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THE AMERICAN ADDITION:
THE HISTORY OF A BLACK COMMUNITY

DISSERTATION

Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Graduate School of The Ohio State University

By

Felix James, B.A., M.A.

The Ohio State University
1972

Approved by

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For My Father

and

For the Memory of My Mother
The American Addition was platted in 1898 as a pastoral hamlet on the edge of Columbus, Ohio. In the early days it was a mixed black and white community, but with the influx of blacks to the community during World War I, most of the whites left. As Columbus became a metropolis, the Addition, originally an attractive community, became an ugly slum. Many of the houses were built of boxcar and scrap materials.

Most Additioners led a hand-to-mouth existence. The Addition youth for the most part were poorly fed, poorly clad, and poorly housed. Though most newcomers to American Addition viewed Columbus as the promised land; once in the city they encountered difficulties in procuring jobs. With the aid of Columbus Urban League, Clinton Township Trustees, and other benevolent organizations, Additioners managed to survive.

In 1954 Additioners appealed to the City Council of Columbus for the annexation of their community. They believed that improvements would come only after annexation. After a long struggle, Columbus annexed the Addition in 1959. As Additioners predicted, annexation
led to the rehabilitation of the community. Again, American Addition evolved as an attractive neighborhood.

The period of Urban history within which the subject falls has been studied by a score of sociologists. No historian, however, has fully examined American Addition which provided a valuable experiment in Urban history. This is a typical study of some of the problems that confronted blacks in urban America. I attempted to evaluate, to analyze, and to describe the evolution of the Addition from 1898 to 1971.

I owe acknowledgements to a number of individuals. Especially helpful was the staff of Ohio Historical Society; Mrs. Andrea Lentz, Curator of the Manuscript Division; Mrs. Marion Bates, Reference Librarian; Frank R. Levstik, Archives Specialist; David Rosenblatt, Oral History Specialist; Edward R. Lentz, Urban History Specialist; and Conrad Wertzel, Reference Librarian. Ferriss Cornell, professor, School of Social Work, Ohio State University, placed at my disposal his valuable manuscripts on the American Addition. Of equal value were the pictures provided by Phelton Simmons, supervisor, Sanitation Division, Columbus Health Department. Eldon Ward, co-owner of E. E. Ward Moving and Storage Company, took leave from his busy schedule to properly introduce me to Columbus. Moreover, I am deeply grateful to the
many people in Columbus who granted me interviews and in several instances led me to important sources.

Special thanks are due to Professor Robert H. Brenner who suggested the topic and read the manuscript at every stage of its development. His kindness, inspiration, and constructive criticisms made my research and writing an enjoyable experience. Professors Harry L. Coles and K. Austin Kerr offered suggestions which saved me from numerous errors. Thanks are also due to Professor Sydney P. Fisher who was instrumental in getting me a fellowship to study at Ohio State University. Professor Richard Hopkins who introduced me to Urban history and suggested many research techniques. Professors Elsie H. Lewis and Williston Lofton of Howard University who first aroused my interest in historical research. Finally, I am thankful for Miss Simi Johnson who came into my life at the most crucial stage of the project and made the whole experience more complete.

Columbus, Ohio

F.J.
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INTRODUCTION

Under the Ordinance of 1787 Congress prohibited Slavery in the Northwest Territory. By 1800 there were only 337 blacks in that part of the territory which was to become the state of Ohio. There were no blacks on the site of the present Franklin County, Fairfield, and other neighboring counties. Freedmen and slaves seeking freedom came into the State during the War of 1812. As the sectional controversy developed, the trek of fugitive slaves to Ohio intensified.

Although there were few blacks in Ohio the Constitutional Convention, which convened at Chillicothe in November 1802, attempted to define the status of blacks. Differences between New Englanders settled in northern Ohio and Kentuckians and Virginians in southern Ohio made the issue difficult to solve and the members of the Convention wrote the Constitution without using the word "negro" or alluding to blacks except in the article
prohibiting slavery. In the absence of an exclusion clause many blacks attempted to settle in the state.

Most members of the state legislature were always opposed to slavery; attempts to suspend or evade the slavery clause of the Ordinance of 1787, were defeated. The Ohio delegation in Congress also opposed introduction of slavery into any of the territories or new states. Nevertheless, from the territorial era to 1836 a tacit recognition of the institution developed in the state. No one questioned the right of planters to their bondsmen accompanying them while visiting or passing through Ohio. Farmers and other employers in southern Ohio hired slaves from Kentucky and Virginia. Occasionally these blacks took advantage of the situation and fled north.

On their route to Canada many of the fugitive slaves found Columbus a place of refuge. Because Columbus was in the center of the state, "the vigilance of United States Marshalls seeking fugitive slaves...(was) relaxed while at the crossing points, Ripley and Cincinnati,


there... (was) a sharp lookout." Fugitives also found tight security at Cleveland, Sandusky, and Toledo, the exit points for Canada. Consequently, those cities were not desirable places of refuge. Moreover, Columbus was in the center of fertile land. The safety that fugitive slaves found in that city explains why Columbus had a larger black population prior to the Civil War than any other northern city. Some of the fugitives fearing forged "certificates of freedom" entered Columbus and found jobs; others accepted farming and domestic work outside the city as a means of subsistence.

---

3Mary L. Mark, Negroes in Columbus, Ohio (Columbus, Ohio: The Ohio State University Press, 1928), p. 10; Barta, A Sociological Survey of the East Long Street Negro District; Richard C. Minor, Negroes in Columbus, Ohio (Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation, The Ohio State University, 1936), pp. 232-33; cf. table on page 4. These facts indicate that the fugitive slaves were not given the neat arrangement seen in the legend for spiriting them to Canada. For this reason many of them had to adjust themselves to the Columbus area.

