

507 W 12th St

This house (Figure 1) can be categorized as a shotgun, but it had some interesting features that suggest it reflected a number of vernacular influences. Our fieldwork experience in this building was interrupted shortly after venturing upstairs where we ran into an infestation of fleas, necessitating a quick exit, so some details of its plan and construction were not examined as closely as we would have liked.

Although it was previously reported as frame, as it appeared to be with its vinyl siding, it was readily apparent upstairs that at least the east, hearth wall was brick, and further, the house is colored in as brick on Sanborn maps (Figure 4, with frame elements indicated at the back that adjoin the main structure to an outbuilding on the lot behind). The house was apparently built before 1877, when a building with similar footprint appears at that location in the Hopkins *Atlas* (Figure 2). The house had an interesting roof configuration: a hipped shed, or half-gable rather than a full gable, which offered an interesting counterpoint to the flounder configuration of the adjacent ell of 1201 Main St (Figure 1). The long shed roof dormer that expanded the attic space may have been original, or an early expansion upward. A later dormer above the bathroom addition at the back (a privy is indicated on the 1894 map) expanded the upstairs still further.

A shed roof porch ran all the way across the front of the house, supported by three turned neoclassical columns joined by a spindled baluster (Figure 6). The main body of the house had three rooms north to south: the front room, second room, and the kitchen (Figure 5). Adjoining the kitchen was a small bathroom that had been added to the house in a frame addition.

The front room appeared to be a living room, the second may have served as a bedroom or dining area, probably serving multiple purposes, the last room was clearly marked as a kitchen by the installed services (Figure 12, Figure 13). The west walls of all three rooms had been built out with drywall in a somewhat awkward manner, probably to create space for electrical lines or other services. (Figure 9) The mantle in the front room, though, appeared to be original and reflected a late Greek Revival/Neoclassical style. At the back of the front room, a large opening surrounded by stained arts-and-crafts style trim led to the second room (Figure 8). Possibly, this opening had been enlarged from an earlier single doorway.

The second room was fairly non-descript with late 20th century wall and trim treatments and a closet built into the south east corner of the space. The kitchen had late 20th century cabinets (Figure 12) but seemed to have elements of an earlier kitchen design such as the stove bay next to a closet (Figure 13). At the back of the kitchen was the back door to the house, and the stair to the second floor (Figure 15). The west wall of the kitchen had a door leading to a bathroom with a tub, sink, and toilet (Figure 14).

Upstairs there were two chambers, one above the kitchen reached directly from the stair (Figure 16) and beyond that, a second room above the center room of the house. Both of these rooms were under the long shed dormer, the back one was larger thanks to the extended dormer above the bathroom addition. At the front was an unfinished garret with a low steeped roof under the hip at the front of the house (Figure 17, Figure 18, and Figure 19).

The 1890 and 1892 Covington City Directories list a George F. Rhein, a machinist, as a resident of 229 West 12th, as 507 West 12th was then numbered.



Figure 1: 507 West 12th St from NW, 1201 Main St is the blue structure at left.

