



INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY HISTORIC NOMINATION FORM

HRC Staff Use Only

Date Received:.....

Parcel No.:

Ward:

Zoning Classification:.....

Bldg. Inspector:.....

Council District:.....

Fee Schedule

Please make check payable to *Treasurer, City of Pittsburgh*

Individual Landmark Nomination:	\$100.00
District Nomination:	\$250.00

1. HISTORIC NAME OF PROPERTY:

Gallagher-Kieffer House

2. CURRENT NAME OF PROPERTY:
Gallagher House/Dithridge House

3. LOCATION

- a. Street: 234 N. Dithridge Street
- b. City, State, Zip Code: Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213
- c. Neighborhood: Bellefield (Oakland)

4. OWNERSHIP

- d. Owner(s): "Estate of Dorothy F. Gallagher" as represented by Kathleen D. Gallagher, Trustee.
- e. Street: 234 N. Dithridge Street
- f. City, State, Zip Code: Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213 Phone: () -

5. CLASSIFICATION AND USE – Check all that apply

<u>Type</u>	<u>Ownership</u>	<u>Current Use:</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private – home	<u>Residential</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/> Private – other	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Public – government	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public - other	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Place of religious worship	_____

6. NOMINATED BY:

- a. Name: Matthew W.C. Falcone & Kathy Gallagher
- b. Street: 1501 Reedsdale Street, Suite 5003
- c. City, State, Zip: Pittsburgh, Pa. 15233
- d. Phone: (412) 417-5910 Email: mfalcone@preservationpgh.org

7. DESCRIPTION

Provide a narrative description of the structure, district, site, or object. If it has been altered over time, indicate the date(s) and nature of the alteration(s). (Attach additional pages as needed)

If Known:

- a. Year Built: 1893
- b. Architectural Style: Shingle Style
- c. Architect/Builder: Builders - Bennett & Stitely

Narrative: See attached.

8. HISTORY

Provide a history of the structure, district, site, or object. Include a bibliography of sources consulted. (Attach additional pages as needed.) Include copies of relevant source materials with the nomination form (see Number 11).

Narrative: See attached.

9. SIGNIFICANCE

The *Pittsburgh Code of Ordinances, Title 11, Historic Preservation, Chapter 1: Historic Structures, Districts, Sites and Objects* lists ten criteria, at least one of which must be met for Historic Designation. Describe how the structure, district, site, or object meets one or more of these criteria and complete a narrative discussing in detail each area of significance. (Attach additional pages as needed)

The structure, building, site, district, object is significant because of (check all that apply):

- 1. Its location as a site of a significant historic or prehistoric event or activity;
- 2. Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the cultural, historic, architectural, archaeological, or related aspects of the development of the City of Pittsburgh, State of Pennsylvania, Mid-Atlantic region, or the United States;
- 3. Its exemplification of an architectural type, style or design distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship;
- 4. Its identification as the work of an architect, designer, engineer, or builder whose individual work is significant in the history or development of the City of Pittsburgh, the State of Pennsylvania, the Mid-Atlantic region, or the United States;
- 5. Its exemplification of important planning and urban design techniques distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design or detail;

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6. Its location as a site of an important archaeological resource;
 7. Its association with important cultural or social aspects or events in the history of the City of Pittsburgh, the State of Pennsylvania, the Mid-Atlantic region, or the United States;
 8. Its exemplification of a pattern of neighborhood development or settlement significant to the cultural history or traditions of the City, whose components may lack individual distinction;
 9. Its representation of a cultural, historic, architectural, archaeological, or related theme expressed through distinctive areas, properties, sites, structures, or objects that may or may not be contiguous; or
 10. Its unique location and distinctive physical appearance or presence representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the City of Pittsburgh.

Narrative: See attached.

10. INTEGRITY

In addition, the ordinance specifies that “Any area, property, site, structure or object that meets any one or more of the criteria listed above shall also have sufficient integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship to make it worthy of preservation or restoration”. (Attach additional pages as needed)

Narrative: _____

11. NOTIFICATION/CONSENT OF PROPERTY OWNER(S)

1.3(a)(2) *Community information process.*

Preceding submission of a nomination form for a District, the Historic Review Commission shall conduct at least one (1) public information meeting within or near the boundaries of the proposed district, which shall include at least one (1) member of the Department of City Planning and one (1) Commission member, to discuss the possible effects of designation. Notice shall be given to the owners of property in the proposed district in accordance with Section 1.3(b) below. The final public information meeting shall be held no more than six months before the nomination form is submitted.

1.3(a)(1)(a) *Subsection F.*

In the case of a nomination as a Historic District, by community-based organizations or by any individual, but in either event the nomination shall be accompanied by a petition signed by the owners of record of twenty-five (25) percent of the properties within the boundaries of the proposed District.

- Please attach documentation of your efforts to gain property owner’s consent.-

** The nomination of any religious property shall be accompanied by a signed letter of consent from the property’s owner.

12. PHOTO LOGS: *Please Attach*

13. BIBLIOGRAPHY: *Please Attach*

14. NOMINATION FORM PREPARED BY:

a. Name: Matthew W.C. Falcone

b. Street: 1501 Reedsdale St., Suite 5003

c. City, State, Zip: Pittsburgh, Pa. 15233

d. Phone: (412) 417-5910 Email: mfalcone@preservationpgh.org

e. Signature: _____



HISTORIC NOMINATION – INSTRUCTIONS

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THE NOMINATION FORM

1. Indicate the original name of the property if it is currently known by a different name; e.g. Union Station.
2. Indicate the current name of the property
3. Indicate the street address for the property. For districts, attach a separate sheet listing the street address of each property included in the nomination and a clear street map of the area showing the boundaries of the proposed district.
4. Indicate the owner of the property and his or her mailing address. For districts, attach a separate sheet listing the owner of each property and his or her mailing address.
5. Check the classification as indicated.
 - a. **“Historic Structure”** means anything constructed or erected, the use of which requires directly or indirectly, a permanent location on the land, including walks, fences, signs, steps and sidewalks at which events that made a significant contribution to national, state or local history occurred or which involved a close association with the lives of people of nations, state or local significance; or an outstanding example of a period, style, architectural movement, or method of construction; or one of the last surviving works of a pioneer architect, builder or designer; or one of the last survivors of a particular style or period of construction.
 - b. **“Historic District”** means a defined territorial division of land which shall include more than one (1) contiguous or related parcels of property, specifically identified by separate resolution, at which events occurred that made a significant contribution to national, state, or local history, or which contains more than one historic structure or historic landmarks, or which contains groups, rows or sets of structures or landmarks, or which contains an aggregate example of a period, style, architectural movements or method of construction, providing distinguishing characteristics of the architectural type or architectural period it represents.
 - c. **“Historic Site”** means the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure whether standing, ruined or vanished, where the location itself maintains historical or archaeological value regardless of the value of any existing structures.
 - d. **“Historic Object”** means a material thing of historic significance for functional, aesthetic cultural or scientific reasons that may be, by nature or design, moveable yet related to a specific setting or environment.
6. Indicate the person(s) responsible for the nomination. Please note: According to the Historic Preservation Ordinance:

