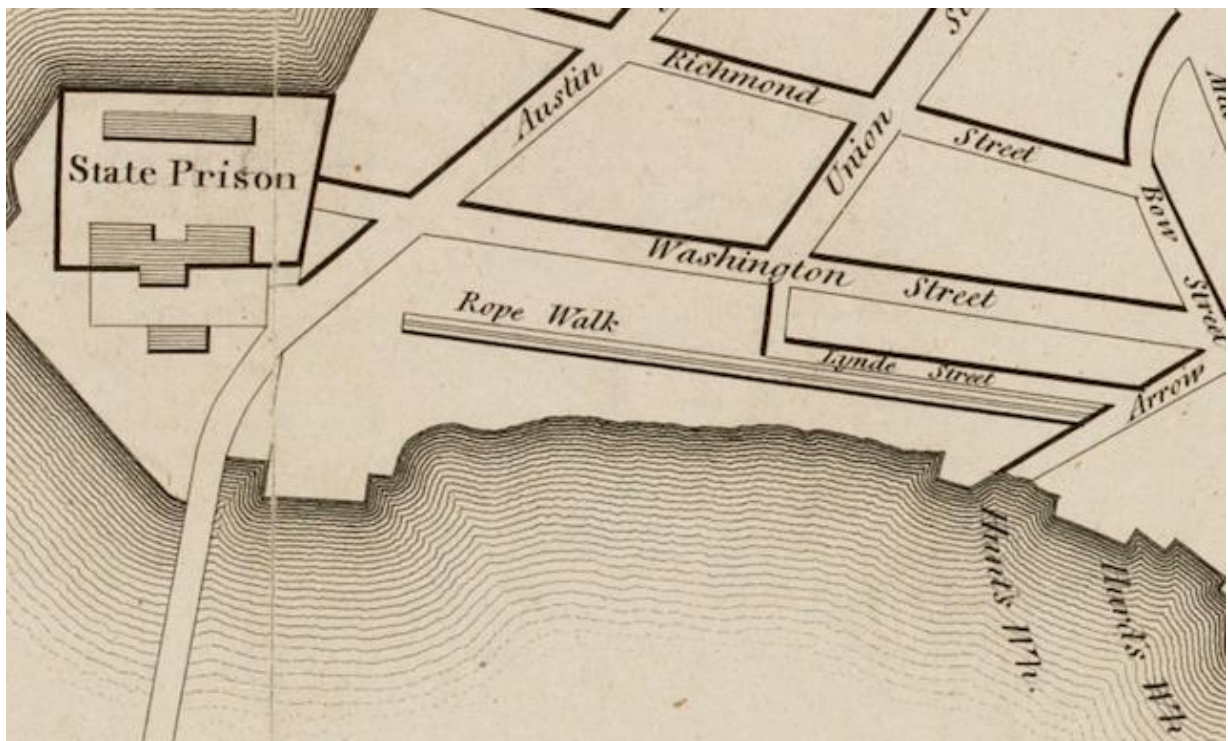


## Washington Street\*

During the 18<sup>th</sup> century the 20 or more acres of land including what is now Washington Street, that part of Rutherford Avenue formerly called Richmond Street, and portions of Bow, Union and Austin streets, was owned by the Joseph Lynde family, and later, from the 1790s, by Capt. Archibald McNeil. Capt. McNeil built rope walks along the lower side of Lynde Street, overlooking the waters of the Charles River Bay. He sold land for a state prison (now site of Bunker Hill Community College) at Lynde's Point (circa 1800-1805) and by the 1810s the area was connected to East Cambridge via the Craigie's Point (or Prison Point) Bridge. During the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a soap and turpentine manufacturing company was established on Washington Street near the state prison.



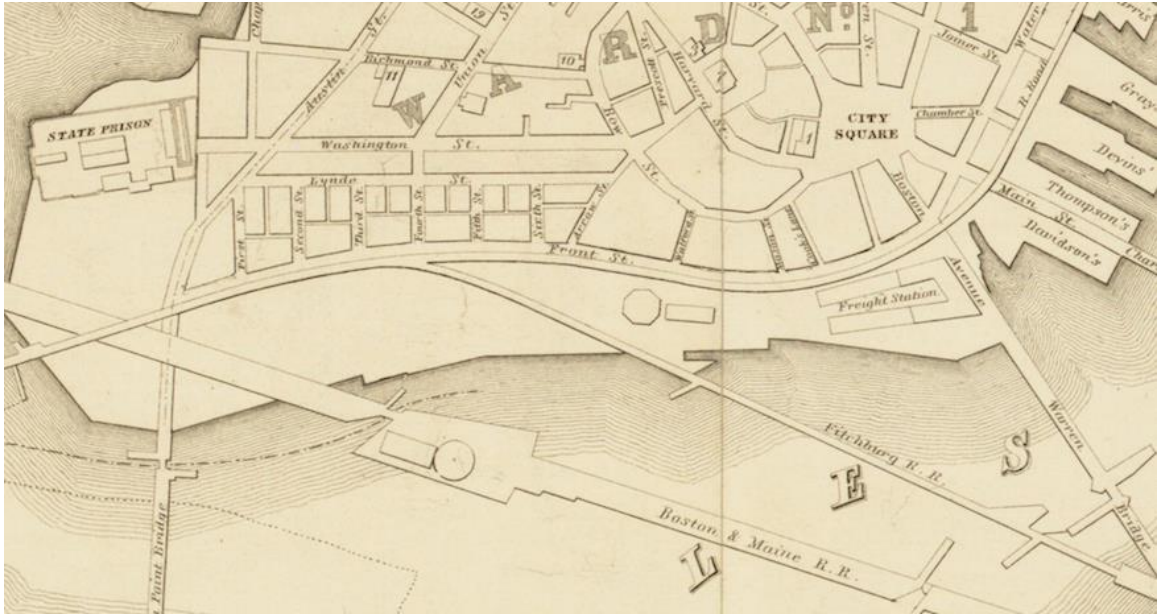
Peter Tufts 1818

By 1803, McNeil's land was laid out in a 104 lot real estate development into streets and lots and sold to prominent

Charlestown families-including the Devens, Goodwin, Tufts, Sweetser, Forster, Frothingham, Edmonds, Warren, Baker, Harris, Wiley and Kendall families. Timothy T Sawyer states that "Washington Street very soon became one of the pleasantest for residences, and its desirability for this purpose was maintained for more than half a century, at least". In addition to lots for residential development,

Between circa 1810-1835 Josiah Barker established a shipyard in the vicinity of Washington/Union streets during the 1810s. Barker built a large number of vessels at this shipyard.

The Charlestown Wharf Company, incorporated March 31, 1836, purchased nearly all the property along the shore of the river, from the wharf, to the state prison, to the Warren Bridge. They built a sea wall along this whole line. Their purchase included the old shipyard, and all the upland bordering on the side of Washington Street from Austin to Union streets. This land was laid out and sold for house lots. At first Washington Street was near the waterfront but is now well inland as the result of mid-late landfill operations which have covered what was Charles River Bay and Millers River.



Felton and Parker 1848



McIntire 1852

Twenty four houses, built between 1804 and 1870, were included in the survey.

One wood frame Federal house (1804).

Two brick late Federal houses (1830s).

A wood frame (with brick side walls) late Federal house which was later altered to the Italianate style (1860s).

A seven unit late Federal/Greek Revival row.

Three brick Greek Revival houses (1842-46).

Two wood frame double Greek Revival houses (late 1830s-early 1840s).

A brick Italianate/Mansard house (1858-59).

A brick Mansard row of four houses (1867-70).

\*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.