

Springer-Bize-Coffee House (William H. Denson House)  
930 Fifth Avenue  
Columbus  
Muscogee County  
Georgia

HABS No. GA-2295

HABS  
GA  
108-COLM,  
37-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Southeast Region  
Department of the Interior  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SPRINGER-BIZE-COFFEE HOUSE  
(William H. Denson House)

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Location: 930 Fifth Avenue  
Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia

Significance: History: This house is significant as it was one of two identical houses built by Emelie Springer, widow of Francis J. Springer, who created the city's opera house. Architecture: This house is significant as one of very few late Victorian (Eastlake) cottages in the downtown black area. It and its neighbor are exact copies of one another with the plans reversed

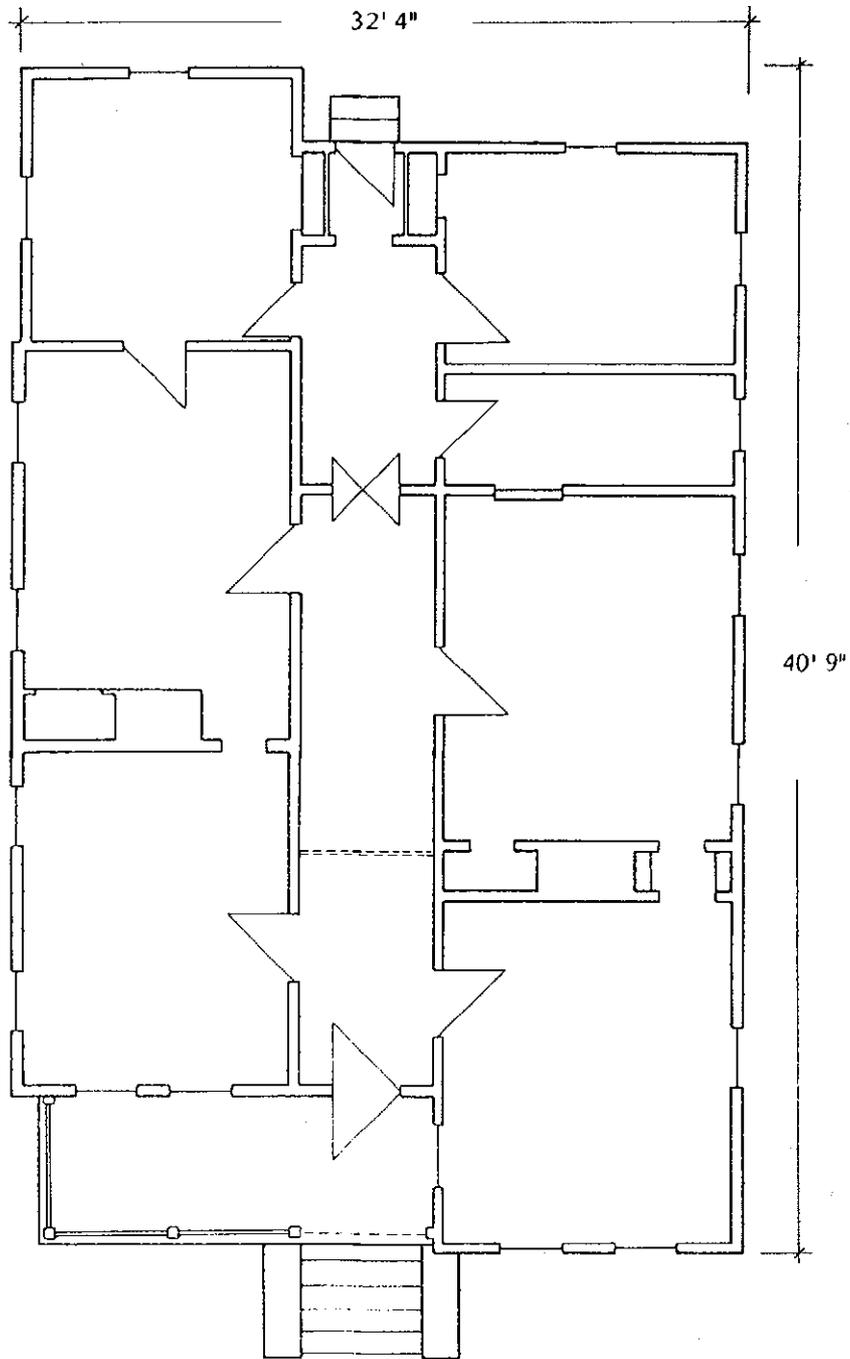
Description: Late Victorian (Eastlake); one story, ell plan, truncated hip roof with gable over ell; two interior chimneys have been removed; front porch runs from projecting ell to the end of the house; weatherboard frame construction, brick foundation; asphalt shingle roof; front facade consists of five bays, two on ell and three on main facade; gable end roof has boxed corner returns and diamond vent; porch has turned supports and balusters and spool gingerbread; interior is variation of central hall plan with four rooms; situated in residential area of late Victorian cottages with some commercial intrusions; landscaping consists of grass and shrubbery around the house; good condition.

History: This house was built between 1898 and 1900, when the property was owned by Emelie Springer, widow of Francis J. Springer. It was built at the same time as the identical neighboring house (934) and was rented to a series of tenants for most of the early twentieth century. The property was sold to Emelie Springer's daughter Anna J. Bize in 1903. She sold the house to the well-to-do and influential African-American E.E. Farley in 1930. Farley immediately sold the house to his friend E.B. Coffee, who lived in the house until 1980. One of the many renters of the property in the early twentieth century was William H. Denson, agent for the National Correspondence School(s), Scranton, PA. The house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the William H. Denson House in 1980.

Sources: Georgia Architectural and Historic Properties Survey-Inventory Form No. 432; Columbus City Directories (1888-1908); Muscogee County deed records; Sanborn Insurance Maps.

Historian: John S. Lupold, Southeastern Archeological Services, Inc., April 15, 1994.

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