

## 360- 368 Main Street (1855)

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

Numbers 360-368 Main St. is a row of five redbrick, flat front Italianate houses. They have low granite basements, three bay main façades, and side hall plan entrances with granite stairs. There are narrow brickwork courses above the third-floor windows and a continuous bracketed cornice (cast iron?).

The entrances, and windows, have cornice-headed lintels.



360- 368 Main

2015

Builder: Westin and Mason

Original owner: Westin and Mason



360 Main Street

2015

This group of five redbrick flat fronted Italianate row houses represents one of the more high style examples of the work of prolific Charlestown builders David B Westin and Rufus Mason. Although they are referred to as "painters" in mid-19th century Charlestown directories, certain deeds and advertisements

clearly indicate that Weston and Mason were also housewrights. David B Westin and Rufus Mason are listed separately as painters as early as 1842. At that time Weston resided at 2 Mill Street while Mason lived on Green Street, in Charlestown. Westin and Mason are first listed as partners in a painting business in 1852. At that time both men lived at 1 Crystal Place (See form on Crystal Place.), and worked as painters". By the early 1860s Weston and Mason are listed as "painters and glaziers," living next door to each other at 218 and 216 Bunker Hill Street, respectively.



Apparently Westin and Mason dissolved their partnership circa 1863. By 1864 Weston is listed as Secretary and Agent, Overseers of the Poor, and by 1818 he worked as "Visitor for the Overseers of the Poor," Charity Building, Chardon street, Boston. Weston is listed at 274 Bunker Hill Street in 1890 but does not appear in the 1895 directory.

Rufus Mason continued in the painting/building business after the demise of Weston and Mason. He worked with his son George, under the name Rufus Mason and Son, from circa early 1864-early 1870s. During the early 1870s, Mason is listed next door to David B Weston.

In any event, 360-368 Main's lots appear on an Alexander Wadsworth plan dated March 20, 1855 and were erected between March-December 1855. On December 18, 1855

(Middlesex deed 731:80) Westin and Mason sold 364 Main Street's lot and "the buildings thereon" to Franklin Hopkins for \$7000. Hopkins in turn sold 364 to Franklin L Tappan for \$5000 on November 2, 1860 (841:305). Tappan operated a clothing store at "Union, corner Blackstone Block" in Boston during the 1850s and 1860s. Prior to purchasing 364 he lived at 29 Mount Vernon Street, Boston. Number 364 remained in the Tappan family until at least the early 1900s.

This group's owners in 1875 included Henry Upham, treasurer of a Lowe Price Company, 23 Water Street, Boston, who purchased 360 from William Fosdick in 1866; and M Howard, occupation unlisted, 362; O F Raymond, a broker, 48 Main, 366, and (note unclear) the Sarah Colby estate June 15, 1865 (192:496), at 368 Main Street. By 1901, this group's owners included Bridget Roth at 360, Jeremiah McCarthy at 362, Franklin L Tappan still at 364, Julia H Raymond at 366 and Mary Fontaine at 368.

Note 1: Other examples of Weston and Masons work include 19-35 Russell Street, an Italianate wood frame row, circa 1857; 3-15 and 4-8 Bolton Place, wood row houses, circa 1861-62; 2-4 Mason Court, wood, circa 1860-61; 7-19 Wall Street, wood Italianate row, circa 1857; Forest Place row, wood, 1859-1860; and Crystal Place, 1849-1851, Greek Revival wood frame houses.

Note 2: Number 368 Main Street was for many years the home of prominent Charlestown grocer and real estate speculator, Samuel D Sawin and was the boyhood home of prominent Charlestown physician Charles D Sawin, MD. Samuel D Sawin was born in Stowe Massachusetts February 2, 1835. He came to Charlestown in 1853 and was employed for a short time by the Fitchburg Railroad. Soon after he found occupation with

the firm of F O and J T Reed, Grocers. He was a member of the Common Counsel for two years and was a member of the Board of Aldermen for one year and of the legislature for three years. For many years he was a member of the Overseers of the Poor and Bunker Hill Lodge I.O.O.F. S D Sawin died on July 27, 1890.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1833, 1839, 1848, 1851

Atlases-1875, 88 590 9191

Charlestown directories-1850s-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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