



City of Winchester

21 East Germain Street

Tax Map Number: 213-1-C- 19-

DHR Resource Number: 138-0042-0470

Resources: 1 single dwelling; 1 shed

Date/Period: ca. 1900

Style: Vernacular

Sources: Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps; Quarles, *The Story of One Hundred Old Homes*



Architectural Description

Site Description: This lot, on the south side of East Germain Street, slopes to the east. The single dwelling is directly fronted by the brick-paved city sidewalk. Minimal wood fencing to the east of the dwelling edges the north front boundary of the property. Landscaping is provided by mature trees and shrubs. A concrete-paved walkway runs alongside the west elevation of the single dwelling.

Secondary Resource Summary: A one-story, one-bay shed is located south of the single dwelling.

Primary Resource Description: This two-story single dwelling has an L-shaped form—three bays wide and one bay deep. The front block is side-gabled and the front-gabled ell is attached to the west half of the rear elevation. A one-story, three-bay porch with half-hipped roof has been added to the center of the façade.

Set on a solid stone foundation (random rubble), this dwelling is of wood-frame construction. It is clad in German wood siding which has been painted. The side-gabled roof is covered in standing-seam metal. It features an ogee-molded wood cornice that is supported by carved wood modillions. This is a stylistic element of the Italianate style, popular in America during the later nineteenth century. This wood cornice is raking on the east and west gabled ends. Two brick chimneys, with plain caps, rise from the interior ends of the front block. The façade of the building has a symmetrical arrangement of openings. All windows are 2/2, double-hung, wood-sash with wood sills. The surrounds are narrow and square-edged. The windows of the first story are slightly elongated, another stylistic element of the later nineteenth century. A central entry opening holds a single-leaf, paneled wood door (replacement) with four lights. It is topped by a one-light, wood transom. The east elevation is not fenestrated but has a louvered wood vent in the upper gable end. The west elevation has a similar vent in its upper gable end as well as 2/2, double-hung, wood-sash windows on both the first and second stories of the main block and the ell. These windows are identical to those of the façade except the first story windows are flanked with louvered wood shutters. The front-gabled roof of the rear ell, original to the main block, is covered in standing-seam metal with a shallow raking wood cornice. It is pierced by an interior-end brick chimney with plain cap on the south gable. This ell, like the main block, is covered in weatherboard and is set on a solid stone foundation. The rear elevation is asymmetrically fenestrated. A 2/2, double-hung, wood-sash window on the first story is set within a square-edged wood surround with wood sill. A modest window opening in the upper gable end has four lights. No hinges were visible and it was clear the window was not double-hung. This opening is set within a square-edged wood surround (replacement).

This front entrance is sheltered by a one-story, three-bay porch with half-hipped roof. Sanborn map research reveals this was an addition from the years between 1908 and 1912. The standing-seam metal roof is supported by turned wood posts reminiscent of the Queen Anne style. Jigsaw brackets at the top of the posts support the dropped wood cornice. The porch is set on a solid poured concrete foundation.

The southeastern section of the dwelling was not visible at the time of the survey.

Secondary Resource Description: A one-story, one-bay shed is located south of the single dwelling. It is not set on a foundation. The wood frame structure is unclad and has a shed roof covered in standing-seam metal. The east elevation is open. The shed is in a dilapidated condition. Sanborn map research reveals it was built post 1947.

Significance Statement: This single-family dwelling is representative of the domestic architecture constructed along East Germain Street in Winchester during the late nineteenth century. The elongated first-story windows and modest detailing support the construction date of circa 1900 that Walter Kidney gives to this building in his book *Winchester: Limestone, Sycamores and Architecture*. This property and its surrounding neighborhood were first documented by the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map in 1903; this map indicated the rear ell is an original feature. Many houses in Winchester began to have added front porches between the years of 1912 and 1921; the front porch on 21 East Germain Street was added circa 1910, earlier than most. It is old enough to be considered historic in its own right and therefore does not interfere with the building's integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. The property evokes its historic time period because its integrity of setting, location, feeling, and association are intact. Therefore, this single dwelling is qualified under Criteria A and C. The dwelling is a contributing resource to the Winchester Historic District.