

Soley Street*

Soley Street was originally known as Henley's Lane. It was set out in the 1790s and originally had a much more crooked path than it has today- evidently its path was straightened out in the 1850s. A Soley's Lane, located somewhere in this vicinity, was mentioned in the record dated November 14, 1782. The Soley name appears in the records of colonial times and the burial lot of the family is in the old burial ground on Phipps Street. The street was named after John Soley, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Massachusetts. He lived in an elegant mansion on the site of the Army and Navy YMCA at City Square (demolished, now site of Paul Revere Park). His son John Soley Junior was the first commander of the Massachusetts Naval brigade.



Soley Street, from High Street

During the mid-1850s, the setting out of Monument Avenue through what had been High Street Court- a cul-de-sac once located between Soley and Pleasant Streets, necessitated the removal of the High Street Court houses. Numbers 6, 8 and 10 Soley Street may have been among these houses.

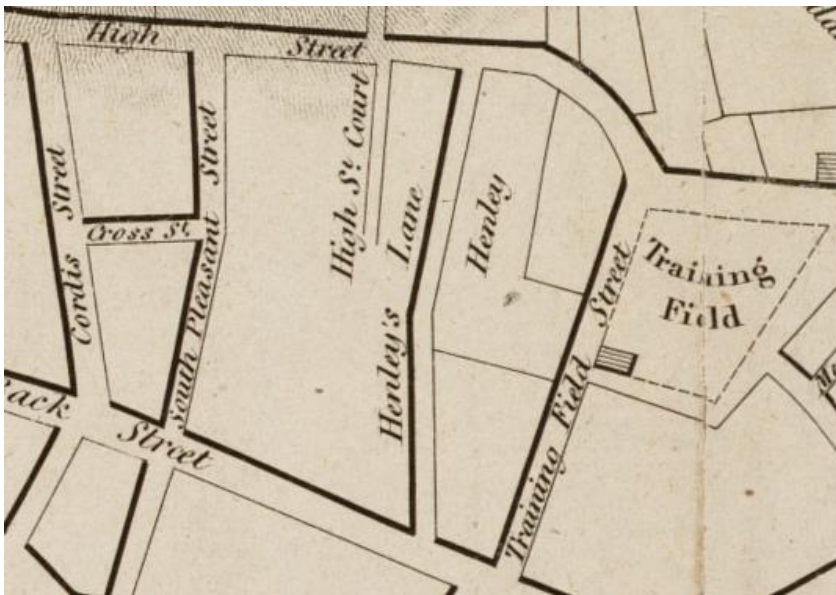
Eleven houses were included in the survey, built between 1806 and 1869.

A wood frame Federal house(1806).

A wood frame Italianate house (1850?).

An Italianate/Mansard house (1868).

A brick row of eight Mansard houses (1867-69).



Detail, Peter Tufts map, 1818



Detail, McIntire map, 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.



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