The Mill Pond Finally Filled

On March 4, 1822, “the Town of Boston” incorporated as “the City of Boston” and by the early 1820s much of the west side of the Mill Pond had been filled. Land auctions which started in 1823 were not going so well and by 1824 not much of the pond between the canal and Pond Street (Endicott Street) had been filled in. As their 1827 deadline was fast approaching, the proprietors of the Boston Mill Corporation found themselves back at the bargaining table with the recently formed Boston City Council; they stated that their expenses for filling the pond were exceeding any profits and that the canal was in disrepair. They proposed to the City that they would widen the canal from 40 feet to 60 feet, replace the canal’s east wall, extend the Causeway seawall and fill the remainder of the pond by July 1828, provided the City made land concessions. The City agreed with some minor stipulations. In addition, the Charles River Bridge proprietors offered to pay the Boston Mill Corporation $10,000 to extend the seawall from the Canal to the end of Pond Street and lay out Causeway and Charlestown Streets (North Washington Street), as well as fill the area between Causeway Street and the old Mill Dam. The canal, Causeway Street and Charlestown Street were completed by November 1826, and the Mill Pond was completely filled by July 1828.

Courtesy The Boston Athenæum