

## 1-4 Pearl Street Place (circa 1846-47)

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



1-4 Pearl Street Place

2016

1-4 Pearl Street Place is an enclave of Greek Revival wood frame, cottage scale row houses.

Builder: John B Caldwell and/or Benjamin Page

Original owner: Benjamin Page

Together with Blaban Place and Coral Place, Pearl Street Place forms a trio of diminutive wood frame workers row housing on the steep incline of Bunker Hill's northwest slope. Standing with gable end to the street, these diminutive dwellings exhibit Greek Revival vernacular form and elements.

Middlesex deeds lead back to John B Caldwell's purchase of these houses' lots "and the building thereon" from Benjamin Page for \$3000. Page's many grantee listings preclude determining from whom Page acquired this property. Undoubtedly, Benjamin Page and/or John B Caldwell erected the houses circa 1846-47 (see Middlesex 511:189). Benjamin Page and John B Caldwell played important roles in the development of the area north of Bunker Hill Street between Short Street and Elm Street. Pearl Street was set out circa 1844 with row house development occurring primarily in the late 1840s-1850s.

Number 3 Pearl Street Place was purchased from J B Caldwell, a "painter and glazier", for \$1050 on March 31, 1848 by Mary A Wheeler, wife of George Wheeler, a carpenter (521:133). George Wheeler is listed at 31 School Street, a "carpenter", in 1848. He is not listed in 1852. Wheeler, in turn, sold number 3 to William L Robinson, a Charlestown trader, for \$1100 on April 1, 1851 (561:509). In 1852, Robinson's occupation is listed as "fancy goods", his house at number 3 Pearl Street Place.

Later owners included Charles W and Mary J Cogswell, 1857-63, (see 771:25). Charles W Cogswell is listed as a clerk in 1860, house at 28 Russell Street. On December 9, 1863, Charles W Cogswell sold

number 32 to Sylvester Richards for \$1100. Sylvester Richards was a building mover in partnership with David Richards.

By 1875 Pearl Street Place's owners included John J Bourne (?)- Number 1; A Atherton-2; Sylvester Richards-3, and \_\_\_\_\_ - 4. By 1901 an L F Bourne is listed at #1, and S A Fisher owned #2. Numbers 1 and 2 were, apparently, inherited from John B Caldwell by Susan A Fisher and Susan M Atherton when Caldwell's real estate holdings were subdivided circa 1866.

\*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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