

Walnut Dollison Historic District  
913 E. Walnut Street  
Jewell-Baldwin House  
Springfield  
Greene County  
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1252FF

MO  
39-SPRIF  
47-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225

Historic American Buildings Survey Architectural and Historical Data

913 EAST WALNUT STREET

Jewell-Baldwin House

Location: Springfield, Greene County, Missouri  
Cadastral grid : SW $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , S24, T29N, R22W  
USGS quadrangle: Springfield Missouri 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '  
UTM coordinates: 15.475080.4117655

Present Owner: Elizabeth B. McBride et al.

Present Usage: single family residence

Statement of Significance: Built in 1902-03 by speculator J.B. Montgomery, this 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -story frame house was first occupied by newspaperman Harry S. Jewell, owner of the Springfield Leader. In 1916 it was sold to Winfred M. Baldwin, vice president of Rogers and Baldwin Hardware, and has remained in family hands since. Featuring an asymmetrical massing and picturesque roofline and relatively muted ornamentation, the house represents a transition from Victorian ostentatiousness to neoclassical austerity. It has been altered little and maintained well and is in virtually original condition today - one of the most handsomely crafted and proportioned of the upper middle class dwellings in the Walnut-Dollison Historic District.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: 1902-03
2. Architect/builder: not known
3. Original and subsequent owners: 913 East Walnut Street is sited on a 50'x 190' tract of land legally described: east 5' of Lot 2 and all of Lot 3 of Miller's East Walnut Street Addition. The following references are taken from the abstract for the property, presently held by Mrs. Frances B. Smith, 913 East Walnut Street, Springfield Missouri:

- 1837 Plat Book of Entries, 1 December 1837. United States of America to James Dollison. Northeast quarter, S24, T29N, R22W.
- 1848 U.S. Land Patent, 1 September 1848; Recorded in Book 326, page 84. United States of America by President James K. Polk to James Dollison. (consideration: Certificate #4-205r).
- 1865 Warranty Deed, 17 June 1865; Recorded in Book N, page 138. James G. and Florence E. Dollison, James C. and Paulina Franklin, Samuel and Mary E. Gott and Nancy Williams (nee Dollison), heirs-in-law of James Dollison, deceased, to Edwin T. Robberson, "the four undivided one-fifth parts of the north-east quarter of Section 24, Township 29, Range 22, excepting about 58 acres sold by James Dollison during his lifetime." (consideration: \$4000.00).
- 1865 Deed of Attorney, 5 December 1865; Recorded in Book N, page 358. Sample and Emiline Orr by J.R.D. Thompson to Edwin T. Robberson,

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- "the undivided one-fifth part of the north-east quarter of Section 24, Township 29, Range 22, remaining unsold by James Dollison, deceased, and being some 100 acres, more or less, of said tract which was the property of said James Dollison at the time of his death and by decent cost, the said undivided one-fifth part became the property of said Emiline Orr. (consideration: \$1250.00).
- 1866 Warranty Deed, 26 February 1866; Recorded in Book S, page 35. Sample and Emiline Orr, heirs of James Dollison, deceased, to E.T. Robberson, "undivided one-fifth part of the north-east quarter of Section 24, Township 29, Range 22, excepting about 58 acres sold by James Dollison during his life time." (consideration: \$1250.00).
- 1868 Warranty Deed, 1 June 1868; Recorded in Book R, page 207. E.T. and E.J. Robberson to Adam E. Smith, "beginning at a point 60' north of the north-west corner of Lot 6 in Robberson's Addition to the City of Springfield, Missouri, said point being the north-east corner of Dollison and Walnut Streets as laid down on plat of said addition thence east with the north side of Walnut Street 274' more or less to Murphy's southwest corner thence north with said Murphy's west line 210' to C. Sheppard's south boundary line, thence west with C. Sheppard's south line some 274' to Dollison Street, thence south with the east side of Dollison Street 206' to the point of beginning containing one acre and 49 square poles more or less, also the two houses and improvements thereon." (consideration: \$500.00).
- 1874 Warranty Deed, 24 February 1874; Recorded in Book 29, page 555. Adam E. and Emma J. Smith to John N. Miller. (consideration: \$3500.00 for same tract of land).
- 1896 Plat, 6 August 1896; Recorded in Plat Book E, page 40. Miller's East Walnut Street Addition, by Carrie L. Samuel, Samuel Case and Helen Mills Miller and Maud Miller and W.E. Murdock.
- 1898 Warranty Deed, 29 November 1898; Recorded in Book 170, page 518. Samuel Case Miller, heir to  $\frac{1}{2}$  interest in the estate of John N. and Carrie L. Miller (both deceased) and Helen L. Miller to Maud Miller Murdock. (consideration: \$4000.00).
- 1901 Warranty Deed, 2 January 1901; Recorded in Book 190, page 38. Maud Miller and Walter E. Murdock to J.8. Montgomery. (consideration: \$4500.00).
- 1906 Warranty Deed, 26 June 1906; Recorded in Book 243, page 81. J.B. and Mary E. Montgomery to H.S. Jewell. (consideration: \$5025.00).
- 1916 Warranty Deed, 1 September 1916; Recorded in Book 352, page 225. H.S. and Abba T. Jewell to Winfred and Nathalie Baldwin. (consideration: \$7500.00).