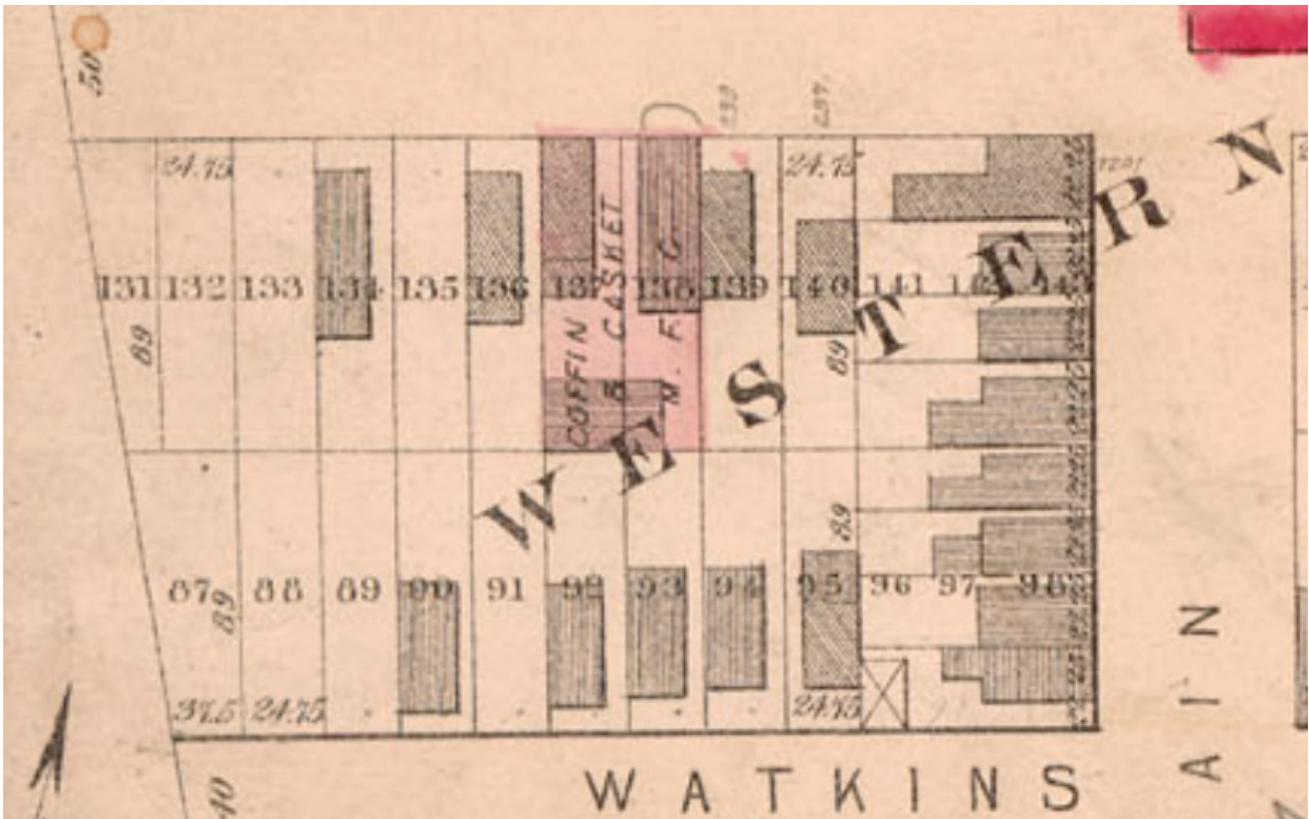


Figure 2: 507 West 12th St, the lot # 140 on the 1877 Atlas



Figure 3: 507 West 12th St, from NW, with 1201 Main St to the left.

