

Horatius and Ethyl Clinger House  
African-American Historic District  
202 W. Liberty Ave.  
Springfield  
Clark County  
Ohio

HABS No. OH-2457

HABS  
OHIO  
12-SPRIE  
9-

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

HORATIUS & ETHYL CLINGER HOUSE HABS No. OH-2457

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Location: 202 W. Liberty St., Springfield, Clark County, Ohio

Significance: This house is significant as an intact example of American Foursquare housing stock that is distinguished by its broad, flaring eaves with exposed rafter tails, full-width front porch and Colonial Revival styling.

Description: A broad hipped roof caps this basically square building and is accented by a large front hipped dormer. This dormer has a cluster of small attic windows. The broad overhanging eaves are accented by exposed rafter tails and cast deep shadow lines along the walls. The exterior of this balloon frame house is covered with shiplap siding. Windows are symmetrical on the front elevation and largely asymmetrical on the side elevations and of varying sizes. They have one-over-one and multi-over-one wood sash. The house has a full-width front porch capped by a low-pitched hipped roof. The rear elevation has a similar porch roof, except that part of its space was apparently originally enclosed as a spare room. The building has a lateral wall flush chimney and a rear chimney, both faced with brick above the roofline. On the side of the house opposite the corner, there is a broad projecting bay with hipped roof midway between the first and second floors. It apparently is an unusually large stair landing, having a single window in its center. It has oriel sash and small panes in its upper sash. A small garage with a hipped roof stands behind the house and appears to be from the same period as the house, matching it in style and materials. A tall chain link fence surrounds this corner urban lot, which has overgrown shrubbery. Nearby are other similar houses from this same turn of the century timeframe.

History: Constructed around the turn of the century, its occupant in 1915 was Horatius Clinger, who lived here with his wife Ethyl. He worked as a linotype operator, perhaps at a newspaper. He lived here apparently through 1938. Another long-term owner was Gertrude Strickland, an office clerk and widow, who lived here from 1964-71. The house has been vacant since 1980.

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