

## 91 Bartlett Street (circa 1876)

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



91 Bartlett Street

1981



91 Bartlett Street

2015

Number 91 Bartlett St. is a substantial three-story plus Italianate/Mansard wood frame house. It has rusticated walls with quoins accenting the corners, and three bay main and side

façades. There is a dentilated wood course between floors one and two. The cornice has closely based brackets and the mansard roof has pedemented dormers. Trapezoidal windows at the mansard corner and a roof deck are new additions to the roof.

The windows are fully enframed, with cornice-headed lintels. There is an oriel window spanning floors two and three on the side façade, near the corner, with wooden apron panels and bracketed cornices at the second and third floor levels.

Original owner: J Thomas Baldwin

Number 91 Bartlett Street, at the corner of Sullivan Street, apparently dates to approximately 1876. Architecturally, it represents a relatively ambitious example of a wood frame Italianate/Mansard House and is a late addition to Sullivan street's collection of circa 1835-1860s housing stock. Particularly noteworthy are, for this section of Charlestown, its unusually formal rusticated walls and quoin-accented corner.

The 1875 Atlas indicates that a schoolhouse was then located on this lot. The present structure's form and surface treatments are all unmistakably representative of domestic rather than institutional architecture. For many years Primary School Number 21 was located on this prominent corner lot. The annual report of Charlestown's free schools (April 1847) Indicates that a schoolhouse was built on this site circa 1845. This report notes that in 1847, "Primary School Number 21 on the corner of Sullivan and Bartlett Streets is now full and the population is increasing so rapidly in the section of the city in which the school house is located, that there is hardly a doubt of the upper room of this building being wanted before the

close of the present. The expense of finishing it will not probably exceed \$150.00."

In any event, this school was apparently taken down circa 1875 and the present building was constructed shortly thereafter, judging by style. The 1885 atlas indicates that number 91's owner in that year was J Thomas Baldwin of Boston, agent for "Brown's Boston Brigade Band", 74 Washington, his house at 147 Warren Avenue. Baldwin owned this house until at least the early 1900s.

Sullivan Street was set out circa 1805 and was originally called Greaves, or Graves Street. It was named for Richard Sullivan senior who purchased what is now Sullivan Street and adjoining lots (Main Street-- Bunker Hill) circa 1805 from Oliver Holden. Sullivan was the fourth son of Massachusetts Gov. James Sullivan. The Sullivans were associated with the development of the Middlesex Canal. James Sullivan also was the president of the Middlesex Canal Company and Richard Sullivan senior who was a copartner in the Boston and Concord Boating Company. Richard Sullivan, born in Groton, Massachusetts in 1779, was a lawyer, real estate speculator, and operated a large hotel/Tavern at Sullivan Square, Charlestown. Richard Sullivan Junior, commercial merchant, sold his father's land circa 1840-70s.

#### Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1833, 1839, 1848, 1851

Atlases-1875, 1885, 1892, 1901

Boston directories-1870s

Annual report-Charlestown free schools-1847

\*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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