

1, 2 Wall Street (1848-1852)

From Boston Landmark Commission's Charlestown Historic Resources Study 1981 (E. W. Gordon, Consultant)*:



2, 1 Wall Street

MHC photo, ca1980s

Numbers 1, 2 Wall Street is a one story, wood frame double Greek Revival house. It has a brick basement below the grade of Wall Street. The main façade has six bays and the sidewalls have two bays, with a broad end wall gable profile on Sullivan Street. There

are fascia boards beneath the gable roof's eaves, and there are paired dormers above the paired entrances.

Particularly noteworthy are the entrances' enframements, which consist of simple vertical board "pilasters" and pedimented board entablature. The windows are simply enframed and have 2/1 wood sash.



1, 2 Wall Street

2016

Original Owners: #1, John Stone; #2, Susan Page

Numbers 1 and 2 Wall Street are near the apex of Bunker Hill's steep southerly slope and serve as a gateway to the street's collection of mid-19 century dwellings. Architecturally, they represent the type of modestly scaled double house built in Charlestown (Sullivan Street and vicinity in particular) between

circa 1830 and 1850. This building exhibits elements of the Greek Revival wood frame vernacular style. Built circa 1848-1852, it dates to the earliest phase of Wall Street's development. Middlesex County deeds indicate that John Stone, a laborer, and Susan Page, wife of James Page, a seaman, were the original owners of 1 and 2 Wall Street, respectively.

Charlestown directories indicate that John Stone lived at 25 Elm Street in 1848, and is first listed at "Wall and Sullivan" in 1852. The many listings for John Stone in the Middlesex grantor Index preclude more exact deed dating. Stone retained ownership of 1 Wall Street until at least the mid-1880s. By 1901 a Jane H Collins lived there.

Number 2 Wall Street's ownership may be traced back to 1854. At that time it was placed in trust for Susan Page by Andrew L Chamberlain of Cambridge. By 1854 Susan's husband James, a seaman, is listed at 2 Wall Street (see Middlesex the 681:75). Susan Page owned this property until 1863 (891:127). Later owners included George Hall, a painter. He apparently never lived there; his address in 1864 is listed at 12 Lexington Street. From 1871 until circa 1880 Gideon Haines owned this property. Further research is needed to determine Haines' occupation and home address during the 1870s.

From 1885 until the early 1900s, John S Whiting's heirs owned number 2.

Wall Street is referred to in a deed of April 22, 1847, as "a new street called Wall Street". It represents a late addition to the street pattern between Elm and Walker Streets, which developed from circa 1790s to the 1810s. Wall Street's late development over steep slopes and rocky terrain is indicative of the population boom which occurred in Charlestown during the 1840s.

Until the mid-1840s, 1 and 2 Wall Street's lots, and much of the area between Sullivan and Walker streets, were owned by Richard Sullivan Sr and Richard Sullivan Jr. Richard Sullivan Sr was the fourth son of James Sullivan (1745-1808), one of the wealthiest men in the state. His government offices included attorney general (1790), and governor of Massachusetts (1807).

Richard Sullivan Sr was born June 17, 1779. He was a lawyer, real estate speculator, and by 1827, a partner, along with his brother William, in the Boston and Concord Boating Company. The Sullivan brothers realized about \$90,000 in 18 years, after expenses, from this enterprise. From circa 1800-1825, Richard Sr acquired large real estate holdings, including tracts bordering what is now Sullivan Street, from Oliver Holden, circa 1805.

Sullivan Street was named in Richard Sr's honor; it was originally called Graves, or Greaves Street, set out circa 1805. In addition he owned much of the land around Sullivan Square, including what is now Parker, Perkins, and Brighton Streets. The 1818 map indicates a large multi-building complex in present-day Sullivan Square, labeled Sullivan's Tavern, which catered to the canal trade. Richard Sullivan Jr sold off much of his father's Charlestown land during the 1840s. He is listed as a "commercial merchant, Mount Vernon Street, as a co-grantee, Boston. Richard Junior is usually listed along with a Francis Cunningham, a clerk, of Milton, on mid-19th century Middlesex deeds. Further research is needed to flesh out Cunningham's role in the Sullivans' real estate empire.

Bibliography:

Maps: 1818, 1839, 1851

Atlases: 1875, 1885, 1892, 1901

Middlesex County deeds- 681:75, 891:127

The old Middlesex Canal, Mary Stetson Clarke, 1974

Wyman Genealogics, 1879, T B Wyman

Autobiography of James Sullivan, page 371

*Digitized and edited, without change in content, from the scanned record in the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System, with the 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.

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