SHIRLEY-EUSTACE HOUSE

31-37 Shirley Street, Boston

From 1741 to 1756 William Shirley, twice royal governor of Massachusetts, built one of the most formal and imposing Georgian houses in New England as his country residence. Of frame construction, it was rusticated to appear like stone, and its giant pilasters, paired at the corners, were among the earliest in American architecture. A large octagonal cupola crowned its hipped roof. American forces confiscated the house during the Revolution for use as a barracks and hospital. It was later owned by William Eustace, another governor of Massachusetts. The house, no longer a country estate but surrounded by the inner city, is open to the public.