

1, 3 Auburn Street (1857)

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

Numbers 1 and 3 Auburn Street is a pair of red brick Italianate row houses with flat fronts. There is a deep-bracketed cast iron cornice at the roof line.

They have paired entrances, surmounted by a well-carved cast iron door hood, with brackets exhibiting acanthus leaf motifs. The first and second-floor window lintels also appear to be cast iron and are segmental headed. The sills and lintels of the third floor are simple brownstone bands.



1, 3 Auburn Street

2015



1, 3 Auburn Street entry, lintel detail 2015

Builder: Charles W Wellington

Original owner: Charles W Wellington

One and 3 Auburn Street are key components of the masonry "wall" of mid-19th century row houses lining the east side of Auburn Street. By virtue of their cast iron door hood and lintels, this Italianate duo possesses the most ornate main façade on Auburn Street.

These houses are the work of Charles W Wellington. He was active in Charlestown building trades from circa 1845-1875. In 1845 he was listed as a carpenter (no home address). During the 1850s/early 1860s he was listed as a carpenter, residence at 2 Irving Place. By the late 1860s his carpenter's shop was located at 6 Hill Street. By that time he lived in Cambridge. During the 1870s he worked at 151 Medford Street. He is not listed in the Boston directory in 1880. In addition to this group, Wellington built 5-15 Auburn Street (flat front Italianate row houses of circa 1860-61) and 17-21 Auburn Street. Wellington built 1-3 Auburn during the spring and summer of 1857.

On May 1, 1857 James Hall, a silk dyer, of Charlestown, with a dye house at corner of Auburn and Main streets, sold 1 and 3's lots and the lots of another parcel to Charles W Wellington

(781:37). This deed does not mention buildings. Number 3's deed chain reveals that Wellington sold this lot, "with the buildings thereon" to Erin Clark, a "Morocco dresser, house at 4 Trenton Street) on December 30, 1857 (781:104) for \$4500. Wellington held onto 1 Auburn until May 1864, when he sold "the land with brick dwelling house" to E G Lucas of Cambridge for \$5500. William P Hall owned number 1 from 1864 until the early 1900s. For many years he was employed as a "Morrocco dresser" at 432 Main Street.

Number 3 Auburn Street was for many years owned by the Sampson Morse family. Morse acquired this house circa the early 1860s. He was active in Charlestown building trades from circa 1855-1880. By the early 1900s an Isabella Morse owned number 3.

Auburn Street was originally called Hall Street, evidently as a cul-de-sac extending as far as number 40. Hall Street may have been set out as early as the 1810s. Housing development of the street occurred mostly in circa the late 1850s-1860s.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1833, 1839, 1848, 1851

Atlases-1875, 1885, 1892, 1901

Charlestown Directories- 1850s- 1874

Middlesex Deeds- #1: 781:37, 871:33, 871:206, 901:335;

#3: 781:104

(For more on Hall family see #40 Auburn Street form)

*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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