

3 Adams Street (1848-1849)

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



3 Adams Street

2015



3 Adams banding detail

2015

Number 3 Adams Street is an attractive three-bay red brick granite/brownstone Greek Revival townhouse. It has a side hall plan and handsome multi panel double Victorian doors. The original two windows of the first floor are linked by a wide central pane to create a picture window, a later addition. The second floor windows open onto a balcony with a cast iron railing with an anthemion motif. The fourth floor may represent a later addition. The building is enclosed by a flat roof.

Architect/builder: Porter Cross, a Charlestown "carpenter"

Original owner(s): Porter Cross

Number 3 Adams Street is an attractive red brick granite/brownstone Greek Revival townhouse with handsome multi-panel double Victorian doors and second-floor cast iron banding with distinctive anthemion motif. Alterations to the original design include the creation of a picture window on the first floor and very probably the addition of a 4th floor.

Number 3 Adams evidently represents the work of Porter Cross of Charlestown, a "Carpenter". Further research is needed on Cross's career. He purchased 3 Adams' land (lot number five on Wadsworth plan of 1849) for \$1674.43. This house's land appears on the Alexander Wadsworth plan of George Washington Warren's lands (date 1849). The Warren/Cross deed is dated 3 May 1849-buildings as well as land are mentioned in this deed. Number 3 Adams does not appear in the 1848 Mallory panoramic view of Charlestown/Boston.

George Washington Warren was a leading figure in the mid-19th century Charlestown. He was a well to do lawyer, judge, mayor of Charlestown, and president of the Bunker Hill Memorial Association. The BHMA's 115-lot tract at Breed's Hill was developed with housing beginning in 1839. Warren sold off house lots in his multiple development bordering Adams and Winthrop Streets and Wallace Court, beginning circa 1849. This development was contiguous on the southeast with the BHMA's much larger development.

Later owners of 3 Adams included William E Underwood of Boston, a physician (1860s), Henry N. Hunt of Malden (occupation?)- Late 1860s-1880s, and Jeremiah E Millerick, (1890s).

Bibliography:

Maps- 1818, 1852

Atlases-1865, 1875, 1885, 1892, 1901, 1911

Charlestown/Boston directories-19th century

Suffolk deed -1808:58

*Digitized and edited, without change in content, from the scanned record in the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System, with the 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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