“Nomination of an area, property, site, or object for consideration and designation as a Historic Structure, Historic District, Historic Site, or Historic Object may be submitted to the Historic Review Commission by any of the following:

- a. The Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh
 - b. A Member of the Historic Review Commission
 - c. A Member of the City Planning Commission
 - d. A Member of the Pittsburgh City Council
 - e. The Owner of Record or any person residing in the City of Pittsburgh for at least one year (for the nomination of a Historic Structure, Site or Object)
 - f. A signed petition of 25% of the owners of record (for the nomination of a Historic District)
7. Write a physical description of the nominated property or district. Include the following information as applicable:
- architectural style(s)
 - arrangement of architectural elements
 - building materials
 - method(s) of construction
 - visual character
 - street pattern
 - density
 - type and arrangement of buildings
 - topography
 - history of the development of the area
8. Provide a narrative history of the structure, district, site, or object. Include the following information when available:
- History of the development of the area;
 - Circumstances which brought the structure, district, site, or object into being;
 - Biographical information on architects, builders, developers, artisans, planners, or others who created or contributed to the structure, district, site, or object;
 - Contextual background on building type(s) and/or style(s);
 - Importance of the structure, district, site, or object in the larger community over the course of its existence.
 - Include a bibliography of all sources consulted at the end. Where historical information is uncertain or disputed, reference sources in the text.
9. Listed below are the categories and criteria for historic designation as set forth in the Pittsburgh Historic Preservation Ordinance. Describe in detail how the structure, district, site, or object meets one or more of the criteria. According to that legislation in Section 1.4 of the Pittsburgh Historic Preservation Ordinance, *Criteria for Designation*, a building must meet at least one of the following criteria in order to be designated:
1. Its location as a site of a significant historic or prehistoric event or activity;
 2. Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the cultural, historic, architectural, archaeological, or related aspects of the development of the City of Pittsburgh, State of Pennsylvania, Mid-Atlantic region, or the United States;
 3. Its exemplification of an architectural type, style or design distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship;
 4. Its identification as the work of an architect, designer, engineer, or builder whose individual work is significant in the history or development of the City of Pittsburgh, the State of Pennsylvania, the Mid-Atlantic region, or the United States;

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5. Its exemplification of important planning and urban design techniques distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design or detail;
 6. Its location as a site of an important archaeological resource;
 7. Its association with important cultural or social aspects or events in the history of the City of Pittsburgh, the State of Pennsylvania, the Mid-Atlantic region, or the United States;
 8. Its exemplification of a pattern of neighborhood development or settlement significant to the cultural history or traditions of the City, whose components may lack individual distinction;
 9. Its representation of a cultural, historic, architectural, archaeological, or related theme expressed through distinctive areas, properties, sites, structures, or objects that may or may not be contiguous; or
 10. Its unique location and distinctive physical appearance or presence representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the City of Pittsburgh.
10. In addition, the ordinance specifies that “Any area, property, site, structure or object that meets any one or more of the criteria listed above shall also have sufficient integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship to make it worthy of preservation or restoration.”
 11. The nomination must be accompanied by evidence that the nominator has made a good-faith effort to communicate his or her interest in the historic designation of this landmark or district to the owner(s) of these properties. Describe how this was done, and attach evidence that the owner(s) of the nominated landmark or of the properties within the nominated district have been informed of the nomination. This may include a copy of a notification letter with a mailing list, a letter confirming phone calls, or a petition signed by affected property owners.
 12. Clear photographs of the nominated buildings or districts should accompany the nomination form. The applicant shall include photographs of all elevations of an individual building and its setting, or the front elevation of each building in a district. In the case of closely spaced buildings or rowhouses, several buildings may be included in one photograph. Each photograph must be labeled with the street address of the building(s) and the month and year the photograph was taken.
 13. Copies of major supporting documents should accompany the nomination form. Such documents may include, but are not limited to:
 - historic photographs;
 - historic and contemporary maps;
 - historic or contemporary texts describing the subject property or district;
 - historic or contemporary texts describing people, places, or events that comprise the historic context of the subject property or district.
 - Oversized materials (such as architectural drawings) and materials too fragile to copy may be accepted.

PLEASE NOTE: It is the responsibility of the nominator to provide the Historic Review Commission and its Staff with information sufficient to fairly evaluate the nomination. **Incomplete nomination forms will not be accepted. Fee must be included. Nominations must be submitted in both electronic and hard-copy format.**

CHECKLIST: GALLAGHER-KIEFFER HOUSE

- #1-6 Nomination Form:** Address, Ownership, Classification, Nominator Info.
 - #7: Description
 - #8: History
 - #9: Significance
- #10 Integrity**
- #11 Consent of Property Owners**
- #12 Photographs of Property:** numbered and labeled
- #13 List of Supporting Documents**

- Fee**
- Hard-Copy nomination**
- Electronic nomination (Word Format for text).**

Gallagher-Kieffer House
Historic Nomination Form
Addendum

Individual Property Historic Nomination Form

Historic Name(s): Gallagher-Kieffer House
Current Name: Gallagher House/Dithridge House
Location: 234 North Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Neighborhood: Oakland
Parcel ID 0027-H-00115-0000-00
Ownership: Estate of Dorothy F. Gallagher
Type: Structure
Historic Use: Residence
Current Use: Residence

Descriptive Narrative

Year Built: Between 1893
Architectural Style: Shingle
Builder: Bennett & Stitely

7. Description



Photo. 1. *Gallagher-Kieffer House, North Dithridge Street Façade, October 2019.*
Source: Matthew W.C. Falcone.

Sited at 234 North Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 (Parcel ID 0027-H-00115-0000-00), the subject building (Photo. 1) is a two-and-one-half-story, wood-frame, residential dwelling. Built ca. 1893, the building is an example of the late nineteenth century, Victorian Period, Shingle Style. Specifically, the building represents an adaptation of the style to the four-square building typology.

The building rises from a full, roughhewn, coursed ashlar sandstone foundation. The basement-level is visually separated from the first floor by a flared, wood belt course. The first floor is clad in a thin-profile wood clapboard. All exterior corners on the first floor are clad with thin, stylized pilasters. The first and second floors are visually separated by an unadorned wood entablature surmounted by flared cedar shingles. The visual separation between the second floor and the building's roof begins immediate above the second-floor window openings. Here, a thin molding is surmounted by three courses of flared cedar shingles. Above the course of shingles, a composite cornice/box gutter projects at the roof line.

