

**7-23 Mount Vernon Street (#s7, 9, 11, 13, by 1848; 15, 1852-1860; 17-23, 1848-1852)**

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

Numbers 7-23 Mount Vernon Street is an impressive expanse of masonry houses, constituting one of the most memorable streetscapes in Charlestown. With the exception of the Mansard house at number 15, the buildings exhibit elements of the Greek Revival style, with planar, three bay masonry façades, low granite-faced basements, and side hall plans. They have simple sills and lintels, some with tabs. There is a distinctive linked chimney end-wall profile at number 23.



7, 9 Mount Vernon Street

2015



11, 13 Mount Vernon Street

2015

Builder(s):?

Original owner(s):?

These houses represent one of Charlestown's more memorable fusions of terrain and architectural form, in a single, almost unbroken expanse sweeping down the upper slopes of Breeds Hill. Architecturally, they primarily represent solid, straightforward examples of mid-19th century upper middle-class Charlestown masonry housing.



15, 17, 19 Mount Vernon Street      2015

Panoramic views, maps, and atlases indicate that the double houses at 7, 9 and 11, 13 were extant by 1848. Numbers 17 through 23 were completed between 1848 and 1852. Number 15 evidently dates to circa 1852-1860; it was standing by at least 1860.

Owners of this group in 1875 included: William B Moore, of William B Moore and son (EB Moore), "crocker, glass, kitchen



21, 23 Mount Vernon Street

2015

furniture, etc." at 7; Henry W Bragg, "counselor, 25 Main Street Charlestown," 9; Henry Goodwin, "Crawford House", Raffles Street, Boston, 11; George W White, "at Tucker Manufacturing Company", "hard pine lumber, 105 Water Street," 13 and 15

(White was living at number 15 by at least 1860); Leonidas H Ingraham, a "printer, 12 State Street, Boston", 17; James Rea, a "grocer, 84 Main Street," 19; Francis Croll (?sp), "ord sergt, US Marines," 21; Alex Vanneva, a "cooper, 206 State Street, Boston".

Perhaps the best-known homeowner of the group was number 9's Henry W Bragg. He was a leading late 19th century Charlestown lawyer and judge. He had a large probate practice and settled numerous estates. He was born in Holliston, Massachusetts to Willard and Mary Claflin Bragg on December 11, 1841. He was educated at the University of the City of New York and at Tufts College, graduating from the latter institution in 1861. He was admitted to the Middlesex bar in October, 1864, was City Solicitor of Charlestown from 1867-1869, and was a justice of the Municipal Court of the Charlestown District from 1886 -?. In addition he served as solicitor for the Warren Institution for Savings, beginning in 1867.

By the early 1900s this group's owners included William J Burnett, 7; Jane Dunn, 9; D E Dillon, 11; Michael Roughan, 13-17; Margaret Sullivan, 19; Elizabeth N Harkins, 21, and Charlotte Vannevar heirs, 23.

#### Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1852

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

Mallory panoramic view, 1848

Charlestown/Boston directories-19th century

*Charlestown Enterprise*, special edition, June 1893,

"Charlestown Citizens Past and Present"

\*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