

4 Wall Street (circa 1846-1849)

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



4 Wall Street

2016

Number 4 Wall Street is a diminutive, one-story wood frame Greek Revival cottage. It has a three bay main façade with a side hall plan and its edges are accented by narrow corner and fascia boards. The house has a gable roof with a single pedimented dormer.

Its recessed entrance has simple vertical and horizontal board enframements. The windows are simply enframed.

Builder: George W Jordan

Original owner: George W Jordan

Number 4 is a part of Wall Street's interesting collection of Greek Revival and Italianate wood frame vernacular houses, and is integral to the mid-19th century character of this narrow street near the top of Bunker Hill's southwestern slope. This house retains its clapboard sheathing and simple Greek Revival surface treatments. It originally abutted an identical, or at least similar, cottage at number 3 Wall Street, which added a second floor and mansard roof circa late 1860s.

Wall Street is a late addition to the system of streets developed between Elm Street and Walker Street circa 1790-1818. It was set out in approximately 1845. Wall Street's deeds dating to 1846-1850 refer to Wall Street as "the new Street". Wall Street was named for the stone retaining wall, which is still extant behind the houses, bordering the southwestern edge of Bunker Hill Street.

On August 1846, Richard Sullivan Jr sold 4 Wall Street's lot to George W Jordan of Charlestown, a carpenter, for \$287 (Middlesex 511:553). This deed mentions that the lot is "on the southerly side of Bunker Hill on a new street, called Wall." Jordan was probably responsible for 4 Wall Street's construction. The first mention of buildings on this property occurs in a deed dated March 15, 1850 (551:234) between George W Jordan, grantor and Ludwig Meyer of Boston, a musician. Jordan is listed in Charlestown directories as a "ship carpenter" from 1845 to 1854. In 1845 he lived on Cross

Street. In 1848 he lived at "Wall near Sullivan"-apparently in number 4. In 1852 he is listed at 124 Bartlett Street and in 1854 he lived at the rear of 24 Cook Street.

Ludwig Meyer does not appear in the 1848 or 1852 Charlestown directories; by 1854, he had moved to New York City. He sold 4 to __Stark, a "gentleman of Boston", on August 1, 1854 for \$1200. Fifteen years later Stark sold number 4 to Francis M Brown for \$1500. Stark is listed in 1850s and 60s directories as a peddler at 14 Williams Street; he is not listed in 1860s-early 1870s Charlestown directories.

Later owners included Jesse Stevens, 1870s and 80s, and John S Whiting's heirs in the 1890s and 1900s.

Wall Street's house lots were part of the extensive early-mid-19th century landholdings of Richard Sullivan Sr and Richard Sullivan Jr. Richard Senior was the fourth son of James Sullivan, Massachusetts governor and president of the Middlesex Canal Company. It was James Sullivan's involvement in the Middlesex Canal, completed 1803, linking Boston and Charlestown, that introduced Richard Sr to Charlestown real estate speculation. Richard Sr purchased large tracts in the present-day Sullivan Street area (circa 1805, from Oliver Holden, grantor) and Charlestown Neck. He operated a large tavern/hotel at Sullivan Square by 1818, and was co-partner in the canal-related Boston and Concord Boating Company. His son, Richard Jr, a Boston commercial merchant, sold Sullivan family lands from the 1840s-1870s.

*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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