

519 West 12th Street

Late alterations to the exterior fabric and most of the interiors of the house at 519 West 12th Street such as vinyl siding and some window replacements gave it lesser architectural integrity than its less altered neighbors such as the house next door at 521 West 12th, but the house was an interesting example of a townhouse, with attached back work spaces still attached and in use within recent years (Figure 1). In plan, this is a developed Northern Kentucky Townhouse with a front door, two front rooms separated from an offset back kitchen by a lateral stair hall with an entry porch in the offset (Figure 2). The house was one of the earliest on the western edge of the 500 block, appearing in the 1877 *Atlas* (Figure 3). In 1886, the one neighbor to the west has been constructed (Figure 4). By 1894, Sanborn maps show that the two masonry houses beyond at present-day 521 and 523 West 12th had been constructed, and we see at 519 a frame house standing separate from some outbuildings at the back of the lot (Figure 5). The foot print of the house is rectangular in 1894, but the next Sanborn depiction in 1909 shows the offset backroom and porch arrangement, with a kitchen clearly located in one of the outbuildings (Figure 6). At some point after 1909, the house was adjoined to the back outbuildings.

Interiors on the first two floors had mostly been altered or covered up, but what original fabric was visible was fairly plain (Figure 11) with a somewhat fancier staircase (Figure 15, left). The backroom spaces had evidence that they most recently had been used for an electronics repair store, there were shelves of old vacuum tubes and parts (Figure 12). While the interiors on the first two floors had been altered, there were some very interesting spaces on the third floor, with older wallpaper, baseboard and panel doors still in place (Figure 13, Figure 14, and Figure 15 right).



Figure 1: 519 West 12th Street, from north.

