

5- 11 Walker Street (ca. 1851)

From Boston Landmark Commission's Charlestown Historic Resources Study 1981*:



11, 9, 7, 5 Walker Street

1980s

Numbers 5- 11 Walker Street is a group of four wood frame Greek Revival row houses. They have three bay main façades and side hall plans, with paired entrances. The houses are enclosed by steeply pitched a gable roofs with pedimented dormers. There have been alterations in terms of materials such as modern shingles and aluminum siding, and a second floor oriel has been added to number 11. Number 5 retains the most intact entrance enframements with simple "pilasters" and entablature.



11-5 Walker Street

2015

Builder: Edward Parker

Original owner: Mary Ann Green et al

Numbers 5-11 Walker was built circa 1851. Architecturally, this is a solid example of a mid-19th century Greek Revival wood frame row, intended as shelter for middle-class families. Numbers 5-11 Walker's lot was purchased by William H Fogg, merchant, from Mary Ann Green of Chelsea and George Hobby

(?), Holby (?), of Lynn for \$1200 on May 14, 1851 (571:64). Fogg is not listed in 1840s or 1850s Charlestown directories.

Edward Parker acquired number 11 Walker's lot from Green etc. on November 18, 1851 (581:150). Parker is first listed in Charlestown directories in 1852 as a painter at 311 Main, house 11 Walker. Parker may have been the builder of this group, as "painter" was often used interchangeably with "carpenter" or "builder" during the mid-19th century in Boston and vicinity. Parker was active in Charlestown building trades from circa 1850-1875. He owned to this house until at least the mid-1870s and his heirs owned it until at least the early 1900s (Mary J Parker-1901). Other owners in 1875 included John Perkins (occupation unlisted)-number 5, William Fogg (occupation unlisted)-number 7, William T Webster (occupation unlisted) number 9. By the early 1900s owners included Abby A Wyman-numbers 5 and 7, Edward O Webster-number 9.

Walker Street was set out in the early 1800s. It was named for Maj. Timothy Walker, late 18th century-early 19th century Charlestown merchant and first president of the Bunker Hill Bank. Walker Street and adjacent lots evidently comprise the Walker estate, which stretched down to the banks of the Charles River and Walker's Wharf. Walker's estate comprised "an oblong white house with green shutters, some ornamental trees and an open wooden fence also painted white". Timothy T Walker, writing in 1902, noted that Maj. Walker "owned a great deal of land in the town, which he was constantly improving. Many of the buildings erected by him are still standing".

Maj. Walker was sent to the state House of Representatives in 1815 and 1819 and to the Senate in 1877. Maj. Walker was one

of the proprietors of the Wooden Church formerly located at Pearl and High streets (see form on the Salem, 7, 9 Pearl Street). Until the early 1830s, Walker Street (with the exception of the of a portion of Eden Street) was the westernmost side street in Charlestown. It may have started out as a driveway to major Walkers house. Walker Street's residential development was well underway by the 1840s.

Bibliography:

Atlases: 1875, 1885, 1892, 1901

Old Charlestown, Timothy T Sawyer, 1902, pages 200-201

Charlestown directories 1834-74

Middlesex deeds-571: 64, 269, 581:150

Suffolk deeds-number 7-1692:200, 2162:25

*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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