The building possesses a cross-gable roof with a steeply-pitched, side-gable gambrel at the front and a standard end-gable roof extending at the rear. Four chimneys penetrate the building's roofline. Each chimney is of brick construction and features a two-course collar and six-course corbelled crown. Each chimney is capped with dressed stone coping.

Southwest (Front) Façade

The southwest (front) façade is divided into three irregular bays (Photo. 2). Reading the building from left to right (northwest to southeast), on the first floor, bay one is occupied by a window opening fitted with three medieval, wood-sash, leaded-glass casement windows. Each casement window is surmounted by a fixed, wood sash window with leaded and stained-glass.

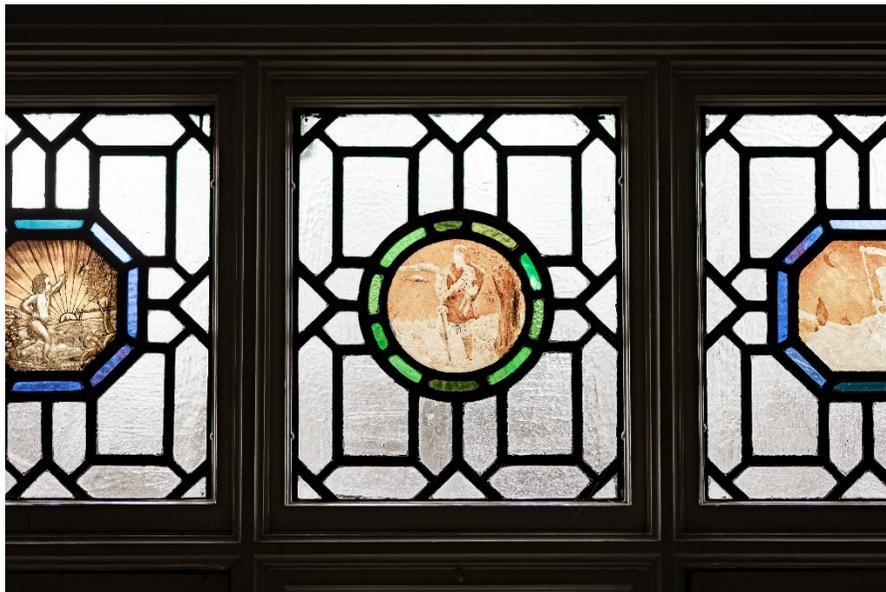


Photo. 3. *Gallagher-Kieffer House, "Greek Riddle of the Sphinx", Parlor Windows Detail, March 2020. Source: Amy Fisher.*

The fixed sashes comprise a triptych, presumably serving as an allegory of life that was historically called “Greek Riddle of the Sphinx” by the Gallagher family (Photo. 3). From left to right (interior) the sashes feature three grisaille panels. The first panel depicts a rising sun with a nude child chasing a butterfly. A sapling stands in the middle ground. The second panel depicts a man, clad in a tunic and shin guards, holding a sword. A young tree stands in the middle ground. The third panel depicts a robed, seated figure holding a scythe. This likely depicts death. A mature tree stands in the middle ground and a waning crescent moon is present in the sky.

Bays two and three recede beneath a porch. Bay two features a window opening fitted with four wood-sash, leaded and stained-glass casement windows. One stained-glass medallion is set within each casement. Each depicts a scene, which, from left to right (interior), are a lighthouse, a garden, a sailing ship, and a medieval castle (Photos. 4-7).

Bay three is fitted with the building’s front door (Photo. 8). The door is paneled with a glazed opening. The wood muntins within the opening form a symmetric, geometric pattern of diamonds and rectangles. Door hardware is of brass construction and features a doorknocker and off-centered mail slot.



Photo 8. *Gallagher-Kieffer House, Front Door & Foyer Windows (Exterior)*, March 2020. Source: Matthew W.C. Falcone.

Bays two and three are fronted by a semi-integral porch (Photo. 9). The porch rises from piers and possesses wood decking. It is encircled by a wood balustrade with simple, chamfered balusters. The

porch possesses a hipped roof clad with asphalt shingles. The roof is supported by chamfered wood columns with stylized capitals. A clapboard-clad knee wall extends to the right of bay three. On the knee wall, a more substantial squared column supports a cantilevered portion of the second floor.

On the second floor, bays one and two are occupied by paired, wood-sash, twenty-four light, leaded glass casement windows (Photo. 10). Each of the casement windows is surmounted by fixed, wood, twelve-light, leaded glass sashes. Bay three is comprised of a projecting bay window that is supported by the porch below. The bay features ten wood-sash, twenty-four-light, leaded glass casement windows. Every other window is designed to be operable. Each window is surmounted by a leaded and stained-glass transom sash. The operability of the transom sashes corresponds with the operability of the casement below.

One medallion is set within each transom sash. Some feature figural grisaille while others are rendered in stained-glass. Most of these figural medallions are linked to either Greek mythology or the Christian faith. From left to right (interior), there is a Caduceus flanked by the Latin words SALVS VITAE (interpreted as "Safety, Life"); an anchor entwined with a serpent and the letters T B, symbolizing Christ and salvation; a flaming sword with the Latin phrase BELLVM HIT AVARITIA CONTA (loosely interpreted as "War Against Greed") (Photo. 11); the Gallchobhair (Gallagher) Family Crest (Photo. 12); a scene depicting the Saint Nicholas rescuing three children from the Evil Butcher (Photo. 13), Our Lady of Pity (bookplate from the printer John Byddell, 1533), and the book plate from the king's printer, Reyonld Wolfe (the king's printer), 1542, among others.

The roofline is visually demarcated by a projecting box gutter and cornice. Two metal downspouts descend from the box gutter on either side of the southwest (front) façade. The front portion of the dwelling is surmounted by a side-gable gambrel roof. Two shingled dormers project above the roofline. Each possess a squared, front-gable dormer that is a key character defining feature of the Shingle style. Each dormer is fitted with paired, wood sash, twenty-eight-light, leaded glass casement windows.

Southeast (Side) Façade



Photo. 14. *Gallagher-Kieffer House, Southeast (side) Façade*, October 2019. Source: Matthew W.C. Falcone.

The southeast (side) façade is divided into three irregular bays. Due to the slope of topography, the basement level is partially exposed (Photo. 14). Reading the façade from left to right (southwest to northeast), at basement level, bay one features a window opening with a stone lug sill. The opening is fitted with a two-light, wood, awning-sash window. Bay two straddles the basement level and first floor, denoting the interior location of vertical circulation. It features a paired door and window, accessing the building at ground-level. On the basement level, bay three features a window opening with a stone lug sill and steel lintel. The opening is fitted with a two-light, wood awning sash window.

On the first floor, bay one is blind. Bay two straddles the first and second stories, featuring a large, projecting oriel window. The oriel is supported by nine simple brackets. The oriel features a window opening fitted with three, wood-sash, thirty-light, leaded-glass casement windows. Each window is surmounted by a fixed, leaded glass transom window. The end transoms are of fifteen-light leaded glass construction. The central transom is of leaded and stained glass with a stained-glass medallion. Bay three features a window opening fitted with paired leaded glass casement windows. The glass is constructed in a complex, geometric diamond pattern.

