

114-118 High Street (circa 1886-1890)

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



114-118 High Street

2015

Numbers 114-118 High Street is a group of three, three-family Queen Anne houses. The High Street and Sullivan Street façades are sheathed with clapboards, and the side and rear walls are constructed of brick. There are bold entablatures and projecting cornices below flat roofs. The houses have three bay main façades with recessed entrances and bracketed, pedimented door hoods. Oriels with the wood shingle aprons span floors two and three. The windows have 1/1 sash.

Builder: Patrick J Donovan

Original owner: Patrick J Donovan

Architecturally, 114-118 High St. is a well-designed example of late 19th century Queen Anne housing. Built to house three families each. The group's High and Sullivan Street façades are characterized by a high degree of surface plasticity with recessed entrances, projecting door hoods and oriel windows. Textural interest is addressed by the smooth clapboard sheathing and rough wood shingles of the oriel's aprons. Curious classical notes are struck by pedimented door hoods and bold entablatures.

Built circa 1886-1890, 114-118 High Street's lot was purchased by Patrick J Donovan from Sabrina Nudd on August 19, 1886 (Suffolk 1737:94) for \$1512.50. The 1875 and 1885 atlases indicate that prior to this building's construction, this lot was occupied by a rectangular wooden house and small wooden shed. Sabrina Nudd and her sister Abigail P Hall had purchased this lot from Temple Kindall on February 16, 1831 (302:323). Patrick J Donovan was a mason and partner in Donovan and Company (Patrick J and Daniel Donovan) located, along with Donovan's residence, at 38 Winthrop Street, in

Charlestown. Presumably, Donovan and Company was responsible for the construction of 114-118 High Street. Patrick J Donovan was active in Charlestown building trades from circa 1883-circuit 1915. He is first listed in 1884 as a partner in Donovan and Brock (Edward), Masons, house at 44 Chapman Street. By circa 1890, Donovan's business was called Patrick J Donovan and Company (with Daniel Donovan), masons. For many years P J Donovan resided at 38 Winthrop Street.

The segment of High Street between Training Field Street (now Winthrop Street) and Elm Street is a very old road that dates to at least the mid-18th century (shown on maps depicting the Battle of Bunker Hill-1775). The segment from Elm to Walker Street dates to circa 1790s-1818.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1833, 1839, 1848, 1851

Atlases-1875, 1885, 1892, 1901

Boston directories: post 1874

Middlesex D: 302:323

Suffolk deeds: 1737:94

*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.

R. Dinsmore