

6 Pleasant Street, 9 Thompson Street (circa 1805-#6 rebuilt 1973)

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



9 Thompson Street, Before 1880 (?).

Number 9 Thompson Street is a five bay by two bay Federal house with a five bay by one bay ell. It abuts 6 Pleasant Street, which was completely rebuilt in 1973 in Federal style. Both are clad with clapboards. Both stand with narrow end walls facing Warren Street. Number 6 Pleasant overlooks an ample wood fence-enclosed yard bordering Pleasant Street.

Nine Thompson's center entrance is simply enframed and has a cornice-headed entablature. The windows are fully and simply

enframed, with 12/12 wood sash. It faces a narrow Belgian block-paved passageway, which leads from Warren Street to Main Street, formerly an open passage called Thompson Street and now closed to traffic.



9 Thompson Street

2015



6 Pleasant Street

2015

Original owner: William Sawyer (?); Timothy Thompson, Sr (?)

These houses are key components of the so-called Thompson Triangle area of late 18th-early 19th century structures. Situated in the heart of Charlestown, bordering Main, Pleasant, and Warren Streets. The Thompson Triangle provides a glimpse of a Charlestown well on its way to recovery after the devastation wrought by the British troops in June 1775.

Architecturally, 9 Thompson and 6 Pleasant represent a rather plain but substantial double wood frame Federal house-number 9 dates to circa 1805 (evidently the "traditional" date for this house's construction-a search of the Thompson family's many early 19th century land transactions at the Middlesex

Registry of deeds may turn up a different construction date). Number 6 Pleasant is a total re-creation of the segment of this double house, which was taken down or burned circa 1900s and was rebuilt in 1973.

T T Sawyer notes that 9 Thompson was "the three-story wooden house now on the corner of Thompson and Warren streets". It was "the second shop built by him (Timothy Senior) which was afterwards converted into a dwelling house. (Is this the same house described by Sawyer that was located at Cordis and Warren Street during the early 1790s? -this is unclear).

For many years, 9 Thompson was occupied by Timothy Sr's son-in-law, William Sawyer. Mr. Sawyer owned a local dry goods business and was "also somewhat engaged in navigation". He had for partners, at different times, Joseph Thompson, and James Byrd (see form on number 2 Wood Street).

By 1875 both 9 and 6 were owned by Dr. John S Whiting. He was the son of Dr. Augustus and Catherine (Walker) Whiting. He graduated from Harvard University in the class of 1850. He married Lucy Loring Barker. Mr. Whiting attained ownership of both halves of this house until circa 1890 and owned number six until the early 1900s. From circa 1890 until the early 1900s, number 9 was owned by Timothy Thompson Sawyer. (See form on 109 Main for biographical information on T T Sawyer.)

Note: listed in Town Hill National Register District

Bibliography:

Maps 1818, 1852

Atlas is 1868, 1875, 1885, 1892, 1901, 1911

T T Sawyer-*Old Charlestown* page 54

Susan and Michael Southworth-*A High Guide to Boston*

*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