

## 46, 48 Chestnut St. (circa 1840-1848)

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



Photo: September 1968

Numbers 46-48 Chestnut Street is a substantial two-story wood frame Greek Revival double house. The building has a low granite faced basement and each half has a three bay main facade. Number 46 is clad with wood shingles, while 48 retains its clapboards. The building's edges are accented by baseboards, heavy paneled Doric pilasters, and a fascia board with a slender raised molding at the center. The building is crowned by a broad gable roof with return eaves and one double dormer per segment. Evidently a roof deck has been

added to the rear roof slope of 48, and there is a two-story ell behind number 48. The panoramic view of 1848 indicates that paired chimneys at the end of the roof were once much fuller.

The main façade features paired entrances, open and recessed, with enframements consisting of Doric pilasters and "shouldered" entablature with paired pediments. Number 48's entrance enframements appear to be original, with multi-pane sidelights and transom. In general, the windows are fully enframed with 2/2 wood sash at number 46 and 6/6 at 48.



46, 48 Chestnut Street

2015



46 Chestnut entablature detail

Original owner: 46-George W White ?

Architecturally, 46, 48 Chestnut Street is significant as a good, robustly detailed example of substantial circa early-mid-1840s double wood frame Greek Revival housing. Particularly noteworthy are its generously proportioned paneled corner Doric pilasters, pedimented and "shouldered" entrance enframements, and fascia board.

These houses' lot was carved from the old Nathan Adams/George Adams Kettel estate. Early house construction within the Adams/Kettel tract dates to the early 1840s. The Adams/Kettel mansion house was located at the site of the now vacant Bunker Hill Post #26 opposite 30 Chestnut Street. The nucleus of Chestnut Street was a lane, which led from Adams Street to the Adams-Kettel mansion house. The first houses in the Adams/Kettel development were built on the upper slopes of Breeds Hill, presumably to make the most of

spectacular views of Boston and Boston harbor. Numbers 46 and 48 Chestnut are present on the RP Mallory Panoramic View of Charlestown/Boston drawn in 1848.



George W White may have been 46's first owner. Later owners of 46 included Marshall N Cutter and Oliver Smith of Charlestown, 1855, James G Fuller, 1856-59, Nathan G Chandler, 1859-61, and J Oaks Bradbury, 1861-circa 1880. Bradbury was a grocer with a store at 71 and 73 Chelsea Street. He moved from Monument Avenue, near High Street, to Chestnut Street. By 1885, 46 was owned by J O Bradbury's heirs. During the early 1900s a Sarah J Lambert owned this house.

Further research is needed to determine the original owner of 48. It was owned by William H Finney, bookkeeper, 2 Pemberton Square, Boston, from a circa early 1870s to at least 1885. Later owners of 48 included Lizzie F Jackson, 1890s, Thomas N and Sarah M Carroll, 1900, and Ellen C Dempsey, 1910s.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1852

Atlases-1875, 1885, 1892, 1901, 1911

Panoramic View, RP Mallory-1848

Charlestown directories-1870s

Middlesex Deeds-46-681:508, 711:598, 816:247, 861:89

\*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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