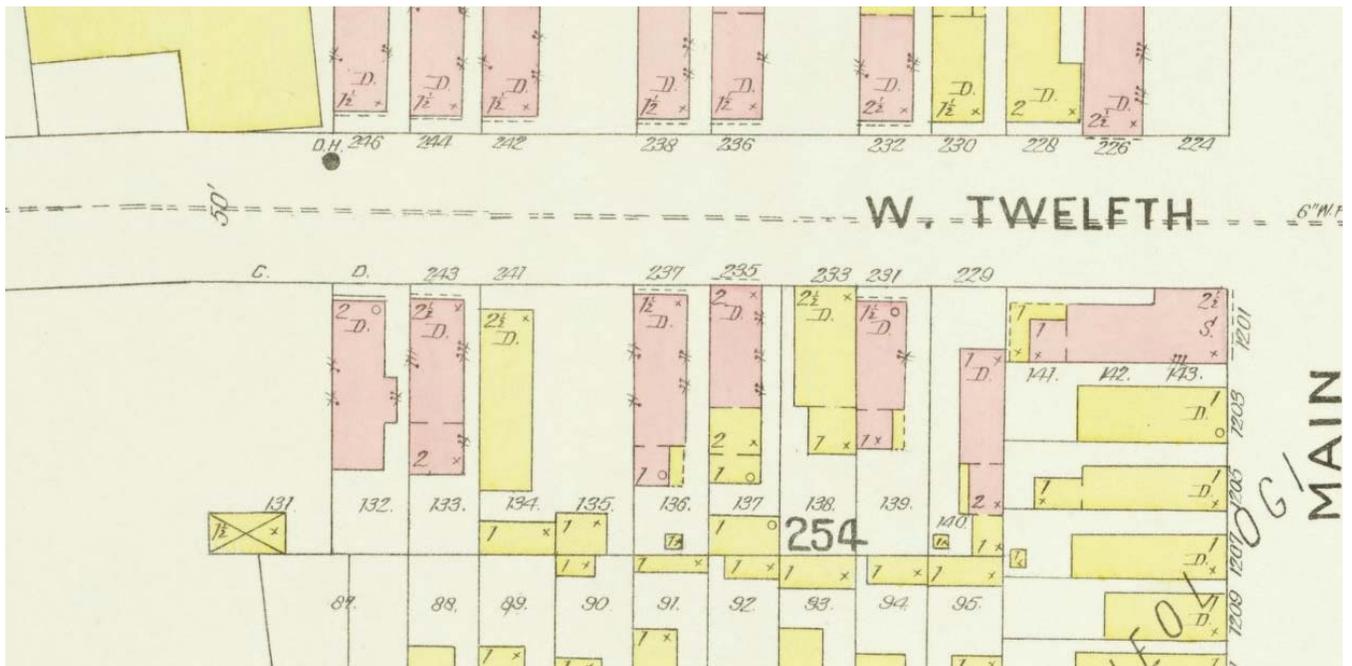


Figure 4: 507 West 12th St is located at # 229 in the 1894 Sanborn map, and color coded as a masonry construction.

