

327 West 12th Street

327 West 12th Street (Figure 2 & Figure 4), a frame, gable front, single-story shotgun house with a shed roof back room, sat at the corner of 12th Street and an unnamed brick alley crossing the block between Fisk and Lee Streets (Figure 10). The ell-shaped footprint of a house appears on the 1877 Atlas appears to be the same building: the same shape is repeated continuously on later Sanborns (Figure 1).

Construction prior to 1877 means this was one of the older houses within the project area. In the late 19th century, the address was # 173 West 12th Street. There is evidence it served at least for a time as a tenant house, occupied by younger people such as clerks, laborers, and recently married couples. In the 1890 City Directory, for example, we find four people sharing the house: Anton Frank, a machinist, Frank Gillespie, a molder, George Mayer, an Iron worker, and Appolonia Mayer, probably George's wife. By 1892, the Mayers are no longer listed at the property, Frank and Gillespie still reside there, and four new tenants are listed: John Frank; Louis Frank of H.H Hardy and Company; Bernard Lemker, Jr, a packer; and Joseph H. Meger, a timekeeper.¹ The small house was quite crowded.

There were four rooms, three under the main gable roof, and three smaller spaces in the shed-roofed ell in back (Figure 3). There was also a cellar space underneath. The three front rooms were all similar in size, about 14 by 15 feet. The front room was the most formal, with a direct front entry facing the street, a bay window on the alley side, and the only mantle in the house, which appears to have been decorative, as the chimney behind it had no firebox and must have served as a flue for a stove (Figure 11). A door to the left of the mantle led to the second room, a chamber with two windows on the alley side. This room had a small closet to the left of the stove flue on the north wall. At the back of the room, a door led to the third room, quite similar to the second in description, but with an exterior entry on the alley side, and a window at the back of the house, above the exterior bulkhead to the cellar (Figure 12). A door at the back of the room led to the kitchen in the ell (Figure 12).

The kitchen at the back of the house was in the shed roofed section, which may have been an early addition to the house, although it appears to be in place by the time of the 1877 Atlas. This section of the house was offset from the main body of the house, jutting out to the east, accommodating a bulkhead cellar entry on the west side (Figure 7), a back window above that lighting the third room, and a forward facing entry door along the east, alley side. There was a second exterior door opening from the back of the kitchen. Off the kitchen there were two smaller spaces, the bathroom and pantry. An interesting feature of the pantry was the hatch in the floor that opened to the cellar (Figure 13), a feature also observed in the house at 1207 Main Street.

At the time of documentation, 327 West 12th Street was covered with vinyl siding, but retained its original 1/1 sash windows. The house had a shallow gable roof, but the front façade was heightened by a gable parapet cornice to give the house more street presence. At the front there was a shallow concrete block front porch with replacement iron posts and railing. The pent gable porch roof may have been original; it appeared to be older than the other porch components.

¹ [Covington, KY, 1890](#) (Covington, KY: Williams & Co., 1890); [Covington, KY, 1892](#) (Covington, KY: Williams & Co., 1892). Ancestry.com. Covington, Kentucky Directories, 1890, 1892 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2000.

