

**35 (circa 1848-52), 37 (circa 1849-52), 39 (circa 1851), 41 (1853) Mount Vernon Street**



35-41 Mount Vernon Street

2016

Number 35 Mt. Vernon Street is a two story flat front Greek Revival/Italianate house. It is constructed of red brick with granite and brownstone trimmings, and a granite-faced basement. The main façade has three bays and a side hall plan.

The building has a wide brickwork cornice table with a brickwork dentil course and a gable roof. It has a pair of pedimented dormers.

The entrance, originally recessed and open, has late 19<sup>th</sup> century outer doors and a large two-pane transom. The entrance is surmounted by a pedimented lintel with tabs. The windows have simple sills and lintels composed of brownstone. Above two first story windows is an apron-paneled oriel.



37, 39, 41 Mount Vernon Street

2016

Number 37 Mount Vernon Street, a Greek Revival/Mansard house, appears to have been identical to 35 but was “updated” with the addition of a mansard roof. It has two stories, a granite basement, and a three bay main façade with a side hall plan. There is a simple cornice table and deep eaves. The building has a pair of gable-roofed dormers.

It has an open and recessed entrance with well-crafted paneling still intact. The entrance is surmounted by a bracketed cornice. The windows have simple brownstone sills and lintels.

Number 39 Mount Vernon Street is a three-story, flat front house with a three bay main façade and side hall plan. It is constructed of red brick with brownstone trim and a low granite basement. It has a gable roof, and one dormer with a pedimented gable roof on the main façade. The lintels at the first and second floors are slightly pedimented in the Greek Revival manner.



41 Mount Vernon

2015

Number 41 Mt. Vernon Street is a Greek Revival/Mansard masonry house. It has a low granite basement, brownstone trimmings and a flat, three bay main façade with a side hall plan. There is a shallow brickwork cornice table with deep eaves (brackets are missing). The mansard roof, with a pair of gabled dormers, is a later addition.

The entrance lintel has a modified pedimented entablature with tabs, and there is a later outer door with highly unusual oval transom. The windows have 2/2 wood sash.



41 Mount Vernon Street front door

**Builder:** #s 35 and 37-Dolphin D Taylor; #39- James H Collins, Joshua Snow, Joel Snow, Barnabus Snow

Original owners: #35-Willard Dalrymple; #37- Edward A Ward, #39- William C Bussell; #41- Samuel P Langmaid

Further research, meaning visual analysis with another pair of eyes, may lead to the conclusion that all four houses were originally identical and built at about the same time. Middlesex deeds indicate that this group was built circa 1849-53.

Unfortunately these buildings must have been built shortly after the RP Mallory Panoramic View of Charlestown/Boston was drawn, in 1848. Otherwise the panoramic view would have provided a record of these buildings.

Architecturally, this group of solid, well-crafted freestanding masonry houses, built circa 1849-53, is essentially Greek Revival with some interesting Italianate and Mansard additions/alterations acquired over time. Numbers 35 and 37 were originally identical- 37's mansard was added circa late 1860s or early 1870s. Number 35-41's lots were carved from the Breed estate in 1846, along with the 28 other lots in this development.

For many years 35 Mount Vernon Street was the home of important Charlestown/Boston contractor Willard Dalrymple (1802-1884). (Prior to Dalrymple's Mount Vernon Street residence he had lived on Bow Street (now Devens Street) in a brick house which he later sold to Moses Dow.) He was born in Grafton Massachusetts in 1802 and came to Boston in 1823. Interestingly he worked as a gardener on the Ebenezer Breed estate. For a time he was employed by the Lowell Railroad, and afterwards by the Charlestown Land and Wharf Company and the Charlestown Branch Railroad. Late he joined forces as a contractor with Mark Lenon. Dalrymple and Lenon were responsible for filling the river flats along Front Street between the Warren and Prison Point bridges. They created the land

later occupied by the freight department of the Boston and Maine Railroad. Dalrymple also worked on large jobs in Cambridge and Boston's South End. Interestingly it was Dalrymple who was employed to take down the old Hancock house on Beacon Hill- Dalrymple was given a panel from the parlor of the circa 1737 mansion. In 1854 he was elected an alderman of the city of Boston. In a sense, 35 Mount Vernon Street, completed in 1852, is a reflection of Dalrymple's rise to prominence in the community.