On the second floor, bays one and three feature window openings fitted with modern, double-hung window units. The bottom sash is one-light. The upper sash exhibits false muntins arranged in a diaper pattern.

Above the roofline, the side gable of the gambrel roof prominently features a tripartite Palladian window. All windows have been replaced with modern units.

Northeast (Rear) Façade



Photo. 16. *Gallagher-Kieffer House, Northeast (Rear) Façade, September 2019.* Source: Matthew W.C. Falcone.

The northeast (rear) façade is divided into five irregular bays (Photos. 15 & 16). At the rear of the building, the basement level is fully exposed. Reading the façade from left to right (southeast to northwest), on the ground level, bay one features a window opening with a stone lug sill. The opening is fitted with a two-light, wood, awning-sash window. Bay two features a door opening with a trabeated stone lintel. It is fitted with a modern steel slab door. To the right (northwest) of the door is a wood clapboard-enclosed room beneath the house's projecting first floor pantry and porch. A stair runs adjacent to the enclosed room and accesses the porch. Beneath the porch, a void is enclosed by latticework.

On the first floor, bay one is occupied by a window opening fitted with four wood-sash, leaded-glass casement windows. To the right (northwest) of the window, the projecting pantry and open porch

occupy the remainder of the first floor. The pantry has one window opening facing southwest. It is fitted with a modern one-over-one-light, double-hung window. Partially enclosed by the pantry, the remainder of the porch is open. Opposite the pantry, an open porch accesses a door to the kitchen. The porch possesses a hipped roof clad in asphalt shingles. The open portion of the porch is supported by a Doric column resting on a wood clapboard-clad knee wall.

On the second story, bays one, two, four, and five feature window openings fitted with modern double-hung vinyl window units. The bottom sash is one-light. The upper sash exhibits false muntins arranged in a diaper pattern. Bay three features a window opening fitted with paired, wood-sash, leaded and stained-glass casement windows. Above the roofline, the gable features four window openings. Each opening is fitted with modern, six-over-one-light, double-hung windows.

Northwest (Side) Façade



Photo. 17. *Gallagher-Kieffer House, Northwest (Side) Façade*, September 2019. Source: Matthew W.C. Falcone.

The northwest (side) façade is divided into three irregular bays (Photo. 17). Due to the slope of topography, the basement level is partially exposed. Reading the façade from left to right (northwest to southeast), on the first story, bays one and two feature window openings fitted with modern, one-over-one-light, double-hung windows. Bay three features a projecting, enclosed side entrance. This side entrance connects with the interior landing of the rear service stair via an exterior stair. The enclosed

projection possesses a northeast-facing window opening fitted with a casement window with a geometric, diamond pattern. Its roof is clad in asphalt shingles.

On the second floor, bays one, two, and three feature window openings of differing sizes. Bay one is fitted with a four-by-four-light, wood-sash casement window. Bay two is fitted with a modern, one-over-one-light, double-hung window. Bay three is fitted with modern, double-hung window. The bottom sash is one-light. The upper sash exhibits false muntins arranged in a diaper pattern.

Above the roofline, the side gable of the gambrel roof prominently features a tripartite Palladian window. The left opening is fitted with an original twelve-over-one-light, double-hung, wood sash window. The center and right openings have been fitted with modern, six-over-one-light, double-hung windows (Photo. 18).

8. History

Annie Neville Craig Davison had 234 North Dithridge Street built in 1893, possibly as a home for her newly-married daughter, Mary Davison Reed. The house was used as a rental from 1893 until 1914 and was home to such notable tenants as the Reverend Henry T. McClelland, who was tenure as pastor of the Bellefield Presbyterian Church, and Melvin Johnston, who was Vice President of Duffs-Iron City College.

Annie Davison hired the contracting firm of Bennett and Stitely to build the home at a cost of \$4,600. Available records do not identify an architect associated with the design of 234 (then 226) North Dithridge Street, which was constructed in the Shingle Style. This style of architecture is characterized by a brick, stone, or clapboard first floor with the second floor and third or partial third floor covered by wood shingles, and is reflected in 234 North Dithridge Street's steeply-pitched gambrel roof, shingled second floor walls without corner boards, and the absence of highly-decorative detailing.

In 1914, 234 North Dithridge Street was purchased by Patrick F. and Katharin Gallagher at a cost of \$10,000, although newspapers from the time reported that the transaction cost \$15,000.

Patrick F. Gallagher was the President of Duquesne Construction Co., and helped to build many of the schools and churches around the Pittsburgh area, most notably Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Shadyside and St. Boniface Church on the North Side.

The Gallaghers raised nine children at 234 North Dithridge Street and their descendants still live in the home today. The Gallagher House has been owned by only two families in its almost 130-year existence.

PRE-CONSTRUCTION



Plate 11. Parts of Wards 13 & 14, Pittsburgh. 1882. G. M. Hopkins & Co., Accessed: <https://historicpittsburgh.org/islandora/object/pitt%3A20090330-hopkins-0013/viewer>. Please note that the black dot accented by light blue is roughly the future location of 234 North Dithridge Street.

The land on which 234 North Dithridge Street now stands was inherited by Isabella W. C. Comingo from her father, Neville B. Craig (Allegheny County Will Book 10: 421). Isabella outlived her husband and was in the process of partitioning and selling off her land when her last two living children died accidentally. It was said the deaths of her sons caused her to lose her sanity and all sales of her property in the preceding 18 months had to be reviewed by the courts to show the purchasers had given her a fair price and not taken advantage of Comingo's failing mental health.

Isabella Comingo died on July 23, 1889, and her estate was divided between her living siblings. Her sister, Annie Craig Davison, was granted lots six and seven in the partition proceedings of the estate of her sister Isabella W. C. Comingo at Orphan's Court September Term 1889, which is where 234 North Dithridge Street stands today.

