

644 South Nineteenth Street (House)  
Louisville  
Jefferson County  
Kentucky

HABS No. KY- 258

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KY  
56-LOUVI,  
100-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
644 SOUTH NINETEENTH STREET (House)

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Location: 644 South Nineteenth Street  
Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky

Significance: 644 South Nineteenth Street lies within the Russell National District which was listed in 1980. This structure is contributing to the neighborhood in that it is consistent in size and scale to other residential structures within the neighborhood. And yet the structure is unique within the area in terms of its plan and use of materials.

Description: 644 South Nineteenth Street could best described as a Colonial and/or folk style influenced, side gabled, 2-story with a central chimney. The porchless central chimney example was prevalent within the midwestern states and is unique to the area. The structure features a light framed construction atop a brick foundation. With the expansion of the railroad network this form of light framed walls became a popular folk form over much of the eastern half of the country, well into the 20th century. Originally designed without a great deal of ornament, few significant details remain on the facade.

The original front door is now missing as well as what may have been a simple limestone stoop. The original roof standing seam metal roof has now been replaced with an asphalt fiberglass shingle. The roof features no overhang along the front, back and/or sides. Under closer investigation it was found that the structure had originally a wood lap siding with 4" exposure and thin (1 1/2") corner boards at the outside corners. The windows are a 2 over 2 design with a vertical wood muntin dividing each sash. Window casings are of simple flat 1 x 4 design.

There are extensive alterations to the structure. It would seem as though what may have been an interior stair condition was changed. An exterior form of egress was created, this change created a second apartment. Judging by the City of Louisville Directory, the alteration was completed in 1940 where now two separate names appear as occupants. The other includes the addition of a small bathroom to side and rear of the structure.

History: It was found through a search of the Jefferson County Property Evaluation Administration records that the first recorded landowner was J. and F. Reid, June 1893, and although the exact date of construction for this structure at 644 So. Nineteenth Street is unknown due to the lack of building construction records, a search of the city directory listing revealed that the structure dates to 1894. The first recorded inhabitant was a D.C. Duncan a family man employed as a laborer for a local company.

Interestingly to note the majority of the following tenants were employed within the tobacco industry considered a mainstay within the state of Kentucky even to this day.

Source: Caron's Directory of the City of Louisville. Louisville: Caron Directory Company, 1843-1943.

Sanborn Insurance Maps. Sanborn Map Company: Pelham, New York, 1892-1961.

Jefferson County Clerk, Deed Records, 1870-1994.

Historian: Melissa Beyl Barry, Researcher  
City of Louisville  
Office of Housing and Urban Development

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