

## 52 Park Street (ca. early 19<sup>th</sup> century)

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



52 Park Street

R. Severy, 1973

Number 52 Park Street is a late Georgian/Federal wood frame house. The house is a greatly altered, with aluminum siding and drastic fenestration changes.

Original owner: David Stetson?

Although altered in terms of fabric, fenestration and elements, this double house retains integrity of siting and form. At one time it probably exhibited elements of the late Georgian and



52 Park Street

2015

Federal styles. This house originally stood at the head of Stetson Court, before Park Street's extension from Warren to Common Street necessitated the "reshuffling" of houses in the Stetson Court area, in 1868. Originally this house was numbered 4, 5 Stetson Court. Further research is needed to unravel this house's pre1868 deed chronology. This house appears on the December 15, 1868 plan of Park Street's extension labeled simply "city"-Park Street is labeled "new street in a extension of Warren Street and 50 feet wide".

On November 11, 1869, the city of Charlestown sold this house (at its Park Street site) to Thomas B Harris of Charlestown, a merchant, for \$5020. During the early 1870s Thomas B Harris is listed in Charlestown directories as a commercial merchant at 22 N. Market, Boston. During the 1870s he resided at 81 High Street. Harris's heirs owned 52 Park Street (both halves) until as late as 1922.

Stetson Court, where 52 Park Steet was originally located, was a cul-de-sac off Henley Street and behind 47 Park Street. It was set out circa 1790s -90s-early 1810s, and is no longer extant. (See form on numbers 47, 49 Park St. for further information on Stetson Court, David Stetson, Park Street's development, etc.)

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1852

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

Middlesex deed-1081: 157

Charlestown directories-1860s, 70s

Middlesex plans-plan book 16 A, plan 27; plan book 7, plan 32

\*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.

R Dinsmore