

## 252 Bunker Hill Street (1854-1855)

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



252 Bunker Hill Street

1981



252 Bunker Hill Street

2015

Number 252 Bunker Hill Street is a red brick late Federal/Greek Revival house with a three bay main façade and low granite block basement. It has a side hall plan with a recessed entrance behind a later entrance enframingent with a

transom and sidelights. The windows have simple rectangular sills and lintels and 4/6 wood sash. There are brickwork dentils at the cornice. The building has a gable roof with a pedimented dormer.

Builder: James Hager

Original owner: James Hager

Architecturally 252 Bunker Hill Street is significant as a well crafted, tastefully rendered late Federal/Greek Revival house. Its main façade is characterized by a pleasing planarity. The simple gray granite sills and lintels contrast attractively with the red brick building materials.

James Hager of Charlestown, a carpenter, purchased 252 Bunker Hill Street's lot from a real estate-rich Richard Sullivan Jr of Boston, a merchant, and Francis Cunningham of Milton, a clerk, in January 1854 (see Middlesex deed 661:410). Hager paid Sullivan and Cunningham \$776.87 for this lot, whose land is lot 87 on Alexander Wadsworth's plan of January 20, 1854. Presumably Hager built 252 in the spring or summer of 1854. He is first cited in the Charlestown Directory of 1845 as James Hager, mason (also listed is James Hager Jr, carpenter- both Hagers are listed at "rear, Sullivan". James Hager is first listed at 252 Bunker Hill Street (then 200) in 1856. He owned this property until at least the late 1870s.

By 1880, J Kendall Tyler, a lawyer, owned this property. He lived here until at least the early 1890s. During the early 1900s, Catherine T Donovan and Catherine J M McManus (by 1912), owned this house.

Bunker Hill Street is a very old thoroughfare dating back to at least the mid-18th century. Number 252's lot is part of the

extensive landholdings of Richard Sullivan Sr and later Richard Sullivan Jr. Richard Sullivan Sr was the fourth son of James Sullivan. By 1790, James Sullivan was one of the wealthiest citizens of Boston and was a prominent lawyer. He became Attorney General in 1790 and was elected governor of Massachusetts in 1807. He died in 1808. Richard Sullivan Sr was born June 17, 1779 in Groton, Massachusetts. He was a lawyer and later, co-partner in the Middlesex Canal-associated Boston and Concord Boating Co., in 1827. He acquired extensive land holdings along Sullivan Street in 1805, and at Charlestown neck in the 1810s and 20s. He operated a large Tavern at Sullivan Square by 1818. Richard Sullivan Jr was a Boston commercial merchant. He sold his father's land between circa 1840s to the early 1870s.

Bibliography:

Maps- 1818, 1833, 1839, 1848, 1851

Atlases-1875, 1885, 1892, 1901

Charlestown Directories- 1840s-1870s

Middlesex Deeds-661:410

*The Old Middlesex Canal*, Mary Stetson Clarke, 1974

\*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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