

circa 1910

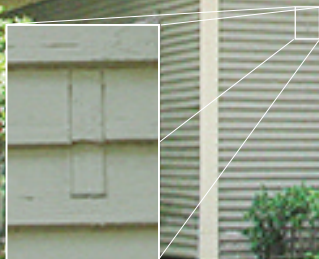
Hargis House

1424 Spring Street

LINKED PARALLEL RIDGE COTTAGE

Historic homes within the Williams Park neighborhood

The greatest concentration of surviving older buildings in Smyrna lies within Williams Park. Nineteen houses still stand that were built before the First World War. This is PART SEVENTEEN in a series of articles covering these houses based on research done in 2012 by WPN members Casey Clavin and Vic Koch.



This is 1424 Spring Street. Cobb tax records reference the build date as 1910, though we believe it to be somewhat earlier. We're calling it the Hargis House, for the 1940s residents discussed in Pete Wood's book, *The Paperboy*, because we have no information on earlier occupants.

This is the fourth of our Linked Parallel Ridge Cottages. In this case, the roof sections are hipped, showing no gables on the front or sides. The larger drawing at right represents the Hargis House variant. The smaller drawing in the middle represents the Terrell House variant and that at the left, the earlier Suttles House and variant (and Lyle-Bowles House, covered in this series but since demolished).

Outside, this house retains its original six over six windows, clapboard and trim. At the top of the



walls, there's a wide band of trim below a cornice of boxed soffits and trim work. The building's corner boards have been made into pilasters by the addition of trim work capitals. These elements, together with the high walls above the windows and the hipped roof, give the house a note of Greek Revival styling. Its original front porch has been lost but there's evidence at both ends of the front wall where it's roof tied into the structure. That evidence tells us the house had a porch across most of the front and, because the top trim board runs through the full length of the front wall, we know that the porch roof joined the house below

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that level. The porch columns were probably 3-D versions of the pilasters, probably six in number, which would have contributed to the Greek Revival styling. Though chimneys no longer emerge through the roof, there were originally two chimneys serving fireplaces in four rooms. The foundation is brick piers infilled with brick.

The Hargis house differs from the other Linked Parallel Ridge houses on two points. Firstly, where on the others the paired ridges are of equal length, on this house one of the pair is longer than the other (and appears to have always been so). Secondly, the area between the paired ridges was originally exterior space on this house, giving the floor plan an uneven U-shaped configuration open at the rear. What was a centrally located interior hallway in the others of this type, was here a covered back porch between two wings.

Here are two photos of the back of the house. The top one shows the house as it appears today. The larger photo has been altered to illustrate the original configuration with an open porch at the center back. The parallel ridge on the left is shorter and terminates in a gable. The one on the right is longer and terminates in a hip.

Inside, there are transoms over all original door frames. Original base boards (now only present inside closets which were added later) were a full 12" high. The 4" heart



pine floors have been covered in most rooms. The ceilings have been covered or lowered, now measuring 9' 9". The interior has been significantly altered.

There's a story that traveled from seller to buyer over the years saying this house was built by a railroad engineer as a summer home. That's entirely possible and it may have happened as early as the late 1880s. It's not a fancy house but, in *The Paperboy*, Pete Wood recalls it having been a nice home when the Hargis' lived there in the 1940s. James Hargis served briefly on Smyrna's City Council in 1944.

Chain of ownership for parcel 17055900270

year	purchaser	date	book/page
	James Hargis		
1961	Mrs J Furlow Smith	12-12-61	626/9
1972	Nathan M Newman	7-26-72	1334/288
1975	Industrial Const & Dev		1520/219
1981	A O White Jr	12-30-80	2294/413
1984	George R Davidson	12-12-83	2963/347
1987	Sherman Whitaker	12/16/86	4250/372

