

Abbot restores brick façade of historic Jamaica Plain building at 82 Green Street

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John Picard

Jamaica Plain, MA Abbot recently restored the façade of a historic three-story building at 82 Green St. The building formerly served as a public elementary school until the city of Boston determined that it was no longer needed in their educational system. The city decided to create a reuse for the building and, toward that end, designated the Pine Street Inn, a non-profit organization that provides outreach, shelter, training, and emergency services to underprivileged citizens, as the developer.

The developer initiated the renovation by converting the interior of the building to a series of affordable apartments. Then, as part of a proactive effort to improve the structure of the building, the developer determined that extensive repairs were required to fortify the exterior.



82 Green Street – Jamaica Plain, MA

Following an evaluation by its engineering firm (Commercial Construction Consulting, Inc., Boston), the developer created a series of plans and specifications to replace the roof that had served its useful life, and repair the façade. Abbot was selected for the project based on a competitive bidding process.

To complete the multi-faceted restoration, Abbot performed the following masonry work:

- Cut and repointed the brick on all four sides of the building;
- Reduced the height of two brick chimneys on the roof;
- Reused a significant amount of bricks from the two chimneys to replace cracked and damaged bricks thereby maintaining the aesthetics of the building; and
- Installed a new slate roof and copper trim.

Built during Jamaica Plain's development boom before the turn of the 20th century, the former Bowditch School is a three-story brick and sandstone building with a granite base. Designed in the Classical Revival style, the building features a main facade with a projecting three-part pavilion, with square entry openings at the base. Round arch windows adorn the top level, with a modillioned cornice above these windows and under the roofline. The building

was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.

Abbot provides a broad range of masonry construction services to public, institutional, and commercial clients, including condominiums, property management entities, and private residences. The firm also acts as a general contractor for a variety of masonry building construction projects.

Specific areas of expertise include:

- Brick and stone restoration;
- Repointing and recaulking; and
- Concrete repair and protection.