TABLE I

Number and Percent of Blacks in the Population of Columbus, Ohio, at Each Decennial Census, 1840-1910*

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Blacks Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tr>
<td>1840</td>
<td>6,048</td>
<td>573</td>
<td>9.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>17,882</td>
<td>1,277</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>18,554</td>
<td>997</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>31,274</td>
<td>1,847</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>51,647</td>
<td>3,010</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>88,150</td>
<td>5,547</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>125,560</td>
<td>8,201</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>181,511</td>
<td>12,739</td>
<td>7.0</td>
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Civic leaders did not regard blacks who came to Columbus and the vicinity as permanent residents but expected, one day, to colonize them in Africa. The blacks, however, deemed themselves integral parts of America. Those who decided to leave the State "went into Canada instead of to Africa." A large number of blacks refused to leave the state and settled in the Columbus area.

Blacks who elected to remain within the state did so without any political rights, being placed in the class with "Indians and unnaturalized foreigners." Beginning in 1804 the state legislature passed a series of Black Laws to solve the questions which the Constitution left vague. Under the law of 1804 Ohio regulated the activities of blacks and mulattoes and the law also restricted their settlement in the state.

Frank U. Quillin, a student of race relations in the 1890's, described the provisions of this law as follows:

It declared that no negro or mulatto should be allowed to settle in the state unless he could furnish a certificate from some court in the United States of his actual freedom. The blacks already living in the State must register before the following June with the county clerk, giving the names of their children. For each name a fee of twelve and one-half cents was to be charged. No white man could employ a negro for one hour unless the negro could show a certificate of freedom; any violator of this law was subject to a fine of from ten to fifty dollars. 6

Where the law of 1804 failed to prohibit blacks from the fundamental institutions of Ohio, the Legislature passed amendments. 7

To what extent then were the blacks of Ohio free under such prescriptive institutions? Because these laws, in several respects, resembled the slave codes of the South, the blacks of Ohio experienced a condition of quasi-freedom. Although they experienced many prohibitions, blacks continued to settle in the state. Quasi-freedom was better than slavery. Saddened by the hardships of the "Southern way of life," the slaves used any means to escape.


The most important means to escape was the so-called "underground railroad." At the age of nineteen, James Poindexter, who later became the most important black resident of Columbus, settled in the city in 1828. Poindexter recalled accounts of the underground railroad as "the first impressive thing he heard of in the town." Jason Bull, a Methodist minister of Clintonville, managed its activities. Jason and his two brothers, Alanson and Dr. Thompson Bull, moved to Clintonville in 1815 and ever since their arrival there they aided fugitives in gaining their freedom. "The earliest hiding places for fugitives made use of by the Bulls were the haylofts of barns on the east side of High Street," and Jason's daughter smuggled them their food.  

Black residents of Columbus drove the fugitives through the city at night to the Bull's station. Among them were Shepard Alexander, Lewis Washington, and his son Thomas. Washington was in the excavating business

---

8Wilbur H. Siebert, *The Mysteries of Ohio's Underground Railroad* (Columbus, Ohio: The Long's College Book Company, 1951), p. 160. Blacks contributed more to such enterprises than they have been credited for and slaves who traveled the underground line often did so after completing the most dangerous phase of their journey unaided. Evidence of a nationwide network of underground lines is lacking. Cf. Larry Gara, *The Liberty Line: The Legend of the Underground Railroad* (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1960), p. 18.
and owned many teams and wagons. He was extremely strong and, reportedly, could overpower five ordinary men. "He was in a bad mood to be tackled when hauling Negroes seeking escape." When the streets were clear at night, Washington and his drivers carried the fugitives up High Street and out Main Street.9

Three underground routes reached Columbus from the southwest, through Chillicothe and Circleville. Two routes supplied Chillicothe with fugitives, one from Burlington and one from Portsmouth. In Chillicothe the leading black operators were Richard Chancellor and his son Robert, Jesse and John Fiddler, and Andrew Redmond.10 Once the fugitives reached Columbus, native blacks helped them to continue the trip if they wanted to go farther. Among them was John T. Ward, janitor of the City Hall. Ward was only twenty-two years of age when he began his work on the underground railroad in 1842. The blacks


who worked with Ward were John Bookel, William B. Ferguson, Jeremiah Freeland, James Hawkins, David Jenkins, and William Washington.  

While the pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Columbus, Reverend James Poindexter, purchased his 60-year-old mother-in-law for $375 from her owner in Christian County, Kentucky. Robert Napper, a former slave in Virginia, bought his freedom for $1000 earned outside the plantation. After settling in Columbus he bought freedom for his relatives. At various times, however, planters retrieved a few blacks of Columbus as property and re-enslaved them.  

On one occasion, marshalls arrested a freed black under the Fugitive Slave Law in Columbus and carried him back into slavery. Jerry Finney had resided in Columbus


for about fourteen or fifteen years when in 1846 mar­
shall arrested him as a fugitive slave and delivered
him to Alexander Forbes. They accused Jerry of owing
service of labor to Mrs. Bethsheba D. Long of Frankfort,
Kentucky. Forbes acted as the attorney for Mrs. Long.
Handcuffed and placed in a carriage, Jerry was then
sent to Mrs. Long.13

Jerry, who had cooked or waited at almost all of
the hotels in Columbus, was very popular in the city.
His unexpected departure caused "intense excitement and
bitter comment." Those believed to have been responsi­
ble for his disappearance were arrested for kidnapping.
When the Common Pleas Court of Franklin County met in
July, a bill of indictment was returned against Jacob
Armitage, Alexander C. Forbes, Henry and William Hender­
son, Daniel Potter, John Stephenson, and Daniel Zinn "for
the unlawful seizure and carrying away of Jerry."14

13Hayes, "Negro - No. 9"; Studer, Columbus, Ohio;
Lee, History of the City of Columbus; Minor, Negroes in
Columbus, Ohio, p. 4; Barta, A Sociological Survey of the
East Long Street Negro District, p. 25.

14Hayes, "Negro - No. 9"; Studer, Columbus, Ohio,
pp. 46-47; Lee, History of the City of Columbus; Minor,
Negroes in Columbus, Ohio; Barta, A Sociological Survey
of the East Long Street Negro District.
At the September term of the court, all of the defendants, except Forbes, were put on trial. William Dennison and Aaron F. Perry served as the prosecuting attorneys; Albert B. Butler and Fitch J. Matthews handled the defense. The jury returned a verdict of "guilty" as to William Henderson, and of "not guilty" as to the other defendants. Henderson remained in jail while the other defendants were set free. This trial lasted for several days, and caused much interest abroad as well as throughout the nation. On appeal to the state Supreme Court Henderson was freed on a technicality.