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4. Original plans, construction of the house: The Jewell-Baldwin House has changed negligibly since its construction. A large 2½-story frame building, it is irregularly massed and laid out in late Victorian fashion, with the restrained detailing and front facade symmetry of the neoclassical style.
5. Alterations and additions: The most significant alteration occurred in the 1920s with the construction of a two-story rear addition in the northwest corner; this addition houses a sleeping porch on the second floor with a breakfast room below. Other alterations have been minor and are generally maintenance-related.

B. Historical Persons and Events Associated with the House

The Jewell-Baldwin House is situated in a neighborhood that was developed at the turn of the century for tenancy by the professional/merchant class: lawyers, doctors, store owners, etc. The persons associated with the house, therefore are primarily those of Springfield's upper middle class - people relatively well-known in the city through their businesses or through civic endeavors. They include:

J.B. Montgomery: President of the Tune-Schneider Clothing Company, Montgomery also dealt in real estate speculation, building this house and the one next door at 919 East Walnut at the same time. He did not live in the house himself, instead by that time residing in Oswego, Kansas.

Harry S. Jewell: According to the 1915 Missouri, the Center State: "Harry Sanford Jewell is a son of the late J.B. Jewell and was born at Wyandotte, Kansas, August 11, 1867. The father was engaged in the publishing and newspaper business in Missouri for forty years. J.B. Jewell removed to Springfield and in 1895 became editor of the Springfield Leader. He continued to shape the editorial policies of the Leader until his death on March 23, 1907." Following the elder Jewell's death, Harry assumed control of the newspaper, which eventually grew into the Springfield Newspapers, Inc. Jewell was socially prominent in the city, an Odd Fellow, Elk, member of the Royal Arcanum, Travelers' Protective Association, the Springfield Club, the Country Club and the James River Club. Although he was never directly involved in politics, his newspaper frequently espoused his democratic views. Jewell was the first occupant in the house, renting it from Montgomery for three years before buying it in 1906. Ten years later he sold it and moved across the street to the large house on the southwest corner of Walnut and Dollison, where he lived until his death at 78 in 1945.

Winfred M. Baldwin: Listed in the city directories as vice president of Rogers and Baldwin, a hardware supplier, Winfred Baldwin moved into the house in 1916. The hardware store was the result of a collaboration between Winfred's father, A.A. Baldwin, and W.C. Rogers; the store was located on South Street in downtown Springfield.

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The younger Baldwin lived in the house until his death in 1945. After his widow, Nathalie, died in 1956, the house was left to the three Baldwin daughters, Elizabeth, Pauline and Frances; the latter two live in the house at present.

C. Sources of Information

1. Old views: The Baldwin sisters have several photographs of the house taken in the 1920s and 1930s. Snapshots of family members in the front lawn or on the sidewalk, they show the front facade of the house.

2. Bibliography

- a. Primary Sources

"H.S. Jewell Funeral Will be Held Monday," (obituary) Springfield Leader and Press, 25 August 1945.

Sanborn Insurance Map, New York, N.Y.: Sanborn Map Company, 1910 and 1933.

Smith, Mrs. Frances, interview with Clayton Fraser, 15 July 1982.

