

Park Street*

Early on the morning of August 28, 1835, Charlestown's third major fire destroyed a large portion of the downtown area. Beginning in City Square, the fire swept to Joiner Street before being brought under control. Fire departments from 16 surrounding communities answered the call for putting out the "extensive conflagration." Immediately after the fire, a committee was formed to evaluate laying out new streets and "widening, altering or discontinuing old streets." Park Street, then called Warren Street, was widened, along with Main, Joiner and Chamber Streets. Ebenezer Breed, a Charlestown merchant, was appointed "trustee for special purposes", to oversee the disposal of lots in the burnt district.* Park Street's extension from the present Warren Street to Common Street was not set out until 1868.

During the late 1860s George Washington Warren, a lawyer and later judge of the Municipal Court of Charlestown, unsuccessfully advocated the development of Park Street in a manner which would have been reminiscent of Monument Avenue. Warren's Park Street plan would have once again used the Bunker Hill Monument as a focal point but would have involved cutting Park street's path through the old Training Field/Winthrop square. Park Street was not laid out in such a fashion.

Eight houses are included in the survey:

East of Warren Street are an early 1800s wood frame Federal House, now a restaurant, and a brick Greek Revival row, built in the late 1830s.

Between Warren and Common Streets are three wood frame houses, which were moved to Park street from Stetson Court**

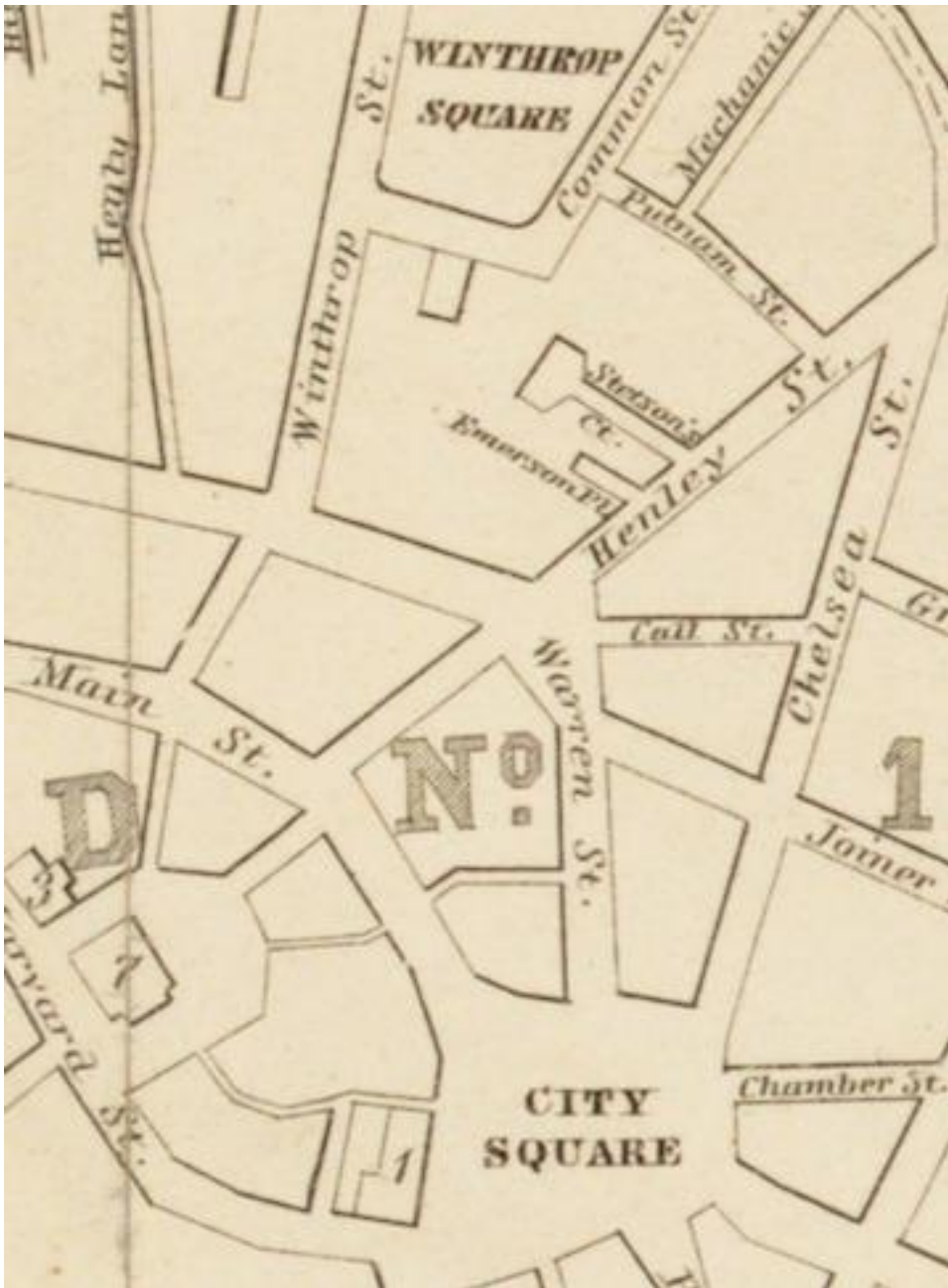
after Park was extended to Common Street in 1868. These are a late Georgian/Federal house (early 1800s), a Greek Revival house (late 1830s), and an 1847 house of uncertain style.

*For further information on Park Street and the synergies post 1835 fire rebuilding/redevelopment see final report, Archaeological Site Examination, Central Artery, North.

**Stetson Court was a cul-de-sac off what was then Henley Street to the rear of what is now 47 Park Street. It was set out circa 1790s -90s-early 1810s, and is no longer extant.



G W Warren proposal, extending Park Street to the Monument



Detail, Felton and Parker, 1848, showing the eastern part of Park Street (then called Warren Street), before its extension to Common Street. Note the location of Joiner Street and Stetson's Court.



Future Park Street (arrow) area, showing the location of houses before extension to Common Street, McIntire, 1852

*Information drawn from Boston Landmark Commission's Charlestown Historic Resources Study 1981 (E. W. Gordon, Consultant), with the addition of photographs and images from early maps and/or the Mallory Panoramic View of Charlestown, when appropriate.