5. John Saxe House (175-177 South Union Street); c.1845 (alterations 1870).

This structure of unusual massing, built c.1845 in the Greek Revival style, was the home of the nationally acclaimed poet, J.C. Saxe. It is a two-story, wood-framed, brick-veneered (American bond) building, whose main block is flanked by projecting one-story wings and capped by an Italianate belvedere. A two-story wing extends to the rear. The main roof is hip, while roofs of both wings are flat and that of the belvedere is a bellcast mansard roof. The main block is two bays wide and three bays deep, with windows having two-over-two sash. Cast iron lintels decorated with rosette blocks and center scroll pattern on applied plaques cap the first story windows and segmental arched cast iron heads having a simple leaf and tongue motif and applied wooden floral cut-outs cap those at the second story level. A full entablature with paired brackets caps both the wings and the main block; the bed moldings and frieze of the main block are formed of brick.

The two most prominent features of this building are the recessed front entrance, consisting of two fluted Doric columns "in antis" flanked by the one-story symmetrical wings (providing a niche for the front door with 3/4 length, leaded sidelights) and the belvedere with bellcast mansard roof, a paired-bracketed cornice and paired round-headed windows.

The present appearance of this structure, with its Italianate stylistic features such as the cast iron lintels and the belvedere, attests to alterations which were made in 1870, when the Italianate was a popular architectural style.