

9 Lexington Street (1843)

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



9 Lexington Street

1981

Number 9 Lexington Street is a two-story Greek Revival, wood frame vernacular house. It is modest in scale, has three by two bays, and is clad with modern shingles. It has a side hall plan. There is a steeply pitched gable roof with a simple cornice, and a single gable roofed dormer on the main façade.

At the entrance, which was originally recessed, there is a later outer door and transom and a cornice-headed entablature. The windows are simply enframed with 6/6 sash, and shutters.



9 Lexington Street 2016

Builder: H A Rice, "Carpenter"
Original owner: L N Stockbridge

Number 9 is integral to the mid-19th century character of Lexington Street. Together with numbers 3-7 and 11-17 Lexington Street, this house forms an interesting streetscape of free standing single-family and double houses dating from the early 1840s to the 1870s. Architecturally, 9 Lexington is a straightforward, modestly scaled side hall plan Greek Revival wood frame vernacular house.

Number 9 Lexington's land was part of the 115-lot tract belonging to the Bunker Hill Monument Association (see S M Felton plan dated September 25, 1839. The Felton plan was based on the earlier, 1834 plan of the Bunker Hill Association's lands by Solomon Willard). (Number nine's lot appears on the Felton plan of 1839 as lot number 110.) Number 9 Lexington was among the first houses erected on the BHMA's land- lots bordering Lexington, Monument, and Concord streets were built up beginning circa early 1840s. These lots were smaller than those bordering Monument Square, where house construction activity did not begin until 1847. (The Bunker Hill Monument's construction was begun in 1826 and was completed in 1842.)

Number 9 Lexington Street is evidently the work of H A Rice, a "carpenter". Rice acquired this lot from the BHMA via builder/real estate speculator Shadrach Varney (see Middlesex deed 395:44). He was active in Charlestown building trades from circa 1830s until at least 1875. For many years he lived next door at 7 Lexington Street. By the 1860s, Rice is listed as "superintendent of streets."

On February 20, 1843, Lewis N Stockbridge, a cooper, paid Rice \$445 for number 9's lot, with no mention of buildings. Presumably Rice built 9 Lexington for Stockbridge at some point circa 1843. Stockbridge owned this property until at least 1875; and Mary Stockbridge was its owner until at least the early 1900s.

Bibliography:

Maps-1852, 1878

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

Charlestown directories-1830s-70s

Middlesex deeds-395:404, 423:340

*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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