

Gilbert's Lane

This short narrow lane is notable for its regular granite paver surface. There also appears to be an irregularly patterned granite sidewalk partially visible under asphalt paving. The lane appears to have been constructed after the 1850s. There is one house facing the lane, a one-story side entrance vernacular dwelling. No. 7 Gilbert's Lane is a side gable dwelling resting on a block foundation built right to the lane's edge. The lane is primarily an access to parking spaces behind dwellings on St. Lawrence and Atlantic Streets.

The short narrow passageway now known as Hoyt's Lane was originally part of Gilbert's Lane, but later named for Joseph A. Hoyt, a machinist. Hoyt lived in a house on the lane in the late 19th century on land owned since 1855 by members of the Hoyt/Hoyt family. The lane was accepted by the City in 1910. The lane is primarily an access to a drive way and garage behind 48-50 St. Lawrence Street.

Address: 7 Gilbert Lane

Approximate/Documented Date of Building: c. 1850s

Surveyed: 8/17/2018

Historic Name: Unknown

Contributing or Noncontributing: Noncontributing



Introduction

7 Gilbert Lane is a front gabled one-and-a-half-story Greek Revival frame single-family house clad in vinyl siding. The dwelling is a good example of its type and form on Munjoy Hill. While much of the original ornamentation is missing due to replacement siding and windows, the building still features its general Greek Revival shape. Laid out sometime in the 1850s, Gilbert Lane is primarily used as an access route for parking spaces behind the dwellings on St. Lawrence and Atlantic Streets. The only structure on Gilbert Lane, the building remains an important contribution to the overall neighborhood.

Current Architectural Description

The façade is two bays wide and includes 1/1 windows with vinyl sash and trim. The east elevation is four bays wide and includes entryways in the second and fourth bays. The second bay entrance is covered with a flat roof supported by squared posts and two by four brackets; a set of wood stairs lined with squared wood railings and balusters access the door. The fourth bay entrance is also covered by a flat roof, however, it is supported by two by four brackets. Windows in the east elevation are 1/1 with vinyl sash and trim. The north elevation is not visible from the public way. The west elevation is three bays wide and includes a variety of window forms: 1/1 with vinyl sash and trim, a series of four single light windows on the first floor, and a single light window on the second floor. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles and contains a single chimney rising from the western slope.

Additions and Alterations Since 1924

The building has undergone typical losses and notable alterations since 1924. Losses include wood clapboard siding, 2/2 wood sash windows, shutters, corner boards and trim beneath the cornice, and decorative crowns over the windows. In addition, in 1924, the second bay entrance was accessed by a larger porch covered in a hip roof and wood stairs that lead to the street. Moreover, the street façade now includes two windows where there was just one on the first floor.

Another major alteration includes a vertical expansion of the second floor and a reduction in roof pitch. Where in 1924 the building's second floor was a half-story under a steeply pitched roof, in 2018 it is a full story with a more moderate pitch.

Lastly, notable alterations have been made to the rear of the building. In 1924, the main structure is just three bays wide; a single-story gabled rear ell is visible. This ell was either expanded or replaced by a two-story addition to the main structure. The changes to the dwelling have substantially impacted its architectural integrity and it would be non-contributing.