

709 S. Wittenberg Ave. (house)
African-American Historic District
Springfield
Clark County
Ohio

HABS No. OH-2460

HABS
OHIO
12-SPRIF,
35-

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

709 S. WITTENBERG AVE. (house) HABS No. OH-2460

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Location: 709 S. Wittenberg Ave., Springfield, Clark County, Ohio

Significance: This house is notable as one of the older houses in this late 19th century neighborhood and as a somewhat unusual example of Italianate style housing stock, complete with its bracketed cornice and original wood windows. The house is also rather large in comparison with its neighbors and, though deteriorated, has much of its original character somewhat intact.

Description: The Dalton House is an L-shaped building that stands on a rise above the street, with a terraced small front lawn. The main section of the house is three bays wide, although, on the first floor, apparently two windows were combined some years ago to form a single broad picture window. a door is opposite this window, facing the street within the main front porch. This full-width front porch is fractured into two sections, with that set back from the street in front of the lateral wing appearing to be more original. The main porch seems like it was either altered or built around the turn of the century, in a more Colonial Revival style. The roof is hipped, with a shallow pitch and appears to have a flat area in its center. A flush lateral wall brick chimney is along one side. There is also a rear brick chimney. The exterior of this balloon frame house is covered with asbestos shingle siding. The house has a plain two-story rear wing that seems like an addition.

History: This building was probably constructed in the 1880s, judging from its styling and materials. In 1915 it was home to William J. and Viola E. Dalton. He worked as a switchman, probably for the railroad. In 1916 it was home to Herbert M. and Kate V. Harris. He worked as a clerk. In 1937 it was home to Alonzo and Gertrude M. Henderson. He worked as a policeman. In 1924 this was listed as the address of Informer Publishing Co., E. W. B. Curry, proprietor. In 1930 this was listed as the home of Emma Curry, widow of E. W. B. Curry. It has had a variety of other occupants over the years and has been vacant since 1995.

Sources: 1895, 1915 and later Springfield city directories. The building stands within the South Fountain Avenue Historic District, which has been listed 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