CONSTRUCTION

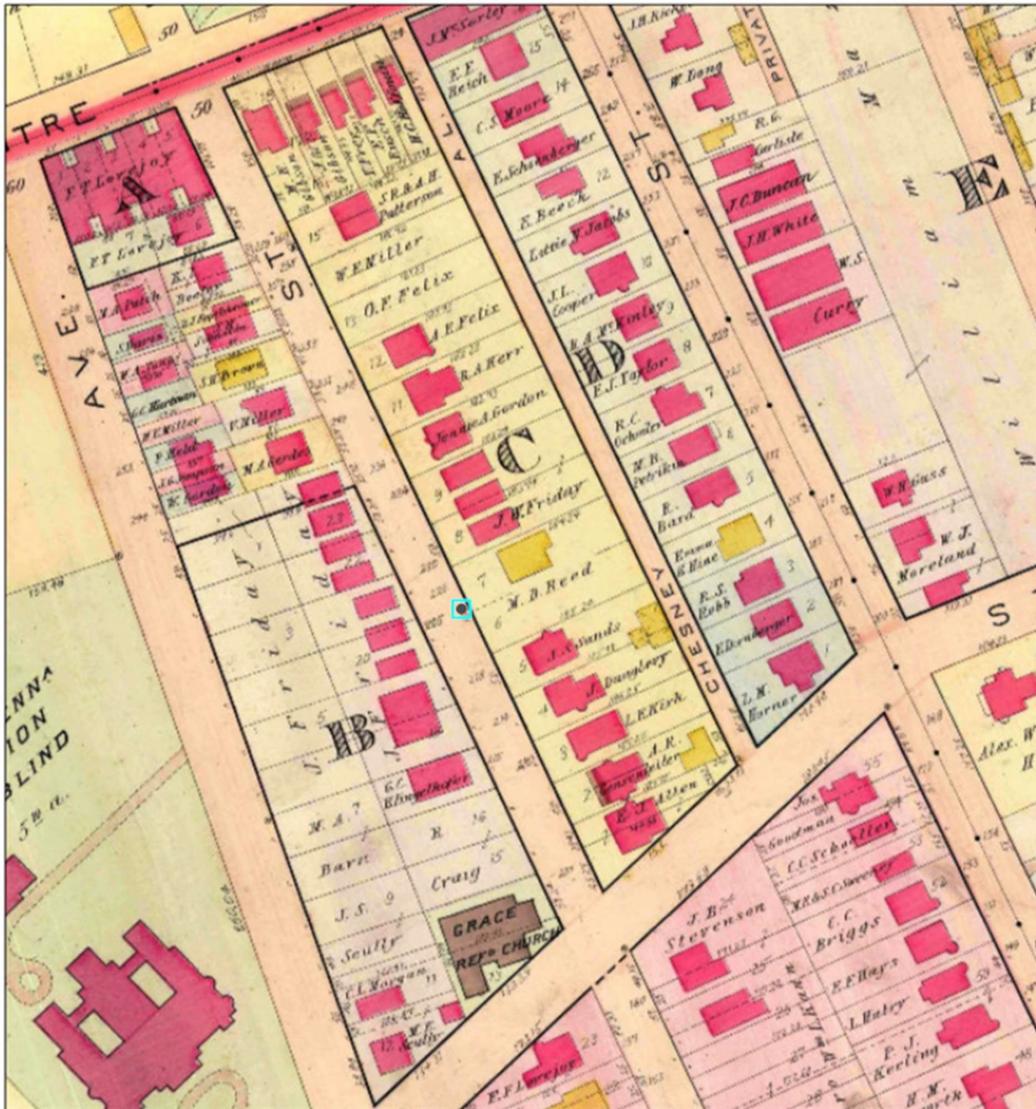


Plate 9. North Oakland. 1904. G. M. Hopkins & Co., Accessed: <https://historicpittsburgh.org/islandora/object/pitt%3A04v01p09/viewer>. The black dot accented in blue identifies the location of 234 North Dithridge Street.

City of Pittsburgh Building Permit Dockets show that on July 29, 1893, Annie Davison received a permit to build a two-story and attic dwelling on Dithridge Street near Fifth Avenue. The house was to be 35 feet wide by 40 feet deep and would cost \$4,600.

Annie Davidson hired the firm of Bennett & Stitely to build 234 North Dithridge Street. Pittsburgh city directories published during the early 1890's show that Bennett & Stitely was a partnership of W.B. Bennett of 5708 Rural Street, East Liberty, and David Stitely of 5926 Mignonette Street, also East Liberty. Other work by the firm of Bennett & Stitely included construction of homes at 900 and 921 College Avenue and a mansard roof addition at 309 Shady Avenue in Shadyside. Other work by W.B. Bennett included construction of the Sheridan Theatre in East Liberty and a home at 5639 Bartlett Street in Squirrel Hill.

When 234 North Dithridge Street was constructed, it was numbered 226 North Dithridge Street. The house number was changed to 234 in 1918, possibly to standardize numbering on that block.

ANNIE NEVILLE CRAIG DAVISON

Annie Neville Craig was born on July 11, 1831, the daughter of Neville B. and Jane Ann Fulton Craig. At the time she was born her father, Neville B. Craig, was Pittsburgh's City Solicitor and also the owner and editor of the Pittsburgh Gazette. He would later serve a term in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1843.

Annie married John S. Davison on May 1, 1855. Davison was in New York City on September 3, 1825. He was raised in New York and graduated from Princeton in 1844. In 1851, he moved to Pittsburgh and opened a bookstore, which later evolved into a hardware and saddlery store known as Mair & Davison.

The couple established a home at 4614 Fifth Avenue near the intersection of Craig Street, where they intended to raise their four children. John Roberts Davison was born on September 25, 1856, Neville Craig Davison was born January 3, 1860, Frederick was born June 11, 1862 and their youngest and only daughter, Mary Louisa or Mizzie, was born on April 6, 1864. The family was very active in the founding of the Bellefield Church and John Davison was both an elder and the superintendent of the church's Sunday school.

Unfortunately, tragedy would strike the Davison family. On July 2, 1868, John Roberts, then 12, was learning to swim at the confluence of the Beaver and Ohio Rivers when he drowned. His father, John, attempted to save him and drowned as well. Their funeral was the first event held at the new Bellefield Church building at the corner of Fifth and Bellefield. That building would burn to the ground the following December and was eventually replaced with the stone building, of which only the bell tower remains. The father and son were buried in Allegheny Cemetery. The 1870 and 1880 censuses show Annie Davison living with only her three surviving children and a live-in servant.

Annie Davidson began work on 234 North Dithridge Street in 1893, the same year her daughter Mary married Robert R. Reed. Given the timing, it is possible the home was intended as a wedding gift, although the Reeds remained at the Davidson house on Fifth Avenue after marriage.

The 1900 Census shows Annie Davidson as living in her home on 5th Avenue with her son, Neville, 39, and her daughter and son-in-law, Mary and Robert Reed. Mary and Robert had been married for six years and had no children. The family also lived with two servants in 1900, Annia Murphy, a cook, and Maggie J. McGraw, a chambermaid. Both were single and 26, and both were Irish immigrants, with Annia arriving in 1894, and Maggie arriving in 1891.

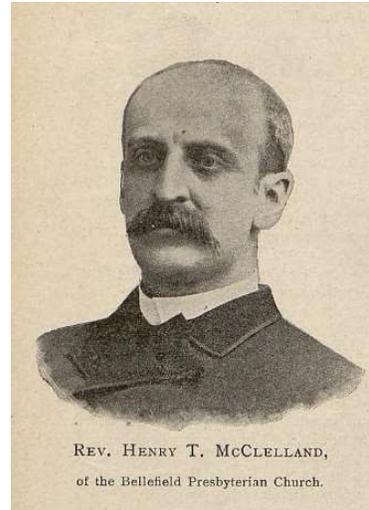
Annie Neville Davison died of colon cancer on August 22, 1906 at the age of 77 and was buried in Allegheny Cemetery. Mary Reed died two years later on March 24, 1908, following complications from a kidney operation.

