

## 1, 2 Common Street (ca. 1827)

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



2, and 1 Common Street

2015

Numbers 1-2 Common Street is a two story wood frame, late Federal double house. It has a high brick basement and both halves have two bay main façades with side hall plans and paired entrances. Number 1 is sheathed in synthetic

siding and number 2 is clad with wood shingles. The building has a gable roof, and both halves have gable roof dormers on the main façade's roof slope. A broad end wall gable is evident on the southeastern side.

A platform with stairs at the sides and modern wrought iron railing is located in front of the entrances. Alterations to the entrances are evident; number 1's entrance enframing has been "colonialized" with introduction of a broken pediment. Number 2's entrance enframing is more intact, retaining Doric pilasters (more slender than those of the Greek revival) – the entablature seems to be missing its cornice.

Alterations to fenestration are also in evidence. Both houses have modern oriels, and the windows of number 1 have been reduced in size at the second floor.

Builder: Richard Shute, housewright, Jonas Barrett, bricklayer.

Original Owner: Jonas Barrett

Although altered by modern siding and the 20<sup>th</sup> century "colonial" entrance and window treatments, this late Federal double house retains its integrity of form and siting with some entrance enframements and window sash intact. Together with the red brick Federal Training Field School, they provide a picturesque backdrop for the southeast side of Winthrop Square. They may be the earliest example of a type of double house which appears in greater numbers in

Charlestown during the 1830s and 40s-see forms on 57, 59, and 37,39 Washington; 107, 109 Warren St., etc.

Built ca.1827, numbers 1 and 2 Common Street apparently represent the work of local housewright Richard Shute, and Jonas Barrett, a bricklayer (for the foundations?). Shute's name does not appear in 1830s and 1840s Charlestown business directories. Jonas Barrett was active in local building trades from the 1820s (possibly earlier) until circa 1850-during the 1840s he lived at the corner of High and Green streets.

During the early 19th century, numbers 1 and 2 Common's lots were part of the Common, Winthrop, and Warren Street landholdings of David Smith, a Charlestown mariner. Smith sold these lots, (via David Shute Jr, of Boston) to Richard Shute on January 11, 1827 (Middlesex 271:438). Shute, in turn, sold the lots to Jonas Barrett and Abijah Goodridge of Charlestown, Esq. for \$475 on June 16, 1827 (Middlesex deeds 275:53).

Buildings on these lots are first mentioned in a deed dated May 22, 1833 [324:5/6]. At that time Jonas Barrett sold 1 Common Street to Deborah Williams, a widow, for \$1150. Number 1 Common remained under Williams family ownership until June 15, 1892-at that time Harriet M Williams, widow of William A Williams sold it to Thomas F Fardy for \$2000. By 1911 an Edward Brock owned this property.

During the 1830s, 2 Common Street was owned by Eli S Emerson, a razor strop maker, and it remained under Emerson family ownership until March 19, 1878. At that time a Henry Schrow paid Nancy Emerson \$1650 for this house. From 1883 until at least 1911 Daniel T Kelly, a hatter, Kelly and Company (22 Provident Province St. Boston) owned 2 Common Street.

\*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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