

Charles J. and Fainnie L. Bowlus House
South Fountain Avenue Historic District
1261 S. Fountain Ave.
Springfield
Clark County
Ohio

HABS No. OH-2447

HABS
OHIO
12-SPRIF,
7-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Great Lakes Systems Office
Department of the Interior
1709 Jackson St.
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CHARLES J. AND FANNIE L. BOWLUS HOUSE

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Location: 1261 S. Fountain Ave., Springfield, Clark County, Ohio

Significance: This house is significant as an example of Queen Anne styling with Colonial Revival style influence that retains a fairly high degree of integrity, except for its deteriorated condition and altered front porch. It is a contributing element of the historic streetscape along S. Fountain Ave. Of particular interest are the front and side attic gables with modillioned cornices and large semi-elliptical attic windows.

Description: The Bowlus House is a rectangular building measuring about 36x50 that has a pair of semi-octagonal slightly projecting side bays with cantilevered second floors capped by attic pediments with returns and semi-elliptical attic windows. The main truncated hipped roof is accented by a fully articulated triangular pediment, also with semi-elliptical window. Extending back from the main section is a gabled two-story rear wing with a pair of attic windows, three second floor windows and a full-width enclosed rear porch with hipped roof. In front a massive Colonial Revival style porch wraps around one side of the house and contains two front doorways. While most of its cornice has been boarded over, the curving section at its northeast corner reveals large modillion blocks and a broad frieze set below what was probably a crown molding (now missing). The porch's low-pitched hipped roof is supported by massive full-length Tuscan columns. In front, two broad second floor windows flank what appears to be an oval center window, probably for a closet. Clapboard siding accented by unusually broad corner boards accents the exterior. There is a massive center chimney plus a rear chimney.

History: In 1890 a permit was taken out to connect this house to the city water system in the name of Mrs. Fannie L. Bowlus. The Colonial Revival character of the front elevation and its porch suggests that the house was probably extensively remodeled and enlarged sometime after the turn of the century, probably by the Bowlus family, who lived here apparently until at least 1923, according to the city directories. Charles J. Bowlus, who also lived here, was vice president of the Ridgely Trimmer Company and also associated with Bowlus and Hackett Fruit Company. He was also listed in the directory as a salesman. From the early 1940s until the early 1950s, the Skipworth family lived here. By the mid-1950s, the house had been divided into two apartments. It has had a variety of occupants in recent years.

Sources: 1890, 1915 and later Springfield city directories, Ohio Historic Inventory form, 9-80. The building stands within the South Fountain Avenue Historic District, which has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Copies of the National Register nomination are at the Springfield Department of Planning and Development and the Ohio Historic Preservation Office.

Historian: Steven McQuillin, preservation consultant to the City of Springfield, 1997