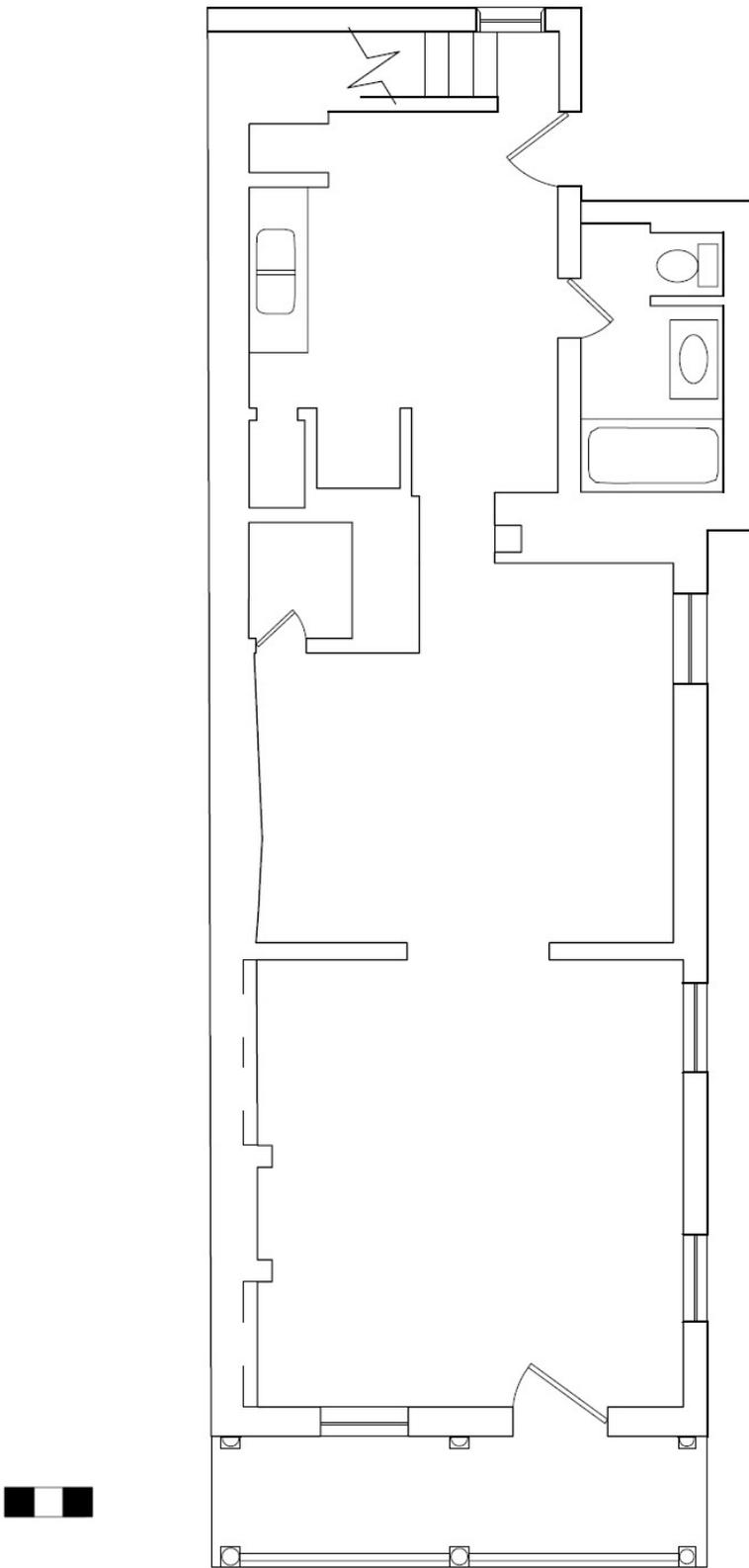


Figure 5: 507 West 12th St, Main floor plan, Drawn by Bill Macintire and Danielle Jamieson, scale in feet.



Figure 6: 507 West 12th St from North

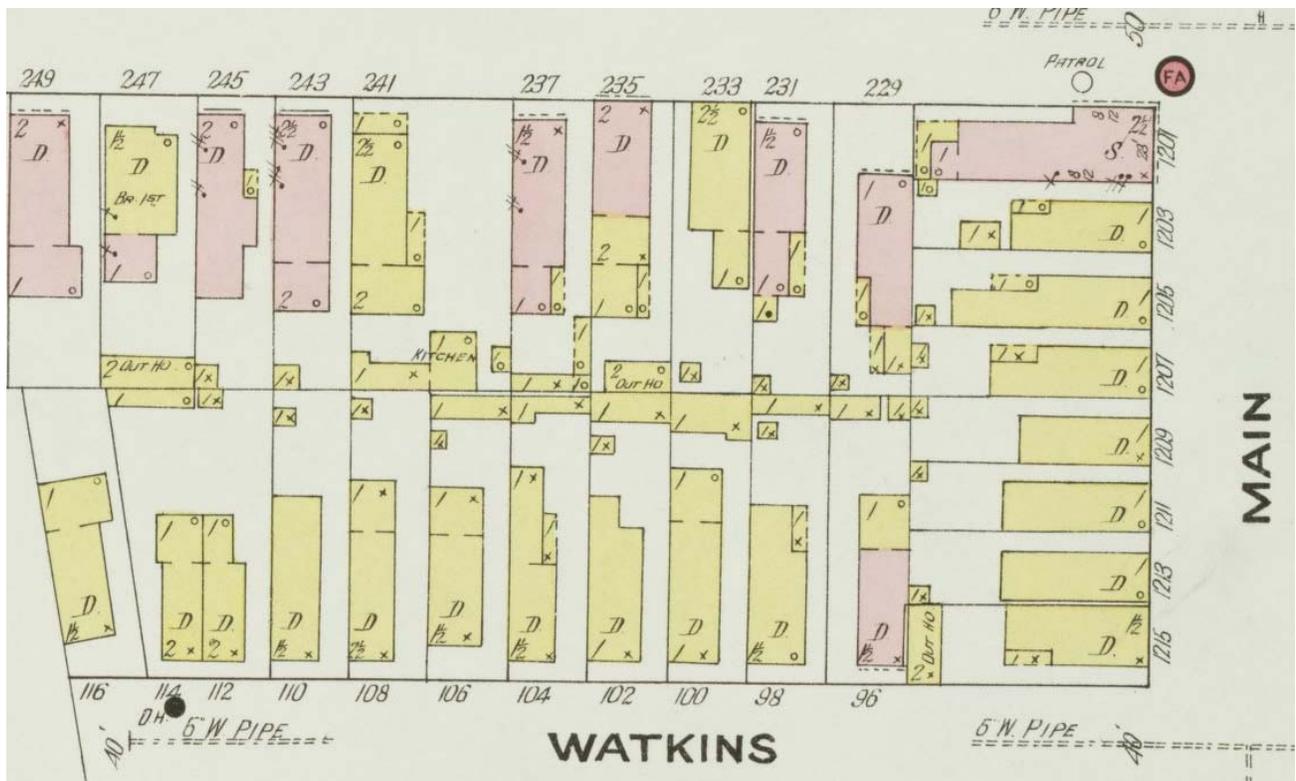


Figure 7: 500 Block of West 12th from the 1906 Sanborn map. 507 West 12th St is located at # 229. Since the depiction in the 1894 Sanborn map, some reconfiguring of the back additions appears to have taken place.



