

51 Park Street (by 1847, early 19th century?)

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



51 Park Street

ca. 1980s

Number 51 Park Street is a rectangular early-mid-19th century wood vernacular house with wood shingles. It has three stories, a flat roof, and a center hall plan. To the rear is a three-story brick ell, an addition from the late 19th century, with a narrow angled wall segment and jagged saw tooth brickwork

at the corner. The ell's windows have rock-faced sills, and lintels composed of two rows of header bricks.

The door hood has brackets. The windows are fully enframed with aluminum strips and have 1/1 wood sash, and are of standard size at the third floor, but these may have been small square windows originally.

(The house described above has been demolished, and replaced (1980s?) by the double house shown in the 2015 photograph below.)



51, 53 Park Street

2015

Original owner: David Stetson?

Number 51 Park Street is the center member of a trio of early-mid-19th century wood frame vernacular detached houses bordering the southeast side of Park Street between Warren and Common Streets. In terms of architectural style, 51 Park is difficult to "read"-its clapboards and very probably base, corner, and fascia boards have been obscured by a later skin of wood shingles. In addition, Windows are fully enframed with aluminum strips, and the standard size third-floor windows were very possibly small and square in the Federal mode. In any event 51 Park makes a positive contribution to its streetscape in terms of scale and form.

The house was extant by 1847 (see "plan of the Stetson estate in Charlestown, Massachusetts September 3, 1847). (The rear brick ell was evidently built circa 1892-1901.) Number 51 Park was originally numbered 3 Stetson Court. Stetson Court was a cul-de-sac off Henley Street to the rear of what is now 47 Park Street. It was evidently built as an investment property for David Stetson (see form on numbers 47, 49 Park for biographical information on David Stetson, development history of Stetson Court, story of Park Street extension etc.) By the late 1840s six houses were grouped around the Stetson Court cul-de-sac.

By 1855, 51 Park (then 3 Stetson Court) had passed from David Stetson's heirs to Franklin Evans, Boston merchant, and in the same year Evans sold number 55 to George B Dixwell of Boston (occupation?). Dixwell owned this house until July 15, 1867-at that time Eunice Dylan of Charlestown purchased this house. The house appears on a Middlesex plan dated December 1868 labeled "city to Eunice Dylan". Eunice Dylan owned 51 Park until circa 1905; by 1911 it was owned by her heirs.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1852

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

Panoramic View from Bunker Hill Monument-R Mallory-1848

*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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