

99 Capisic Street Designated Local Landmark



On September 8, 2021, the City Council formally designated the Marguerite Emerson House at 99 Capisic Street as a local Landmark. The c. 1848 Greek Revival building was nominated by its owner Vana Carmona and unanimously recommended for designation by the Historic Preservation Board.

Ms. Carmona purchased the tax-acquired property from the City of Portland in 2020. When the City sold the property, the single-family home on site had been vacant for a number of years and was in a significant state of disrepair. Ms. Carmona had long admired the historic house, which is an unusual temple-form Greek Revival residence set on a knoll above Capisic Street. Despite its condition, she recognized that the house still retained much of its original historic character and was a worthy candidate for preservation.

Following her purchase of the property, Ms. Carmona began a painstaking rehabilitation of the neglected building and invested a substantial amount of time researching the history of the property, its ownership over time and its place in the Capisic neighborhood. She named the building the “Marguerite Emerson House,” after a woman who was born in the house in 1877 and lived there until her death in 1963.

Building Significance

Built circa 1848, the single-family residential structure at 99 Capisic Street is a fine example of Greek Revival architecture in the city. It is particularly significant for its temple form, which is distinguished by a front-gabled roof with a fully enclosed pediment and wide entablature. The projecting center section

of the building is flanked by inset porches supported by pillars. This form is very unusual for Greek Revival dwellings in Portland, especially in what was once a rural area on the outskirts of the city. The Portland Museum of Art's Clapp House at 97 Spring Street is one of the only other examples found in the city. While Clapp House is a high-style expression of temple-form Greek Revival architecture, 99 Capisic represents a vernacular interpretation of the same.



Condition of property when acquired in 2020.