

32-40 Monument Avenue (1854-1870)

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



32 Monument Avenue

2016

Number 32 Monument Avenue is a red brick Greek Revival house with a granite-faced basement and brownstone trim. It has a three bay main façade with a side hall plan. There are tie rod ends below floors one, two and two, three. There is a step-corbeled table at the cornice, and a flat roof.

The entrance is deeply recessed, and has Victorian double doors with acid-etched glass.



34, 36 Monument Avenue

2016

Number 34 Monument Avenue is a three story Italianate house with a three bay main façade with a side hall plan and a granite basement. It has a bracketed cornice, and a flat roof.

It has a recessed entrance, and an oriel covered with asbestos shingles at the second level. The windows have simple brownstone sills and lintels with 2/2 wood sash.

Number 36 is an Italianate three-story townhouse constructed of red brick with low granite basement and a three bay main façade with a side hall plan. The building has a bracketed cornice and a flat roof.

The entry is recessed, with wood paneling on the outer entryway walls. There is an oriel at the second floor with a dentilated cornice.



38, 40 Monument Avenue

2016

Number 38 is a flat front Greek Revival house with a low granite faced basement and a three bay main façade with a side hall plan. There is cast iron banding at the second floor. There is a dentilated brickwork cornice and a flat roof. The windows have simple brownstone sills and lintels.

Number 40 is a three-story, flat front redbrick Greek Revival/Italianate house with a low granite-faced basement. There is cast iron banding at the second floor. The building has a shallow cornice table and a flat roof.

The entrance is recessed and has Victorian double doors with arched panels. The windows have 2/2 sash on the first floor and there is an oriel on the second floor.

Construction dates: number 32-circa 1860; number 34-circa 1870; number 36-circa 1870; number 38-1854-56; number 40-1854-1856

Builders: -numbers 34, 36-F H Tarbox; number 32 William Hawes; number 34-Manfred E Nichols; number 38 John Harding?; number 40- John Harding?

Numbers 32-40 Monument Avenue are key components of the "wall" of masonry buildings lining the west side of Monument Avenue. Although built at different points between 1854-1870, these houses represent similar renditions of flat front, low granite basement, red brick with brownstone-trimmed townhouses displaying elements of the Greek Revival and Italianate styles.

On April 26, 1860 Jonathan Harding of Charlestown, a trader, sold 32 Monument Avenue's lot to William Hawes of Charlestown, a "trader," for \$250. Number 32 Monument Avenue was built circa 1860, and Hawes' heirs owned it until circa 1895. By the early 1900s it was owned by an M Flanigan.

Numbers 34 and 36 Monument Avenue do not appear on the 1868 Sanborn atlas. (Deed for this lot dated April 1856, Isaac

Kendall to John Harding, stipulates that "no building shall be erected thereon but a dwelling house of brick or stone, not less than 2 1/2 stories high). On May 7, 1870, John Harding of Charlestown sold 34's a lot to George B Thomas for \$900. No buildings are mentioned in this deed. However, 34 and 36 were built circa 1870, and Thomas (and an Edwin Peterson) in turn, sold 34 to Pamela and Manfred E Nichols on September 30, 1871 for \$8000. Manfred E Nichols, number 34's owner in 1875, was a fancy and dry goods dealer with a store at 72, 74 Main Street. Number 34 was owned by the Nichols family until circa 1905. By 1911, Nora Hallahan owned this house.

Number 36 was owned by FH Tarbox, Mason. Matt Tarbox was probably responsible for 36's construction. By 1901, number 36 was owned by Emma L. Hook. Number 36 is owner in 1911 was a Mary Symmes.

Numbers 38 and 40 were built circa 1854-1856, in other words ranking among the first houses built on Monument Avenue after it was set out circa 1854-55. Harding as listed as number 38's owner in 1875. John Harding was evidently number 40's original owner. He was a local trader. (See 681:160, July 26, 1854-purchase price: \$1074.24. The house's second owner was Richard C Eldridge, a fish dealer. He paid Harding \$4200.52 for number 40 on December 15, 1856. Further research is needed on number 38's deed chronology.

Owners of number 38 during the late 19th/early 20th century included Mrs. John Harding, 1875, L Eldridge, 1885; Fred H Tarbox, mason, 1892; James Wilkie, 1901; and J P Mahoney, 1911.

Number 40's owner in 1875 was Richard Eldridge's estate. By 1885 the house was owned by L Eldridge. In 1892, and until at least 1911, it was owned by Hannah Norton.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1852

Atlases-1868, 1875, 1885, 1892, at 1901, 1911

Charlestown/Boston directories-19th century

Middlesex deems-number 32-837:196; number 34-1180:321, 1101:32; number 34-731:472

*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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