

~~209-211 S. Ninth Street~~
209-211 S. Ninth Street
c. 1880

Owner: Dessie P. Ralston
209-211 S. 9th
Terre Haute, Indiana

Description:

Photo #20, Bldg. #315

This small frame structure is a duplex cottage constructed approximately 1880. It features a simple rectangular plan, a medium pitch gable roof, and a symmetrical main facade. Although a modest structure, it has been well maintained and is particularly notable for its elaborate Eastlake-style front porch.

The main facade of the structure, a gable end, faces east onto 9th Street. Symmetrical around a vertical axis, this facade contains two entry doors and transoms located on either side of center. Flanking these are identical double-hung, rectangular windows. On the second floor level, a pair of smaller rectangular windows are located equidistant from the centerline, and are surmounted by a centrally-located vent in the attic area just below the gable peak. A plain frieze provides the raking trim.

The most interesting feature of the home is the highly-detailed Eastlake-style front porch. This porch is of frame construction, and features a shed-type roof supported at its outer edge by four turned wooden columns. A frieze appears just below the porch roofline, consisting of wide wooden panels pierced in such a way as to suggest a regular progression of quatrefoils. A gable projecting from the shed roof forms a sort of pediment over the porch steps, while the balustrade on either side of the steps, like the frieze, features solid panels pierced to form a series of quatrefoils. Brackets appear where the porch columns meet the frieze; these brackets are pierced to create a Roman Cross motif.

Significance:

The house at 209-211 S. Ninth Street is architecturally significant as an excellent and well-preserved example of a duplex form of Victorian cottage. Thought to be the only double house of its style in the city, the building is particularly notable for its fine Eastlake-style veranda. Although the home is otherwise lacking in exterior detailing, this veranda features an elaborate frieze and balustrade, both employing panels decorated with a quatrefoil motif. The porch also features turned wooden porch columns and elaborate scroll-sawn brackets. This house remains in good repair with all of the original porch-detailing intact.

Geographical Data

Acreage: Less than one acre

UTM Reference: 16/465200/4368130

Boundary: Map #1806-22, Block #360, Parcel 012