

2, 4 Salem Street (circa 1790s)

From Boston Landmark Commission's Charlestown Historic Resources Study 1981*:



2, 4 Salem Street, from Main Street

1981

Numbers 2,4 Salem Street is a red brick Federal double house with a Main Street-facing storefront addition at street level. The façade is characterized by planar masonry surfaces with five rows of stretcher breaks for every one row of header bricks. The Salem Street wall has seven bays and there are entrances at the second and fifth bays.

Low stairs with wrought iron railings and profiles to the street lead to the front doors. The doors and windows are fully enframed, with 12/12 wood sash. The storefront features fluted pilasters and large multi pane windows.

The house was saved from demolition during the 1960s by Samuel A C W Donnell. A plaque at the Salem/Main Street corner reads "In honor of Samuel A C W Donnell, 1916-1982, He led the way to Charlestown's renewal by saving three houses at 81 Warren Street and 2, 4 and 8 Salem Street. Sam often gave advice to others in renovating the older houses he loved, often donating his own labor as well. Given by friends, June 7, 1985".

(See form for 81, 81 ½ Warren Street for more information about Sam Donnell)



Plaque, 2 Salem Street wall

2015



2, 4 Salem Street

2015

Numbers 2, 4 Salem Street is architecturally significant as a well-crafted masonry double Federal house. Its Main Street storefront appears to date to circa late 19th century and probably followed the lowering of the street grade. This house is part of the Salem Hill area collection of 1790s/early 1800s detached masonry and wood frame Federal houses.

According to Lionel Nason, an owner of one of this building's condo units, this house served as a stagecoach Inn on the highway between Quincy and Lowell. Further research is needed to determine this house's early history.

During the mid-19th century, an Alicia Parker owned this house. Numerous listings regarding Parker, as a grantee in Middlesex registry of deed's indices hinders a deed search. By the late 1860s a Mary Ann Parker owned this house.

Bibliography:
Atlas-1875
Middlesex deeds
Interview W Lionel Nason

*Digitized, and edited without change in content, from the scanned record in the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System, and with addition of current photographs. In the case of houses that have been altered since the survey, these photographs may not entirely correspond to the architectural description. If earlier photographs of suitable quality are available, these have been included.

R. Dinsmore