

1113-15 S. Fountain Ave. (house)
South Fountain Avenue Historic District
Springfield
Clark County
Ohio

HABS No. OH-2445

HABS
OHIO
12-SPRIF,
31-

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

1113-15 S. FOUNTAIN AVE. HABS No. OH-2445

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Location: 1113-15 S. Fountain Ave., Springfield, Clark County, Ohio

Significance: The unusually broad profile of this Italianate style residence is its major architectural feature, along with its imposing Colonial Revival style front porch addition, which wraps around both sides of this large house. It is also notable for its tall, slender and symmetrically arranged windows. In spite of its changes, this is a building that contributes to the character of this National Register historic district.

Description: This basically rectangular building, measuring about 40'x60', rises from a low stone foundation and has two full stories. Above the second floor is a broad overhanging eave line from the low-pitched hipped roof. The roof has a flat center section. Slightly protruding symmetrical side wings combine with a broader shed-roofed one-story rear wing to give the house a T-shaped plan. The broad porch extends around both sides to these projecting wings, where the entrances to each unit are located. Its symmetrical form suggests that the apartments here are duplex or side-by-side units. The exterior is covered with newer shingle siding.

History: This house was probably built in about 1870 and most likely had an Italianate style front porch originally. In 1890 a permit was taken out to connect the house to the city's water system. Mrs. M. E. Hedges resided here at that time. The house likely did not have indoor plumbing originally. By 1915 this had become a double residence. It is likely that the Colonial Revival style front porch had been added by this time. William H. and Artha Byers lived in one half and David M. and May Harris lived in the other half in 1915. Both Mr. Harris and Mr. Byers worked as machinists. Neither lived in the house for long, apparently, as two years later, in 1917, other occupants were listed in each apartment. Another family named Harris family occupied one suite for a fairly long period, Glen and Margaret from 1964-68 and Margaret, as a widow, from 1969-82. Olin and Lucile Crute lived in the other unit from 1941-57. He was an assembler. Both units have been empty for the past several years. S. Fountain was once the site of some of the city's most elegant houses, but by the turn of the century, the more desirable residential sections had become established in the north sections of the city.

Sources: 1890, 1915 and later Springfield city directories. The building stands within the South Fountain Avenue Historic District, which is 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