

2-8 Coral Place (circa 1847-1848)

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



2, 4 Coral Place

1980s

Numbers 2-8 Coral Place is a row of diminutive wood frame vernacular cottages. They have brick basements, side hall plans, and three bay main and rear façades. The Pearl Street-facing gable (#2, or 92 Pearl Street) has a front door with Greek Revival entrance treatments, with Doric pilasters, heavy entablature, and deep cornice. Above the front door is an eight-pane transom. The entrance to number 4 Coral Place has apparently been altered.

Numbers 6 and 8 may have originally been identical extensions of numbers 2 and 4, but with their gable roofs removed at a later date and replaced by full second floors and Italianate flat roofs.

In general, the windows are simply enframed and have 1/1 and 2/2 wood sash.



4- 2 (92 Pearl Street) Coral Place
2016

Builder: Benjamin page

Original owner: Benjamin page

Architecturally, Coral Place is a charming enclave of four contiguous wood frame cottages, which exhibit the form, and elements of the Greek Revival (2 and 4), and the Italianate (6 and 8), vernacular styles. Coral Place is the centerpiece of a trio

of modestly scaled, moderately altered cottage rows dating to the late 1840s and early 1850s. These enclaves date to the earliest phase of Pearl Street's development, beginning circa 1845, and attest to the fact that the most was being made of house lots, in terms of the number of units that could be erected on a lot, even as early as circa 1847-48. The large numbers of European immigrants coming to Boston during the mid-1840s created developmental pressure in Charlestown, the South End, Roxbury, etc.



Coral Place

2016

Numbers 2-8 Coral Place was apparently built circa 1847-48. Middlesex deeds indicate that Coral Place was probably developed by Benjamin Page, a mason. Page was active in Charlestown building from circa mid-1840s to the late 1850s. He was responsible for some of the more substantial brick townhouses erected along Bunker Hill Street and Baldwin Street. He is first listed in Charlestown directories in 1845 as a mason, "house, Bunker Hill". He lived on "Bunker Hill near Pearl Street" in 1848, probably in the house described as "227 Bunker Hill Street, near Pearl Street" in the 1850s directories. It is not clear from whom Page acquired these properties. Page sold #_ Coral Place's lot, "with the buildings thereon" to Robert Robbins, New York City drug broker on 25 March 1848 for \$1000. Robbins, in turn, sold number 8 to Samuel H Allen, a plumber, for \$1900 on September 29, 1848. Allen's deed stipulated that he had "the right to use the passageways to the front and rear of said house." Further research is needed on the title to number 2 Coral Place.

Allen was a plumber from the mid-1840s to circa the late 1860s. In 1848 he is listed as "plumber, navy yard, house Alston Street." During the 1850s and 1860s he lived at 86 Pearl Street. In 1866 he was a plumber working at 70 Haverhill Street, Boston, and living at 46 Green Street. Deeds indicate that Allen eventually acquired all the houses in this enclave. He sold numbers 6 and 8 to William M Lewis (occupation unlisted) in 1867, and number 4 to Maria Heaton in 1868. By 1875, this enclave's owners included L N and J L Norcross at 2, Maria Heaton at 4, and William M Lewis, at 6 and 8. By 1901, Joseph Norcross owned 2, and J A Baines owned 4, 6, and 8 Coral Place.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1833, 1839, 1848, 1851

Atlases- 1875, 1885, 1892, 1901

Charlestown Directories-1834-1874

Middlesex deeds-991:551, 539:169, 521:532

*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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