The Ohio legislature appointed William Johnson, a famous lawyer, to initiate "legal proceedings in Kentucky, in order to test certain questions of law which would...result in the liberation of Jerry." Shortly afterwards enough money was raised in Columbus to buy Jerry's freedom and to return him to his family. Jerry died of tuberculosis soon after he returned to Columbus.

15 Studer, Columbus, Ohio, p. 47; Lee, History of the City of Columbus, vol. I, pp. 600-601; Minor, Negroes in Columbus, Ohio; Barta, A Sociological Survey of the East Long Street Negro District.

16 Studer, Columbus, Ohio; Lee, History of the City of Columbus, vol. I, p. 601; Minor, Negroes in Columbus Ohio; Barta, A Sociological Survey of the East Long Street Negro District.

Although the Land Ordinance of 1785 provided land for public schools, the first schools in Columbus were privately supported. Parents paid teachers according to the number of their children in school. Revenue from the sale of lands was always meagre. Beginning in 1835, the income from the lands was supplemented yearly by a general property tax.18

Lucas Sullivant, founder of Franklinton, built the first school house in 1806. It was a log structure approximately fifteen feet square and located just north of Broad Street. Lucas's son, Joseph, received his education in the little cabin. Joseph described the school:

...with its slabs for seats polished by use, and big chimney with downward draft, with fleas inside and hogs under the floor, no grammar, no geography, but a teacher who ruled with a rod. 19

In 1825 blacks began to fight for the "legal right to the benefits of a public education in Ohio." In that year under legislative enactment the public schools opened to all classes without distinction. After four years, however, the legislature closed the public schools to black children and returned the tax received from blacks for the school fund. In 1838 the legislature

18 Osman C. Hooper, History of the City of Columbus, Ohio: From the Foundation of Franklinton in 1797 Through the World War Period, to the Year 1920 (Columbus, Ohio: The Memorial Publishing Company, 1920), p. 163.
19 Ibid.
provided a fund for the education of all white youth of the state. They forbade black children admission to the schools. Again, they exempted blacks' property from the taxes for the school fund. Blacks submitted several petitions to the legislature requesting a change in the law so that their children could attend the public schools, but without success.²⁰

Blacks in Columbus had been active in the fight to obtain educational conveniences for their children, and their progress in this matter had been in advance of their people generally throughout the state. Before 1836, in an area near Peter's Run in the southern part of Columbus, blacks supported a school for their children. Because an education was something that the vast majority of blacks lacked they wanted to make sure that their children enjoyed its benefits. Selecting David Jenkins, C. Lewis, and B. Roberts to serve as trustees, the blacks organized a school society in 1836. In the latter part of 1839 the society had $60 in its treasury and a subscribed building fund of $225. Beginning in August 1840 they operated a

school for blacks with sixty-three students on roll for six months. The School Fund Association of the black people of Ohio meeting on September 7, 1849 in the Methodist Church received the cooperation of white citizens of Columbus in promoting its objects. Although confronted with severe problems, the blacks "prepared the way for the final withdrawal of the color line from the school." In 1841 they erected a building on Fifth and Oak Streets, in which Robert Barrett operated a school for many years.21

The date that Columbus began educating its black youth is not known but as of 1853 there were two buildings for such purpose. One of the buildings was between Fulton and Mound Streets on South Seventh Street. The other, known as the Alley School, stood at the intersection of Lafayette and Lazelle Alleys just northeast of the central business district. They created the Alley School by removing the partition from a little wooden house. There were only two teachers in the three-room building. Of the 336 black youth in the city, 312 enrolled in the schools. Although dismayed by inadequate educational facilities for black youth, black residents were encouraged by the stu-

dents' progress. 22

Before 1871 the structure in which black youth studied proved unsuitable in character and location. Fearing for the safety of black students' lives, Reverend James Poindexter and other black residents brought the problem to public attention. On May 23, 1871, the School Board decided to rebuild the school house at Long and Third Streets and assign it to the black schools. A member of Columbus Board of Education suggested that the school be named "the Loving School" in honor of Dr. Starling Loving, the Board member who had taken the lead in its establishment. 23

The value of the Loving School was $24,648 in 1872 when it became a part of the Columbus Public School System. Perhaps many of the black residents could not afford to send their children to school because in 1872 only 307 out of a total of 500 boys and girls of school age were enrolled. 24 Many black youth of school age probably had

22 Lee, History of the City of Columbus, vol. I, p. 550; Hooper, History of the City of Columbus, Ohio, p. 167; Minor, Negroes in Columbus, Ohio, p. 145.


24 Minor, Negroes in Columbus, Ohio.
to work to help support their families. Only six were
teachers at the Loving School. The teachers at Loving
School in 1873, according to Richard C. Minor in his
doctoral dissertation, *Negroes in Columbus, Ohio* (1936)
had received their training from the following sources:
Oberlin, Wilberforce, a black college, and the Columbus
public schools. The statement of the quality of education
that the black youth received is indicated by one of the
teachers who after finishing the elementary school of the
city began teaching in Truro, a small black settlement
east of Columbus.\(^{25}\)

The blacks in Columbus were satisfied neither with
the preparation of the teachers nor with the Loving School.
Built in 1847, the Loving School had been "abandoned" by
the white pupils in 1853. A committee which inspected
the school in 1873 reminded the School Board:

...before these premises were turned over to the
colored children, they had acquired the bad reputa-
tion of generating more sickness than any two
other in the city, and were condemned by Doctor
Starling Loving and (Dr. J. W.) Hamilton as
incapable of being made healthful...\(^{26}\)

Columbus blacks believed that more care and protection
should have been provided for their children. Why not
an entirely new educational facility to insure the health
of youth?

\(^{25}\) *ibid.*, p. 147; Hayes, "Negro - No. 7."

