Returns at the eaves and a classical frieze are among Greek Revival details of this small brick house. According to the National Register nomination for the area, this is one of the oldest residences remaining in the District. Robinson, a native of New Jersey, arrived in Janesville in 1846.

David Jeffris, a Kentucky native who settled in Janesville in 1846, built this hipped-roof Italianate style house and resided here until about 1890. He was associated with many early local enterprises, including a lumber yard, a contracting business, the Janesville Machine Company, and the Merchants and Mechanics Savings Bank (now Valley Bank-Janesville). As a builder, he is credited with the construction of at least 400 residences, the First Congregational and other churches, the Grand Hotel and numerous stores in Janesville and the surrounding area.

The Jeffris house has many distinctive architectural features, including scroll brackets, and a bead and reel molding at the eaves and frieze. The classical porch was probably added at the turn of the century.

Above: Grace Mouat Jeffris standing on the front porch of the David Jeffris house, 212–214 S. Cherry Street. Photograph 1870. Courtesy of Alan Dunwiddie. At some point after this photograph was taken, the north wing of the house was enlarged by raising the roof approximately four feet.
St. Patrick’s Catholic congregation—the first Catholic congregation in Janesville—was organized in 1847 and the first masses were held in a nearby schoolhouse. This cream brick Romanesque Revival edifice replaced an earlier building constructed in 1848. The base of the steeple contains a rose window, and the steeple has a louvered belfry with round-arched openings topped by eight gable peaks surmounted by a steep spire. This is the oldest church building in Janesville still in use as a church.

The large Irish Catholic population of the Old Fourth Ward made up most of the early congregation at St. Patrick’s. A school and convent were also part of the complex.