

**3, 5, 7, Lexington Street (#3-circa 1841, #5-circa 1840-41, #7-circa?)**

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



3 Lexington Street

2015

Number 3 Lexington Street is a modestly scaled, two-story Greek Revival house clad with wood shingles. It has a three bay façade with a side hall plan, and a three bay sidewall. The house is enclosed by a gable roof.

The entry has Doric pilasters flanking the front door with a two-pane transom. (The entry may have originally been recessed, and open.) The original entablature is covered by a shed-like form covered with wood shingles. The windows are fully and simply enframed and have 6/1 wood sash (originally 6/6). Shingles also cover the corner pilasters and fascia board.



5 Lexington Street

2015

Number 5 Lexington Street is also a modestly scaled two-story Greek Revival house. It has a three bay main façade at the gable end, and two bay sidewall. The building has a gable roof with return eaves. The South slope of the roof has two pedimented gable roofed dormers.

Still intact are classical enframements at the front door, including Doric pilasters and entablature. The windows are simply and fully enframed, and have 1/1 wood sash, with original 6/6 at the attic level.



7 Lexington Street

2015

Number 7 Lexington Street is a relatively tall, three story, three bay by three bay Greek revival/Italianate house. It is clad with weathered wood shingles and has a side hall plan. A fascia board beneath the deep cornice without brackets is more of a Greek Revival, than Italianate, sensibility.

Entrance enframements have been altered; Doric pilasters are still intact but the entablature has been modified. The windows are simply enframed and have 1/1 wood sash on floors one and two, and 2/2 on the third floor. There are corner pilasters minus Doric capitals at the edges of the building.

Builder: #3- William Hunnewell, #5- Charles Freeman, #7- H A Rice, "Carpenter"

Original owner: #7- H A Rice

Numbers 3, 5, and 7 Lexington Street rank among the first houses erected within the Bunker Hill Monument association's 115-lot tract. The BHMA's lots were auctioned off beginning in 1839. Modestly scaled wood frame dwellings such as these were built along Lexington, Monument, and Concord streets during the early 1840s. The more substantial mansion scale residences bordering Monument Square within the 115-lot tract were built beginning in the 1840s and continuing into the 1870s.

Number 7 Lexington Street's architecture is perhaps the most interesting of the trio, 3 and 5 representing straightforward, modestly scaled Greek Revival gable roofed wood frame dwellings. Number 7's three story, flat roofed form, with corner pilasters spanning floors 1-3 perhaps presages the three Decker-a uniquely Boston area architectural development that was fully evolved by the early 1880s.

Number 3's lot, without buildings, was purchased by William Hunnewell, a merchant, from Davis Snow of Boston, a merchant, on May 24, 1841 for \$795. This tract of land was Lot number 113 on the lithographic plans drawn by S M Felton September 25, 1839. Number 3 was probably built circa 1841 as an investment property for William Hunnewell.

Number 5's land was purchased by Charlie Freeman of Charlestown, a block maker, from Shadrach Varney, for \$117. Varney had purchased this lot from George A Kettel on August 7, 1840. Varney was heavily involved in Charlestown real estate development during the 1830s and 1840s. He was the developer of Dexter Row in Thompson Square (1836) and was a key figure in the development of Charlestown's first brick row at 7-23 Harvard Street (1835).

Shadrach Varney also sold number 7 Lexington Street's land to Henry A Rice, of Charlestown, Joiner, for \$260 on \_\_? 184\_\_?. Rice is listed as living at 4 Common Street in 1842 and is listed at 7 Lexington Street, as a carpenter, by 1845. He was active in Charlestown building trades from circa 1840 to 1875. He lived at 7 Lexington Street until at least the mid-1870s

#### Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1852

Atlases-1868, 1875, 1885

Middlesex deeds- #3-405:70; #5-395:405; #7-395:406

\*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