

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Item number 7

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NAME: Foster-Payne House
LOCATION: 25 Belmont Street
OWNER: Frederick R. & Susan M. Love
25 Belmont Street
Pawtucket, Rhode Island
CONDITION: Good; Altered; Original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Foster-Payne House, an immaculate late nineteenth-century wooden dwelling, stands on a spacious, open lot on the northerly side of Belmont Street, half a block west of Pawtucket Avenue, in the South Woodlawn neighborhood. Fashionable upper-class suburban residences were erected in this area in the late nineteenth century; less-fashionable dwellings and some commercial and industrial uses have moved into the neighborhood since. Wooden picket fences line the sides of the Foster-Payne lot; square granite gateposts flank the entrances to the driveway and the front walk at the sidewalk line; the lengths of fence which must have originally stretched between these posts, however, have been removed. Near the back edge of the lot stands the only major outbuilding--a two-story, clapboarded carriagehouse topped by an ornate Victorian cupola/ventilator.

The main block of the Foster-Payne House is basically square in form and stands two stories high under a low-pitched, multi-gabled roof. A short kitchen ell projects from the building's rear; a single-story open porch/enclosed entry is attached to its western side; and a single-story bay window projects from the western bay of the front facade. The clapboarded house is distinguished by its exterior wooden trim--the brackets on the porch, on the bay window, and under each gable peak; the profiled rafter ends; the jig-sawn railing of the porch and the similar panels in the gable peaks; and the elaborately enframed first-floor window on the eastern end of the front facade. Windows on the front of the house are paired one-over-ones; single one-over-ones and two-over-twos are used on the minor elevations.

Inside the house, a small foyer in the western entry porch opens into the main stairhall which is located in the building's northwestern corner. The gently curving staircase is edged with robust, turned balusters carrying a beautifully curving rail; these sweep downward to enclose an elaborately turned newel post which bears aloft a frosted glass globe, originally lit by gas. Beyond the stairhall, the major first-floor rooms are arranged in an L-pattern along the building's southern and eastern sides, while the kitchen is placed in the short northern ell. All of these spaces have been very little altered (one major exception, a pressed

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tin ceiling, was put up in one room in the early twentieth century--the Payne family still has the receipts for this alteration) and each room is distinguished by some very fine Late Victorian details. The south-eastern front parlor, for example, exhibits an ornately carved white marble mantelpiece; and intricately molded central ceiling medallion from which is suspended a handsome brass six-light gas fixture (now electrified), and an outstanding painted ceiling border featuring floriate scrolls, wreaths, and swags in delicate tints of pink, green, and tan. In the back parlor, a marbleized slate mantelpiece in black, red, gray and white is topped by an overmounted mirror encased in a richly embellished Renaissance Revival frame.

PERIOD: 1800-1899

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

SPECIFIC DATE: 1878

ARCHITECT: Unknown

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Foster-Payne House is architecturally significant as a handsomely designed and unusually well-preserved late nineteenth-century suburban residence, complete with a matching carriagehouse and opulent interior detail.

The Foster-Payne House was erected in 1878 for Theodore W. Foster, a manufacturing jeweler who appears to have commuted into Providence for the four years during which he owned this house. Foster sold the property in 1882 to George W. Payne of Pawtucket, the proprietor of G.W. Payne & Co., machinists and manufacturers of textile machinery.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary of the nominated property includes the city lot on which the Foster-Payne House sits, Pawtucket Assessor's Plat 56A, lot 543.

ACREAGE: less than one acre; 22,843 square feet

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

UTM: A 19 301300 4637100

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