Springfield City Directories, 1895-1930, various publishers.

Tax Records: 913 East Walnut Street, Greene County Assessor's Office, Springfield Missouri.

Water Tap Records: 913 East Walnut Street, City Utilities, Springfield Missouri.

- b. Secondary Sources

Flanders, Robert, Principal Investigator. "A Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed University Plaza Project, City of Springfield, Greene County, Missouri: 1981," Southwest Missouri State University Center for Archeological Research, October 1981.

Quick, David. "Historic Inventory," inventory card for 913 East Walnut Street, Missouri Office of Historic Preservation, Jefferson City Missouri, May 1981.

Stevens, Walter B. Missouri, the Center State, 1821-1915, Chicago and St. Louis: the S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1915. Volume III, pages 634-638.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: The Jewell-Baldwin House is a 2½-story frame structure, possessing features which are both common among contemporary houses in the area and notable in their degree of refinement. The house exhibits the characteristics of countless other houses built in small cities and towns in the decades which followed the decline in popularity of the Victorian period, combining the symmetry and austerity of detailing of the neoclassical revival with a spatial

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organization and irregular massing of form held over from the Late Victorian style.

2. Condition of fabric: very good. The house has been well maintained throughout its history. To be moved.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: 49'11"x 32'9"
2. Foundations: coursed ashlar stone perimeter walls with a concrete parge coat over some sections.
3. Walls: base - wood watertable with plain board fascia; body - coved shiplap siding with plain corner boards; cap - moulded main roof architrave with plain frieze.
4. Structural system: lightweight framing using milled lumber.
5. Porches: A single-story, full-width open front porch extends along the south facade. With an offset concrete stair in the southeast corner, it adds the appearance of neoclassical symmetry to the front facade; fetures of the porch include: hipped, asphalt-shingled roof with boxed cornice and plain frieze panel, tapered square columns with moulded caps and bases, S4S balusters with heavy bannister, concrete parged foundation walls and a side stair from the west side. In the northwest corner of the building is a two-story porch which has been enclosed to form a breakfast room on the first floor and a sleeping porch above. Both levels are lighted through multi-pane windows lining the north and west sides. A small enclosed entry to the basement stairs is centered on the rear (north) wall.
6. Chimneys: Two interior brick chimneys extend through the roof; both are plain, without corbels and serve the living room fireplace, kitchen stove and basement furnace.
7. Openings
  - a. Doorways and doors: The front entrance is offset in the southeast corner of the main section. The door is a three-panel, with the center panel an extended light; the frame is made up of plain boards, with a moulded dripcap. A lighted door is mounted in the northwest entry into the rear porch. It features a six-light transom over. A vertical plank door is mounted in the doorway to the basement stair at the rear.
  - b. Windows: The house displays a variety of window openings placed picturesquely along the walls. These include: 1/1 double-hung throughout the building on all levels, 1-light fixed with transom in the first floor living room south wall, 8/1 double-hung on the enclosed rear porch and 1-light fixed alongside the front entrance. The second story of the front facade contains two slanted bay windows, one a three-faceted configuration, the other two; each facet has a single 1/1 double-hung window. All windows on the building are framed with plain board casings and slip sills; the first floor frame heads have sloped dripcaps with moulded beds and the second

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floor windows have moulded drip caps which extend slightly from the continuous architrave of the main roof. All windows have wood storms and screens.

8. Roof
  - a. Shape, covering: The main section is covered by an asphalt shingled, moderately pitched hipped roof, punctuated at the front by a cross gable. Symmetrical on the front facade, the roof is irregular along the west side to cover the wall projections under. Another cross gable is centered on the east side, a small hipped roof covers the rear basement entry, a hipped roof covers the front porch and small bay window on the east side and a shed roofed canopy, supported by a large curved bracket, shelters a door in the south wall of the enclosed porch.
  - b. Cornice: A relatively simple boxed and moulded cornice is mounted under the main building roof. Cross gables have cornice returns.
  - c. Dormers: none

#### C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: The interior of the Jewell-Baldwin House is organized in typical late Victorian pattern, with the principal rooms of the first floor accessible directly one-to-another through large openings rather than indirectly through a central hallway. Typically, the entry hall is located in a corner of the building with a half-turn stair to the second floor. The bedrooms upstairs are aligned along a center bearing wall, but the usual center stair hall is abbreviated in length and the rear chambers are entered through the middle bedrooms.

