

LOWELL CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION 97, 105, 107 ADAMS STREET MAP SHEET # 11
1) CURRENT OWNER George Shadid Mansur OWNER OCCUPIED yes
2) HISTORIC NAME Henry Castles Building
3) CURRENT NAME same
4) PROPERTY TYPE multiple family dwelling 5) ZONING CLASSIFICATION B1
6) TAXES: PAYMENTS current STATUS clear
7) WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF LHPD

HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

1) CONSTRUCTION DATE ca. 1890-95
SOURCE circumstantial: 1896 atlas
2) ARCHITECT OR BUILDER unknown
3) HISTORIC OWNER Henry Castles 1896
4) ORIGINAL USE: GF residential UF residential
5) PREVIOUS BLDGS ON PROPERTY yes DATE 1846-1930
SOURCE circumstantial: Northern Middlesex Registry 45:499

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

1) ARCHITECTURAL STYLE
late 19th C. Vernacular
2) PRESENT USE:
GF com., res.
UF residential
3) NO OF STORIES 3
4) PROP SQ FT 6993
5) PLAN rectangle
6) ROOF shallow pitch
7) STRUCTURAL SYSTEM
wood frame
8) OUTBUILDINGS
2 garages on right side
9) MATERIALS:
FOUNDATION
random rubble, large stones
FACADE all sides: wood clapboard
TRIM wood
10) NOTABLE SURFACE & LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS brick sidewalk

VIEW FROM southwest PHOTO TAKEN May 1979



ADDRESS 97, 105, 107 ADAMS STREET

VISUAL ASSESSMENT

- 1) CONDITION OF BUILDING FABRIC good
- 2) IF DETERIORATED, CAUSES n/a
- 3) INTEGRITY OF HISTORIC BLDG FABRIC: GF intact with evolutionary alterations
UF intact original fabric
- 4) SURROUNDING LAND USES residential
- 5) INTEGRITY OF PROP'S HIST SETTING intact historic setting
- 6) IMPORTANCE OF PROP TO HIST SETTING integral to character (see Add. Info.)

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

This late nineteenth century vernacular multiple residence has a few Colonial Revival decorative details. These include simple Doric columns on the second and third story porches, recessed panel corner boards with molded caps and a modillioned cornice. A one-story storefront was probably added in the early twentieth century.

97 Adams Street appears to correspond to a narrow lot that serves as a driveway to two garages. 105 is the one-story storefront. 107 is the house itself which faces Franklin Court, a brick sidewalk into a small inner block yard faced with multi-family buildings.

A grapevine in the left side yard is used by the occupant of the food store for the production of brined Greek grape leaves which he sells.

ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL INFORMATION

This site is part of the land that was auctioned off by the Locks and Canals Company in 1845. John F. Manahan, a carpenter, of S. T. and J. F. Manahan Company purchased the land in 1846 which ran from the current 107 Adams Street to LaGrange Street (Northern Middlesex Registry 45:499). It was probably Manahan who laid out Franklin Court, which forms the northern boundary of this site, and built two small houses on either side to form a residential lane. Each house contained two dwelling units. Those on the south side were owned in 1850 by Mr. Sargent. A number of these small courts were built in the Acre at that time (see Research Report on 1 Marion Street).

In addition, Manahan probably built the house owned in 1850 by Mr. Otis H. Morrill, a school teacher, which stood where the lot numbered 97 now is. By 1896 another house had been built on the rear of this lot.

Ca. 1890-95 the current building replaced the house at Adams Street on the south side of Franklin Court. It was owned by Henry Castles in 1896. The other above described buildings remained on the site until approximately 1930.

Franklin Court now provides access to the building at the rear of 28 LaGrange Street.

ADDRESS 97, 105, 107 ADAMS STREET

Sources

Research Report on the Acre.

1850 map.

1879, 1896, 1906, 1924, 1936 atlases.

1851 directory.

ARCHEOLOGICAL COMMENT

The first building activity occurred on this site just before 1850. Archeological remains which could be recovered from the side and rear yards would relate to the subsequent domestic and commercial use of the site.