

3 Wall Street (ca. 1846-1847, ca. late 1860s)

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



3 Wall Street

1980s



3 Wall Street

2016

Number 3 Wall Street is a two-story wood frame Mansard house. The house has a three bay main façade with a side hall plan and is clad with wood shingles. The edges are accented with corner and fascia boards. The house has a distinctive straight side mansard profile, and a pair of round arched

dormers- a double, and a single. The entrance is recessed and has a heavy bracketed door hood. The windows are simply enframed with 1/1 sash.

Builder: Elijah Chandler, 1846-47; rebuilt circa late 1860s by Charles Watkins

Original owner: Nathaniel Hitchings (late 1960s, Charles Watkins

Number 3 Wall Street's lot was part of the large parcel of land, including much of the area between Sullivan and Walker Streets, owned by Richard Sullivan Sr during the early-mid-19th century, which encompassed Sullivan Street and vicinity from Main to Bunker Hill Street. Richard Sullivan Sr was born in Brockton, Massachusetts in 1779, the fourth son of James Sullivan, governor of Massachusetts in 1808 and president of the Middlesex Canal. It was James Sullivan's involvement in the Middlesex Canal that evidentially introduced Richard Sullivan Sr to Charlestown real estate speculation. Completed in 1803, the canal linked Boston with the Merrimack River Valley; its southern terminal was in Charlestown. Richard Sr purchased what is now Sullivan Street and adjoining lands from Oliver Holden in approximately 1805. He also owned large tracts at Charlestown Neck as well as a tavern/hotel in what is now Sullivan Square. Between the 1840s and 1870s, Richard Sullivan Sr and Richard Sullivan Jr sold off most of the family's real estate holdings, including Wall Street properties.

Wall Street is a late addition to the system of streets between Elm and Walker Streets which was set out approximately in the 1790s to 1818. Wall Street was set out circa 1845 and was evidently named for the stone retaining wall, still extant, behind the townhouses lining the southwest side of Bunker

Hill Street, one block to the northeast. The wall is often referred to in mid-19th century Bunker Hill Street deeds.

Evidently, the house built on 3 Wall Street's lot, circa 1846-47, was a one story, gable roofed Greek Revival cottage similar to its neighbors at 1, 2, and 4 Wall Street. Number 3 Wall Street was apparently enlarged and "updated" circa mid-1860s by the addition of a second floor and mansard roof, and a fancy bracketed door hood.

Nathaniel Hitchings Jr, a wheelwright, sold number 3's lot "with the buildings thereon," which he had apparently purchased from the Sullivans, to Elijah Chandler, a housewright, on April 22, 1847 for \$800 (see Middlesex deed 501:282). Chandler probably built 3 Wall Street in a manner similar to 4 Wall Street. He was active as a carpenter in Charlestown building trades for a very short time, from approximately 1845 until 1850. In 1845 he lived at 6 ½ School Street. In 1848 he lived at "Wall near Sullivan Street", evidently referring to 3 Wall Street. Chandler died in Charlestown, circa 1850.

On August 18, 1851, Efrain Chandler of Abington, administrator of the estate of Elijah Chandler, "late of Charlestown", sold 3 Wall Street to Stephen Nichols of Winchester, a mason, at public auction (on May 11, 1852?), for \$935. Nichols sold number 3 to Deborah Chandler for \$412 (591:126). Deborah Chandler in turn, sold it to Henry Edwards of Boston, an engineer, for \$1075 on October 8, 1853. Edwards is listed at 3 Wall Street in 1854. Twelve years later Edwards sold the house to Charles Watkins, a "stair builder", on October 9, 1865 for \$1800. Watkins owned it until at least the mid-1880s. Presumably, Watkins was responsible for the second floor and mansard additions circa late 1860s.

By 1901, 3 Wall Street was owned by D B Coleman.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1833, 1839, 1848, 1851

Atlases-1875, 1885, 1892, 1901

Charlestown directories-1834-1874

Middlesex deeds-501:282, 591:195, 126; 661:61, 931:346

*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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