

2 Mt. Vernon Avenue (circa 1845)

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



2 Mount Vernon Avenue 1980s

Number 2 Mount Vernon Avenue is a Greek Revival wood frame house. It has a three bay main façade with modern siding, which has replaced its original clapboards. The building is crowned by a gable roof and a pedimented attic with a fascia board. To the rear of the main block is a long rear ell, shown on the 1868 atlas, composed of four segments, with size now reduced by about one half.

The house has a side hall plan with intact Victorian multipanel entrance doors. The front door's enframements are sheathed in asbestos shingles. Original Doric pilasters and entablature are in evidence-still visible is an entablature with a deep cornice.

The first floor has tall windows; there are standard size windows on the second floor. In general the windows have 2/1 replacement wood sash.

A front yard fence composed of cast iron rustic branch posts and twigs is particularly noteworthy.



2 Mount Vernon Avenue fence

1980s



2015

2 Mount Vernon Avenue

Original owner: George Adams Kettel

Although much altered by modern siding treatments which obscure original Greek revival elements, e.g. entrance enframements, quarter boards and fascia, all are probably still intact underneath. The house retains a high percentage of its unusual rustic twig and branch cast-iron front yard fence. This type of mid-19th century cast iron fencing is unique within the Charlestown survey area, and very possibly within the Boston area.

Number 2 Mount Vernon Avenue dates to the earliest phase of Chestnut Street/Mount Vernon Avenue's development. It was built circa 1845 on a lot carved from the George Adams Kettel estate (formerly owned by Nathan Adams). Number 2's first owner was James H Hallet, Charlestown, a "feather dealer." Middlesex deeds indicate that this house was standing by March 16, 1846, the date that Hallet purchased this property from George Adams Kettel for \$3400, and that in 1846 Mount Vernon Avenue had not yet been set out between Chestnut and Mount Vernon Streets. On September 6, 1850 (561:478) Hallet sold this house to Joseph Ellis of Charlestown (occupation?) for \$4400. Ellis sold it to John P Barnard on April 7, 1856. Barnard sold the house to Augustin F Anezin on December 3, 1866 for \$7000. Anezin is listed in 1870s Charlestown directories as "head cook", Parker House, Boston. He lived at 2 Mount Vernon Avenue until circa 1890. Later owners included the heirs of Thomas F Fitzgerald (1892), the heirs of Francis J Fitzgerald (1901) and Mary C Moran (1911).

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1852

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

Charlestown/Boston directories

Middlesex D-477: 352, 561:478, 731:451, 981:413

*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.

R Dinsmore

