

11 Concord Street (1841-42)

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



11 Concord Street

2015

Number 11 Concord Street is a well-preserved wood frame, clapboard-clad Greek Revival house. It has a five bay by two bay main block with a narrow end wall gable facing the street, and a center hall plan. The edges of the house are defined by narrow baseboards, corner boards, and fascia boards.

The center entrance has narrow sidelights, two thirds of glass panes and one third solid, and a two-pane transom. The sidelights are flanked by Doric pilasters, which "support" a cornice-headed entablature. The windows are fully enframed, with raised outer molding and 6/6 wood sash.

An attic window on Concord Street is surmounted by a semicircular fan light (original?). The house faces a narrow brick and stone paved passageway, and the backyard hedges of mansions bordering Monument Square.

Original owner: Samuel G Underhill

Situated on the steep incline of Breed's Hill, below the Bunker Hill Monument and Monument Square, 11 Concord Street is a well-preserved, appropriately painted, and crisply detailed Greek Revival wood frame vernacular house. Particularly noteworthy are its center entrance enframements, well-proportioned Doric pilasters and cornice-headed entablature. It is the uppermost component of a streetscape of mostly altered wood frame 1840s and 1850s dwellings which line Concord Street's incline from Concord Avenue to Bunker Hill Street.

Number 11 Concord Street was built circa 1841-42 for Samuel G Underhill of Boston, a blacksmith. He is listed as "tool maker, house, Concord," in 1842. He purchased this house's lot from

George Washington Warren on September 2, 1841 for \$600. Its land appears as lot number 71 on S M Felton's plan of Monument Square dated September 25 1839. It was part of a 115-lot tract belonging to the Bunker Hill Monument Association. For many years George Washington Warren was the president of the BHMA. Organized in 1823, the BHMA's original plan was to preserve as much of the Bunker Hill (Breeds Hill) Battlefield as possible as open land. As Charlestown became more closely linked to Boston and other towns by bridges, canals, railroads etc., by the 1830s, the open land scheme gave way to plans for residential development on this tract. The house lots bordering Concord Avenue, Monument Street, and Lexington Street were developed first, with modestly scaled wood frame houses. The more substantial mansion scale houses bordering Monument Square were developed beginning circa 1847.

Samuel Underhill owned 11 Concord Street until September 30, 1854. At that time he sold it to Thomas Bulfinch of Boston, a clerk, for \$3000. Later owners included Susan F and Oliver T Rich (occupation?), 1867-69, Oliver T Rich, 1869-71. From 1871 until at least the early 1900s the house was owned by John M Hall, and after circa 1895 by his heirs. John M Hall was a painter and former resident of 2 Wall Street in the 1860s (see form).

Note: the 1868 atlas shows this house with a two-story main block and two-story and one-story wooden side ells.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1852

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

Middlesex deeds-406:336, 681:292, 861:201, 1001:114, 1051:552, 1155:499

Charlestown Directories-1840s, 1870s
Boston Directories-post 1875
Panoramic view of Charlestown, 1848

*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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