

## 27 Trenton Street (circa 1858-1866)

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



27 Trenton Street

1980s



27 Trenton Street

2016



27 Trenton Street, oriel and scroll bracket detail

2016

Number 27 Trenton Street is a three story, wood frame Italianate house, presently clad with synthetic siding. The main façade has three bays and a side hall plan. It has a deep cornice with large saw-cut brackets, and a flat roof.

The house has Victorian multi-paneled outer double doors with arched glass panes. Above the doors are a two-pane transom and a panel with two rows of raised bosses. Projecting above the entrance is a deep hood with robust double scroll brackets. Particularly noteworthy is a second floor oriel, which is unusually wide and ornate, with boss-decorated panels. The oriel has a heavy cornice with closely spaced brackets and more bosses. The windows have 1/1 and 2/2 replacement sash.

Builder: William Hichborn

Original owner: William Hichborn

Although presently covered with aluminum siding, this Italianate, side hall plan wood frame house is of interest architecturally for its robustly bracketed door and cornice and above all its unusual, highly ornate second floor oriel window, which is probably a later addition.

Built circa late 1850s/early 1860s, this house is the work of William Hichborn. He is variously listed in deeds and directories as a "carpenter" and "ship joiner, Navy Yard". He was active in Charlestown building trades circa 1850s-1880s. William Hichborn purchased this lot from William Hurd of Charlestown on May 17, 1858 (Middlesex 791:52) for \$962.50. The Hurd/Hichborn deed notes that "the above is vacant land and no right of homestead exists therein." Although Charlestown directories indicate that he was living at 27 Trenton Street by at least 1866, the house may not have been built for several years after he purchased the lot in 1858.

The house remained under Hichborn family ownership until 1905 (see Suffolk deeds 3051:378, (when) Mary E Donovan (purchased it) from Philip Hichborn.

Trenton Street appears on the 1848 Panoramic View of Charlestown as entirely undeveloped, except for houses at the Bartlett/Trenton Street intersection. Judging by the street's

housing stock, Trenton Street was not completely developed until the late 1860s. In general, other streets on the northeast slope of Breed's Hill began to be built up with wood frame dwellings during the early 1840s.

Trenton Street was named in honor of the revolutionary battle fought near Trenton, New Jersey-the name is in keeping with those of other streets, such as Lexington, Concord, Jefferson, etc.

**Bibliography:**

Maps-1818, 1852

Atlases-1818, 1875, 1885, 1892, 1901, 1911

Panoramic View of Charlestown, 1848

Charlestown/Boston directories-19th century

Middlesex deeds-791:52

Suffolk deeds-1559: 474, 3051:378

\*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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