

I-6 Forest Place (1859-1860)

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

Forest Place is a group of six small wood frame Greek Revival row houses. They have a narrow three bay façades with side hall plans and granite doorsteps. Their handsome entrance enframements consist of slender Doric pilasters and cornice-headed entablatures. There are paired entrances at numbers 1 and 2. The original clapboard sheathing has been mostly replaced by modern siding. The houses have projecting, molded cornices.



1-6 Forest Place

2015



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Builder: Weston and Mason, William Smith (?)

Original owner: Weston and Mason (?)

Architecturally, 1-6 Forest Place, off Eden Street, reflects the stylistic conservatism of Charlestown housing during the mid-19th century. Constructed of wood and of a modest scale, these houses exhibit retardataire Greek Revival elements.

Apparently 1-6 Forest Place is the work of prolific Charlestown builders David B Weston and Rufus Mason. Their entrance enframements represent a trademark of Weston and Mason: slender Doric pilasters and cornice-headed entablatures. These enframements also appear on the houses of Bolton place and Mason court. Middlesex deeds point to a construction date of circa 1864 this group.

Westin and Mason evidently purchased these lots from a William Smith on March 15, 1860. (Several William Smiths are listed in the 1860 Charlestown Directory). The Middlesex grantee index did not list the Smith/Weston-Mason transaction of March 15, 1860 (841:68). Buildings are mentioned on this property in the deed associated with number 2 Forest Place- on August 18, 1860 Benjamin Brown of Charlestown paid Weston and Mason \$3800 for number 2 Forest Place "with the buildings thereon." Brown was an insurance agent.

David Weston and Rufus Mason worked in partnership as "painters and glaziers" (builders) from circa early 1850s to 1863. Westin and Mason are well represented within the survey area. Examples of their work include: 19-35 Russell Street (Italianate wood frame row, 1857), 2, 4 Mason Court (double Italianate/Greek Revival houses, circa 1860), Bolton Place row houses (Greek Revival circa 1860), and 7-19 Wall Street (Italianate row of circa late 1850s).



After 1863, Weston worked as a visitor for the Overseers of the Poor in Boston, and Mason formed a partnership with his son George. This firm was active circa 1863 to circa early 1870s.

By 1875 this group's owners included an N R Lanon (occupation unlisted) at #1, Hezekiah B Gove, a baker at #2 (he acquired this house on April 22, 1867, see 991:458), Edwin A White, a machinist, #5, and Rufus Mason's estate, #6 (2-4 were owner-occupied in 1875). By 1901 owners included an F M Williams, #1, Ida M Gove, #2, Sarah J White, #3, CW Talpey, #4, Catherine T Taylor, #5, and M Locarcio, #6.

*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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