

4-10 Mystic Street (1854)

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



4- 10 Mystic Street

2016

Numbers 4-10 Mystic Street is a row of four flat front, redbrick three-story Italianate houses. They have three bay main façades and side hall plans. The basements are of granite blocks, and there are star shaped tie rod Irons on the houses' façades. The building has a deep-bracketed cornice and a flat roof. The entrances are recessed, with granite steps, and the windows have granite sills and lintels.

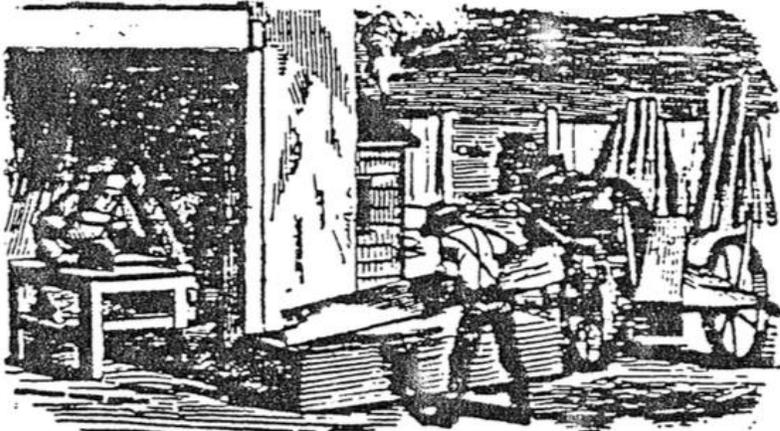
Builder: Amos Brown

Architecturally, this group of four flat front houses is representative of the type of redbrick Italianate row housing built in Charlestown during the 1850s. While the flat front row house continued to be popular in Charlestown until well into the 1870s, during the mid-19th century the bow, or swell front, was popular in Boston's South End.

Middlesex deed 681:124, which refers to 8 Mystic Street, clearly indicates that these houses were built in 1854, dating this group to the earliest phase of Mystic Street development. (Mystic Street was set out circa 1848-1854) On July 20, 1854, Amos Brown, a carpenter, paid the Warren Institution for Savings \$1750 for "a certain parcel of land with buildings thereon in the process of erection on Mystic Street."

Amos Brown was active as a carpenter in Charlestown building trades from circa 1848 until the 1880s. He first appears in the 1848 Charlestown directory, listed as a carpenter, on 2nd street. During the 1850s he is listed as working as a carpenter at 55 Lawrence with his residence on Washington Street. In 1880 he is listed at 46 and 50 Lawrence Street, his home at 40 Washington. Presumably, Brown was involved in the construction of this group's stairs, floors etc. The mason for this group has not been identified. Other examples of Amos Brown's work include 84 and 86 Baldwin Street (another masonry building, but presumably he did the carpentry) and the masonry group at 46-60 Baldwin Street.

AMOS BROWN,
Carpenter and Builder,



And Manufacturer of

BRACKETS AND MOULDING,
OF VARIOUS STYLES. ALSO,
WOOD-TURNING, JIG AND CIRCULAR SAWING,
No. 55. LAWRENCE STREET, CHARLESTOWN.

1870 + DIRECTORY

By 1875, Ethan N Coffin owned 4. Coffin's business is listed as "ware rooms and undertaken (?)," 2 Soley Street, Charlestown. In 1875 Coffin lived at 12 Monument Square, and the occupant of number 4 in 1875 was James Emery Jr, a fish dealer, 17 Commercial Wharf, Boston. James Emery, Sr, owned the house next door at 6 Mystic Street. He lived here from circa 1850s to the early 1890s. In 1860 he is listed as "James Emery, carriage smith, rear 15 Austin and rear 181 Main Street" with his house at 6 Mystic Street. Also, living with Emery during the early 1860s was James Emery Jr, at that time employed at Holmes and Emory, Sofa and Chair Manufacturers, 32 Warren Street. In 1875 Nathan Mullikan owned number 8 Mystic Street. He was a foreman at Addison Gage and Company, a major mid-19th century ice cutting and shipping operation with ice harvested on Spy Pond, Arlington, and shipped

worldwide from a wharf in Charlestown. Caleb Reed, a printer, South Main Street, owned number 10 from circa 1867 to 1880.

By 1901 this groups owners included, number 4- F Canteer, number 6- M E Coffman, number 8- EM Mullikan, and number 10-a Mary T Brickly.

Bibliography:

Maps- 1818, 1833, 1839, 1849, 185_

Atlases- 1875, 1885, 1892, 1901

Charlestown directories- 1840s-70s

Middlesex deeds- 681:129, 991:481

*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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