Figure 8: 507 West 12th St, front room looking into the second room.



Figure 9: 507 West 12th St, mantle on East wall of front room.



Figure 10: 507 West 12th St, second room looking back toward kitchen.



Figure 11: 507 West 12th St, second room looking north into front room.



Figure 12: 507 West 12th St, east wall of kitchen with sink, cabinets, and closet. The raised floor level in the closet might be to accommodate headroom to a cellar stair below, but this is not confirmed.



Figure 13: 507 West 12th St, kitchen looking north into second room, showing stove bay and closet, bathroom entry is to the left.



Figure 14: 507 West 12th St, bathroom interior.



Figure 15: 507 West 12th St, kitchen looking southwest toward back door, stair to left.



Figure 16: 507 West 12th St, back room of second floor (first room reached by the stair).



Figure 17: 507 West 12th St, garret in NW corner, corner roof framing, rafters rest on a false plate at the bottom and meet a ridgeboard at the top.



Figure 18: 507 West 12th St, garret in NE corner showing brick hearth wall, note brick spalling on chimney at right.

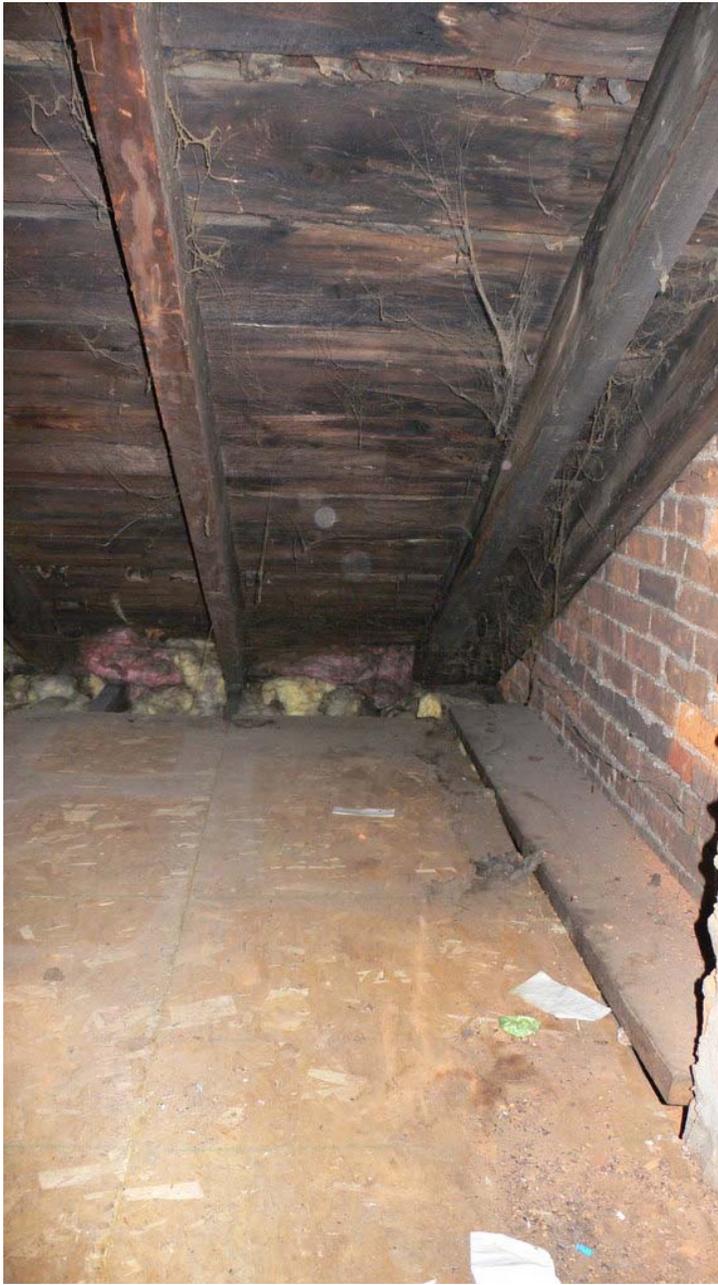


Figure 19: 507 West 12th St, garret at front of house looking north, east (hearth) wall at right.