

92, 94 Bartlett Street (1848-49)

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

Numbers 92 and 94 Bartlett Street is a double wood frame Greek Revival house. Corner boards are still intact and the house is enclosed by a broad gable roof with return eaves. It has a highly symmetrical six bay main façade with paired entrances featuring Greek revival Doric pilasters and a heavy entablature with a cornice. Large multi-pane transoms appear over the front doors. Picture windows are a modern addition to 94 on the first and second floors. The windows are simply enframed.



92, 94 Bartlett Street

2015

Builder: Isaac Whittier

Original owner: Isaac Whittier

Numbers 92 and 94 Bartlett Street are a good example of a circa late 1840s double Greek Revival wood frame vernacular house. It retains integrity of form, if not fenestration. Still intact are its handsome Greek revival entrance enframements.

Boston East India goods dealers Andrew L Chamberlain and Samuel Foster sold 90 and 92's lots to Isaac Whittier, a carpenter, on February 20, 1847 (see Middlesex 501:153). Whittier paid Chamberlain and Foster \$500 for these lots. Evidently 92 -94 Bartlett dates to circa 1848-1849 and presumably represents the work of Isaac Whittier. He was active in Charlestown building trades from circa late 1840s to mid-1850s. He is listed in neither the Boston nor Charlestown directories of 1848. The 1850-51 Boston directory notes that he worked as a carpenter at 12 Charlestown Street and resided "at Charlestown". The 1852 Charlestown directory lists his home address as 93 Bartlett. Interestingly, Whittier's profession after 1856 is listed as organ builder. During the late 1850s-1860s his address is listed as 702 Bunker Hill Street. By 1870 he lived at 254 Bunker Hill Street. He is listed as an organ builder at this address in 1874 but does not appear in the 1880s Boston Directory. During the mid-1850s he sold 92 and 94 to John Hawkins and Phineas Davis, respectively. Hopkins is variably listed as "wagon, Faneuil Hall Market, 1856, and laborer, 1860s and 1870s. In 1852 he lived at 14 North Street (old name for Salem Street Avenue). Hopkins owned 92 from circa 1855 until the mid-1870s. Hopkins' heirs owned 92 until at least the early 1900s.

The thread of 94's early ownership is less clear. Evidently Phineas Davis, a Charlestown trader, owned 94 during the mid-

-late 1850s. Later owners included George E Pearson and Benjamin's Lovell. From circa late 1860s until at least the early 1900s, 94 was the home of James Alden, listed in 1875 as clerk, 1 Union Street, Boston. It is interesting to note that 1860s deeds associated with 94 Bartlett Street mention that the owner has "the right that three windows on the westerly end of said house shall remain as they are now".

Bartlett Street was set out at some point between circa 1800 and 1818. (It appears on the 1818 map of Charlestown.)

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1833, 1839, 1848, 1851

Atlases 1875, 1885, 1892, 1901

Charlestown and Boston directories-1840s-1860s

Middlesex deeds-501:153, 721:238, 181:298, 541:350

*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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