing for her children's care and education was a major concern that was accommodated by the impromptu school that Miss Markham established at Thomas Wentworth Higginson's home in 1889 (see below). The Danas held title to the schoolhouse at 10 Buckingham Street and undoubtedly chose the architect.

Edith Longfellow Dana and Richard Henry Dana, III., c. 1896-1900. National Park Service.



4 Buckingham Place, CHC staff photo, November 2021.

The **Thackray-Kelsey house at 4 Buckingham Place** is a 2½ -story Queen Anne cottage built in 1892 as a single-family residence. The house measures 27 x 28 feet in plan, with an 8 x 13-foot entry porch on the west side. The roof is steeply pitched and clad in copper, though the original roofing material was wood shingle. The roof extends down over the entrance porch. Three shallow shed dormers are located on the east side and one on the west. A brick chimney is located at the center of the house. The walls are clad in cedar shingles painted yellow. The second-floor projects approximately a foot over the first floor and rests on exposed beams. Under it, a three-sided bay occupies the left side of the street-facing elevation. A handicap ramp, added later, wraps the building on the south and west sides. The windows are a mixture of original and replacement sash but were originally a combination of two-over-two double-hung sash and diamond pane casements. There have been no additions to the original mass of this compact cottage.

Charles Herbert McClare was one of the most prolific Cambridge architects at the turn of the last century. He first appeared in the Cambridge city directory in 1885, when he was listed as a boxmaker. In 1887, he was listed as a carpenter, and 1888 as an architect – surely one of the most rapid ascents in any of the design professions. He is credited with at least 157 buildings in Cambridge and many others in nearby Arlington. Most of his projects were one-, two-, and three-family houses, but he also designed apartment buildings, churches, schools, and factories. There were also reports of commissions for houses in Auburndale, a hotel in Falmouth, a church in Roxbury, several factories, and a vacation house in Yarmouth, N.S. He maintained a practice in Cambridge until 1919, although in about 1894 he became a principal in a real estate venture in Arlington and moved there shortly thereafter.

McClare generally designed in the Queen Anne style. He was not an academic architect, but his designs were popular and his houses were reported to be spacious and comfortable.

designed but be secondary to and appropriate to the historic character of the main structure. Additions should respect the form, massing, scale and materials of the original structure without mimicking its design.

#### l. Site features

Alterations to publicly visible landscape structures, including walls, fences, paths, driveways, and the like, should be compatible with the original design and materials. Fences or walls at the sidewalk should be kept low so that views of the house and significant exterior features are not obstructed. HVAC equipment may not be placed in the front or side setbacks or attached to publicly-visible exterior walls.

#### h. Exterior Colors

Although exterior colors of landmarks are not subject to the jurisdiction of the Historical Commission, the Owner is strongly encouraged to paint the exterior in a period-appropriate color scheme as advised by CHC staff.

#### j. Interior features

Although interior features are not subject to the jurisdiction of the Cambridge Historical Commission, the owners are encouraged to preserve all original window and door trim, fireplace surrounds, bannisters, and the like.

### **Conclusion**

The Commission has already determined that the subject buildings are significant for the purposes of the demolition delay ordinance, and that they appear to meet the criteria for landmark designation. The research conducted for this report reinforces this conclusion.

A recommendation for designation of the three buildings, if accepted by the City Council, would allow the exploration of alternatives for demolition that would preserve essential features of the premises. Such alternatives could include relocation and/or restoration of Markham or construction of an accessible addition linking Markham, Kelsey and Morrison. The Commission might even find demolition of one or more building to be appropriate, but under current circumstances these discussions might best be undertaken in the context of a landmark designation.

Alternatively, the Commission may find that one or more (or even all three) of the buildings do not merit landmark designation. If this is the case the larger question of institutional expansion into a residential



neighborhood should be discussed with the community. In this context, at least the houses facing Buckingham and Cragie Streets should be considered for inclusion in the Old Cambridge Historic District.