

46-60 Baldwin Street (circa 1856)

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



These are a group of eight red brick Italianate row houses. They have three bay main facades, side hall plans with recessed entrances, and low granite basements. They have deep cornices with closely spaced brackets of wood (?), and a flat roof. An oriel window has been added to the second floor of

number 54, and there have been entrance alterations to number 60.

Builder: dolphin D Taylor, Charles W Wellington

Original owner: Dolphin D Taylor

Architecturally, 46-60 Baldwin Street is of interest as a solid, well-crafted group of red brick Italianate, flat front row houses. Much of the charm of Baldwin Street, south of Bunker Hill Street is derived from the presence of this row.

This part of Baldwin Street was set out circa 1850 (see Middlesex plan by John Doane, Jr, 6/23/1850). These lots were part of George R Baldwin's considerable mid-19th century Bunker Hill land holdings. George R Baldwin was the brother of Loammi Baldwin, "the father of civil engineering in America". George R Baldwin was the consulting engineer on the Mystic Waterworks for the city of Charlestown. The principal Baldwin estate in Charlestown was located on Main Street, between School and Salem Streets.

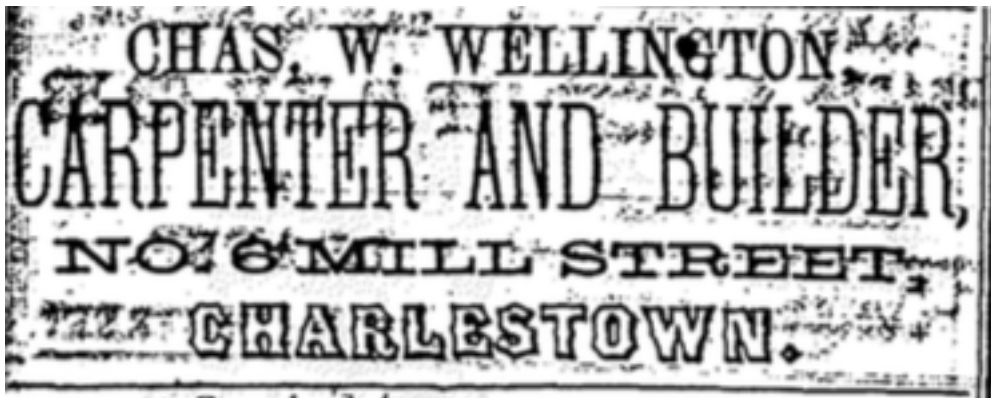
In July 1856 Baldwin sold two of the group's lots, apparently numbers 54 and 56, to dolphin D Taylor for \$1089. Presumably Baldwin also sold the remaining lot in this road to Taylor. (See plan of land in Charlestown belonging to George R Baldwin, June 23, 1850, also Middlesex deed 741:359). The Baldwin-Taylor deed does not mention buildings on the lots. Although the deed does not mention buildings, apparently 46-60's construction was well underway during the summer of 1856 as buildings on 56's lot are mentioned in a deed of August 23, 1856. At that time dolphin D Taylor, a mason, sold 56's lot to Charles W Wellington, a carpenter, for \$4000. Presumably

Taylor and possibly Wellington were responsible for 56's construction as well as the other buildings in this group.

Dolphin D Taylor was active in Charlestown building trades from circa 1845 to the early 1890s. In 1845 he is listed as a mason at 20 Green Street. By 1860 he lived at 10 Summer Street, and from circa 1860s to the early 1890s he lived at 31 Oak Street.

Other examples of Dolphin D Taylor's work in Charlestown include: the Greek Revival masonry row houses at 249-251 Bunker Hill Street, circa 1849-50, and the Italianate masonry row houses at 23-25 Oak Street, circa 1865.

Charles W Wellington was active in local building trades from circa 1845-1875. In 1845 he is listed as a carpenter (no home address listed). During the 1850s/early 1860s he worked as a carpenter and resided at 2 Irving Place (later named Armory place). By the late 1860s he had moved to Cambridge but continued to work in Charlestown- at 6 Mill Street, in 1868. By 1864 he was still living in Cambridge and worked at 151 Medford Street.



Other examples of his work include 1-3 Auburn Street, circa 1857-58, 7-21 Auburn Street, 1861, and 5-15 Auburn St., 1860-61.

Later owners of 56 included Jacob falls, a "gentleman" and Charlestown real estate speculator, Lemuel page, a mechanic, and A P Moore, of Boston, "baggage master". Moore acquired 56 from Xenas C Haviland, executor of the Jacob Foss estate, for \$4000 on October 26, 1866 (981:209). Number 56's deeds during the 1850 and 1860s stipulate that "no building can be erected on this property except of brick and stone and must be at least two stories high and is to be used for no other purpose than as a dwelling or shop with no offensive trades".

Owners of this group in 1875 included George S Holt, a teamster, beginning circa 1856, #46; James M Beded, a cabinet maker, here beginning circa 1866, #48; Lyman Brown, a milkman, beginning circa 1862, # 50; John Treadwell, a cabinet maker, Boston, beginning circa 1856, #52; Joseph F Boyd, occupation unlisted, beginning circa 1868, # 54; A P Moore, baggage maker, Boston, who boarded at 30 Lynde Street, #56; Ira Ballou, " butter and cheese", 21 Faneuil Hall Square, Boston, beginning circa 1858, #58, and Andrew Furbush, "lard and tallow", Furbush Court, beginning circa 1863, #60.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1833, 1839, 1848, 1851

Atlases-1875, 1885, 1892, 1901

Charlestown directories-1834-1874 Middlesex deeds, #56-981:209, 831:158, 751:198, 741:461, 741:359, 741:461

Old Charlestown, TT Sawyer, pages 111-1

*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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