\(^{26}\) Annual Report of the Board of Education of the
Columbus Public Schools, 1872-1872 (August 31, 1873),
pp. 69-71; Minor, *Negroes in Columbus, Ohio*. 
After examining the operation of the Columbus public schools in 1877, the Visiting Committee felt that the necessity for employing additional help would "increase the expense and thus make the per capita cost of instruction larger in colored schools than in white schools." In other words, if the white residents desired separate schools, they had to pay a higher per capita cost for black students "which would not exist if Negro children went to school in their own neighborhood." 27

In 1879 three-hundred and eighty-seven pupils, many of whom had to travel long distances in all kinds of weather, were enrolled in the Loving School. The Visiting Committee found the Loving School building in fair condition, requiring no important repairs. But the Committee recommended a change in the location of the school! "It is certain that no school in the city is surrounded by such an unhealthy moral atmosphere as the Loving School." The many saloons and dens made the area inappropriate for a public school. At the time, this section of the city, North Third Street, was popularly known as "the Bad Lands." The better element was moving out and the section was

27 Annual Report of the Board of Education of the Columbus Public Schools, 1876-1877 (August 31, 1877), pp. 165-167; John Himes, "Forty Years of Negro Life in Columbus, Ohio," Journal of Negro History, XXVII (April, 1942), 138-139; Minor, Negroes in Columbus, Ohio, pp. 147-148.
becoming an area of transition. In the summer of 1882 the Board had the Loving School torn down and admitted black pupils to schools in their home districts.

In 1873 the Board admitted the son of a black principal into the white high school. When the boys of the school met to organize a cadet corps, he was among them, but when it was time to sign the roll for membership, his presence caused all the white boys to show their disapproval by hisses and the stamping of their feet. The black boy signed his name and returned to his seat, but the white boys' resentment of his act persisted. The sensation stirred by the black boy did not cease until he requested that his name be taken off the roll. The removal of his name from the roll vindicated the "white boys' feeling of superiority."

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28 Minor, Negroes in Columbus, Ohio, pp. 148-149; Barta, A Sociological Survey of the East Long Street Negro District, p. 31.

29 Annual Report of the Board of Education of the Columbus Public Schools, 1881-1882 (August 31, 1882), pp. 95-96; Hayes, "Negro - No. 7"; Hayes, "Negro - No. 8"; Himes, "Forty Years of Negro Life in Columbus, Ohio"; Minor, Negroes in Columbus, Ohio.

Reverend Poindexter chaired the Visiting Committee for the Loving School until it was torn down in 1882. From 1882 to 1900 he and another black served on the Board of Education. Both black members of the Board were clergymen. Bishop Joshua H. Jones was minister of the St. Paul A.M.E. Church and Poindexter pastored the Second Baptist Church. After the closing of the Loving School, Jones and Poindexter obtained transfers and secured employment for black teachers. As a result of their efforts, black teachers taught at Fieser Street, Front Street, Ohio Avenue, Spring Street, and the Sullivan Schools.  

Reverend Poindexter, born in Richmond, Virginia, on October 26, 1819, moved to Columbus at the age of nineteen. Before coming to Columbus he lived in Dublin, a small village northwest of the city. On arriving in Columbus he opened a barber shop beside the Neil House on South High Street. While working as a barber Poindexter became acquainted with some of the most influential men in Ohio. Lacking any formal education, he learned much from the men he met in his shop. Reverend Poindexter was a good friend of Senator Allen Thurman and

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often a guest at the home of the Sessions family in Columbus. Reverend Poindexter played an active role in local affairs and served as the political boss of the city's black community. A man of "unswerving honesty," he was never accused of political deception. In 1873 the Republican Central Committee nominated him for the State Legislature but he lost the election. Seemingly, it was a problem of the "time and place" that hindered the political progress of Poindexter. Upon his death on February 7, 1907, the City Council of Columbus passed resolutions of respect and esteem.

In the 19th Century the black population of Columbus, for the most part, was to be found in the Eighth and Ninth Wards. From these wards five blacks were elected to the City Council. At the turn of the century, however, the Eighth and Ninth Wards were gradually being thinned of their black population. Both wards were adjacent to the central business district, and as the district expanded blacks moved to other parts of the city. Because the blacks' votes alone elected black Councilmen, the election

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33"Elder Poindexter's Feeling," The Ohio State Journal, April 17, 1885; Hayes, "Negro - No. 1"; Quillin, The Color Line in Ohio; Barta, A Sociological Survey of the East Long Street Negro District, p. 35.

of black councilmen "became a thing of the past." 35

According to Quillin, "an incident occurred in Columbus in 1873 which almost precipitated a clash between the two races and served to bring out a strong expression of race prejudice." A black man desired entrance to the Parquet section of the Atheneum theater. Upon presenting his ticket, the doorkeeper informed him that blacks were not to sit in that section of the theater. The doorkeeper got a refund for the ticket but the man refused to accept it. The black man left the theater "and meeting the doorkeeper again about the second day after this, he fell upon him and beat him in a terrible manner." The white residents voiced great resentment toward the black race, and the blacks "called a mass meeting and appointed a committee to investigate" the incident. Quillin found that the majority of white citizens of Columbus advocated prescriptive institutions. 36

At the turn of the century, Columbus white residents had a unique feeling toward blacks. Quillin noted that "In all my travels in the state, I found nothing just like it." The prejudice developed not only because of the skin color of blacks but also "because they are what they are in character and habits." Blacks in Columbus received no

sympathy from the white residents. To Quillin, several of
the native blacks agreed with the whites "on the ground
that so many of the negroes are proving themselves by
their attitude and conduct unworthy of the respect of
decent people." Furthermore, many of the black residents
noted that although conditions grew worse with the influx
of blacks from the South, the situation had existed long
before their arrival. White residents felt the newcomers
tended to "assert 'their rights'" too freely.37

Blacks in Columbus usually lived near their jobs.
On all sides of the central business district "for a
distance of from one to a dozen blocks there is a black
and grimy area unfit for human habitation." In this area
there were boarding houses and wholesale establishments.
This area was largely inhabited by blacks and poor whites.
Operators of immoral resorts occupied the area before
segregated vice was suppressed in Columbus. When Columbus
was a "walking city" the eastern part of the section con­tained the homes of the well-to-do. But as Columbus grew
the rich moved eastward along Broad Street, leaving their
old homes to be subdivided into cheap apartments for the
poor or to be used as places of business.38

37 Nimrod B. Allen, "East Long Street," The Crisis,
XXV (November, 1922), 12-13; Himes, "Forty Years of Negro
Life in Columbus, Ohio," 135-136; Quillin, The Color Line
in Ohio, p. 145.

