

## 9- 15 Eden Street (ca. 1854)

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

Numbers 9- 15 Eden Street are four red brick Italianate row houses with three bay main facades and granite block basements. They have side hall plans and bracketed cornices (wood?).

Their recessed entrances are reached by granite steps. The entrances are multipaneled and the doors are flanked by multi-pane sidelights and multi-pane transoms. There are simple granite sills and lintels; the lintel treatments have been reworked on number 9.



9-15 Eden

2015

Original owner: James K Frothingham

Numbers 9-15 Eden Street was built circa 1854. Architecturally, it is a straightforward example of Italianate

mid-1850s row housing in Charlestown. The row's granite basements and trim look backward to the Greek Revival style, while its three-story height and bracketed cornice are clearly characteristic of Italianate row house construction.

The first mention of buildings on this property occurs in a deed dated August 9, 1854. At that time J K Frothingham, of Charlestown, Esq., sold number 9 Eden's lot to Charles D Lincoln, customs house officer, for \$1185 (Middlesex 631:147). Charles Lincoln is listed in Charlestown directories as early as 1842 as "Warden, State Prison". He is listed as a Customs House officer by 1848 (house 21 Concord). This deed mentions that the grantee had the right to "use a drain to be constructed for the use of the owners of the block of four houses." J K Frothingham had purchased this lot from Richard Frothingham, "chaise maker" and Benjamin Phipps, "carriage trimmer" as early as 1823 (247:496, April 16, 1823).

James K Frothingham, grantor of 9-15's lots to Charles D Lincoln in 1854, was born in Charlestown, January 7, 1785. J K Frothingham was a coach sign painter (son of Richard and Mary Frothingham; his father was a coach and chaise manufacturer). J K Frothingham was very active in public and town affairs. He was on the Board of Selectmen, the School Committee, and was for many years a deacon of the Universalist Church in Charlestown and was a member of several important committees on town lines and streets. He died July 30, 1864.

Lincoln sold number 9 to Sarah E and Edward Pierce (a milkman) in 1834. The Pierces lived here until 1866 (891:578, December 31, 1866). At that time Joshua Hobard of Boston paid \$5600.00 for 9 Eden Street. By 1875 number 9 was owned

by Lowell W Chamberlain, Deputy Sheriff and auctioneer, 25 City Square. In that year, Andrew S Morrell, "restaurant", 41 N. market, Boston, owned number 11, Dr. L Beechford is listed at number 13 and Sewall D Tibbets, "produce", 103 Faneuil Hall market is listed at number 15.

By 1901 owners of 9-15 Eden St. included Marietta W Symonds at number 9, John Turner, 11, and Bradford L Bownen heirs owned numbers 13 and 15.

Eden Street apparently started out as a driveway leading to the Frothingham estate, perhaps dating to as early as the 1780s. This thoroughfare is marked Eden Street on the 1818 map and appears as a cul-de-sac leading into a larger parcel owned by the Frothingham family. By 1839 Eden Street had been linked with Russell Street (Russell Street did not at that time extend much beyond Eden Street).

#### Bibliography:

Atlases-1875, 1885, 1892, 1901

Charlestown and directories-1847's-1870s

Middlesex D-247: 496, 681:147, 891:298, 891:578-number 9 Eden St.

"Souvenir of Charlestown and Bunker Hill Monument", 1843-1893

\*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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