

6-10, and 12 Washington Street (circa 1867-1870)

From Boston Landmark Commission's Charlestown Historic Resources Study 1981*:



6, 8, 10, 12 Washington Street

2015

Numbers 6, 8, 10, and 12 Washington Street is a group of four three story, flat front masonry Mansard townhouses. Numbers

6, 8, and 10 are identical. All four buildings have granite basements and side hall plans. Numbers 8 and 10 have paired entrances. The buildings culminate in cornice boards and straight-sided mansard roofs with slate shingles mostly intact. In the case of 6, 8, and 10 the cornice boards are ornamented with triglyph/guttae bands at regular intervals. Saw cut brackets cover the cornice boards of number 12, striking an Italianate note. Numbers six through 10 have three recessed dormers per unit. Number 12 has three projecting dormers with 2/2 wood sash.

Short flights of granite stairs lead to recessed entrances. The original double doors are intact on 6, 8, and 10. The windows have brownstone sills and lintels, with 1/1 wood sash. Number 12 has a second-floor oriel above the first floor's two windows; the fabric and windows of the oriel have been altered.



10, 12 Washington, cornice detail
 Builder: Friend Seymour
 Original owner: Friend Seymour

2015

Forming an attractive focal point for the southwestern terminus of Prescott Street, numbers 6 through 12 Washington Street represents a group of straightforward, well-executed Mansard row houses. The 1868 Sanborn Atlas indicates that number 6 was built first. The lots of numbers 8 and 10 are shown covered by a two story wooden house. Number 12's lot was the site of a two-story wood house with two one-story rear ells. Numbers 6, 8, 10 and 12 date approximately to 1868-70.

Numbers 6 through 12 Washington Street represent much plainer forays into Mansard row housing than the earlier more stylish Mansard townhouses developed by Moses Dow at

nearby Harvard Street/Harvard place. This row is evidently the work of Friend Seymour, a "carpenter". He was active in Charlestown building trade circa 1850s-1870s. Middlesex deeds indicate that he acquired these houses' lots during the late 1860s. He is listed as this group's owner in 1875.

By 1885, Elizabeth M Seymour, a widow who lived at 8 Washington Street, owned these houses. By 1892 Elizabeth Seymour continued to own numbers 8-10, but number 12 was owned by Timothy F. Callahan. (Callahan also owned number 45 Old Rutherford Avenue, a late Georgian house to the rear of number 12 Washington Street.) By 1911 this group's owners included George R Seymour, 6 through 10, and Timothy F Callahan, number 12 Washington Street.

Prior to 18__ the section of Washington Street from Harvard Street to Devens Street was known as Arrow Street.

Bibliography:

Maps- 1818, 1852

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

Charlestown directories-1834-1874

Boston Directories- post- 1875

Middlesex deeds- 1061:503, 1081:313

*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.

R. Dinsmore