38 Rodcrick D. McKenzie, The Neighborhood: A Study
of Local Life in the City of Columbus, Ohio (Chicago, Ill.;
The University of Chicago Press, 1923), p. 150; cf. map on
page 28.
Prior to the Civil War the black residents of Columbus were primarily engaged in domestic work. "The barber shops without exception were manned by Negro artisans with a Negro proprietor." Most of these shops were in the central business district. As noted earlier, the most important black resident in the city was a barber. Reverend Poindexter's shop, located in front of the State Capitol, served most of the state's politicians.\(^\text{39}\)

In the early days, Columbus did not provide enough jobs for its black residents. In the absence of other employment, blacks had to take work as waiters in the hotels and restaurants. The hotels and restaurants of the city, notably the Neil House, employed black waiters. Also, during the 1890's most of the many saloons in Columbus employed black bartenders. Blacks drove the hacks and served as draymen.\(^\text{40}\) From the latter occupation, William S. Ward developed a very profitable business.

\(^{39}\)Hayes, "Negro - No. 3"; Minor, Negroes in Columbus, Ohio, p. 40; Barta, A Sociological Survey of the East Long Street Negro District, pp. 44-45.

\(^{40}\)Hayes, "Negro - No. 3"; Nimrod B. Allen, "Industry in Columbus," Opportunity: Journal of Negro Life, IV (February, 1926), 71; Barta, A Sociological Survey of the East Long Street Negro District, p. 45; Minor, Negroes in Columbus, Ohio.
During the Civil War John T. Ward, the father of William, acquired a Government contract for hauling. In April 1881 William founded the Ward Transfer Company of Columbus. In 1904, the name of the company changed to E. E. Ward Transfer and Storage Company. Established in the "East-End," the Ward Transfer Company served the whole city and county. The one-wagon company developed until at the turn of the century there were "many wagons and a fine large storage warehouse, fireproof and devoted exclusively to the storing of household goods." The company served the whole state and sometimes other states as well and its patrons were apparently "satisfied in every particular."^41

Columbus Buggy Company on West Chestnut Street provided plenty of work for common laborers. Foundries, brick yards, lumber mills also furnished jobs. Most of the deliverymen for retail and wholesale enterprises were black. After the Civil War, a few blacks became clerks in railroad offices, a "genteel occupation."^42 Even though there was plenty of work, blacks in Columbus still found it difficult to make a living.

^41"A Growing East Side Business Whose Operation Existed Over the City and County - Remark - Able Growth in a Short Time," The Ohio State Journal, August 8, 1909; interview with Eldon Ward (Columbus, Ohio, December 28-29, 1971). Today the E. E. Ward Transfer and Storage Company serves the world with its beautiful trucks and a building complete with a large warehouse and offices.

^42Minor, Negroes in Columbus, Ohio.
After long days of labor, the blacks who lived in or near the Bad Lands district returned to an environment unfit for decent residents or for the rearing of children. The Bad Lands was known throughout the country for its crime and vice. The center was Third Street between Gay and Naghten Streets and the alleys and streets crossing those streets. Here were gambling halls, houses of prostitution, and saloons. "Even opium dens flourished in open violation of the law."^43

Alexander "Smoky" Hobbs operated an opium den at the alley between Gay and Long Streets on Third Street which was frequented by some of the elite of Columbus. This den served as a demoralizing force in the city.44 Although the most notorious, Smoky was not the only one to operate such a place. Among others who helped to demoralize the community were "Tink" Allen, "Pap" Green, "Lucky" Hall, "Cabbage" Osborne, Smoky's best friend, Al Rogers, and Joe White. White operated a spot comparable to the "black and tan resorts" of Chicago and Harlem. If a person cherished his reputation, he did not allow himself to be

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^44 Hayes, "Negro - No. 5"; Minor, Negroes in Columbus, Ohio. cf. map on page 28.
seen in the vicinity. But because of its location, on the periphery of the central business district, it was difficult to avoid being seen in the Bad Lands.\textsuperscript{45}

Blacks in Columbus lived, for the most part, on the periphery of the central business district, near the factories, near the railroad tracks, and along the banks of the Scioto River. At the turn of the century, black families, particularly the newcomers from the South, moved into Ward Fourteen, "driving the Italians, who previously occupied this territory, still farther north." Some of the Italians remained in the area, but Goodale Street in the northern part of Ward Nine was almost completely occupied by blacks. The river end of the street, along with the area surrounding it, was called "Fly Town," because of the "migratory tendencies of workers in the nearby factories, also on account of the lawlessness of the place."\textsuperscript{46}

The second largest black neighborhood was the south central district, located southwest of the Franklin County Court House near the central business district. The area

\textsuperscript{45}Hayes, "Negro - No. 5"; Minor,\textit{ Negroes in Columbus, Ohio}, p. 118. cf. map on page 28.

was known as "Nigger Hollow" because of its African population. "Its dusky denizens seem to have been mostly emancipated slaves of whom there was a considerable influx about the year 1828."\(^47\) As the city expanded, many of the black residents of the area moved east of the central business district.

The influx of blacks to the area east of the central business district in the 1890's made it the largest black neighborhood in Columbus. "This community includes practically all of Ward 7 with the exception of a few streets on which are located some of the best (white) residences in the city." Also, it extended into the western part of Ward Four, into the southwestern part of Ward Six, and into the eastern section of Ward Eight. The main section of this black community developed north of Long Street between Taylor Avenue and Seventeenth Street. This area was completely occupied by blacks. "Here are found colored policemen, colored hotels, stores, churches, poolrooms, picture theatres, as well as separate colored schools."

