

Homes in Freedmen's Town

The architecture of Freedmen's Town was characterized by one and two-story frame buildings densely packed together with minimal setbacks. Most of the residences were small, one-story frame residences, with a few two-story wood frame structures scattered throughout the easternmost blocks. Houses were built into long monotonous rows of tenements, duplexes, and shotguns. Shotgun houses were commonly used as infill between larger buildings or in the center of blocks. Most historic houses in the Fourth Ward appear to have been erected between 1890 and 1935, though exact dates of construction remain unknown. The first three decades of the twentieth-century were a time of rapid physical development, with the neighborhood consolidating and taking on its historic form. Between 1910 and 1930, the African American population in the ward grew from 6,366 to 11,502, despite the lack of available land area in the ward. The direct result was an increasing concentration of residents and housing. Many of these residences were raised as low to medium-cost speculative rental houses or apartments for African Americans, as evident in 1930 census records indicating that only 15 percent of black families owned their property at any one time.

Few frame cottages appear to have survived, but period maps indicate that a substantial number of somewhat larger T-plan and L-plan houses existed. These houses were characterized by their unique floorplans, as well as their asymmetrically placed porches, which were sometimes decorated with turned wood posts, jig-sawn trim, or dog-tooth gingerbread.

Source: City of Houston Planning and Development Department

- 1314 Andrews: Rutherford B. H. Yates House
 - Son of Rev. Jack Yates

- 1319 Andrews: Rev. Ned P. Pullum House
 - Constructed c1898
 - One of Freedmen's Towns' first Black pastors

- 1505-1507 Cushing
 - The house was constructed circa 1925 as rental property for Gaspare Candela and his wife. Mr. Candela, a resident of the community, was a grocer and realtor and owned several properties in Freedmen's Town.
 - Currently owned by the Mt. Horeb Baptist Church congregation who purchased it in 1996
 - Source: City of Houston Planning and Development Department

- 1110 Victor
 - Constructed c1921-1922 as a rental property

- 1216 Wilson, Pauline Gray Lewis House
 - Constructed in 1907
 - Wife of J. Vance Lewis

- 1218 Wilson, J. Vance Lewis House
 - Attorney
 - Constructed in 1907

Source: City of Houston Historic Preservation Landmarks
<http://www.houston.tx.gov/planning/HistoricPres/landmarks.html>