

9-13 Bartlett Street (ca. 1845)

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



11-13 Bartlett Street

1981

Numbers 9-13 Bartlett Street is a row of three, 1 1/2-story wood frame Greek Revival cottages. They have three bay main façades, baseboards, brick basements and gable roofs. They are now sheathed in synthetic siding. One-story ells are located to the rear of each house.

The entrances are simply enframed and recessed. (Number 11 is the most intact.) Projecting from each roof slope is a single gable roofed dormer.



11-13 Bartlett Street

2015

Builder: Edward Pratt
Original owner: Edward Pratt

Much of this trio of Greek Revival cottages' charm is derived from simplicity of form and rhythmic repetition of gable roof dormers. Architecturally, they are similar to the cottages at 66-70 Pearl Street. They are the work of Edward Pratt, a "carpenter". He was active in Charlestown building trades from circa early 1830s to the mid-1850s. Evidently he was related to Caleb Pratt, another Charlestown carpenter. In 1834, both Pratts lived at 32 High/23 Franklin Street (see form). From 1845 to circa 1856 Edward Pratt lived at 26 Green Street.

Evidently Edward Pratt originally owned all three houses. He sold number 11, and possibly 13, to Levi Goodnow, a teamster, on January 24, 1846 for \$1100. Pratt "reserved the right of drawing water from the well and cistern through suction pipes as now located on the premises". A note in the deed's margin states "the three estates is to have equal expense in case of repairs on the well, cistern, and drain." Further research is needed to determine when and from whom Pratt acquired number 11, and probably 9 and 13. The trio had probably been recently completed at the time of Goodnow's 1846 purchase. Apparently Goodnow never lived in these houses. For many years he resided at 51 Soley Street.

Over time, the owners have included: In 1875, #9, DH Hammett (?); #s 11 and 13, Levi Goodnow
In 1885, #9, Mrs. Hammett (?); #11, S E Allen (Sarah E Allen purchased number 11 from Louisa Goodnow on November 6, 1878); # 13 S Parmenter
In 1901, #9, O Varrell; #11, Sarah E Allen; #13, Sarah Parmenter

This trio's lots lie just outside the northwestern edge of the Bunker Hill Monument Association's 115-lot tract, which was developed beginning in 1839. Numbers 9-13 Bartlett Street are

contemporaries of the wood frame Greek Revival houses built along the Concord Street, Monument Street, and Lexington Street portions of the B. H. M. A. tract. They represent the most modest form of mid-19th century wooden frame housing in Charlestown.

Bibliography:

Maps-1818, 1852

Panoramic view, 1848 (clearly shown)

Suffolk deeds-1438: 272-number 11

Charlestown directory-1834: 74

*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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