

James M. Sterrett House
(Florence Crittenton Home)
501-503 Holland Street
Erie
Erie county
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-178

HABS
PA,
25-ERI,
11-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HABE
PA
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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Pennsylvania	COUNTY Erie	TOWN OR VICINITY Erie
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) James M. Sterrett House		HABS NO. PA-178
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Florence Crittenton Home		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 501-503 Holland Street		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1842	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) David Kennedy	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) This structure illustrates the influence of the Italianate style upon the work of local builders. Associated with a prominent Erie family and institution.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Masonry and stone		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Wide eaves supported by large brackets, wrought iron yard railing and decoration		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) No major interior detailing remaining		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Italianate features applied 1850s; addition to rear in 1920s		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Good; recently used as rental property		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE This structure is scheduled for demolition c. 1982 as part of the City of Erie's Bayfront Urban Development Project. Documentation was provided by the City of Erie's Office of Policy Planning and Management.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.)		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION John R. Claridge, Erie County Historical Society	DATE 9-7-82	

2. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure

The Sterrett line in Erie was established by brothers Joseph M. and James M. in 1819. Their father was a Revolutionary War veteran. Joseph founded The Gazette, Erie's first permanent newspaper, while James purchased Ezekiel Dunning's tannery on East 5th Street between Holland and German.

The tannery prospered under James' direction - additional land was acquired and several frame buildings erected nearby. When James died in 1852, he owned no less than ten lots and four houses on both sides of 5th Street between Holland and German. His brick residence which was by far the most substantial, compared favorably to the other masonry homes in the neighborhood which had been constructed by David Kennedy, a talented builder who lived on the diagonally opposite corner.

During the next fifty years the house continued to be occupied almost continuously by members of the Sterrett family. The last to reside there was Hattie Critchfield, a granddaughter who died in 1898. By the terms of her will the property was conveyed to the Florence Crittenton Home, an institution for unwed mothers, in 1905.

It was operated by that organization until 1964, and subsequently served as rental property.

The significance of the James M. Sterrett House, rests in its association with a prominent Erie family of the 19th century. Brother Joseph was a respected publisher and politician. Other Sterretts were successful grocers. The structure derives further importance from its location in a neighborhood whose working class character was evolving into a group of upscale entrepreneurs.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION -- CHAIN OF TITLE

1. Original and subsequent owners: references to the chain of title to the land upon which the structure stands, are in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Erie County Court House, Erie, Pa.

- 1820 Deed, Ezekiel Dunning to James M. Sterrett. No copy available since all records were destroyed in 1823 Courthouse fire.

- 1823 Tax Records, James M. Starett listed as owner of house, three lots, and tanyard.

- 1856 Orphans Court Docket #33254, August 7, 1856, allotted to Samuel S. Sterrett

Deed, September 22, 1856, recorded in Volume 8, page 892.
Samuel S. Sterrett to Caroline H. Henderson.

- 1895 Deed, March 22, 1895, recorded in Volume 115, page 2.
Caroline H. Henderson to Hattie J. Critchfield.

- 1905 Deed, April 20, 1905, recorded in Volume 155, page 304.
Pearl (Critchfield) Harper to Florence Crittenton Home, per instructions of will of Hattie J. Critchfield.

- 1976 Deed, September 3, 1976, recorded in Volume 1239, page 175.
National Florence Crittenton Mission to Russell B. Rose.

- 1982 Deed, February 16, 1982, recorded in Volume 1447, page 380.
Russell B. Rose to Erie City Redevelopment Authority.

