

5 Russell St. (1841-1842)

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



5 Russell Street

2016

Five Russell Street is a red brick, two-story Greek Revival house. It has planar red brick surfaces and three bay main façade with a side hall plan. A modern one story enclosed porch addition projects

from the main façade. The house has a gable roof with a pedimented attic; the main façade is on the gable end of the house. There are simple rectangular sills and lintels with 1/1 wood sash, and the attic has two standard size windows.

Original owner: Enoch Page

Number 5 Russell Street is a rare example of an early 1840s free standing masonry Greek Revival side hall plan dwelling, within the survey area. Masonry construction was not common until the late 1840s, and then masonry houses tended to be built in Rows. In terms of form, scale and plan, 5 Russell is the masonry equivalent of the type of Greek Revival early 1840s houses more commonly built of wood.

Russell Street was developed in several stages between the early 1800s and about 1860. It appears unlabeled on the 1818 map, running from Pearl Street to Walker Street; it was later extended to Oak Street in circa the 1840s. By 1851 it terminated just beyond Oak Street and was cut through to Auburn Street by approximately the early 1860s. Russell Street's streetscape reflects a relatively slow development over time with housing stock ranging from the late 1830s Greek revival, wood frame houses to the 1880s and 1890s Italianate and Georgian Revival masonry apartment buildings.

Number 5 Russell Street's land was acquired in two transactions by Enoch Page, a Boston cabinetmaker, from Isaac Harding (June 24, 1841, 406:81), and Sidney D Willis, a Charlestown cabinetmaker. These deeds do not mention a building on this lot. Charlestown directories indicate that Enoch Page was living on Russell Street, presumably in this house. By 1865 Page is referred to as a furniture dealer.

Page sold 5 Russell Street to Lucius Slade, a produce dealer at Faneuil Hall Square and resident of 33 Poplar Street, on September

1, 1865, for \$7300 (931:236). The house is described as "being on the southerly side of Bunker Hill." Slade owned this house until at least the early 1900s.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1833, 1839, 1848, 1851

Atlases-1875, 1885, 1892, 1901

Charlestown directories-1834-1874

Middlesex deeds

*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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