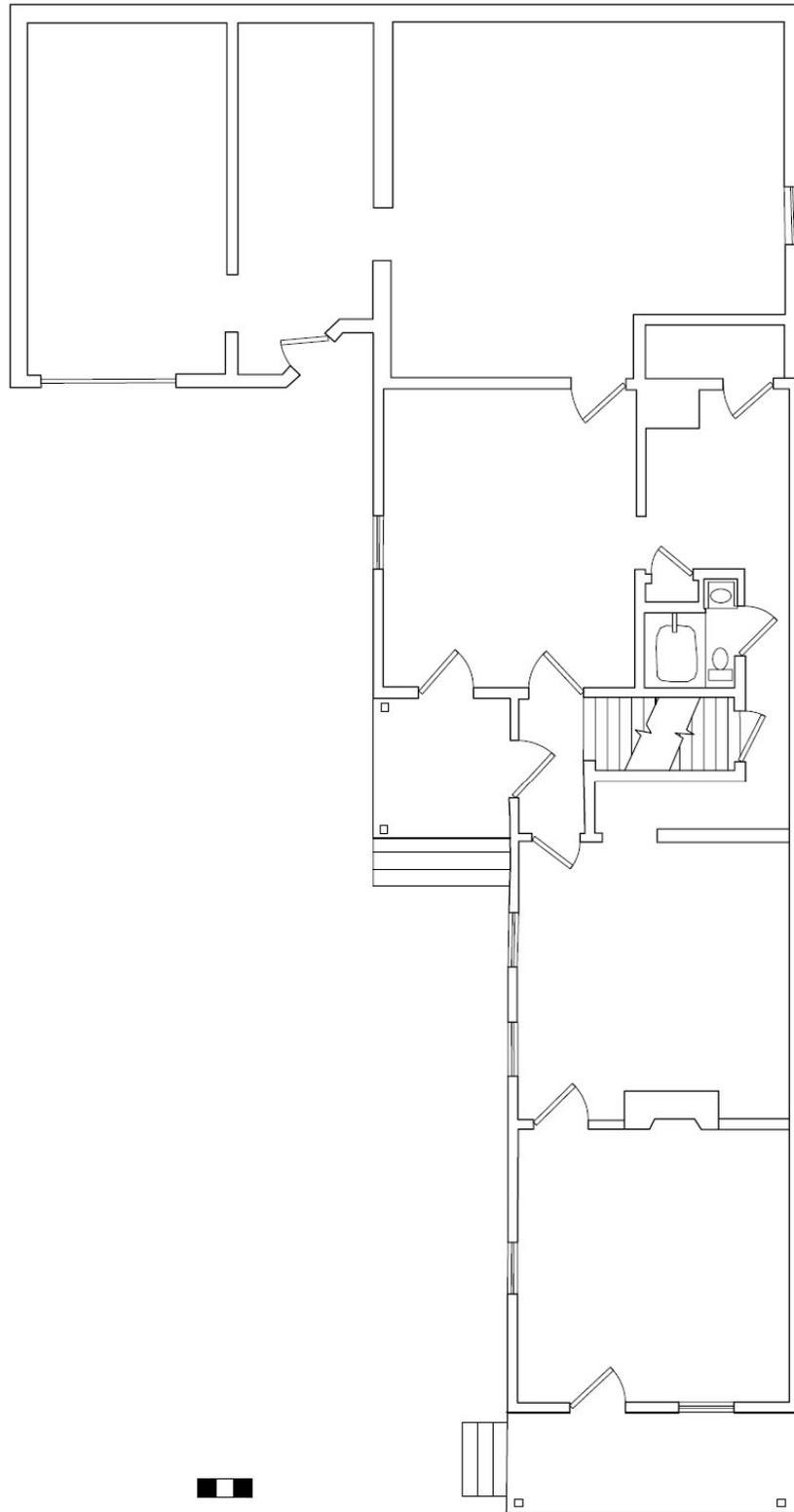


Figure 2: 519 West 12th St, first floor plan. Drawing by Danielle Jamieson after field drawing by Bill Macintire. Scale in feet.