REVEREND HENRY T. McCLELLAND (residence: 1894-1904)

The Reverend Henry T. McClelland and his family were the first tenants to live at 234 North Dithridge Street. He and his family lived at the house from 1894 until 1904, during his tenure as pastor of the Bellefield Presbyterian Church.

McClelland was born in Westmoreland County and was educated in Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, Pennsylvania, where he received his doctoral degree. He was working as a professor of theology when he was asked to lead the Bellefield Presbyterian Church, which was where he was working when they moved to the house on Dithridge Street.

The McClellands were living 234 North Dithridge when the 1900 census was enumerated. Reverend Henry, 49, lived with his wife, of 22 years, Lizona, 45. They lived with four children, Margaret, 20, Mary, 16, Henry, 13, and Elizabeth, 8, all were attending school.



In 1904, the McClelland family moved to Washington, Pennsylvania, and then in 1908 McClelland took over the pastorate for the First Presbyterian Church of Clarksburg, West Virginia, where he would live for the rest of his life.

A Photograph of Henry T. McClelland, Jr. digging in the yard of 234 North Dithridge Street, circa 1890s.

THE LARKIN & JOHNSTON FAMILIES (residence: 1906-1911).

After the Reverend and his family moved to Washington, the Larkin family became the next tenants to move into 226 North Dithridge Street. The Larkins were a large family who lived in the home from 1906 until 1911. When the 1910 census was taken, Robert Larkin, 27, was listed as head of household. He was a native of Pennsylvania, as his parents had been, and he worked as a clerk. Larkin had never been married but lived with his four sisters. Three of the Larkin sisters were also single: Laura, 32, Geraldine, 28, Mary, 20. Laura and Geraldine contributed to the family finances by working as clerks at the city hall and courthouse. Mary, 20, did not work outside the home.

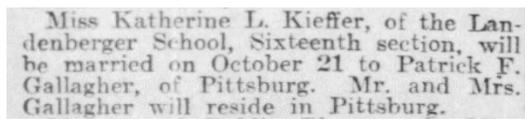
The fourth Larkin sister, Margaret, 30, was married and lived at 234 North Dithridge with her husband of four years, John R. Munkittrick, 35, an automobile salesman, and their daughter, Margaret, 3. In addition to the Larkins their maiden aunt, Mary Campbell, 70 lived in the home as well as Melvin and Urilla Johnston. Melvin Johnston, 49, was an Ohio native and worked as a vice president for Duffs-Iron City College. He had been married to his wife Urilla, 39, for six years. Urilla was a native of Maryland and had given birth to two children, one of whom had survived.

After the Larkin family moved from 234 North Dithridge Street, there are no known records of the tenants who may have lived in the home before it was purchased by the Gallagher family in 1914. Newspaper advertisements from the era show that the home was listed for rent at the price of \$75 per month.

PATRICK F. & KATHARIN GALLAGHER (Ownership & residence: 1914-1952)

The longest-term residents of 234 North Dithridge Street have been the Gallagher family. Patrick F. Gallagher was born on June 24, 1872 in Allentown, PA. He was the son of Irish immigrants. Katharin Kieffer was born on July 14, 1876 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

They received their marriage license on October 14, 1901 and were married a week later. After the couple married, they moved to Pittsburgh where Patrick had found work at his brother. Charles' construction business, Duquesne Construction Company.



From the Philadelphia Inquirer, October 13, 1901

Their first child, a daughter named Emma, was born on March 25, 1903. Then, on September 16, 1904 they welcomed another daughter, Kathleen, and exactly two years later, on September 1, 1906, Dorothy was born. A fourth daughter, Alice was born on August 16, 1909.

When the 1910 census was enumerated, the Gallaghers were living at 310 Shetland Street in Larimer with their four daughters, and Patrick's sister, Marie, 26, who was working as a bookkeeper. Also living in the home was Emma Faussnaught, 18, a live-in servant.

Gallagher rose through the ranks at Duquesne Construction Co. as the company developed a name building many of the churches, schools, and commercial buildings in the Pittsburgh area. Some of the company's notable work during this period includes St. Joseph's Hospital (now Carson Towers) on the South Side in 1909, an early remodel of the Kaufmann's building, Downtown, in 1912, many of the local school buildings, such as the Wilkinsburg School in 1912, and many Catholic Churches, such as St. Ann's,

in 1902, and St George's in 1912. The Gallagher's first son, James Lawrence, was born on June 23, 1911, followed by a second son, Daniel, on August 22, 1913.

Residence Brings \$15,000.

The Real Estate Company of Pittsburgh, represented by L. W. Monteverde, sold for Robert R. Reed to P. F. Gallagher the property at 226 Dithridge street for \$15,000, cash. The property consists of frame dwelling of 11 rooms and two baths on lot 50 by 183 feet. After extensive improvements Gallagher will occupy the property as a home.

From the Pittsburgh Post, May 12, 1914

P. F. Gallagher purchased 226 (now 234) North Dithridge Street on May 14, 1914. Local papers from the time mentioned that he would make "extensive improvements" to the home, however no building permit was ever taken out by Gallagher to document these improvements. Newspaper articles from the time state that the home was purchased at a cost of \$15,000 but the deed lists the transaction at \$10,000.

The Gallagher's first child to be born while living 234 North Dithridge, was his son Philip on May 10, 1915. Sadly, Philip only lived 7 months before passing away on December 10, 1915 and was subsequently buried in Calvary Cemetery. Another Gallagher son, Thomas, was born on May 2, 1917, and a ninth child, Victor followed a year later on June 10, 1918. The 1920 census was the first to list the Gallagher family as living at 234 North Dithridge Street. Seven of the Gallagher children were still living at home, and the family still employed Emma M. Fassnaught as a servant. The tenth and youngest Gallagher child, Patrick Francis Gallagher, Jr., was born on October 26, 1921.

In 1930 the census recorded eight of the Gallagher children living at home. Kathleen and Dorothy were working as school teachers and the rest of the children were attending school. In 1931 a fire destroyed three automobiles in the rear of 234 North Dithridge Street.

Fire Destroys Three Autos

Three autos in a garage in the rear of the home of P. F. Gallagher, 234 North Dithridge Street, were damaged by fire early today. The loss was placed at \$300.

The Pittsburgh Press, Nov.28, 1931.