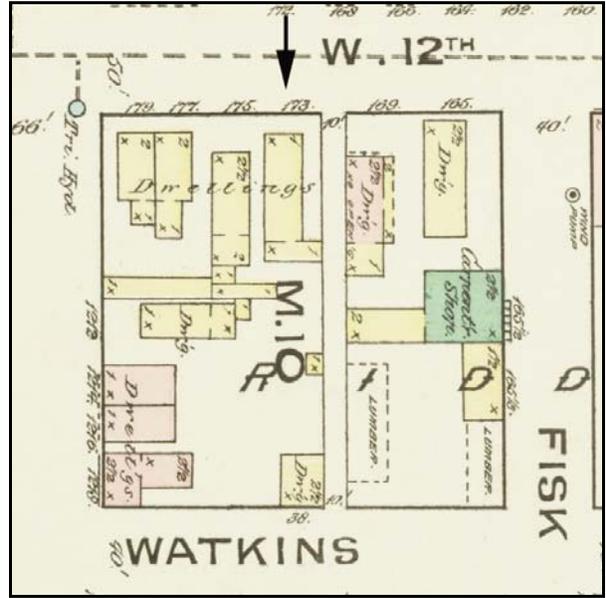
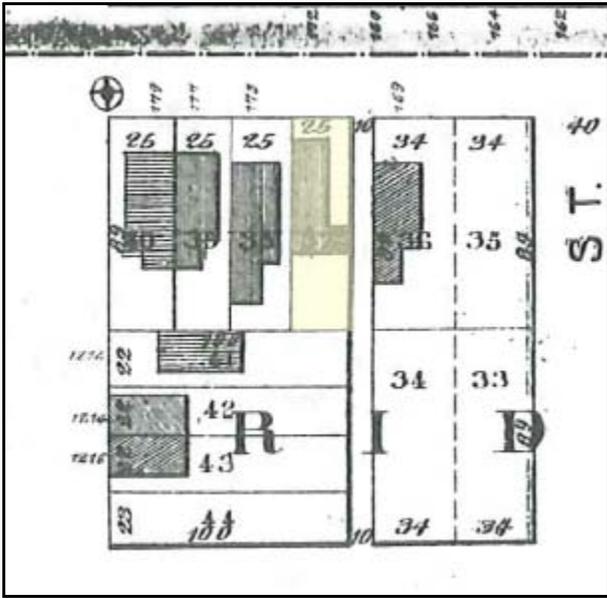


Figure 1: Left, Detail from the 1877 Atlas with 327 West 12th Highlighted; Right, detail from the 1886 Sanborn Atlas, 327 indicated by the arrow. The address at 327 was #173 at that time.



Figure 2: 327 & 329 West 12th Street.

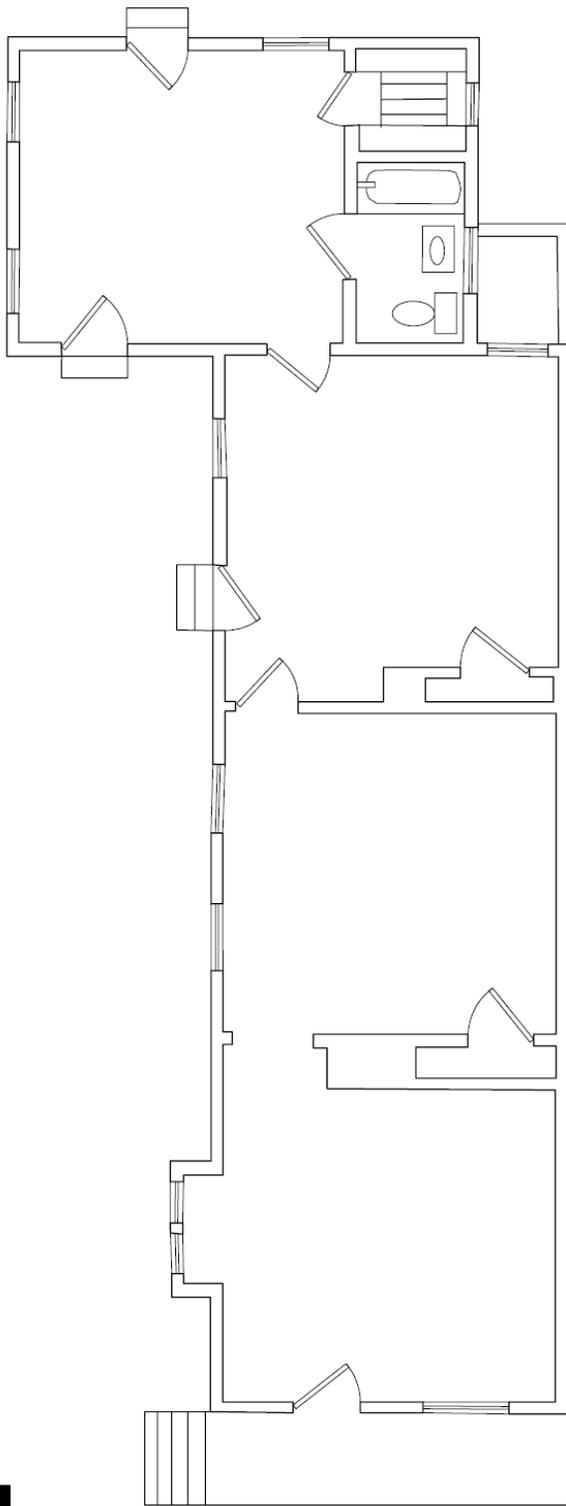


Figure 3: Floor Plan of 327 West 12th. CAD drawing by Danielle Jamieson, after field notes by Bill Macintire. Scale in feet.



