

33, 35 Mystic Street (circa 1869-70)

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



1-5 Mystic Place

1981



35, 33 Mystic Street

2016

Numbers 33 and 35 Mystic Street is a pair of three story wood frame Italianate houses with brick basements, three bay main façades, and side hall plans. They have bracketed cornices and flat roofs. The entrances are recessed with bracketed door hoods and the windows are fully enframed.

Builder: George W Hatch

Original Owner: George W Hatch-35, John Pierce-33



1-5 Mystic Place entry detail

1981

Numbers 33 and 35 Mystic Street were built circa 1869-1870. Architecturally, they are a pair of solid, well preserved Italianate houses, retaining clapboards and original elements such as attractive turned door hoods. They are key components to Mystic Street's mid-1800s streetscape of primarily Italianate wood frame and brick houses.

Mystic Street was set out circa late 1840s. It was laid out over a portion of what had been the Alms House estate. The Alms House is variously shown on pre- 1850 maps as being opposite the head of School Street (1818, probably accurate) or opposite the head of Elm Street.

On March 18, 1869 James Emery sold 35 Mystic Street's lot to George W Hatch, a carpenter, for \$85,000 (?). The Emery/Hatch deed (Middlesex 1051:77) does not mention buildings on this site. It refers to lot 33 on a Plan of the Alms House Estate, Bunker Hill, Boston, drawn by Alexander Wadsworth, November 24, 1848, Plan Book 4, page 13." Hatch purchased this lot on the condition that "no building may be erected on said lot for any purpose other than a dwelling house or store. Hatch was presumably responsible for 33 and 35's construction. He was active in Charlestown building trade from circa 1869 until 1889. He is not mentioned in the 1868 directory. In 1890 is listed as "removed to Waltham". He lived at 35 during the 1870s and 80s.

James Emery, grantor of 33 and 35's house lots was apparently the James Emery who was a "carriage Smith", rear 15 Austin, home 6 Mystic Street, listed in the 1870 directory. Another possibility is James Emery Jr, 17 Commercial Wharf, Boston, employee of Brown and Seavey and Company. He boarded at 282 Bunker Hill Street.

In 1875 the owner of number 33 was a John Pierce. Both Pierce and Hatch purchase their lots from James Emery on March 18, 1869 (see Middlesex 1051:376-Emery/Pierce deed). John Pierce was superintendent of the Lowell institute, rear 233 Washington Street, Boston, his home, 47 Pleasant Street, (1870s).

During the early 1900s a Sally E Pierce owned 33 and William T Muir, a fireman, "Ladder #9, owned 35 Mystic Street.

Bibliography:

Atlases-1875, 1885, 1892, 1901
 Charlestown directories-1860s, 70s
 Boston directories-post 1875
 Middlesex deed-1051-376, 377

*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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