

## 1-7 Holden Row (1875-1885)

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



Holden Row

2015

Holden Row is a seven-unit wood frame, late Italianate row of three-story houses. The houses have bracketed cornices and low-pitched, practically flat, roofs. They have brick basements and three bay facades, with two-story octagonal bays and flat entrance bays.

The façades are enlivened by bracketed door hoods with pendants, and the bays have bracketed cornices. The front doors are flanked by sidelights and surmounted by wide three-pane transom windows. The windows are simply enframed and there are dentils above the first floor bays' lintels.

Original owner: Thomas Doane

Numbers 1-7 Holden Row is one of Charlestown's more substantial alley-enclaves of wood frame 19th-century dwellings. Although its facing materials have been altered, this group retains projecting, bracketed elements whose repetition accounts for much of its charm. Holden Row was named in honor of late 18th-early 19th century Charlestown preacher, composer of music, and real estate speculator Oliver Holden. During the 1790s and early 1800s Holden Row's site was part of Holden's extensive land holdings (see form 107, 109 High Street). However, the site is more directly and significantly associated with Thomas Doane, civil engineer and leading 19th century Charlestown citizen.

Numbers 1-7 Holden Row was built at some point between 1875 and 1885. The 1875 Atlas indicates that Holden Row's lots were part of Thomas Doane's property-Holden Row, the street, is not shown. By 1885, Holden Row's houses do appear and were owned by Frank S Mason. He operated Frank S Mason Real Estate and Insurance, 3 Dexter Row, Thompson Square, Charlestown. He resided at 106 Corey Street, West

Roxbury. An advertisement in the 1910 Boston directory for Mason's business states that Mason was also an auctioneer. His "specialty" was "care of estates."

Further research is needed to determine Holden Row's late 19th century tenants.

Bibliography:

Atlases-1875, 1885, 1892, 1901

Boston directories

\*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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