By circa 1890, Henry W Cotton owned 35 Mount Vernon Street. He was a Harvard educated lawyer born in Charlestown on November 28, 1858. He was the son of prominent Charlestown lawyer and Moses a Dow estate trustee Joseph H Cotton. Henry W Cotton represented ward four in the Common Council from 1881 to 1882. He later made a specialty of probate work and was the attorney for many large estates.

By the early 1900s, 35 Mount Vernon Street was owned by an Ellen J Bennett.

Number 37 Mount Vernon Street was built circa 1849-52. Middlesex deeds indicate that 37 was the work of Dolphin D Taylor. He was a prolific Charlestown builder, active circa 1845-early 1890s. In 1845 he is listed as a mason, at 20 Green Street. By 1860 he lived on Summer Street. From 1872 to the early 1890s he lived at 31 Oak Street (see form). Examples of Taylor's work include many masonry residences, mostly located in the area between Pearl Street and Baldwin Street. Mount Vernon Street is a little "far afield" from most of Taylor's work. He is credited with 46-60 Baldwin Street, in 1865, 23-25 Oak Street, in 1865, 249 and 251 Bunker Hill Street, in 1849-1850, and above all construction work on Saint Mary's R C Church on Warren Street, in 1887-1892.

On January 6, 1849 Edward A Ward, a Charlestown trader, paid dolphin D Taylor \$1200 for 37's land. Ward sold this land "with the buildings thereon" to Benjamin F Shattuck, Lieut., U.S. Navy, on 18 June 1852, for \$4850. Later owners of 37 included William Pierce (occupation?), Matthew H Merriam, and S O Little, "coal," 22 Kilby Street, Boston. By 1875 S O Little's heirs owned number 37 and from 1880 to 1895 a Grace A little owned this property. During the early 1900s a Timothy J Crowley owned 37 Mount Vernon Street.

Number 39 Mount Vernon Street's deed chronology may be traced back to a pre-"buildings thereon" transaction which indicates that no less than four builders were involved in the houses construction. On March 21, 1851, James H Collins and Joshua Snow of Boston, masons, Joel Snow of Boston, and Barnabas Snow of East Cambridge, carpenters, sold 39's lot to William C Bussell (?) (Buzzell ?-Various spellings), for \$2000. Evidently 39 was built during the spring/summer of 1851. Bussell sold 39 to Sylvanus Denio of Boston on June 3, 1856 for \$6000. Later owners included an Edward Hall of Chelsea, late 1850s-mid-60s, a (?) Jones, 1870s, and Thomas F McManus, a fish dealer, (Thomas F McManus Company, 13 commercial Wharf, Boston). The house remained under McManus family ownership until circa 1905. By 1911 Dennis O'Neill and others owned the house.

41 Mount Vernon Street was for many years the home of Samuel Prentice Langmaid, a leading Boston area supplier of doors, sashes, and blinds. Langmaid's business stretched far beyond Boston and New England. He shipped his products as far away as California, Australia, New Zealand, and "other new countries".

Samuel P Langmaid was born in Chichester, New Hampshire on September 7, 1807. Initially employed by "a thrifty farmer in Arlington Massachusetts," he later came to Boston to work at the city Stables. For many years he was a member of the Boston Volunteer Fire Department. In 1847 he went into business dealing in doors, sashes, and blinds. He conducted this trade until 1879. Mr. Langmaid seems to have owed much of his success to his ability to identify new markets for his product. Mr. Langmaid's worldwide shipping enterprise began with his sending goods to California during the gold rush. His shipping business "was not confined either to doors sashes or blinds, but covered many other staple goods". Evidentially Rum was not included in Langmaid's shipments as he was a strong member of the mid-19th century temperance movement.

He was evidently drawn to Charlestown during the early 1850s because of a building boom, which began circa mid-1840s and demanded a ready supply of doors, sash, etc. In 1853 he made his home in Charlestown, having built for himself a substantial brick house at 41 Mount Vernon Street. He held numerous directorships including that of the Middlesex Street Railroad, 1874-79, Chelsea Gas Light Company, 1868-74, and East Boston Gas Company, 1868-79. He was a member of Charlestown's Universalist Church. In 1871 he built the Haymarket Block, once located in Haymarket Square, Boston. This block contained eight stores of which five were owned by Langmaid.

He lived in Charlestown until 1876, when he removed to Somerville, "where he purchased a large and valuable estate on Winter Hill". He died in Somerville on January 26, 1880.

From circa late 1880s until at least 1911, 41 Mount Vernon Street was owned by Patrick O'Riordan and his heirs. O'Riordan was a leading Boston/Charlestown contractor.

\*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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