

## 2-8 Tremont Street (2, 4, 6-circa 1867; 8-1868)

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



2- 8 Tremont Street

2016

Numbers 2-8 Tremont Street is a row of four red brick, with brownstone trim, flat front Italianate houses. Numbers 2 and 4 are identical as are 6 and 8, with some minor differences in both cases. All four have side hall plans and are enclosed by flat roofs. Numbers 2, 4 and 8 have granite-faced basements. Numbers 2 and 4 culminate in deep-bracketed cornices composed of cast iron, with evidence of rusting, and have brick

work cornice tables- number 2 may originally have had brick dentils like those of 4. Numbers six and 8 have deep-bracketed cornices, and 8 has dentils of brick. A white limestone, (or marble?) Plaque at the corner of 2 Tremont, between the first and second floors, reads "TREMONT ST", and "LEXINGTON ST."

Two granite steps lead to outer doors and transoms, which are later additions, at numbers 2 and 4. Numbers 2, 4 and 6 have deep-bracketed door hoods, which support octagonal, cornice-headed oriels. The oriel at number eight is located above the first floor windows. Number 2's first floor windows have pedimented lintels of brownstone, with tabs. No pediments or tabs appear on 4's first floor windows. Upper floor windows of number 2 have lintels with tabs. Numbers 6 and 8 have simple brownstone sills and lintels, which have incised, vaguely Eastlavian lines. In general, the windows have 2/2 wood sash.

**Builder:** Ivory Littlefield

**Original owner:** #2-(?), #4-Ivory Littlefield, #6-Silas E Chase (?), #8-?

Built in two stages in about the late 1860s (2, 4, and 6 date to circa 1867 and 8, to approximately 1868), this handsome row of red brick/ granite/brownstone trimmed houses is prominently sited at the corner of Lexington and Tremont Streets, diagonally across from the Southeast corner of the park with the Bunker Hill Monument. In fact this row is best viewed from the top of the monument's platform-like earthen mound base. Architecturally, these houses approach, but fall just short of, Monument Square's mansion scale houses. Although built almost 20 years after the masonry houses of Tremont, Chestnut, and Mount Vernon Streets, 2-8 Tremont, by virtue of scale and simplicity of detail, relatively speaking, are

"spirituality" more closely related to the houses of these streets than the grander residences of Monument Square.

These houses are the work of Ivory Littlefield. He was active in Charlestown building trades from circa 1844 to 1880. In 1845 he is listed as a carpenter, living on Pearl Street. By 1852, he is listed at 80 Pearl Street. Evidently he lived at 80 Pearl Street until circa 1867 or '68, when he moved into 4 Tremont Street. He is listed at 4 Tremont Street as a carpenter in 1880, but not in 1885.

Owners of this group in 1875 include: Asa Story, a ship carpenter-#2; Henry Schrow, "periodicals and circulating library", 23 Main Street, # 6; O F Raymond, a "real estate agent", 172 Main - #8; and of course this row's builder, Ivory Littlefield, at #4.

By 1901 this group's owners included Anna M Joy - #2; Mrs. Ivory Littlefield-#4; Lizzie M Mumfer- #6; and Julia A Raymond- #8.

#### Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1852

Atlases-1868, 1875, 1885, 1892, 1901

Boston and Charlestown directories

Middlesex deeds-#6-991:300, 1051:386, 1061:509, 1081:12, 1134: 559

\*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.

R Dinsmore