

15, 17 Lexington Street (circa 1875-1885)

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



17, 15 Lexington Street

2015

Numbers 15, 17 Lexington Street is a double Mansard/Italianate wood frame house, sheathed with wood

shingles. Both halves have three bay main facades, with side hall plans. Cornice boards above the second-floor windows have circular motifs at regular intervals. Projecting from the second-floor centers are oriel windows, which are carried through the cornice to double dormers with distinctive Mansard roof caps. The dormers have distinctive steeply-pitched "gables" projecting from the mansard roof slope, although the actual roof is flat.

The entrances have outer doors with large two-pane transom windows, and there are bracketed door hoods above the entrances. The windows are fully enframed.



15 Lexington cornice and third floor window detail, 2015

Original owner: JP Moran

Built circa 1875-1885, 15 and 17 Lexington Street represent a late addition to Lexington Street's interesting collection of mid-19th century wood frame dwellings. Architecturally, the building is a competent example of Italianate/Mansard housing characterized by highly plastic main façade with projecting bracketed door hoods, oriel windows, dormer windows and double dormers with distinctive Mansardic roof caps.

Pre-1880s atlases indicate that 15 and 17 replaced an earlier L-shaped house with a large outbuilding (stable?) to the rear. The L-shaped house is shown on the 1875 Charlestown Atlas, labeled Daniel Toomey. The present double house first appears on the 1885 Charlestown Atlas, labeled James P Moran. On May 9, 1874, Sampson Warren, of Boston, sold 15 and 17's land, with the L-shaped building, to James P Moran of Boston for \$3500. The Warren/Moran deed stipulated that "no more than two dwellings shall be erected on said land and not to be occupied by more than two families each."

Bibliography:

Atlases-1868, 1875, 1885, 1892, 1901, 1911

Middlesex deeds-601:52, 901:519

Suffolk deeds-1211:181

*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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