

## 407 Main Street (circa 1876-1884)

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



407 Main Street

2016

Number 407 Main Street is a three story brick Italianate townhouse with an octagonal bay and a flat entrance bay. It has sandstone trim and facing on the basement, and panels

containing angled brickwork between floors two and three. There is a well-crafted brickwork cornice with angled bricks

A high sandstone stairway or stoop leads to the main entrance with the original multipanel double doors and transom. The entrance is surmounted by a pedimented and console-bracketed sandstone door hood with incised Eastlakin decoration. These decorative treatments are echoed on window lintels.



407 Main Street entry                      2016  
Original owner: Edward T Nobel

Architecturally, 407 Main Street is a relatively sophisticated example of late 1870s-early 1880s Charlestown row housing. It is a key component in one of the last intact mid-19th century streetscapes along Main Street between School and Baldwin Streets. With its sandstone trim, incised Eastlavian decoration and above all its tall octagonal bay, this townhouse marks a decided departure from the more subdued surface treatments of flat front Charlestown row houses of the 1850s and 60s.

Number 407 Main Street's lot is vacant on the 1875 Atlas of Charlestown and is labeled E T Nobel (occupation unlisted). The house does appear on the 1885 Charlestown Atlas and is labeled Edward T Nobel. Middlesex deeds did not shed any light on the construction date since Nobel evidently owned 407's lot for some years before its construction. At first glance this house appears to have been built in concert with numbers 101-105 Main Street, but atlases indicate, along with considerations of form elements, that 407 Main dates to circa 1874-84, while 101-105 dates to the 1860s. Nobel owned the house until at least the early 1900s.

Main Street is an ancient thoroughfare, which dates back to the 17th century. It is difficult to visually determine the various stages of Main Street's development between School Street and Sullivan Square because so much of its pre-1900 housing stock has vanished due to urban renewal, neglect, etc.

#### Bibliography:

Atlases-1875, 1885, 1892, 9001

Charlestown directories-1870s-early 1900s

\*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.

R Dinsmore