

811 WEST UNION STREET
Jacksonville
Duval County
Florida

HABS No. FL_354

HABS
FLA,
16-JACK,
2-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

811 WEST UNION STREET

HABS No. FL-354

Location: 811 West Union Street, Jacksonville, Duval County,
Florida.
USGS Jacksonville Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 17435895.3355890.

Present Owner: Estate of J. D. Witschen
c/o Hal W. Moore, CPM.
IBM Building, 815 South Main Street, Jacksonville, Florida
32207.

Present Occupant: Edna Thomas.

Present Use: Rental residence.

Significance Representative of the type of worker's cottage built in
the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century,
usually one of a group of rentals, this building type is
colloquially called a "shotgun house" because of the
linear arrangement of rooms.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The structure is one of five of identical design built in the same block between 1897 and 1903 (Sanborn maps).
2. Architect: None known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The structure lies on the parcel recorded and described as follows: Lot 5 of Block 5 of McIntosh and Reed's addition to La Villa, in Plat Book A. G., p.768, in the office of The Title and Trust Co. of Florida, 200 East Forsyth Street, Jacksonville.
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: No original building records are available for this structure.
5. Additions and alterations: The structure has had a minor alteration at the rear, north, a three-foot extension housing part of a (presumably) added bathroom exists presently; the porch on the northeast side of the rear section of the house shown on the Sanborn Insurance Co. map of 1903 is presently missing. The original tin roof, still present on some of the adjoining identical designs, has been replaced by a composition roof. Dates of alterations are unknown.

B. Sources of Information:

Deeds: Office of The Title and Trust Company of Florida, 200 East Forsyth Street, Jacksonville.

Sanborn Maps: Map Room, Library East, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

Interviews:

Hal W. Moore, present owner, 815 South Main Street, Jacksonville, 8/12/75; concerning history of original owners and structures.

Edna Thomas, present occupant, 811 Union Street, Jacksonville, 8/13/75; concerning alterations to building.

PART. II ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Representative of the type of worker's cottage built in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, this building type is colloquially called a "shotgun house" because of the linear arrangement of rooms. (Between 1897 and 1903)
2. Over-all dimensions: Rectangular with ell, 23' x 59', 3 bay, one story.
3. Foundation: Brick piers.
4. Structural system: Wooden frame. "German" (novelty) lapped siding, painted green.
5. Porches, stoops and bulkheads: Front porch with hipped roof, square cut spindle apron and square cut reeded balustrade with alternating stretchers, jig cut corner brackets.
6. Chimneys: One brick.
7. Openings, doors and doorways: Entry door, left front.
8. Windows: Double hung sash.
9. Roof: Gable, overhang, exposed rafters.
10. Dormers, cupolas: None.
11. Stairways: None. Front steps to porch.

12. Flooring: Wooden.
12. Wall and ceiling finish: Painted plaster.
13. Doorways and doors: Simple wooden frames, paneled doors.
14. Special decorative features: Mantels in two front rooms.
15. Mechanical equipment: Modern plumbing, heat, water heater.

General setting: Oriented to the south, 193 degrees on Union Street, a busy one-way exit from I-95 to Downtown. The house is the second of four on Union with additional identical units in the block.

Landscaping: Well kept yard with flowers in front.

PART III. Project Information:

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Florida Bicentennial Commission and the Jacksonville Historical and Cultural Conservation Commission, under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, at the HABS Field Office, Riverside, Jacksonville, Florida, by Susan Tate (University of Florida), project supervisor; Frederick Wiedenmann (University of Florida), architect; Carolyn Hamm (Cornell University), project historian; and student assistant architects Robert Moje (University of Virginia), Ruthie Wiley (Mississippi State University), and Robert Wiltse (Louisiana State University).

Prepared by: Carolyn Hamm
Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
Jacksonville, Florida
August, 1975

ADDENDUM TO:
811 WEST UNION STREET (COTTAGE)
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Duval County
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PHOTOGRAPHS

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