

207 and 209-211 Bunker Hill St. (1838, 1850s alterations)

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



209-11, 207 Bunker Hill Street

1981 (?)

Number 207 Bunker Hill Street is a wood frame, wood shingle-clad, two-story Greek Revival house with a side hall plan. Its end wall gable is adjacent to the Bunker Hill Burial Ground. There are sideboards, and a fascia board at the cornice. The attic is pedimented and there is a gable-roofed dormer at the center of the main façade roof slope. The entrance to 207 is enframed by paneled Doric pilasters and there is a

replacement outer door and transom. The windows are simply enframed and contain 6/6 sash.

The 1848 panoramic view of Charlestown indicates that 207 and 209/11 were, in fact, identical halves of a double house. Numbers 209-211 was transformed from a gable-roofed Greek Revival house to a three story flat-roofed Italianate commercial and residential building, probably in the 1850s. It has a side hall plan and the entrance has modified pilasters and entablature. And there is a corner storefront entrance. Particularly noteworthy is the cornice with closely spaced scroll brackets.



207 (rt), 209-11 Bunker Hill Street

2015

Builder: 207/209-Moses P Worthen, "housewright"; Richard P Corey, "painter"

Original owner: Richard P Corey

Architecturally, 207 and 209/211 Bunker Hill Street may represent a two-story Greek Revival double house whose northeastern half was transformed into a three-story flat roofed structure circa 1850s. Paired entrances with Greek Revival enframements provide evidence that these buildings were originally identical.

Number 207 was built circa 1838. On December 12, 1837 Moses P Worthen, a "housewright" sold this house to Richard P Corey, a "painter" for \$300. It is likely that Worthen was 207's builder, and the builder of 209-211 in its original condition. Moses P Worthen was active in Charlestown building trades from circa 1835 to the early 1860s. During the 1840s he lived at 35 High Street opposite Franklin and at 189 Medford Street during the 1850s to early 1860s. Richard P Corey may also have been involved in this house's construction.

During the 1840s-50s this house was owned by a Zilpah Vose. By 1858 it was acquired by Susan A Palmer. Susan A Palmer owned 207 until at least the early 1890s.

By 1852, 209/211 Bunker Hill Street's corner store was the West India Goods store, also described as a grocery store, of Hopley Meserve and son. In 1845 Hopley Meserve is listed as a "trader, Bartlett, corner School" Street. Evidently the Meserve family operated a grocery store here until at least the early 1890s.

Note: Moses Worthen built 29 Elm Street circa 1837-38, and 54 Elm Street (see forms). Susan A Palmer's husband was George W Palmer, a "sawyer, Navy Yard" during the 1860s.

Bibliography:

Map- 1818

Panoramic view of Charlestown, 1848

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

Charlestown directories-1834-74

Boston directories-late 19th century

Middlesex T-370:179, 781:239 (#207)

*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.

R. Dinsmore

Interior Photographs



Edward F Stone, living room, 209 Bunker Hill Street, ? date