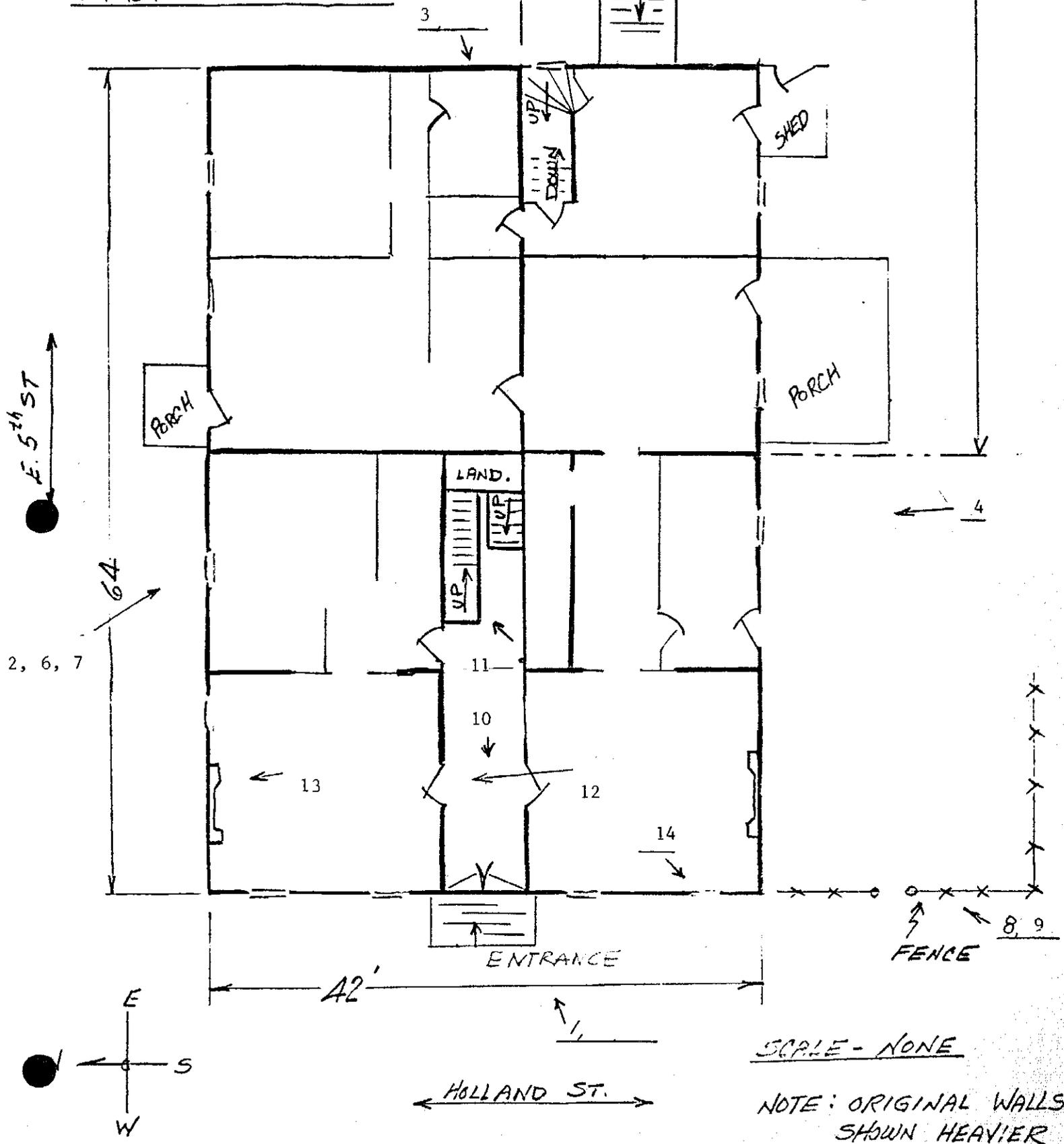
JAMES M. STERRETT HOUSE
(Florence Crittenton Home)

HABS No. PA-178
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501 HOLLAND ST.
ERIE PA.

ADDITION
SE QUAD.
(1920's)

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



E. 5TH ST

2, 6, 7

FENCE

SCALE - NONE

NOTE: ORIGINAL WALLS
SHOWN HEAVIER

5 PHOTO VIEW

N. JUNIEWICZ 9-9-82