

19-21 Concord Street (circa 1840-1848)

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



19- 21 Concord Street

2015

Numbers 19-21 Concord Street is a two-story, wood frame vernacular double Greek Revival house. It has a brick basement and a six bay by two bay main block, with one-story rear ells (shown on the 1868 Sanborn Atlas). Both units are clad with clapboards and the edges are accented by base, corner and fascia boards. The double house has a broad gable roof.

There are paired, recessed entrances with well-crafted paneling on the entry walls. The front door of number 21 is flanked by multi-pane sidelights; the "sidelights" flanking 19's front door are solid. The outer entrances are enframed by simple pilasters and unusually narrow cornice-headed lintels. The windows are fully enframed with raised outer molding. Number 21 has 6/6 wood sash and number 19 has 1/1 wood sash.

Original owner: Phineas J Stone (?)

This double house ranks among the very few on Concord Street which retains its original clapboard style of sheathing (with recent extensive replacement with new clapboards). In general the condition of both halves of this house is excellent. The house was built circa 1840-1848. Architecturally, 19-21 Concord Street is significant as a well-preserved example of a wood frame double Greek Revival house, crisply defined by narrow base, corner, and fascia boards. The house is clad with clapboards and has paired, recessed entrances with simple pilasters and unusually narrow cornice-headed lintels. Particularly noteworthy is the handsome paneling of the entry walls.

This house's land was part of the 115-lot tract owned by the Bunker Hill Monument Association and opened for residential development beginning in 1839. Its lot appears as tract

numbers 67 and 68. Middlesex deeds indicate that numbers 15, 17, 19, and 21 Concord were part of the real estate holdings of Phineas J Stone (further research is needed here). Stone evidently purchased BHMA lots 69 and 70 (15, 17 Concord) in September 1843 from William and Timothy Sawyer. Numbers 15, 17, 19, and 21 Concord Street, are clearly shown on the Mallory Panoramic View of Charlestown/Boston drawn in 1848. Numbers 15-17 and 19-21 Concord Street were evidently sold at the same time to Joseph C and Daniel A Ginn, circa late 1860s. Further research is needed to find the deed that applies to lots 67 and 68, on which 19 and 21 Concord Street were built.

Phineas J Stone was a well-to-do Charlestown West India goods dealer and mayor of Charlestown in 1862, 63 and 64. Daniel A Ginn, "ship carpenter, navy yard" is first listed at 19 (then number 4), Concord Street in 1866. By 1875, 19 and 21 Concord were owned by Daniel A Ginn, "leather, 110 Fulton Street, Boston" and Joseph C Ginn, "coal". The Ginns owned this double house until at least 1885. From circa 1890 until at least the early 1900s both halves were owned by John C Sullivan Trustees.

Numbers 19-21 Concord Street was among the first houses constructed in the 115 Hill Monument Association tract. Organized in 1823, the BHMA's original scheme was to keep as much of the Bunker (Breeds) Hill battlefield as open as possible. Population pressures and improved transportation links with Boston caused the BHMA trustees to opt for a multi-lot real estate development. The first houses in this development were built along Lexington, Monument, and Concord streets- these tended to be of a more modest scale

than the post-late 1840s mansions bordering Monument Square.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1852

Atlases 1868, 1875, 1885, 1892, 1911

Middlesex deeds-991:528, 433:100 (relating to 15-17 Concord St.)

Mallory Panoramic View of Charlestown/Boston, 1848

Charlestown/Boston Directories 1860s, 70s

*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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