

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES (cont'd.)

typically rectangular with stone lintels and sills. Another dominate feature is the wrap-around front porch which hugs the central portion of the main block. The one-story wooden porch has paired columns connected by elliptical arches, a scalloped cornice and a recently added balustrade. The service wing of the house is also two stories high, but is capped by a simplified cornice with single brackets. The Meyer House has had little alteration except for the new double front door which replaces the authentic glass transom and side lights.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd.)

April 24, 1865. The following day, the two men entered into a deed of conveyance for the purpose of partitioning and selling of the land. This deed resulted in Cramer owning the north half of the block, lots 1-4, and Fries owning the south half, lots 5-8. On December 16, 1865, George T. Meyer and his wife, Louisa, purchased lot seven (7) from Fries for the sum of \$3,000. The following year, the two identical Italianate homes (the Meyer House at 323 College and the Fries/Kespohl House at 331 College) were constructed. The social connection between Fries and Meyer is not clear, but having identical houses constructed simultaneously leads one to conclude that the two men were not merely business acquaintances but friends.

Then in 1869, Henry A. Kespohl, a local grocer, moved with his family into the home at 331 College, next door to George T. Meyer. In that same year, 1869, Meyer and Kespohl became partners and opened a wholesale grocery. The grocery business was very prosperous for Meyer and Kespohl, as they became one of the leading suppliers of the city and the entire Midwest. In 1875, with further expansion of their grocery, Meyer and Kespohl erected a three-story building on North Third Street between Hampshire and Vermont. At the time, the location was ideal for several other wholesale businesses, such as S. J. Lesem Bro. and Co. and Warfield Grocery Co., all operating from the same district known as Wholesale Row.