

517-19 S. Lowry St. (house)
African-American Historic District
Springfield
Clark County
Ohio

HABS No. OH-2458

HABS
OHIO
12-SPRIF
33-

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

517-19 S. LOWRY ST. ^(house) HABS No. OH-2458

Location: 517-19 S. Lowry St., Springfield, Clark County, Ohio

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Significance: This house is significant as an early example of Italianate style residential housing stock in the city. It retains its basic form and is distinguished by its long and elegant two-over-two windows and T-shaped plan. It appears to be one of the older houses in this neighborhood and apparently was expanded early in its history into a two-family residence.

Description: This house is a two-story frame building, basically rectangular in plan, but with projections that give it a slightly cross-shaped configuration. Its rectangular windows have wood two-over-two double-hung sash and are accented with simple peaked hood moldings. The full-width front porch wraps around one side of the house and has a pedimented entry at one side. This pedimented entry and wrap-around section appear to be early turn of the century additions, as the other half of the porch has hoop-like wood brackets and chamfered porch posts which are more in keeping with its original Italianate styling. There are two separate front doors on this porch, suggesting this has side-by-side units. Both front windows on the first floor appear to have been broadened. A third front door is at the end of the wrap-around porch section, facing the street on the narrow projection of the side wing. Two chimneys appear on either side of the center of the massive hipped roof. Its overhanging eaves perhaps once had decorative brackets but these were probably stripped away when the exterior of this frame building was covered with asbestos shingle siding some time ago. The rear of the house has a series of add-on wings with lean-to roofs, one and two stories in height. There are two rear doors and a second floor stoop. The house strands on a relatively small urban lot surrounded by other old houses. It sands very close to the front sidewalk and is bordered by two small side alleys.

History: This building was probably constructed in the 1880s, judging from its styling and materials. By 1915, the first year of the city directory's street index, this had already been converted into a double residence. 517 S. Lowry was occupied by Thomas F. Bean, who lived here with his wife Martha until 1917. He worked as a gold stamper. In 1918 Herman A. and Annie Flick lived here, but the following year through 1926 Bean and his wife were again at this address, but this time he was listed as a stock keeper. With some interruptions, this was home to the William C. Lyons family from 1928-48. It has been vacant since 1990. The other half, 519 S. Lowry, was home to Kate A. Leatherman, a widow, from 1915-23. From 1938-41 this was home to William C. Lyons furnished rooms, suggesting that Lyons let out both halves of the house for this purpose. From 1950-52, this half was listed as four apartments, each with separate occupant listed. It has been vacant since 1991.

Sources: 1915 and later Springfield city directories. The building stands within the African-American Historic District, which has been determined eligible by the Ohio State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Copies of information used to make this determination of eligibility for National Register status 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