

## **2, 4 Mount Vernon Street (circa 1849-50)**

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

Numbers 2, 4 Mount Vernon Street is a brick Greek Revival double house with brownstone trimmings, flat fronts, planar surfaces, and a six bay main façade. There are star-shaped cast iron tie rod ends above the second floor windows. The building has a low granite-faced basement.

Both halves have side hall plans, with paired entrances. These were originally recessed (?) and have later front doors and solid transoms. The windows have simple brownstone sills and lintels, and 2/2 wood sash.

The cornice has a brickwork dentil course and the building has a gable roof.



2 Mount Vernon Street 2015



4 Mt. Vernon Street 2015

Original owner: Isaac Locke

Situated at the head of Mount Vernon Street, bordering the west side of the street, 2, 4 Mount Vernon is a solid, well crafted, mildly Greek Revival double house. It is part of Mount Vernon Street's well-preserved collection of mid-19th century masonry residences. Middlesex deeds indicate that this double house was built circa 1849-50; it definitely appears on the 1852 McIntyre Map. Its lot was carved from the Ebenezer Breed estate. The Breed house was a red brick Federal style "mansion house" once located at what is now 38 Mount Vernon Street (see form).

Gustavus V Hall, Charlestown "auctioneer" sold numbers 2 and 4's land to Moses B Sewall, Charlestown, "Morocco manufacturer," circa 1848 (re-check Middlesex deed 496:358 for the exact date). Gustavus V Hall had acquired this land, and a more extensive tract along Mount Vernon Street, from John Breed on August 31, 1846. The land appears as lot number 24 on "a plan by Ebenezer Breed's mansion house estate" drawn by Barker and Leonard, March 1846.

Isaac Locke acquired 2 and 4's land on April 7, 1849. At that time Locke, a Faneuil Hall Market dealer, paid Sewall \$535.60. Evidently this figure represents the sale price of one of the lots. Isaac Locke is listed as the owner of both houses in 1875.

By 1885, Francis Stowell (? Occupation) owned number 2 and Isaac Locke owned number 4. The Locke family owned number 4 until the early 1900s. By 1901 a Patrick Kyle owned number 2. By 1911 Bridget Kyle owned number 2 and Ross McGinnis owned number 4.

#### Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1852

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

Charlestown/Boston directories-19th century

Middlesex deeds-478:152, 496:358, 551:349

Panoramic View of Charlestown and Boston, R Mallory, 1848

McIntyre Map-Charlestown, 1852

\*Digitized and edited without change in content from the scanned record in the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System, with the 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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