On February 19, 1938 while walking home late at night from a Craig Street restaurant, P. F. Gallagher was struck by a hit-and-run driver and passed away. He was laid to rest in Calvary Cemetery near his son, Philip.¹

Katharin Gallagher was listed as head of household in the 1940 census. Five of the Gallagher children were still living at home. Kathleen was working as a teacher in a public trade school and had earned \$2,800 in 1939. Dorothy was teaching at an elementary school and earned \$2,200 in 1939. Alice was a social worker for a private charity earning \$1,200 per year and Daniel was working as a salesman for a food wholesaler. Patrick Jr. was attending college. Katharin Kieffer Gallagher died on March 7, 1952 at the age of 75. She was laid to rest in the family plot in Calvary Cemetery.

¹ "Ex-Magistrate Killed by Auto." *The Pittsburgh Press*, February 19, 1938.

9. Significance

1. *Its location as a site of a significant historic or prehistoric event or activity*

This building does not meet this Criterion.

2. *Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the cultural, historic, architectural, archaeological, or related aspects of the development of the City of Pittsburgh, State of Pennsylvania, Mid-Atlantic region, or the United States;*

234 North Dithridge Street is directly associated with the prominent Pittsburgh builder, Patrick F. Gallagher (*This criterion corresponds with Criterion B of the National Register of Historic Places*). While the house was not constructed by P.F. Gallagher, he owned and lived in the house during the period in which he rose to prominence at the Duquesne Construction Company. The home is also reflective of P.F. Gallagher's accomplishments because of the modifications made throughout his lifetime that provide a direct connection back to his work at the Duquesne Construction Company. Specifically, the leaded and stained glass windows created by James Hunt (of Pittsburgh's Hunt Stained Glass Studio) in the entryway, parlor, dining room, bathroom, and main staircase, the plaster cast of St. Benedict from the communion altar rail of St. Benedict above the dining room fireplace, and the unusual use of concrete in the kitchen and mudroom floor were all installed by craftsman that collaborated with P.F. Gallagher during his work at the Duquesne Construction Company.

P.F. Gallagher's work at the Duquesne Construction Company had an extensive and lasting impact on the built legacy throughout Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania, particularly on ecclesiastical architecture within the Catholic Diocese. Examples of the Duquesne Construction Company's work include St. Boniface Church (North Side), St. Paul's Cathedral Grade School, High School, Convent, & Rectory (Oakland), Sacred Heart Church (East End), St. Mart of the Mount School (Mount Washington), St. George's Church (Allentown), St. Adelbert's Church (South Side), and the Bishop's Residence (Pittsburgh). Additional, albeit partial, list of Duquesne Construction Company ecclesiastical projects is included in the supplemental materials (Section D) of this nomination. While the Duquesne Construction Company was primarily known for its construction of religious architecture, they also undertook several notable secular projects under P.F. Gallagher. Notable among these are the foundation for Allegheny General Hospital and a tipple for the Butler Junction Coal Company.²

P.F. Gallagher also made significant contributions to Pittsburgh's and Pennsylvania's civic and political spheres. When Mayor William A. Magee was elected for a second term in 1922, he appointed P. F. Gallagher to serve as police magistrate.³ P.F. Gallagher was originally assigned to work out of the Number 2 Station at Center Avenue, but the 1923 city directory shows him as the magistrate for the Number 3 Station located at 2608 Penn Avenue. As magistrate, P.F. Gallagher ruled on many of court the cases that came through the Number 3 Police Station,

² "Builder Left a Solid Foundation for his Family." *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, July 4, 1993.

³ "Men Named by Mayor for City Offices." *The Pittsburgh Press*, January 16, 1911.

including violations of the Volsted Act, which prohibited the sale, production, and transport of “intoxicating liquors,” from 1920 until Prohibition was repealed in 1933.

During P.F. Gallagher’s term as magistrate, he still continued to work for Duquesne Construction Co. In 1924, P.F. Gallagher had the opportunity to take trip to Europe in order to study church architecture as part of the planned construction of Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Shadyside. Due to the extended length of his stay overseas, P.F. Gallagher was forced to resign as police magistrate, which he did on October 2, 1924.⁴

Sacred Heart was the dream of Rev. Thomas F. Coakley, and the resulting building would be one of Duquesne Construction Co.’s most elaborate and beautiful works.⁵ The architect, Carlton Strong, had worked with Duquesne Construction Co. to build many buildings in the past and selected P.F. Gallagher for the project. The group of travelers (the self-proclaimed “Laconia Club”, named after the ship which carried them to Europe) visited many of the great churches and cathedrals and drew heavily from them for the design and construction of Sacred Heart. Upon returning, the traveling companions got to work on the task of designing and building the church, which was dedicated in 1929, but would not be fully complete until 1953. P.F. Gallagher is attributed with having overseen Duquesne Construction Company’s work on the project directly.⁶ Interestingly, the likeness of P.F. Gallagher (along with Carlton Strong) were captured as the “builder” and “architect” in a stone bas-relief that depicts various trades within Sacred Heart.⁷ P.F. Gallagher and Strong would work together on numerous projects in and around Pittsburgh, as well as other prominent architects like John T. Comes.



The Pittsburgh Press, October 25, 1926.

Another notable project completed by Duquesne Construction Co. during that time was the St. Boniface Roman Catholic Church on East Street in the North Side. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places (Key# 001770) in 1981 for its exceptional architectural and religious history, the building is noted as “... pre-eminent in

⁴ Letter to the Hon. Wm. A. Magee, Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh from P.F. Gallagher from tom the Duquesne Construction Company, September, 1924. Letter to Mr. P.F. Gallagher from W.A. Magee. October 1, 1924. “Police Magistrate Resigns to Study Church Work Abroad.” *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, October 4, 1924.

⁵ “Sacred Heart Church to be Notable Edifice.” *Pittsburgh Daily Post*, March 9, 1925.

⁶ “Sacred Heart Church built by Duquesne Construction Company.” *The Pittsburgh Press*, October 25, 1926.

⁷ Washy, Kathleen. “Designing in God’s Name: Architect Carlton Strong.” *Gathered Fragments: A Publication of the Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania* (Fall 2016): 13-14. Gallagher, Kathy. Interview by Matthew Falcone. Face-to-Face Interview. 234 North Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh, Pa., October, 11, 2019.

the Byzanto-Romanesque style of that period of eclecticism.”⁸ The structure was designed by Albert F. Link and was completed in 1926.

In 1931, despite the success of Duquesne Construction Company of which P. F. Gallagher was now president, public service called him to take a job in Harrisburg as the deputy secretary of property and supplies in charge of construction for the State of Pennsylvania. He served in the job for a few months before returning to Pittsburgh.⁹

234 North Dithridge Street remains today the building most associated with P.F. Gallagher. It was here that P. F. Gallagher would rise to prominence and assume presidency of the Duquesne Construction Company. While several examples of the work of the Duquesne Construction Company exist, the home of their offices do not. Correspondence identifies previous offices of the Duquesne Construction Company were located in the Bessemer Building in downtown Pittsburgh (since demolished) as well as 5131 Cypress Street (as well as Cypress & Aspen) in Pittsburgh’s Bloomfield neighborhood (both demolished).¹⁰ Additionally, photographic evidence illustrates that the Duquesne Construction Company had temporary, construction-site based offices that unfortunately also no longer exist.



