

52 Sullivan Street, 94 A, 95 Bartlett Street (circa 1863)

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



52 Sullivan Street

2015

Number 52 Sullivan Street is a relatively substantial red brick Mansard House with a distinctive curved corner at the Sullivan and Bartlett Street intersection. It has a four bay main façade and a low granite-faced basement. There is a bracketed wood (?) cornice and a Mansard roof with an Interesting oculus

window at the Sullivan-Bartlett corner. To the rear is a two-story ell and attached brick dwelling-95 Bartlett Street.

The entrance is off-center and recessed, with a bracketed door hood surmounted by a bracketed oriel. Sills and lintels are of brownstone and the windows have 2/2 wood sash.



94A, 95 Bartlett Street

2015

Original owner: James W kidney

Architecturally, 52 Sullivan Street and 94 A-95 Bartlett Street is a substantial brick Mansard House, verging on a mansion. In terms of design it is an unusually formal and academic-almost certainly the work of an architect as well as a builder. It stands out in its area by virtue of its siting, scale, and materials. Its

neighbors are more modest wood frame dwellings dating to the mid-1840s-50s.

Built circa 1863, 52 Sullivan was originally owned by James W Kidney, a paver. He purchased this house's lot from Hannah Adams, widow of George W Adams, of Boston, a blacksmith, for \$800 (see Middlesex deeds and 81:596). George W Adams had purchased this land from Jonathan Emery in January, 1839 (379:435). The house appears as vaguely U-shaped on the 1875 Charlestown atlas, with considerable frontage on Russell Street. James W Kidney owned it until at least the mid-1880s. By the 1890s, James F Kimball, president of the Eastern Cold Storage Company, 28 and 30 North Market Street, owned this property.

Sullivan Street was originally called Greaves or Graves street. Sullivan Street's period of intensive residential development dates to circa 1835-early 1860s.

Richard Sullivan, Sr, purchased most of the lots bordering Sullivan Street between Main Street and Bunker Hill Street from Oliver Holden. He was the fourth son of Massachusetts Gov. James Sullivan. Born June 17, 1779 in Brockton Massachusetts, he was a prominent Boston-based attorney, real estate speculator and co-partner in the Middlesex Canal Associated Boston and Concord Boating Company. The Middlesex Canal opened in 1803, two years before the initial development of Sullivan Street. Richard Sullivan also owned numerous parcels at Charlestown Neck as well as a tavern/hotel at what is now Sullivan Square.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1833, 1839, 1848, 1851
Atlases-1875, 1885, 1892, 1901

Middlesex deeds: 1881: at 596, 379:435.
Charlestown directories: 1860s
Wyman Genealogies, T D Wyman, 1879,
The Old Middlesex Canal, Mary Stetson Clark, 1874

*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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