Figure 4: 327 & 329 West 12th Street



Figure 5: 327, 329 & 331 West 12th Street.



Figure 6: 327 West 12th Street

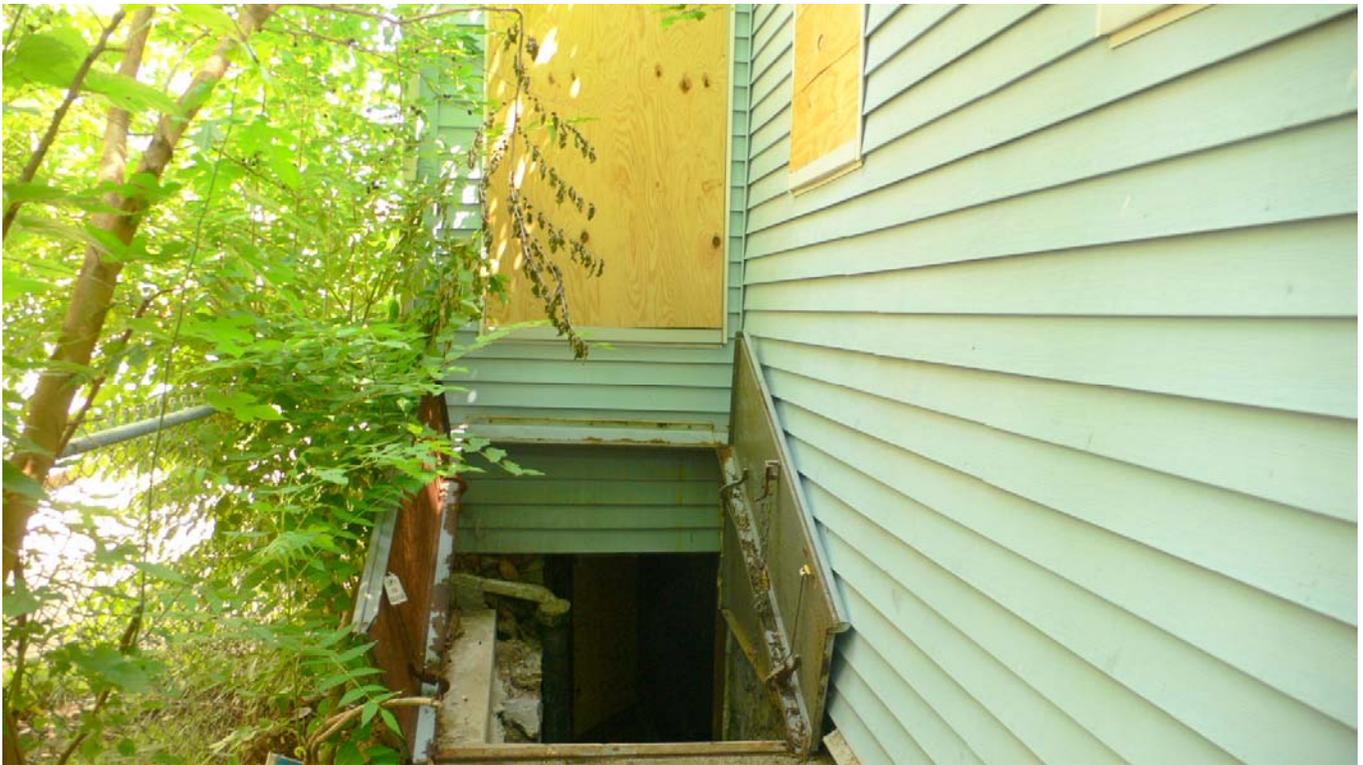


Figure 7: Bulkhead cellar entry at the back of 327 West 12th Street.



