

7, 9, 11 Monument Avenue (1875-1885)

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



7-11 Monument Avenue

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Numbers 7-11 Monument Avenue is a distinctive trio of three family (?) wood frame Queen Anne residences. They are characterized by highly plastic main façades with projecting octagonal and curved bays, scroll-bracketed, shed roofed door hoods, etc. The façades also display pleasing textural contrasts—e.g. between smooth clapboards and rough, regular and scalloped shingles. Each house has a brick basement and a three bay curved or octagonal Bay as well as a flat entrance

bay. They are edged and accented by narrow corner boards, and horizontal accents with baseboards and sill and lintel courses. The windows have a 1/1 replacement sash.

The building has a typical Queen Anne roof configuration with a mixture of hip, gable, and gabled dormer roof segments.



7 Monument Avenue, gable roof detail



7 Monument Avenue, entry detail

Original owner: William C Murray

Architecturally, this group represents the finest example of Queen Anne multifamily wood frame housing in Charlestown. Its angled and curved main façades, with their pleasing textural contrasts of smooth clapboards and rough wood shingles, and

picturesquely rendered hip and gabled roof configurations combine to form a memorable grouping. This group is prominently sited at the corner of Monument Avenue and Warren streets.

In 18__, 7-11 Monument Avenue's lot appears vacant, and labeled "John Hurd estate". It is located directly behind the circa 1790s John Hurd house. By 1885, 7-11 was extant and owned by William C Murray. William C Murray was a partner with his father, William Murray, in William Murray and Son Dry Goods. The Murray's store was located in the ground floor of the old John Hurd house at 67 Main Street. William C Murray enjoyed a local reputation as a shrewd investor in real estate. He built a number of apartment houses in Charlestown. Numbers 7-11 Monument Avenue ranks among the more architecturally distinguished Murray-owned properties. (See form on numbers 58, 60 Winthrop St.)

Numbers 7-11 Monument Ave. borders the section of Monument Avenue between Warren and Main streets that was not set out until 1866. Monument Avenue from Warren Street to Monument Square was laid out in 1855. For further information on Monument Avenue's development, see the form on 44-50 Monument Avenue.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1852

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

Boston directories-post 1875

Charlestown Enterprise-special edition, 50th anniversary of Bunker Hill Monument, 1893-"Charlestown Citizens Past and Present"-page 52, article on William C Murray.

*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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