

## 91, 93 Baldwin Street (circa 1848-1852)

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



93 (left), 91 Baldwin Street

1981



93 Baldwin Street

2016



91 Baldwin Street      2016

Numbers 91 and 93 Baldwin Street is a pair of flat front, red brick Greek Revival houses with high granite-faced basements, and three bay main facades. They have a gable roof, and each house has a pair of pedimented dormers. Granite steps lead to recessed entrances. The recessed entry of number 91 is

screened by an outer door, flanked by multi-pane sidelights and a large transom. The windows have simple granite sills and lintels, and 2/2 wood sash.

Original owner: James Cooper

Numbers 91 and 93 Baldwin were built during the earliest phase of Baldwin Street's development, in circa 1848-1851. Architecturally, it is a solid, well-preserved example of Boston-area brick Greek Revival middle-class housing. In terms of form, scale, and surface treatments, these houses are similar to those built in sections of Boston's South End, South Boston, and East Boston during the 1840s.

The 1818 map of Charlestown indicates that Baldwin Street and adjacent lots were part of a large parcel belonging to William Symmes. By circa 1840 Samuel Bigelow owned this parcel. Baldwin Street was set out circa 1845 and was originally called Linden Street. (It was incorrectly called Lincoln Street on the 1848 map). Bigelow evidently sold a large tract of land on Linden (Baldwin) Street to John Cheever, physician, circa 1846-47 (see Middlesex 279:39). Cheever sold part of the Bigelow tract, including 91 and 93's lots, to Tamer Cooper of Cambridge, soap manufacturer, on December 8, 1847 (521:17).

On January 8, 1852, Cooper sold 91's lot with "the buildings thereon" to James Damon of Charlestown for \$2350 (581:312). Damon is listed in 1848 as a "grocer, Boston, house Bunker Hill". By 1852 Damon billed himself as a glass dealer. He is listed for the last time in Charlestown in 1856, at 39 High Street. During the mid-19th century Damon had considerable land holdings on Bunker Hill including tracts later sold to St. Francis DeSales Church. Damon owned number 91 until May 6,

1858, when he sold it to Michael T Troffitter, Boston, a machinist, for \$5000 (781:579). Troffitter sold it to Michael J Henchey, Charlestown, a pastry baker, for \$2500 on March 18, 1859. The house was owned by Henchey's heirs until at least the early 1900s.

Number 93 Baldwin Street's early history prior to 1867 is less clear. On April 25, 1869, Stimpson\*\* sold the property to Rosalynn M and Joseph W Hill, a builder (1001:5), for \$3100. From the early 1870s until the mid-1880s, 91 was owned by James McLaughlin (later of Providence (?) Township, Iowa). Daniel McLaughlin paid James McLaughlin \$3455 for this house in June 23, 1885. He lived here until at least the 1910s.

The section of Baldwin Street between Bunker Hill and Medford Streets was set out as early as 1837 as Coggins Street. It was changed to Lincoln Street in 1844. The segment below Bunker Hill Street to Main Street was set out circa early 1850s and was early on called Baldwin Street. Both segments of Baldwin Street were united under the Baldwin name in the late 1860s.

\*\*Ed note- This may be Jeremiah Stimson, purchaser of 97 Baldwin in 1854. See notes on 97, 99 Baldwin.

#### Bibliography:

Maps- 1818, 1833, 1839, 1848, 1851

Atlases-1875, 1885, 1892, 9001

Charlestown directories-1845-75.

Boston directories-post 1875

Middlesex deeds-521:17, 581:312, 771:446, 781:579, 801:184, 811:157

\*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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