The blacks of the area created their own local organization known as "The Negro Republican League," and war-relief clubs. But blacks lived close to their jobs

throughout Columbus. For instance, blacks lived in the alleys behind the homes on Broad Street. 48

The pride of black people in the East-End, as the community was known, was not comparable to that of the Hilltop community. The Hilltop section, occupying an area of approximately six blocks, with population of about 600 people, developed around 1892. In 1912 more blacks moved into the area after the Springfield riots and the Columbus flood of 1913. "This colored neighborhood is one of the most orderly and progressive Negro localities in the city." Roderick D. McKenzie in The Neighborhood, observed: "A real estate dealer, devoid of 'social vision' and 'greedy for gain' sold his property to these people with the result that they are now fixtures in the community." After moving into the area, the black residents lived apart from the white residents and did not participate in the general social life of the community. Like the blacks of the East-End, blacks on the Hilltop established their own churches, picture-

theaters, and stores. The black residents of the Hilltop had every reason to be proud of their community.

Although the trek of fugitive slaves to Ohio intensified during the sectional controversy, "the most rapid (black population) growth occurred (in Columbus) between the censuses of 1910 and 1920." The inflow of blacks to Columbus created a condition that annoyed other blacks. Many blacks during this period longed for the rural way of life. Not liking cities, they settled in areas where farming or a near farming way of life could be carried out to supplement their incomes. Longing for a rural way of life, many of the black newcomers settled in the "American Addition" on the periphery of Columbus instead of the periphery of that city's central business district.

49 Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, MSS, Collection 177, Box 11 (hereinafter cited as C.A.C.C., MSS, Coll. 177, Box 11); McKenzie, The Neighborhood, p. 161; Mark, Negroes in Columbus, pp. 22-23; Barta, A Sociological Survey of the East Long Street Negro District, p. 40. Cf. map on page 28.

50 Mark, Negroes in Columbus, p. 8.
CHAPTER I
THE AMERICAN ADDITION MATRIX

The influx of blacks to Columbus during the latter half of the nineteenth century produced a condition that caused many of them to long for the rural way of life. Accustomed to open spaces, many of the newcomers were unhappy with the congestion of Columbus. Because of the job market blacks desired homes close to the city but found land difficult to buy. On the outskirts of Columbus, however, there was land in abundance.

On April 2, 1882, Windsor Atcheson, Sr., owner of 178 acres of land in Clinton Township, on the northeast edge of Columbus, died without leaving a legal will. Atcheson was survived by his widow, Maria, a daughter, Minerva Belknap, and three sons, Alfred, Horatio, and Windsor, Jr. Commissioners from the Common Pleas Court surveyed the property and divided it among the heirs. Windsor, Jr. received thirty-seven acres. Allegedly an "imbecile," Windsor, Jr., could not manage his business affairs. As a result of his financial difficulties sale
of his property became imperative. The sale was handled by Edwin E. Corwin, who had been appointed guardian of Windsor’s estate on January 4, 1893. Corwin advertised the real estate for five weeks prior to the auction which was held in 1902. In his advertisements Corwin referred to the property as the "White Addition." Eventually the tract became known as the "American Addition," a name which suggested that foreigners, blacks, and Jews were excluded. Not until 1910 when the title to the land was transferred to Ohio Wesleyan University were lots sold to anyone with money to buy.

The Addition was platted on May 7, 1898 with all alleys and streets "dedicated to public use forever." The land was graded and South Carolina poplars planted.

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2Deed Book of the Probate Court, No. 359, Franklin County, Ohio, pp. 162-164; ibid., No. 371, pp. 202-205; Complete Record of the Probate Court, Franklin County, Ohio, Case No. 7794, Vol. XXXIII, passim; Columbus Urban League, MSS Collection 146, Box 41 (hereinafter cited as C.U.L., MSS Coll. 146, Box 41); Mark, Negroes in Columbus, p. 25; Campbell S. Warren, Neighborhood Patterns and Community Life (in) Columbus (Columbus, Ohio: Unpublished manuscript, n.d.), p. 20.
The above plan of partition, and the description of the lots and parcels of land are correct.

July 9, 1875

Notarized
in front of each of the 237 lots in the Addition. Principal avenues—Dewey, Key West, Puritan, Sampson, and Sigsbee—were named in honor of distinguished naval officers and installations during the Spanish-American War. At its birth the American Addition was an attractive community. It was only three and a half miles from the central business district of the city. The typical lot size in the Addition was 35 by 130 feet, adequate for a decent dwelling. On the Northern boundary of the Addition thirty-three acres were reserved for the education of the youth. The community had land enough for play and gardening but the polluted air from railroads on the south and the two large chemical plants approximately 400 yards west of Joyce Avenue made the community undesirable as a residential area.3

3"Plat of the American Addition," Plat Book, No. 5, Recorder's Office, Franklin County, Ohio; Complete Record of the Probate Court, Franklin County, Ohio, Case No. 7794, Vol. CLXVI, p. 312; C.U.L., MSS Coll. 146, Box 41; E. Grace Richmond, Housing Conditions in the Outlying Districts of Columbus (Ohio) (Unpublished Master's thesis, The Ohio State University, 1926), p. 14; Mark, Negroes in Columbus, p. 25; Warren, Neighborhood Patterns and Community Life (in) Columbus; Terell Barnes, The Birth of the American Addition (Columbus, Ohio: Unpublished manuscript, 1965), passim; see map of the American Addition on page 35.
In 1904, George F. Rausch bought the first lots in the Addition with the understanding that no land would be sold to blacks. One black family, however, lived just north of the community in a log cabin. Not long after the first sale, land was sold to blacks. The first black settlers in the Addition came from rural areas of Ohio and from the South. Among the first black families to settle in the community were the Adams, Ayers, Batemans, Colemans, Cromwells, Dixons, Fields, Gaithers, Pauls, Ransones, Spaffords, and Vincents. In the early days the Addition was a mixed black and white community with the races coexisting in harmony. After buying lots, black families built their little homes. Lacking sufficient finances to purchase lumber, the Additioners built their houses, for the most part, out of old abandoned boxcar material. Wells were dug, but were poorly located with respect to contamination. Community pride developed as older settlers shared water with newcomers. In the early days, all of the Additioners felt it necessary to aid each other in times of trouble. A fellow Additioner's problem became the problem of all.


