

Building Description and History

(SAMPLE from an application)

XXX Street is a two-story, three-bay brick house situated on the xxx side of the street. Constructed between 1895 and 1896, it first appears on the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of 1896 (attached). The main (south) façade is sheathed in pressed brick. Exterior decorative features include a stepped brick entablature surmounted by a wood cornice, segmental arch window and door surrounds with decorative headers. The house has its original cast iron front steps. Windows have been restored to their original two-over-two configuration. Entry is through a vestibule with original chair rail. The original front door and transom remains; the multi-paneled door has its original door knob. The transom light has been embossed with the number ###. The rear el block contains the kitchen. The house has had no additions.

The interior plan of the house was originally a side hall and double parlor; however, in the 1950s the double parlors were converted into a large living room. Interior features include original bull's eye door and window surrounds throughout the house, and simple late Victorian slate mantel surrounding a working fireplace. (A second mantel, in what was the rear parlor, was removed during the 1950s renovation.) Another interior alteration that occurred in the 1950s was the removal of a passageway from the front hallway to the pantry and kitchen, the installation of a coat closet in the front hallway, and a powder room installed off the kitchen. The kitchen retains an original hutch with glass doors as well as its original elongated six-over-six pane windows.

The deep rear garden is accessed through the kitchen, as well as through a side passageway from a gate on XXX Street.

Deeds indicate that a frame house on this lot was constructed in the early 19th century, as part of the holdings of Anthony C. Cazenove, a prominent merchant and ship chandler. In 1854 the house was sold by the Cazenove estate to Kinsey Griffith, a local gunsmith. The Griffith family lived there from 1854 until Griffith's death in 1888. A Civil War view of XXX Street c. 1861 shows the 2 story frame house, quite similar to the main block of the house at ### XXX Street. (photo attached) . Kinsey Griffith died intestate, and the house was then put up for sale. (The 1891 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows the two-story frame house, attached). In 1895 the house was sold under court order with the provision that the proceeds be used to pay back taxes, and that the remainder would benefit the heirs of the Kinsey Griffith estate.

John T. Callahan purchased the property for \$625.00 and had the frame house demolished. Because the former frame house on the property had been constructed partially on the lot of ### XXX Street (to the west) Callahan had to purchase 14 inches of the ### lot in order to construct his new brick house. (When an addition was put on ### XXX Street in 1994, a portion of the original exterior frame siding of the frame house at ### was revealed, because part of the west exterior wall had not been demolished when the frame house was taken down. The current owners have saved one of the original

siding boards from the frame house). The Callahan family owned the house until 1924. The present owners have lived here since 19xx.