“Duquesne Construction Co. General Contractors, Cathedral High School Bldg. Site Office”, Undated Photograph from the Collection of Kathy Gallagher.

⁸ Eliza F. Smith, “Saint Boniface Roman Catholic Church,” National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1981), Section 8.

⁹ “Pittsburgh Man Gets Important State Job.” *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, July 16, 1931.

¹⁰ C.A. Horn to Mr. Patrick Gallagher, February 21, 1938; P.J. McArdle to Mr. P.F. Gallagher, November 11, 1915.

Although the house itself was not constructed by P.F. Gallagher or the Duquesne Construction Company, the modifications in the house itself (the stained glass, bay window, concrete flooring, and decorative plaster clast) express a direct connection with P.F. Gallagher, the Gallagher-Kieffer Family, and the Duquesne Construction Company as all were completed by workers of, or contracted craftsman that collaborated with, the DCC. The stained glass was designed by James Hunt, of Hunt Stained Glass Studios, includes panels that were specifically tailored to P.F. Gallagher's and his family (the "Gallohbhair" pane [Photo. 12] in the library and the "Kieffer" pane [Photo. 19] in the stair landing window in particular).



Photo. 19. *Gallagher-Kieffer House, "Kieffer" Stair Landing Window Detail*, April 2020. Source: Kathy Gallagher. Note that a duplicate of this window was made and sent to Dr. George Kieffer (Katharin's brother) who is believed to have worked at 1421 Girard Avenue and lived at 1711 Girard Avenue.¹

Another character-defining feature of 234 North Dithridge Street that connects the residence with P.F. Gallagher's work is the plaster bas relief sculpture of St. Benedict located over the dining room fireplace mantel (Photo. 20). The bas relief sculpture served as the plaster cast for the bronze bas relief of St. Benedict located in the communion altar rail (Photo. 21) of St. Boniface Roman Catholic Church on Pittsburgh's North Side, a construction project of the Duquesne Construction Company.



Photos. 20 (left), the plaster bas relief of St. Benedict located in the dining room of 234 North Dithridge Street and 21 (right), the bronze bas relief of St. Benedict in the communion altar rail of St. Boniface Roman Catholic Church on Pittsburgh’s North Side.

Similar landmarking precedent that recognizes the private homes of individual builders currently exists within the body of individual historic landmarks recognized by the City of Pittsburgh. Heathside Cottage, designated by the City of Pittsburgh as an historic landmark in 2019, was the home of the nationally-prominent builder “Colonel” James Andrews. Like the Gallagher-Kieffer House, Heathside Cottage was not constructed by the builder himself but is nevertheless recognized as the historic resource within the city most affiliated with the builder.

3. *Its exemplification of an architectural type, style, or design distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship;*

This building potentially meets this Criterion (this criterion corresponds with Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places) because of the relative rarity of shingle-style architecture in North Oakland and the unique manner in which this residence was altered by P.F. Gallagher to reflect his work and relationships through the Duquesne Construction Company.

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission defines Shingle Style architecture as being:

... marked by the presence of shingles on not just the roof, but on the wall surfaces themselves. The first floor walls may be shingled, or of stone or brick. Shingles may also cover gable ends, curving towers and porch columns. Shingle style buildings have a rather monochrome appearance since the shingles are unpainted and uniformly cover most exterior surfaces. In shape and form, the

Shingle style resembles the Queen Anne style, but it lacks the abundant decorative details. Porches are expansive, often wrapping around the front and sides of the building. Roofs are generally sweeping and multi-gabled. Windows are small and multi-paned and are often grouped in pairs or triples.¹¹

Characteristic elements that reflect Shingle Style architecture at 234 North Dithridge Street can be seen in the steeply-pitched gambrel roof, shingled second floor walls without corner boards, integral porch, and the absence of highly-decorative detailing.

In North Oakland, and perhaps much of Pittsburgh, Shingle Style architecture in residential architecture is a relatively rare occurrence, with a strong preference for Richardsonian Romanesque architecture from this period. A review of the plat maps from 1890 and 1903 included in this nomination illustrate that 234 North Dithridge Street was one of two wooden homes constructed on the block (the second has since been demolished) and one of just a couple constructed within several blocks. Additionally, the aforementioned alterations made to the home by P.F. Gallagher (the inclusion of stained glass windows being the most visible from a public right-of-way) further contribute to the relative uniqueness of this historic resource.

The building represents an adaptation of the style to the four-square building typology.

4. *Its identification as the work of an architect, designer, engineer, or builder whose individual work is significant in the history of development of the City of Pittsburgh, the State of Pennsylvania, the Mid-Atlantic region, or the United States*

This building does not meet this Criterion.

5. *Its exemplification of important planning and urban design techniques distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design or detail;*

This building does not meet this Criterion.

6. *Its location as a site of an important archaeological resource;*

This building does not meet this Criterion.

¹¹ Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. "Shingle Style 1880-1900." <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/shingle.html> (accessed April 28, 2020).

7. *Its association with important cultural or social aspects or events in the history of the City of Pittsburgh, the State of Pennsylvania, the Mid-Atlantic region, or the United States*

This building does not meet this Criterion.

8. *Its exemplification of a pattern of neighborhood development or settlement significant to the cultural history or traditions of the City, whose components may lack individual distinction*

This building does not meet this Criterion.

9. *Its representation of a cultural, historic, architectural, archeological, or related theme expressed through distinctive areas, properties, sites, structures, or objects that may or may not be contiguous*

This building does not meet this Criterion.

10. *Its unique location and distinctive physical appearance or presence representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the City of Pittsburgh*

This building does not meet this Criterion.

10. Integrity

Gallagher-Kieffer House enjoys a high degree of integrity of location, design, workmanship, feeling, and association. Gallagher-Kieffer House remains in its original location and has not been substantially altered since it was owned by P.F. & Katharin Gallagher other than the introduction of several storm windows on the 2nd and 3rd floors, as well as the addition of an external, covered staircase to the 3rd floor that is clad in materials reflective of the overall design and style of the house.

The Gallagher-Kieffer House also enjoys a moderate degree of integrity regarding setting in that it remains in residential setting but one that it is significantly more developed than when the house was first constructed. On the Eastern Side of North Dithridge Street, the Camelot Apartments, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and the Dithridge House apartment complex, as well as the One on Centre Apartments are all 20th and 21st century additions to the neighborhood that reflect the growing density of Oakland at the expense of the single-family late 19th century homes that first defined the neighborhood. Houses on the western side of North Dithridge Street are more reflective of the Gallagher-Kieffer House's original setting.