5Richmond, Housing Conditions in the Outlying Districts of Columbus, pp. 11, 14; Douthitt, History of the American Addition; Interview with Mrs. Vanzella Douthitt (Columbus, Ohio, January 10, 1972).
In 1912 Rausch opened a grocery store in the community. Since the store was poorly stocked residents of the Addition bought most of their necessities outside the district. Rausch's store provided the only telephone for the community. The telephone, located at the apex of the community on the corner of Joyce and Woodford Avenues, was accessible to all Additioners, but it was not available at night.6

People of the Addition were inconvenienced in other ways. Because of the meagre services supplied by Franklin County and Clinton Township, the streets and alleys were not paved and during inclement weather, were usually unpassable. Clinton Township occasionally applied cinders to the streets but surface drainage was poor and at times there was much standing water. Having no sidewalks, residents of the Addition often had to wade through water and mud.7 The Additioners wanted to re-create a rural atmosphere, but they had expected better public service on the periphery of a city.

6Minor, The Negro in Columbus, Ohio, p. 29; Douthitt, History of the American Addition.

7Richmond, Housing Conditions in the Outlying Districts of Columbus, pp. 13-14.
Lacking street lights, traveling the streets at night became a burden. Neither electricity nor gas was provided in the homes of the community. Owners of hogs collected garbage for feed but their hogs apparently refused to eat cans, paper, and unedible refuse. The people of the Addition did have postal service and they maintained boxes for such purpose. For bus transportation Additioners had to travel a mile into Columbus. 8

Migration of southern blacks to Columbus during World War I compounded the problems of the Addition. The immediate economic causes of the migration were the labor depression in the South in 1914 and 1915 and the demand for unskilled workers in the North caused by decline in foreign immigration. During the summers of 1915 and 1916 the boll weevil damaged the cotton crop throughout the South; floods in the summer of 1915 in the lower South brought additional problems. Dissatisfied with continued low salaries despite the increased cost of living in the South, the blacks migrated to the northern cities. As a result, whole towns were depopulated in the South. Blacks migrating to northern commercial and industrial centers anticipated higher wages and a better way of life. Without homes, good schools for their children, and political

8Richmond, Housing Conditions in the Outlying Districts of Columbus, pp. 11-12; Interview with Nimrod B. Allen (Columbus, Ohio, December 2, 1971); Interview with Mrs. Douthitt, January 10, 1972.
rights in the South, blacks looked upon the North as the promised land.⁹

According to a 1917 survey housing was the most serious of the migrants' social problems. This was especially true in Columbus. In order for the migrants to improve in other areas housing conditions had to improve. In 1920 Emmett J. Scott analyzed housing conditions in Columbus as follows:

Because of the high cost of materials and labor incident to the war, because the taxation system still does not encourage improvements, and because of investment attractions other than in realty, few houses had been built and practically no improvements had been made. This was most strikingly apparent in the poorer sections of the city. In the negro section, for instance, there had been almost no houses added and few vacated by whites within the previous years. ¹⁰

Booker T. Washington, founder and principal of Tuskegee Institute, had encouraged southern blacks to buy land and to build their homes. Black migrants to Columbus attempted to carry out Washington's philosophy, preferring owning homes to paying exorbitant prices for rent. The influx of thousands of blacks from the South


created new black communities in the outlying districts of Columbus. Blacks now settled not only in the American Addition but in Hanford Village, on the southeast, and in Urbancrest, on the southwest of Columbus. As in other northern cities, blacks in Columbus proper sometimes lived in attics, basements, churches, sheds, storerooms, and warehouses. Blacks who settled in or moved to the outlying districts of Columbus were trying to avoid the congestion of the city. Unfortunately they created congestion in outlying districts.11

Louise V. Kennedy reported, "Many of the earliest migrants were brought North by the railroads and were housed in camps." The blacks lived under deplorable conditions in transient sheds, mess halls, rest rooms, boxcars, and tents. Describing the typical condition of the camps, Kennedy observes:

In some cases the camps were well kept; in many, however, there were no adequate sanitary provisions, and the sleeping quarters were filthy and lacking in ventilation, with serious congestion. In one of the better camps...a space 20 by 40 feet was filled with cots and there were but three windows. In some of the worst camps visited the rough shacks housed about 400 Negroes who slept in wooden bunks piled close together.12


In Columbus these blacks did not remain in these camps very long; instead, they took the boxcar material and built their own homes.\textsuperscript{13} When the newcomers moved to the American Addition, they found conditions similar to those in the railroad camps: unpaved streets, streets without lighting, and general unsanitary conditions.\textsuperscript{14} In other words, the migrants found conditions similar to the ones they had left in southern cities. But in most instances, the Addition's condition was worse than black neighborhoods in the South.

With the influx of blacks to the Addition during the War, most of the whites left the community. By 1925, 91.2 per cent of the population in the Addition was black. Of the 113 households in the Addition, only six belonged to native whites and four to foreign-born whites. Among the blacks, 72.8 per cent came from the South and 27.2 per cent from the North.\textsuperscript{15} The American Addition was becoming a black community - a community in which housing would become the major problem.

\textsuperscript{13}Interview with Allen, December 2, 1972; Interview with William Gardner (Columbus, Ohio, January 11, 1972).

\textsuperscript{14}Kennedy, The Negro Peasant Turns Cityward, p. 157; Richmond, Housing Conditions in the Outlying Districts of Columbus, pp. 11-15; Minor, The Negro in Columbus, Ohio, p. 29.

\textsuperscript{15}Richmond, Housing Conditions in the Outlying Districts of Columbus, p. 10; Kennedy, The Negro Peasant Turns Cityward, p. 213.
CHAPTER XI
THE PROBLEM OF HOUSING IN THE ADDITION

Newcomers to the Addition bought land, but lacked money to build decent homes. Since neither Franklin County officials nor Clinton Township Board of Trustees regulated building in the community newcomers built shacks from a combination of materials. Congestion occurred when houses were built in close juxtaposition to others and, shacks were erected behind houses on the same lots. In the absence of building regulations, the newcomers created an unhealthy environment and the community, once quite attractive, became an ugly slum.