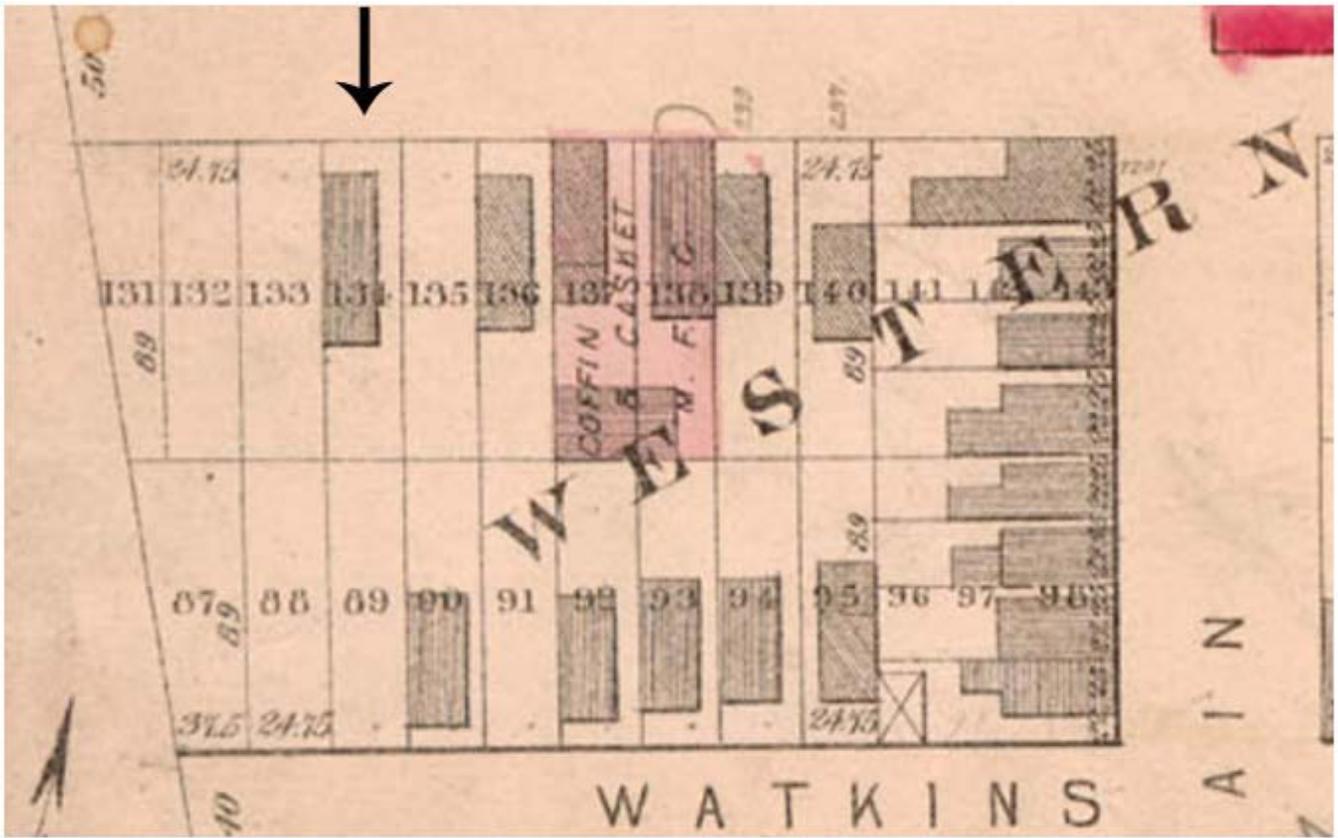


Figure 3: 1877 Hopkins City Atlas of Covington, Kentucky. 519 W 12th St is at # 134 at top left.

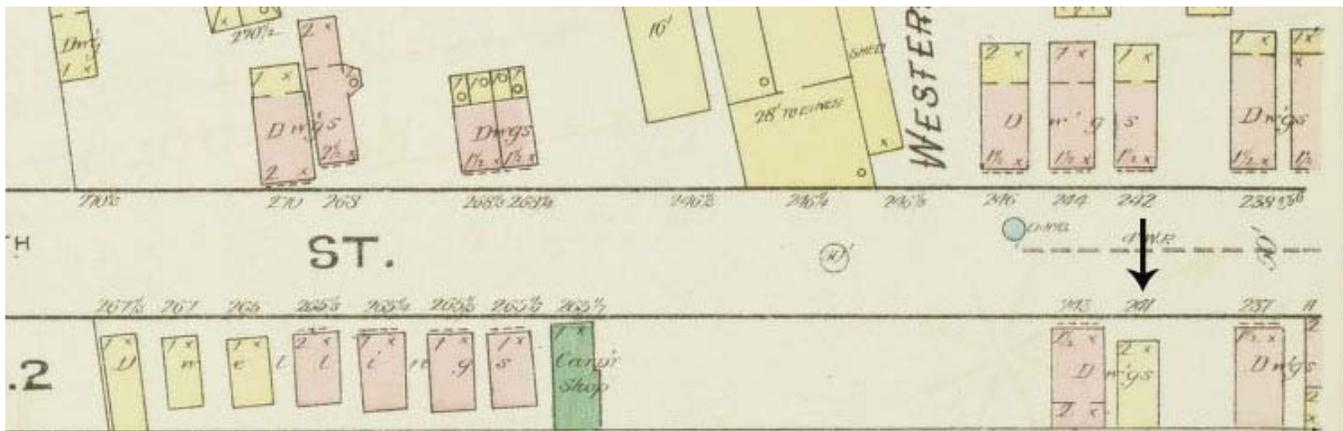


Figure 4: 1886 Sanborn Insurance Map. 519 West 12th Street is at number 241.

