

51 (1881), 53 (circa 1868-74) Monument Avenue

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



51, 53 Monument Avenue

2015

Numbers 51 and 53 Monument Avenue is a pair of three story masonry Italianate row houses. The buildings have a flat roof with deep, bracketed and dentilated cornices flanked by narrow stepped-brickwork corbels. They have granite-faced basements, three bays, and side hall plans.

They have tall recessed entries with later outer doors and transoms. Still intact are number 51's Victorian double doors with a floral motif of acid-etched glass. Heavy and deep wooden bracketed door hoods support oriel windows with apron panels and deep cornices. In general, the windows have simple sills and lintels with incised the Eastlake design.

Architect: Uriel Adams

Builder: Uriel Adams

Original owner: Usher P Pease

Numbers of 51 and 53 Monument Avenue are key components in the "wall" of mid-19th century masonry townhouses lining the eastern side of Monument Avenue. Architecturally, these houses represent relatively late examples of Charlestown Italianate row housing. Although 51 and 53's main façades are virtually identical, 53 may predate 51 by as much as 10 years. The 1868 Sanborn atlas of Charlestown indicates that 51 and 53 Monument Avenue's lots were vacant except for a wooden two-story ell belonging to 48 Soley Street. By 1875 number 53 had been completed, while city of Boston building department records indicate that number 51 was built in 1881.

Number 53 Monument Avenue appears labeled Usher P Pease on the 1875 Charlestown atlas. Pease, a collector for the Boston Ice Company was also the original owner of number 51 Monument Avenue. Uriel Adams is listed as 51's architect and

builder and presumably 53's architect and builder as well. He was active in Charlestown building trades from circa early 1850s-early 1910s. In 1852 he is listed at 73 Green St. His trade is described as "carpenter". From circa late 1850s to 1866 he lived at 2 Webster Street. He is first listed at 22 Trenton Street in 1868. From circa 1880 until at least 1910 he lived at 48 Mt. Vernon Street. Examples of his work included numbers 22, 24 and 5-17 Trenton Street, in the late 1860s.

In any event Usher P Pease owned 53 Monument Avenue until at least 1901. By 1892, J J and A Craig owned number 51. Number 53 was owned by Usher P Pease. Number 51's owner, John J Craig was a letter carrier for the local post office. By 1911, an E A Connolly owned 51 and an H Y and E A Markey owned 53.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1852

Atlases-1868, 1875, 1885 1892, 1901, 1911

Charles town directories-1834-74

Boston directories-post 1875

*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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