BARTON STREET

...named after James Barton one of Boston’s early ropemakers. He mortgaged his first ropewalk in the South End (near Fort Hill) c.1686 and later expanded his business to the West End, leasing land from the Leverett family south of Leverett Street. Since Barton leased the land on which he built his ropewalk, it is difficult to find an exact record of its history, but the will of Hon. Daniel Oliver, proved August 7, 1732, mentions the “adjoining Barton’s Rope-walk, called Spinning House…” The name Barton’s Point and the southerly ropewalk appear on Bonner Map of 1722, but the ropewalk disappears on later maps.

As streets and land were added on the north side of Leverett Street, Charles Bulfinch built and relocated the town’s almshouse there c.1799. The Barton Point Association later purchased all the city lands at the bottom of Leverett Street in 1824. When the Almshouse closed in c.1825, Barton Street appearing on the Fuller Map of 1826; the street remained until it was removed during urban renewal. As community benefits for the Central Artery and Tunnel Project, markers were embedded in the sidewalk on Martha Road designating the former location of Barton Street.

Courtesy of the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library.