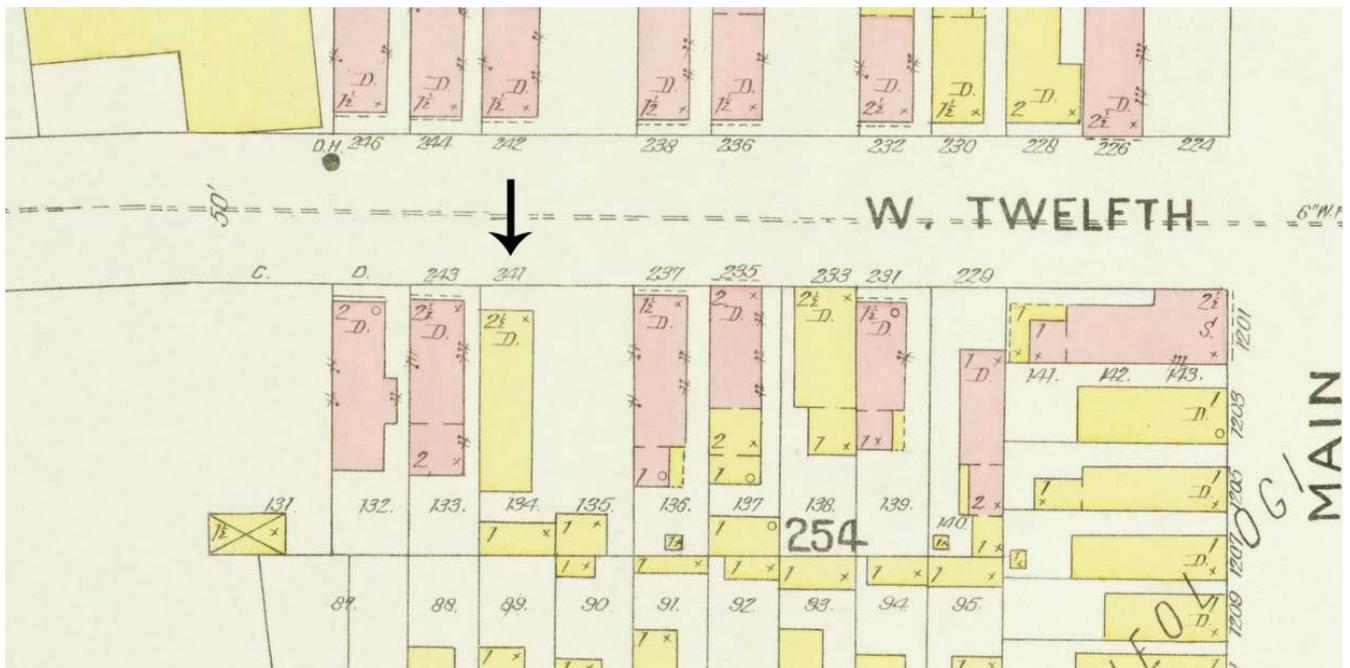


Figure 5: 1894 Sanborn Insurance map. 519 W 12th is the house shaded yellow (for frame construction) at # 241. It appears that the outbuildings at the back of the lot were standing by this time but not yet connected to the house.

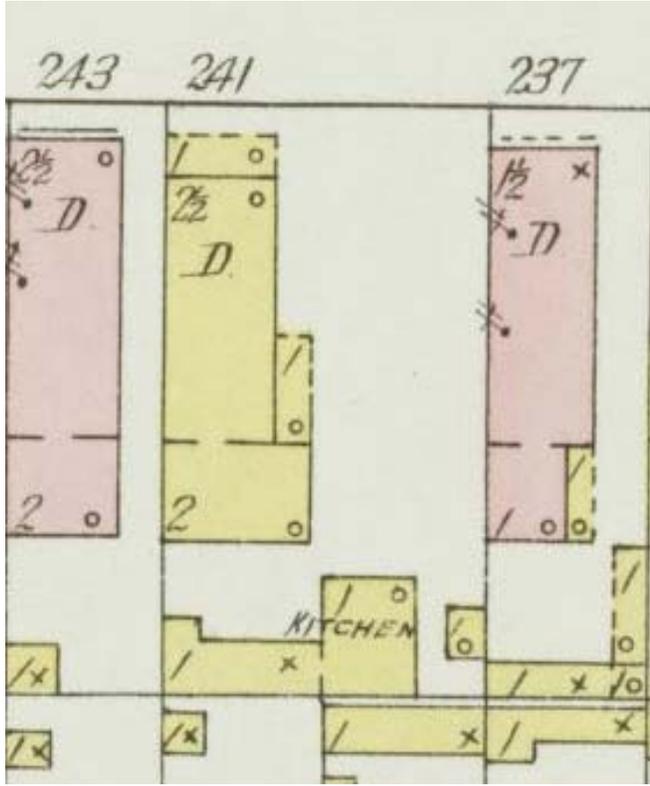


Figure 6: Detail of the property now known as # 519 West 12th street from the 1909 Sanborn Insurance map. This offers more detail than the 1894 depiction including the labeling of the outbuilding as a kitchen.



Figure 7: 519 West 12th Street, with 521-529 beyond.



Figure 8: 519 West 12th Street, side view from Northeast.



Figure 9: 519 West 12th Street, east façade, from southeast.



Figure 10: 519 West 12th Street, back of house and adjoining back buildings.



Figure 11: 519 West 12th St, interior of front room, first floor.



Figure 12: 519 West 12th Street, interior of electronics shop at the back of the building.



Figure 13: 519 West 12th Street, third floor front room, looking South.



Figure 14: 519 West 12th Street, third floor, back room, looking north.



Figure 15: 519 West 12th Street, left: staircase, first floor; right: third floor at the top of the stairs, looking south.