

Theodore Parsons House

HABS No. OH-2431

↙ 1609 Linden Ave.

Proposed Champion Historic District

Springfield

Clark County

Ohio

HABS
OH 10
12-SPRIF,
27-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Great Lakes Systems Office
Department of the Interior
1709 Jackson St.
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
THEODORE L. PARSONS HOUSE HABS No. OH-2431

HABS
OHIO
12-SPRIF,
27-

Location: 609 Linden Avenue, Springfield, Clark County, Ohio

Significance: Italianate architecture styling, as reflected in the bold upright massing and ornate bracketed cornice, distinguish this house from its neighbors. Although in deteriorated condition, the house retains its basic form and much of its detailing. It has unusually slender massing in its front wing and a fairly complex profile, with a slight center projection on one side and two-stage projection on the other.

Description: This two-story frame residence rests atop a low rubble limestone foundation and is capped by an ornate bracketed cornice that wraps around the front and sides. The building is crowned by a low-pitched hipped roof with asphalt shingles and a built-in gutter system. Its exterior is covered with drop siding. The narrow front wing of this cross-shaped building has a pair of slender long rectangular one-over-one windows on the first floor and a single broader window above. An altered front porch is set in the angle between the front and side wings. A lower height second floor wing is set above this porch and might be an addition, although its cornice harmonizes with that of the main building. Lateral hip-roofed wings project on both sides, but only slightly on the one side and perhaps 10' on the other. The rear wing is one-and-a-half stories tall and has a gable roof. It has a further lean-to addition. Two lateral wall chimneys are present plus a center chimney. All have corbeled brick bases and tops that seem original.

History: Mr. Parsons, who worked as a machinist, installed plumbing and lived here in 1896, according to water tap records and city directories. However, by 1898, he had moved from the house. Higgins, Jardine & Co., were the plumbing contractors and their business, listed in boldface in the city directory, was located at 71 South Limestone. The house seems earlier than 1896 and probably dates from the 1880s. It perhaps originally did not have indoor plumbing.

By 1915 this was the residence of Patrick J. and Sarah Caffrey. He worked as a cement contractor. He resided here through at least 1924. By the late 1920s the house had been divided into two apartments. The property has been completely vacant since the late 1970s.

Sources: 1883, 1915 and later Springfield city directories, Springfield city water tap records (1883). The building stands within a proposed Champion Historic District, which has been determined as an area potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places by the Ohio State Historic Officer. Copies of information used to make this determination of eligibility for National Register status are at the Springfield Department of Planning and Development and the Ohio Historic Preservation Office.

Historian: Steven McQuillin, preservation consultant to the City of Springfield, 1997