

63, 65 Pearl Street (circa 1844-1845)

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



65, 63 Pearl Street

1981

Numbers 63 and 65 Pearl Street is a two and one half story Greek Revival double house. Each half has a granite basement, three bays on the main facade with paneled corner pilasters, and a broad end wall gable. They have side hall plans and paired entrances. Short flights of steps lead to recessed entrances with handsome entrance enframements including paneled Doric pilasters and heavy cornice-headed entablature.

The windows are simply, enframed, with 2/2 wood sash on the main facade and it 6/6 at the attic.



65, 63 Pearl Street

2016

Builder: Charles Pierce

Original owner: Charles Pierce

These houses are part of a noteworthy collection of seven double wood frame Greek Revival houses lining both sides of Pearl Street, near Bunker Hill Street. Numbers 63-65 Pearl Street is the best preserved of a trio of contiguous double Greek Revival houses. They date to the earliest stages of Pearl Street's development, circa mid-1840s. Located near Bunker

Hill Street, they serve as a gateway to the interesting and varied mid-19th century wood frame vernacular domestic architecture of Pearl Street. They were built circa 1844-1845.

Numbers 63 and 65 occupy lot number 21 on "a plan of lots on Bunker Hill surveyed by George A Parker, June 1844." On April 10, 1840, 65's "land with house" was sold to Charles Pierce, a mason, by Robert Douglas, a merchant, for \$1000. On the same day Pierce sold this property to Samuel Bodge, a "chair painter", for \$2100 (Middlesex 460:197, 198). Charles Pierce may have been responsible for this building's construction, and for 67, 69 and 71, 73 Pearl Street, as well. He was active for only a short time in Charlestown building trades. He is first listed in 1845 as "occupation, mason, and house, Bunker Hill" and does not appear in the 1852 directory.

Samuel Bodge retained ownership of 65 until his death on February 14, 1889; he died intestate in Winchester Massachusetts. On June 24, 1889 (Suffolk 1884:23) John Reynolds of Winchester sold 65 to Hiram I and Abby Nason of Boston for \$3500. William Nason is listed as this houses owner in 1901.

It is unclear who owned 63 Pearl Street between 1845 and 1848- Charles Pierce may have been 63's owner during this time. For many years, in the 1860s and 1870s, 63 Pearl was owned by Joseph G Holbrook, "fish and oysters", 126 Main Street. On June 18, 1863 Holbrook paid Cyrus Chase of Newton, a confectioner, \$2500 for the rear of this property was the other house lot (?- unclear). Chase had purchased this land and house from Anson Robbins of South Scituate, a yeoman, for \$2300 on May 8, 1865 (Middlesex 711:388). Robbins had purchased 63 at auction for back taxes paying \$59.43 (see 531:4, April 7, 848). In any event 63 Pearl Street was owned by

Joseph Holbrook and his heirs from 1863 until at least the early 1900s.

Note: From c. 1850-early 1880s, Charlestown trader and real estate speculator Parker Fall lived at 67 Pearl Street (see forms 13-15 and 19 Allston Street).

Bibliography:

Atlases-1875, 1885, 1892, 9001

Charlestown directories-1834-1874

Middlesex deeds- #63-58:154, 711:383, 881:623; #65-460:197, 198; suffer deed 1884:23

*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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