

7-17 Trenton Street (circa 1868-1870)

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



17- 7 Trenton Street

1980s

Numbers 7-17 Trenton Street is a row of five, two story wood frame Italianate/Mansard houses. They have a variety of surface treatments including wood shingles, clapboards, and aluminum siding. The houses have three bay main façades, side hall plans, and low brick basements. They have deep-bracketed cornices and mansard roofs with slate, scallop-shaped shingles, and double and single pedimented dormers.

Their entrance enframements consist of paneled pilasters and pendant-ornamented, bracketed door hoods. They have deep entries with paneled sidewalls, and inner doors surmounted by transoms. The windows are simply and fully enframed, with various sash configurations. Numbers nine and 15 are the most intact in terms of fabric, elements, etc.



17- 7 Trenton Street

2016

Builder: Uriel Adams

Original owner: Sampson Warren/ Uriel Adams



9 Trenton Street

2016

Much of Trenton Street's mid-19th century charm is dependent on the rhythmic repetition of this Mansard/Italianate row's bracketed door hoods, deep-bracketed cornices, and pedimented dormers. Architecturally, numbers 7-17 Trenton Street is an attractive example of late 1860s Mansard/Italianate row housing. This row retains integrity of siting, and form, if not always materials.

During the early 19th century, what would later be the site of Trenton Street and adjacent lots, was Breed's Hill pastureland, included within large parcels owned by Russell and Bartlett families. Trenton Street's residential development lagged behind that of other streets in the area. Trenton Street is shown on the 1848 Panoramic View of Bunker Hill as a building-less thoroughfare surrounded by the houses of more built-up streets.

Numbers 7-17 Trenton Street houses do not appear on the 1868 Sanborn Atlas of Charlestown. Judging by number 7 Trenton Street's deeds this row was built circa 1868-70, and these houses are evidently the work of local carpenter Uriel Adams. On October 28, 1870, Ebenezer D Gray purchased number 7 Trenton's lot and building from Sampson Warren and Uriel Adams for \$5500. Uriel Adams was a carpenter, active in Charlestown building trades from the early 1850s until at least 1910 (see form on 22, 24 Trenton Street for more biographical details)

Sampson Warren owned considerable real estate holdings in Charlestown. In 1870 his occupation is listed as "37 South Market, Boston", presumably as a merchant or market man. In 1869 he moved into a mansion at 15 Monument Square.

Owners of this group in 1875 included, in addition to Ebenezer B (?D) Gray, who was a sub master at the Warren School, at #7; Henry Gerrish, cabinet maker, #9; William Conant, occupation? -#11; A Conant (possibly Albert Conant, of Albert Conant and Company, (looking glasses), 73 union, house 6 Mount Vernon Avenue, at #13; Charles C Conant, occupation?, at #15; and H J O'Brien, a cabinet maker, 97 Lowell Street, at #17.

In 1885 the ownership roster was the same as in 1875.

By 1892, owners included: Ebenezer B Gray, at #7; Ellen A Welch, #9; William Conant-#11; Daniel Griffin, a gardener (he lived at 17 Trenton.), at #13; Michael Donovan, occupation?, #15; and Mary S Griffin, wife of Daniel, the gardener, #17

By 1911, owners included: Catherine A Sweeney, #7; Ellen A Welch, #9; Catherine Brady, #11; Annie Donovan, #13; Dennis Donovan, #15; C E and A M Mahony, #17.

Trenton Street was named in honor of the Revolutionary war Battle of Trenton. Trenton Street appears on the 1848 Panoramic View but was apparently not counted as a street until 1859.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818

Atlases-1868, 1875, 1885, 1892, 9001, 1911

Panoramic View of Bunker Hill, 1848

Charlestown directories-1860s-70s

Boston directories-late 19th century

Middlesex DA-1134:541 (7 Trenton St.)

*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