

## Mead Street Court (circa 1845)

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



Mead Street Court

1981

Mead Street Court is a group of four moderately scaled workers houses. They have side hall plans, high brick basements, three bay main façades, and simply enframed windows.

Builder: Thomas Greenleaf (Middlesex deeds source)

Original owner: Thomas Greenleaf



Mead Street Court

2015

Mead Street Court was built circa 1845. Along with Crystal Place, to the southwest, these cul-de-sacs reflect intensive mid-1840s house construction activity with the maximum number of units being constructed on certain parcels. Architecturally, this group has been altered in terms of fabric but retains its original form. Like the houses of Avon Place's even numbers, these houses are situated on high brick basements. They are the work of Charlestown Carpenter Thomas Greenleaf.

Evidently, Greenleaf was the favored builder in the area that had formerly been the Isaac Mead estate. He was responsible for 38 Mead Street and probably 39 Oak Street, as well (see form on 38 Mead). For further information on Greenleaf see the form on 31 Oak Street. On January 6, 1845, Richard Frothingham Junior, canal collector, of Charlestown, sold Mead Street Court's four house lots to Thomas Greenleaf, carpenter,

for \$750 (457:35). Greenleaf owned this group until September 28, 1865 (931:279). At that time he sold these houses to Dolphin D Taylor for \$3000.

Taylor was active in Charlestown building trades from circa 1845 to early 1890s. In 1845 he worked as a mason and lived at 20 Green Street. By 1860 he lived at 10 Summer Street. Taylor owned this property until at least the mid-1880s. By the early 1900s it was owned by Rhodes A Taylor. The Mead Street Court houses were sold by the Taylor estate to the Charlestown Five Cents Savings Bank on April 23, 1918 for \$1000. By 1822 the Realty Company owned this row.

Bibliography:

Maps- 1818, 1833, 1839, 1848, 1861

Atlases- 1875, 1885, 1892, 1901

Charlestown Directories- 1834-74

Middlesex deeds

\*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.

R. Dinsmore