

249, 251 Bunker Hill Street (1849-1850)

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



249, 251 Bunker Hill Street

2015

Numbers 249 and 251 Bunker Hill Street are three story Greek Revival row houses. The main façades have three bays, side hall plans, and recessed entrances. The first floor of 249 has new brickwork, perhaps indicating that a corner store was located here. The windows have simple granite sills and lintels and 2/2 wood sash. Number 251 has flat pedimented lintels.

The attic level has been recently reworked with modern but compatible double dormers, roof deck railing and an octagonal cupola. There are three brickwork string courses at the third floor/cornice level. The houses are enclosed by a gable roof with linked chimneys on the Alston Street sidewall.

Builder: James Hobard and/or Dolphin D Taylor
Original owner: Jasper Stone

These buildings are part of Bunker Hill Street's remarkably intact collection of late 19th century red brick row houses. Prominently sited at the corner of Allston and Bunker Hill Streets, these Greek Revival masonry houses are characterized by planar surfaces, and simple granite sills and lintels. There are three brickwork string courses at the third floor/cornice level. The linked chimneys are a retardataire feature that was employed as far back as the early 18th century in coastal New England masonry residences. The attic area appears to have been recently reworked, but the new double dormers, cupola and even the roof deck are in keeping with the spirit of the original design.

These houses have historical Association with prominent mid-19th century grocer, and later jeweler, Jasper Stone. Numbers 251 and 249 Bunker Hill Street were built circa 1849. For many years 249 was the home of Jasper Stone, West India goods dealer and later clock and watch shop owner. On April

14, 1849, Jasper Stone paid Porter Cross of Charlestown "mover of buildings," \$1092 for "a certain parcel of land being the southeasterly part of lot number nine on a plan of George Cook's land" (see Middlesex deed 541:30). Cross purchased this land from Dolphin D Taylor and John P Hobard. During the early 19th century these lots were part of Enoch Cook's upland pasture land. (Allston Street evidently follows the boundary line between the Cook and Deacon Larkin lands.)

In any event, Taylor and/or Hobard probably built 249 and 251 Bunker Hill Street. Hobart is listed as a Mason in Charlestown directories from 1842-1864. 1842 he boarded at 17 School Street. In the 1860 Charlestown directory, "California" appears between his trade and home address at 13 Elm Street. Hobard is last listed at 13 Elm St. in 1864. Dolphin D Taylor was a prolific Charlestown builder, active 1845-early 1890s. In 1845 he is listed as a mason at 20 Green Street. By 1860 he lived on Summer Street. From circa 1870-early 1890s, he lived at 31 Oak Street (see form). Examples of Taylor's work include: the Italianate brick row at 46-60 Baldwin Street, in 1856, (in conjunction with Charles W Wellington) and brick Italianate houses at 23-25 Oak Street, circa 1865.

Numbers 249 and 251's original owner, Jasper Stone, was born at Weare, New Hampshire, August 26, 1818. He moved to Charlestown with his parents, Phinehas and Hannas Stone in 1824. He began his commercial trade career as a grocer. He was initially apprenticed to his eldest brother, Phinehar J Stone. In 1850, at about the time he moved into 249, he gave up as a grocer and started a jewelry business, occupying a store in the old City Hall. Later business addresses included 35 Main Street and 45 Main Street. For many years he worked with his son Jasper W Stone. Among stone's customers were US Navy officers. This naval connection provided Stone with entry

to a nationwide repair trade. He served on the Board of Aldermen and was a prominent member of the Life and Advent Union, a religious improvement and counseling service. He retired from business in 1882, wintering in Florida, Southern California, Wyoming, and Colorado. He died on December 4, 1892 at the age of 74. Jasper Stone owned 251, as well as 249 until circa 1870. By that time Patrick Hannan, a baker, who worked at 7 Hills Row, owned 251. By 1901 Mary E Doherty owned 249 and a Bridget Kilgallen owned 251.

JASPER STONE,
DEALER IN
GOLD AND SILVER WATCHES,
Clocks and Jewelry,
GOLD, SILVER, Steel and Plated
SPECTACLES, Silver and Plated
SPOONS, Fancy Goods, &c.
NO. 35 MAIN STREET. - - - - - CHARLESTOWN.
: Clocks and Watches of every description repaired.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1833, 1839, 1848, 1851

Atlases-1875, 1885, 1892, 1901

Charlestown directories-1850-1874

Middlesex Deeds

"Souvenir of Charlestown and Bunker Hill Monument, 50th anniversary of the dedication of Bunker Hill Times, Charlestown, circa 1843-3.

*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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