

Francis Hurtt House  
850 Dayton Street  
Cincinnati  
Hamilton County  
Ohio

HABS No. OH-2200-L

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OHIO  
31-C187  
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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

## FRANCES HURTT HOUSE

Location: 850 Dayton Street, Cincinnati,  
Hamilton County, Ohio

Within the Dayton Street Historic District, USGS  
Covington Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator  
Coordinates: 16.713800.4332700, 16.713780.4332230,  
16.71350.4332410 and 16.713110.4332750

Present Owner: West End Development Corporation

Present Occupant: Rental property with multiple tenants.

Present Use: Dwelling.

Significance: This is a relatively large, elegant house typical of more costly later nineteenth century houses built in Cincinnati. It is one of several such houses built at about the same time in what is now designated the Dayton Street Historic Interest Area, and is important as part of the architectural context of its time and place.

## PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

## A. Physical History:

1. The house stands on a parcel of land originally sold on October 13, 1794 to Jonathan Dayton of Elizabethtown, New Jersey, for \$42,897.00 by John Cleves Symmes, who obtained the original patent for the Miami Purchase from the United States Congress. William Henry Harrison, ninth President of the United States, on October 1, 1818, as an executor of the estate of Symmes, and as then Governor of the Indiana Territory, re-negotiated the sale, inasmuch as the original deed was said to have been lost. Because of the riots and fire in 1884, the records contained in the Hamilton County Court House were either partially or totally destroyed, thus making the present records an incomplete source of information. It is known from the remaining records that Francis Hurtt owned the property from February, 1863 to January, 1864 during which time it is assumed he built the house. There are no known records of a house existing on the land previous to that earlier date. Between 1864 and the present there have been numerous owners, none of whom have any claim to local or national prominence
2. Date of erection: According to the sale prices as recorded in the Hamilton County Court House Deed Books, Francis Hurtt purchased the land on February 2, 1863 for \$8,750.00 and sold it on January 5, 1864 for \$13,000.00 Thus it is reasonable to deduce that the house was erected between those dates.
3. Architect: Unknown.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the House:

None known. There is no known biography of Francis Hurtt.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: None known.

2. Bibliography:

Purchase by Francis Hurtt: Deed Book 286, p. 378.

Sale by Francis Hurtt: Deed Book 290, p. 598.

Prepared by: Carl A Saladino  
Project Historian  
National Park Service  
August, 1974

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This structure is the only house in that part of the Dayton Street Historic Interest Area between Linn Street and Baymiller Street which has a mansard roof.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This three-bay, side-hall plan house measures approximately 25'-0" by 83'-0" and is two-and-one-half stories high.
2. Foundations: Brick and stone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Red-orange common brick with limestone window surrounds on the first and second floor front and shingle siding on front mansard roof.
4. Structural system, framing: Masonry bearing walls.
5. Porches, stoops: Concrete steps and porch slab on south front.
6. Chimneys: Metal flue-liner extends above roof of rear wing near east wall.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Recessed front entrance doorway. Wooden door and frame. Door has two lower panels and one glass upper panel.
- b. Windows, shutters: Recently replaced window sash are double-hung with one-over-one-light sash. Windows in front wall have limestone surrounds and sills and limestone segmental-arched pediments.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The front block has a mansard roof, and the rear wing has a shed roof.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The front has a bracketed cornice with dentils.
- c. Dormers: The mansard dormer on the front has two closely spaced windows in the center. The frames, sills and segmentally arched pediments are wooden.

C. Description of Interior: The interior of the house has been completely renovated in recent years to make the structure an apartment house. The interior proved to be inaccessible during the duration of the project.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house is located at the northeast corner of Dayton Street and Baymiller Street. Facing South on Dayton Street, it is among the group of houses long known as "Millionaires Row."
2. Outbuildings: There is a carriage house at the rear of the lot.

Prepared by: J. William Rudd  
Project Supervisor  
National Park Service  
August, 1974

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These data are part of the documentation made during the 1974 Cincinnati Project undertaken by HABS in cooperation with the Miami Purchase Association and City of Cincinnati. Records were made of a part of the Dayton Street Historic interest Area of the City of Cincinnati.

The project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The project supervisor was J. William Rudd of the University of Cincinnati. The project historian was Carl A. Saladino of the Ohio State University. The measured drawings for the project were prepared by architects Steven B. Kells (University of Cincinnati) and Richard Wyatt (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo), and student assistant architects William Maxwell Miller (University of Pennsylvania) and Osbourne K. Simms III (University of Illinois, Chicago Circle). The photographs were taken by HABS photographer Jack E. Boucher in July 1982.