

**Parrish-McNamire dwelling (K-7631), 434 Water Street
Tax ID ED-05-077.13-1-5; 50' X 150' parcel
Detached Vernacular Bungalow, circa 1933**



Description:

This property (K-7531) will be purchased in anticipation of the Dover Transit Hub Transportation Project. As of late February, 2009 the transit hub is part of a federal American economic recovery and reinvestment act stimulus package (ARRA) that is now subject to Section 106 coordination and review.

The property contains a one and one-half story four-bay, side-gabled, wood framed dwelling. The asphalt roofline extends in the front to capture the concrete step entranceway and two 1/1 double hung vinyl windows spaced between the front modern door. Paired sets of 2/2 double hung windows are flaked on the west façade. The paired windows are encased over by storm glass. They are trimmed with modern aluminum non-functional shutters at ends.

A smaller cross gable eyebrow is centered over the front entrance and projects out from the front façade roofline. This decorative cross gable has a centered two-pane sliding window. The gable roof has been enclosed to form a uniform boxed eave. Thus, no rafters are exposed or evident. The entire structure has been sheathed in white modern aluminum siding and trim and rests on decorative concrete cinder blocks. It appears that there is a basement.

On the east side of the dwelling, the first floor is four bays with the south end functioning as a side or rear entranceway. Before entering the dwelling at east side, an entrance driveway (paved) and a modern three-step wood deck is evident. The windows are 1/1 double hung and covered over by a storm window. Similar to the front, one bay consists of a paired 1/1 double hung set. The second floor gable end also consists of a paired 1/1 double hung bay that is also glassed over. All windows on the east end are trimmed with modern aluminum non-functional shutters.

The rear of the building is marked with two bays of replacement (modern) sliding windows. Along the roofline a modern shed roof dormer is also evident and centered with a sliding window. A chimney with no ornamentation is also off-centered adjacent to the shed roof dormer on the west and near the roof peak.

The west side of the building was not completely visible under this survey. Three (3) bay windows are marked with either with 1/1 and 2/2 double hung sash. The second floor has a pair of 1/1 double hung sash windows. All windows covered over with storm windows.

The small lot facing north has some shrub trees along the side of the dwelling and towards the rear. Two modern sheds lie on the property within the rear yard.

The property lies within an urban setting of Dover with several smaller homes in the immediate area. The urban block is surrounded by a few random homes of similar construction date and style that resembles what was once a small city block neighborhood. Modern developments of commercial and governmental uses are primarily surrounding the property. Several larger vacant lots anticipating redevelopment of the area also surrounding the immediate area.

Based on deeds, construction style, and aerial photographs, the dwelling was constructed circa 1933. No other outbuildings are evident on the property. Past aerial photography suggests that outbuildings were evident as well as mature trees on many of the adjoining lots. The dwelling is in good condition.

Applicable Historic Context(s):

Geographic Zone: Upper Peninsula; Time Period: Urbanization and Early Suburbanization 1880-1940+/-; Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Engineering, and Decorative Arts theme (bungalow property type), Settlement Patterns and Demographic Change (urban residential development)

Evaluation and Recommendation:

The property (K-7631) was evaluated under the historic context consideration of residential subdivision of former agricultural lands within the City of Dover. For growing urban sectors, this is a common land use trend for this area and as a local and statewide theme. This type of urban block growth and subdivision originating from a larger parcel (4 ¼ acres) is not significant. Plus, the property as a surrounding urban block never developed into a fully established neighborhood, nor was integrated with others. From a land use perspective, commercial uses and industrial uses were scattered within the area. As a property and as integrated growth occurred in the City of Dover, this property and any immediate surrounding property lot(s) lack significance and integrity to be considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A.

Because of its close proximity and potential association Eden Hill (K-125) and the Ridgely family (a National Register listed property west of the railroad), deed and map research were undertaken. Based on records the property has not been identified as having any association with or towards any individual person or family in the history of the local area. The property originates from a subdivision of 4 ¼ acre plot of land that traces down from Caleb S. Penneweill to Ralph, Jack K., and Fred C. Lord of Dover (L11-181). The Lord brothers sold the tract in 1926 to George Leslie and Lucile S. Gooden (Y12-331). The Gooden's later subdivided the tracts, including the original, into smaller lots and subsequently sold them off individually in the 1930's. The Gooden's

sold the lot with “buildings and improvements thereon erected” to Parrish family (James H. and Nancy) in late 1933 for \$275 dollars (deed book L14-405). The Parrish family subsequently sold the property to Edna and Leslie McNamire on December 28, 1939 (deed book U18-255). This 1939 deed indicates that the Parish’s now resided in Pleasantville, New Jersey, rather than Dover. This is evident by Nancy being widowed at the time of deed transfer with son Ulmont R. (single) and daughter Helen M. (single). After the change of title, the McNamire’s family owned and resided on the property for just over ten years. Thus, the early history and occupation of the property can be historically referred to as the Parrish-McNamire house (1933-49). Although the Delaware Department of Transportation made an offer to purchase the property in 2004, it is still privately owned by Charles Holotanko and Wanda Williams as joint tenants.

As names and families are not significant during the primary occupancy and subsequent years, the property is not recommended eligible under Criterion B.

The dwelling on this property is a vernacular example of a one and one-half story side gable bungalow. It is of common framing with little or no ornamentation of interest. The dwelling has also been altered and upgraded to some degree with several window replacements and storm window coverings, side/rear porch additions/replacements, and modern siding throughout. In its common form with little ornamentation and style, the property lacks significance and integrity to be potentially eligible for the National Register under Criterion C.

The building on the property represents a common example of wood framing and is not likely to provide new information on the construction type and methods that are not already available through other means. This dwelling is original and dates back to subdivision of smaller plots by from George L. and Lucile A. Gooden who did not reside here and simply owned and sold many parcels in the Dover and Kent County area. There are no former dwellings on the property and the current building has been hooked up to public water and sewer. It is likely that this property is not eligible under Criteria D. A CRS form was prepared for the property.

Front and east side



Rear of dwelling



2007 Digital Orthophotography