The front entrance leads into a small stair/entry hall in the southeast corner of the building, under the covered front porch. Adjoining this to the west is the large living room; behind (north of) this living room is a smaller sitting room. To the east of the sitting room is the dining room, behind that, through a small hall, is the kitchen. In the enclosed rear porch in the northwest corner is a multi-windowed breakfast room and rear entry. Between the breakfast room and kitchen are the rear stair and a small half-bath.

The second floor features bedrooms in the northeast, southeast and southwest corners, with middle bedrooms along the east and west walls - five chambers total. Additionally a large sleeping porch is located in the northwest corner, one bathroom is on the east wall, one between the sleeping porch and rear bedroom and the rear stair and several closets are in interior positions.

2. Interior finishes: Interior finishes and trim are relatively restrained indicating a relatively late date for the building, after the high Victorian period. First floor walls and ceilings are generally papered. The living room features a corner fireplace in the northwest corner. Its firebox is faced with low relief ceramic tiles, and the hearth is covered with similar tiles; the painted oak mantel has stylized Ionic colonnettes and a beveled mirror back. The dining room has decorative

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built-up beams made of darkly stained pine on the ceiling. Along the walls is a stained pine paneling with a bracketed plate rail, painted canvas panel inserts and a cushioned window seat in the square bay window along the east wall. Both living and dining room, and the sitting room, have 1" oak strip flooring, compound moulded baseboards with quarter round shoes and moulded wall crowns. The other rooms are comparatively unembellished. The kitchen has painted plaster walls and ceilings with a scored plaster wainscot, built-in cabinets on the east and west walls, sheet vinyl flooring over 1½" oak boards, simpler baseboards and no crown mould. The breakfast room is floored with 1½" oak and has painted plaster walls and ceiling.

Second floor walls and ceilings are largely papered plaster with a moulded wall crown in most rooms. Flooring throughout is 1" strip oak, with compound moulded baseboard and quarter round shoe. The rear sleeping porch features painted walls and ceiling, 1½" oak flooring, a large built-in cabinet along the east wall and plain window casings. The main bathroom has vinyl-asbestos flooring and painted plaster walls and ceiling.

The attic is finished, with 3½" pine flooring, papered or painted walls and ceilings without a crown and plain window and door casings with a moulded baseboard and shoe.

3. Stairways: A half-turn corner stairway extends from the entry hall on the first floor to the southeast corner of the second-story stair hall. Although relatively simply detailed, the stair is well executed, with paneled and chamfered stringer, square newel with oak cap, turned balusters with oak handrail and bullnose first tread. A more modest rear stair extends north-south in a straight run at the rear of the building.
4. Doorways and doors: Many of the first floor doorways are wide cased openings without doors. The most impressive doors in the house are the 12-light french doors into the breakfast room. Second floor doors are primarily four-panel. All interior doorways feature plain casings with moulded heads and plinths; doors have mortise passage locksets.
5. Mechanical systems: The building is served with electricity and is plumbed. Heating is through a natural gas forced air system; a window-mounted air-conditioner is in the dining room on the first floor.

#### D. Description of Site

1. General setting and orientation: The Jewell-Baldwin House is located in a suburban residential neighborhood characterized by large frame single family residences. Built around 1900 for the merchant class on lots which had been subdivided from several large land tracts, these houses are four blocks east of the central business district, suiting them well for their merchant occupants. Although the area retains its overall residential character, many of the individual structures have been compromised through insensitive or deferred

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maintenance and subdivision into student housing. This house is one of the best preserved of the early buildings in the neighborhood. The building is surrounded by typical landscaping: grass and ground covers, large deciduous trees and foundation shrubbery. Sited facing south in a mid-block site, the building lot has been expanded through the purchase of the lot adjacent on the west and demolition of the structure built on it. A concrete driveway extends along the west side of the house and winds to a single-story garage in the northeast corner of the site.

2. Outbuildings: hipped-roof, single-story, stuccoed frame garage.

Prepared by: Clayton B. Fraser  
Principal, Fraserdesign  
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