

10 Soley Street (circa 1850?)

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



10 Soley Street

ca 1980s

Number 10 Solely Street is a modestly scaled two-story wood shingle-clad Italianate vernacular dwelling. It has a three bay main façade and a one-story rear ell. Its edges are crisply

defined by base boards and corner boards. (The late 19th century photo indicates that the corner boards originally had Doric capitals, and that the house had clapboards on the main façade and wood shingles on the sidewall.) It has a red brick basement and a gable roof. There is a single gable-roofed dormer at the center.



S.P.N.EA. photo, ca 1880s

The house has a side hall plan. A pair of double outer doors from late 19th century has a two-pane transom. The entrance is flanked by pilasters and surmounted by a simple

entablature. Projecting above the entrance is a scroll-bracketed door hood. The brackets are edged with rope molding. The Windows are fully enframed, with raised outer moldings and 6/6 wood sash.



10 Soley Street

2015

Numbers 6, 8 and 10 Soley Street constitute a trio of charming, modestly scaled mid-19th century dwellings of somewhat enigmatic origin. These houses may have numbered among the wood frame dwellings that lined High Street Court- a cul-de-sac once located between Soley and Pleasant Streets. During the mid-1850s, Monument Avenue was set out through what had been High Street Court and adjacent house lots, necessitating the removal of the High Street Court houses. The 1848 Panoramic View of Bunker Hill and the 1852 McIntyre map both indicate houses on the site of 6, 8 and 10 Soley Street, but these buildings do not appear to be the present structures and may not have stood on the exact locations of 6, 8 and 10 Soley. In any event, these houses represent "the last gasp" of a type of modestly scaled a housing in Charlestown that was superseded by more substantial rows of both wood frame, and especially brick, housing by the mid-1850s.

The 1875 Charlestown Atlas indicates that these houses were part of a multi-lot parcel owned by builder/developer Robert R Wiley (see form on 59 Warren St. for information on Wiley). The many grantee entries for Wiley during the mid-19th century preclude pinpointing this house's construction date by deed research. By 1885 this house was owned by an H Smith. Later owners included Nora A Howard-1890s and Mary T Shea-early 1900s.

Soley Street was set out circa 1790s and was originally known as Henley's lane. For more information on Soley Street, see the form on 22-36 Soley Street.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1852

Panoramic view-1848

Atlases-1868, 1875, 1885, 1892, 1901, 1911

Charlestown directories

Boston directories

Suffolk deeds-number 10-1795: 617, 1477:121, 1454:225

*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.

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