

## 20 Auburn Street (ca. 1843)

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



20 Auburn Street

1980s

Number 20 Auburn Street is a Greek Revival house with three bays, a side hall plan, and a brick basement. Its walls are

covered with asphalt siding. The main entrance has fully developed classical enframements including Doric pilasters and entablature. The entrance is recessed and has a replacement door. The windows are simply enframed with 6/1 wood sash.



20 Auburn Street

2015

Original owner: Moses B Hall

Number 20 Auburn Street is an unpretentious side hall plan Greek Revival wood frame house which dates to circa 1843.

Together with the circa 1850s/60s row houses which adjoin its lot, 20 Auburn Street illustrates the stages of the Bunker Hill south slope's development during the mid-19th century.

The house is rather specifically dated by a deed of December 9, 1842 (Middlesex 426:23). James Hall of Charlestown, a "gentleman", sold "a certain parcel of land near the Neck" to Moses B Hall, a silk dyer, for \$600. (James Hall had purchased this lot from a Henry Van Voorhis on July 13, 1833 (226:44).) The deed refers to its land as "on which lot said Moses B Hall is about to erect a dwelling house." It is likely that Hall erected number 20 in the spring of 1843. The Hall/Hall deed also described what is now Auburn Street as a "court running from Main Street toward Bunker Hill Street near Hall's dye house." Hall's dye house apparently refers to Moses B hall's business listed at 242 Main Street (1842 directory) under the name of "Hall and Brother, W P Hall".

Moses B Hall is listed as living at "rear, 244 Main Street" during the 1840s. By 1856 is listed as a grocer at 284 Main, his house at "rear 412 Main Street". Apparently Moses B Hall owned but did not occupy 20 Auburn Street. He sold the house to Kendall Bailey, a gardener, on April 27, 1858 for \$3500 (781:550). Number 20 Auburn Street was owned by Kendall Bailey and his heirs from 1858 to 1887. On June 21, 1887 Abraham Bailey of Duluth, Minnesota sold this property to Henry and Marietta Brower of Boston (1805:477).

Note: Moses B Hall was the son of James and Sarah (Sargent) Hall. He was born in Lynn, Massachusetts in April 1817. He attended schools in Lynn until coming to Charlestown in 1827. On the corner of Main and Auburn streets was his father's dye house where he dyed silks. Moses B Hall worked with his father until 1844, when he opened a grocery store for himself.

Hall operated his grocery store until as late as 1891 (see form on 265-271 Main Street, 1 Salem Street). For many years Hall lived at 1 Salem Street.

Auburn Street appears to have been a cul-de-sac as early as 1818, initially called Hall Street. Intensive row house development occurred along Auburn Street during the late 1850s and 1860s

**Bibliography:**

Maps-1818, 1833, 1839, 1848, 1851

Atlases-1875, 1885, 1892, 1901

Charlestown directory-1834-74

Boston directories-post-1874

\*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