

7 Eden Street (ca. mid 1840s)

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



7 Eden

?date, before 1985

Number 7 Eden Street is a simple wood frame, wood shingle-clad Greek Revival house with a three bay main façade. The house has a side hall plan with an unusually substantial, high style Greek Revival entrance for a relatively modest house. The house has a gable roof and the entrance is in the gable end wall facing Eden Street.

Original owner: Benjamin Phipps

Number 7 Eden Street is a charming example of circa late 1840s Greek Revival wood frame vernacular architecture. Particularly noteworthy are its substantial, well detailed classical revival entrance enframingent which provides an



7 Eden Street

2015

Interesting contrast to the house's essentially modest scale and surface treatments.

The house's land was part of the Frothingham estate prior to the 1840s. Eden Street may date to as early as the 18th century, starting out as a driveway into the Frothingham

estate. This thoroughfare appears as a cul-de-sac on the 1818 map and is labeled Eden Street. By 1839 Eden Street was linked with Russell Street. Russell Street at that time did not extend much beyond Eden Street.

Evidently James Kettel Frothingham sold this lot to Benjamin Phipps at some point in the mid-1840s. J K frothingham was



7Eden entry detail

2015

the son of Richard and Mary Frothingham. Richard Frothingham was a coach and chaise manufacturer. J K Frothingham was born in Charlestown, Massachusetts on January 7, 1785. He was a coach and sign painter, very active in public and town affairs. He served on the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Board of Governors of the Poor, and Representative to the General Court, etc. He died July 30, 1864.

The 1875 atlas indicates that at the time of Frothingham's death Benjamin Phipps owned this house. Phipps is first listed on Eden Street in 1845. At that time he resided at 2 Eden Street, and by 1852 he lived at 3 Eden Street. (Apparently numbers 2 and 3 Eden Street represent a house that was located at the corner of Eden and Main streets, no longer extant.) Number 7 Eden Street may have been built for a member of his family circa mid-1840s. Further research is needed to pinpoint this house's construction date more exactly.

Benjamin Phipps Sr was born in Charlestown October 18, 1797 and died April 7, 1878. He was early apprenticed to John Frothingham as a carriage trimmer and harness maker. He later succeeded to Mr. Frothingham's business. Mr. Phipps was one of the founders and first treasurers of the Winchester Home for Aged Women. Members of Phipps family owned number 7 Eden Street until at least the early 1900s.

*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.

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