Figure 8: Exterior of shed roof kitchen at the back of 327 West 12th Street.



Figure 9: 327 West 12th Street, from East.



Figure 10: *View of the brick alley next to 327 West 12th Street.*



Figure 11: 327 West 12th Street, interior of front room.

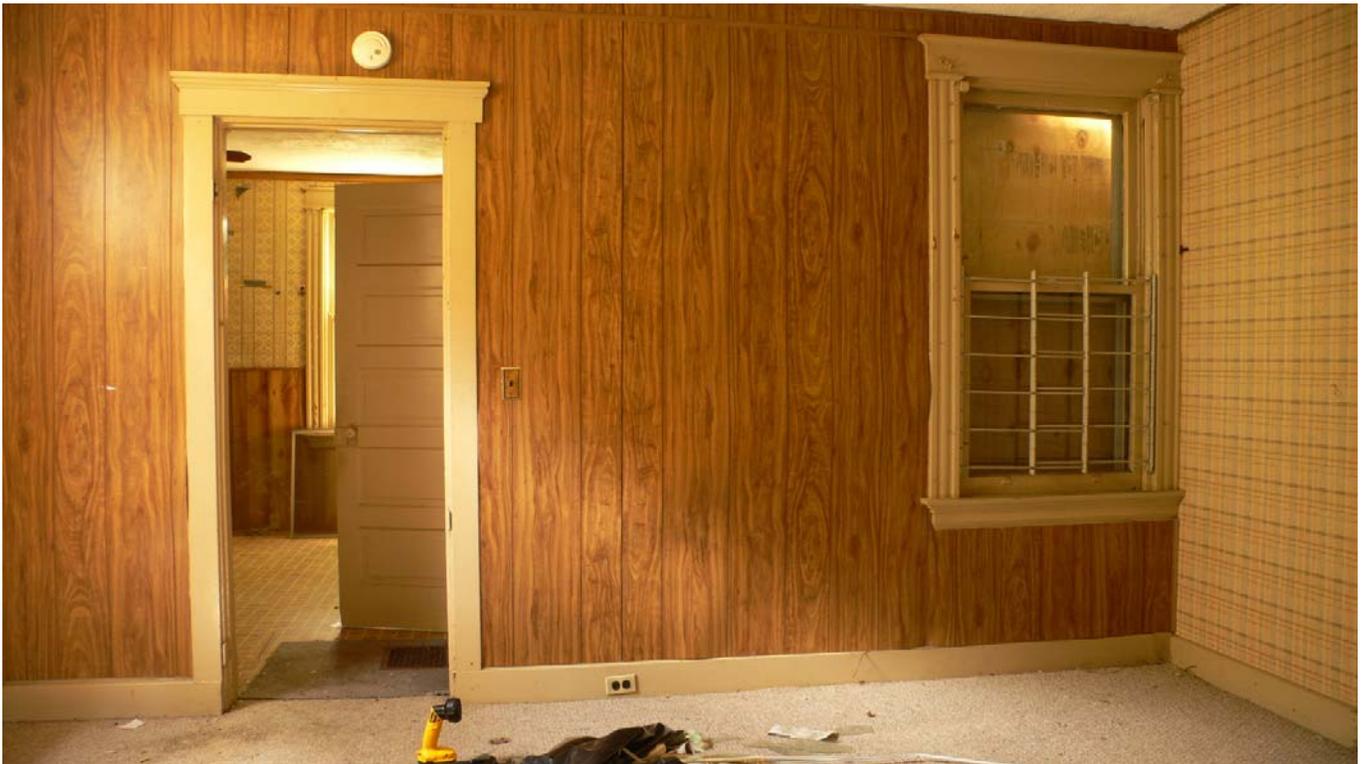


Figure 12: Interior of third room at 327 West 12th Street, looking south toward kitchen.



Figure 13: 327 West 12th Street, interior of pantry showing entry to cellar steps.



Figure 14: Interior of Kitchen at 327 West 12th Street, looking toward pantry and bathroom doors.