

3 Parker Street (1844-1846)

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



3 Parker Street

1980s

Number 3 Parker Street is a 1½ story Carpenter Gothic cottage. The house has a gable roof, with distinctive gingerbread bargeboards with a vine motif, at the gable end. The main

façade is at the gable end, with a front porch. The walls are covered with wood shingles. The windows on the sidewalls and second floor are fully enframed and have pedimented lintels. The altered house next door, number five, was apparently once identical to this house.

Original owner: Orr N Towne



3 Parker Street

2016

Architecturally, 3 Parker Street is a rare Charlestown example of a wood frame Carpenter Gothic cottage. This modestly scaled dwelling retains its vine and star motif bargeboards at the main façade's gable. Evidentially 5 Parker originally had

bargeboards similar to those of number 3. Gothic detailing may have been removed from other houses in the Charlestown Neck area.

On August 11, 1846, Richard Sullivan Sr and Richard Sullivan Jr, Boston merchants, sold 3 Parker Street's lot to Orr N Towne of Somerville, Massachusetts for \$975 (see Middlesex 490:450). The Sullivan/Towne deed mentions the existence of buildings on this lot. Number 3's lot was part of lots 98 and 99 on the Alexander Wadsworth plan of August 19, 1844. Number 3 Parker presumably dates to 1844-1846. Orr N Towne apparently owned but never occupied this house. During the 1840s-60s, he lived in Somerville. Towne owned the house until 1865.

On June 21, 1865, Louisa Towne of Somerville sold 3 Parker to Sarah T Lynde of Winchester, for \$2050. On September 28, 1871 Sarah F Lynde sold the house to George S Poole, secretary, Warren Institute for savings, 25 Main Street, Charlestown (see Middlesex 1178:575). Poole retained ownership of this house until at least the mid-1880s. During the 1890s and early 1900s a Sarah T Wiggin owned this property.

This house dates to the earliest phase of Parker/Brighton/Perkins Streets' development during the mid-1840s. During the 1810s and 20s Richard Sullivan Sr had purchased numerous tracts in this area. He was the fourth son of Massachusetts Governor James Sullivan. Born in Grafton Massachusetts on June 17, 1779, Richard Sullivan Sr was a prominent Boston based lawyer, real estate speculator, and co-partner in the Middlesex Canal-associated Boston and Concord Boating Company, which was founded in 1827. He owned a large tavern/hotel near what is now a Sullivan Square, which

catered to the canal trade. The Middlesex Canal's southern terminus was just to the southeast of Sullivan Square. Sullivan family landholdings at Charlestown neck were sold off during the 1840s-70s by Richard Sr and later, his son Richard Sullivan Jr, a Boston commercial merchant.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1833, 1839, 1848, 1851

Atlases-1875, 1885, 1892, 1901

Charlestown directories-1840s-50s

Middlesex deeds-490:450, 1178:575

Wyman genealogies, T B Wyman, 1879

The old Middlesex Canal, Mary Stetson Clark, 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.

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