

443, 445 Main Street (circa 1859)

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



443, 445 Main Boston PWD, 1900

Numbers 443, 445 Main Street is a pair of Italianate row houses with Greek Revival elements. They have three stories, a brick basement, and three bay main façades. The pair has a flat roof with a bracketed cornice.

They have side hall plans with high wooden (replacement) stairs, leading to recessed entrances. The entranceways are

enframed by paneled Doric pilasters and cornice-headed entablatures with a frieze of a diamond shapes. Number 445 has its original entrance bay paneling and a circa 1900 multi-panel front door.

In general the windows are simply enframed. There are oriel windows at the centers of the main façades, on the second floor.



445 Main entry detail

1900

Original owner: Sarah Hovey



443, 445 Main Street

2015

These houses were built circa 1859 at a time when Bunker Hill was being extensively developed with masonry row houses, and provide testimony that wood frame houses of substantial scale and with interesting details were also being built. Architecturally, these buildings may be characterized as Italianate with entrance enframements striking a Greek Revival note. They have unusual entablature frieze which consists of raised moldings in a diamond shaped motif. Second

floor oriels and bracketed cornices underlined the move away from the planar Greek Revival surfaces.



443 Main Street, entrance detail 2015

On January 2, 1860 John Galvin of Roxbury paid Sarah Hovey, widow of Solomon Hovey, \$6750 for these lots and "the buildings thereon". The Hovey/Galvin deed (821:219) indicates that Solomon Hovey had owned this land since the early 19th century.

By May 1866 John Galvin sold 445 to Ephraim Stone and Luther Pollard for \$5000 (941:558). Pollard sold 445 to Almira Ditson, wife of Solomon J Ditson of Somerville for

\$3900 on September 2, 1867. Ditson was a candle mold maker (1866), and later a partner in Simonds and Ditson's Grocery Store at 190 Chelsea Street, Charlestown (1875).

John T Sawin purchased 443 at some point between 1865-75. In 1866 he is listed as a milkman at 3 Lyndeboro Street, Charlestown. By 1875 he is listed at 443 Main Street.

By 1901 Agnes Burks owned 443 and F J Lerner *et al* owned 445.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1833, 1839, 1848, 1851

Atlases-1875, 1885, 1892, 1901

Charlestown directories-1859's-70s

Middlesex deeds

*Digitized, and edited without change in content, from the scanned record in the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System, and with 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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