Like Additioners before them, the black newcomers built their homes of boxcar material and a combination of scrap materials. E. Grace Richmond, who examined housing in the Addition in 1925, noted that "All but five houses were constructed of frame." One of the five was converted from a brick church. A six-room house was constructed out of tar paper, tin, and boxcar material. The major materials used in a three-room house were building paper and logs; scrap lumber was the principal material in another. This last shack was erected on a lot for $23
annually. Every kind of material including roofing, was used for siding, while composition roofing, rubber, shingles and tin were employed for roofs. One family used two rooms for living quarters, while the other one was a junk room. The only ventilation in the house came from a twelve-by-fourteen inch opening of the door "fitted (with) one pane of glass."\(^1\) This wooden dungeon was subject to burst into flames at any time.

In 1925, 72.7 per cent, or the heads of 80 households, had lived in or close to Columbus for five years, or more. Heads of 29 households, or 26.3 per cent of those reporting, had lived in or near Columbus from one to five years. Only one of the households had been established in the Addition less than one year.\(^2\)

Richmond's survey indicates that once in the Addition, blacks remained there. Perhaps the old Additioners' cooperativeness caused many of the newcomers to overlook deplorable living conditions. Then, too, newcomers found in the community a way of life similar to that of rural areas in Ohio and in the South.


\(^2\)Mark, *Housing Survey*; Richmond, *Housing Conditions in the Outlying Districts of Columbus*, p. 11.
Several of the people in the Addition in 1925 had recently moved there from Columbus. Within the community itself there was considerable shifting from house to house. The reason for such changes was not determined in the survey but it is possible that many of the newcomers lived with relatives until they built their homes.

In the Addition, there were 37 homeowners, 24 heads of families purchasing houses, and 49 tenants. The percentages were as follows: owning, 33.6 per cent; buying, 21.8 per cent; and renting, 44.6 per cent. Except for the 10 houses erected behind other houses, houses were built on the front of lots. The single house, of which there were 95, was the typical dwelling. There were 12 double houses and 6 houses in buildings used for business. Many ugly sheds defaced the alleys and junk was scattered over several yards.

Of 113 houses in the community, only 13.3 per cent were considered in good repair; 38.1 per cent were classified as fair, and 48.6 per cent were in bad condition. The 13.3 per cent found in good repair were probably the houses of the first settlers of the community.

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3Mark, Housing Survey; Richmond, Housing Conditions in the Outlying Districts of Columbus.

4Mark, Housing Survey; Richmond, Housing Conditions in the Outlying Districts of Columbus, pp. 14, 15.
### TABLE II

**Condition of Repair by Number of Rooms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Rooms</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Bad</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>32</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Owners inhabited 7 of the 15 houses rated good; 4 were occupied by prospective owners, and 4 by renters. Of 43 houses rated in fair condition, 16 were occupied by owners, 11 by buyers, 15 by tenants and one by the son-in-law of the owner who demanded only payment of taxes for rent. Of 55 houses rated in bad condition, 14 were inhabited by owners, 9 by buyers, and 30 by tenants. One of the houses was built by the occupant on leased ground and one was owned by the father of the household who charged no rent.5

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5Mark, Housing Survey; Housing Conditions in the Outlying Districts of Columbus, pp. 15-16.
Home ownership provided satisfaction and a feeling of permanency which aided in the growth of community pride. For low-income groups, however, hardships in acquiring their homes "neutralize(d) any good effects" that was to come from their ownership.6

Six houses in the Addition were occupied by two families. In one instance, one child and four adults lived in a four-room house; in another, five adults and three children occupied six rooms; a family of eight inhabited a two-room house. Living under such conditions, Additioners encountered moral danger as well as physical discomfort. "A kitchen, a bedroom and a livingroom... (are) indispensible to family life." In the Addition these facilities, in many cases, were not provided. It was almost impossible for Additioners to provide a healthful and a safe environment under such congested conditions.7

In 1934, Meriss Cornell, a student in Social Work at Ohio State University, made a study of housing in the Addition. He found there were more four-room dwellings in the Addition than any other kind. Indubitably some of the Additioners had to use dining rooms, kitchens, and

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6Richmond, Housing Conditions in the Outlying Districts of Columbus, p. 57.

7Ibid., pp. 62, 64-65; Mark, Housing Survey.
TABLE III
Number of Rooms per Household in the Addition, by Number of Persons per Household*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of per Household</th>
<th>Total No. of Households</th>
<th>Number of Households with Each Specified Number of Rooms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>120</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Meriss Cornell, et al., Housing on the Outskirts of Columbus (Ohio) (Columbus, Ohio: unpublished manuscript, 1934).
livingrooms for bedrooms. Of the 120 households studied, three kitchens, 22 livingrooms, and three dining rooms were used as bedrooms. In other words, 27.5 per cent of the houses studied lacked necessary facilities for a decent home life. In one home an Additioner used a kitchen for a livingroom as well as a bedroom. Kitchenettes were not in fashion in 1934, nor was this house built for such purpose. 8

In most cases houses in the Addition did not have basements, attics, or porch facilities. In the absence of basements, Additioners left many things in their yards. After a period of years, most of the yards were very untidy. Cans, glass, paper, rags, and abandoned cars were seen throughout the community.

In 1934, 72, or 60 per cent, of the households were lighted by electricity, and 48, or 40 per cent, used kerosene. The use of kerosene proved most dangerous. All of the households in the Addition used coal as a fuel for heating. In 20, or 33.3 per cent, of the homes, heating stoves or kitchen stoves were employed for heat. Kitchen stoves were also used in 4, or 3.3 per cent, of the homes. In 94, or 78.3 per cent, of the households, grates or heating stoves were found. Only 2, or 1.6 per

8 "Use of Rooms for Each Specified Household Purpose, by District and Race of Head of Household," Housing on the Outskirts of Columbus; Cornell, "Number of Rooms in Dwelling, in Negro Households, by District," ibid.
### TABLE IV

**Porch and Basement or Cellar Facilities, and Size of Dwelling**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>American Addition</th>
<th>Total No. of Dwellings</th>
<th>Number of Dwellings with</th>
<th>Basement or Cellar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Front Porch</td>
<td>Rear Porch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 or more</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>120</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Cornell, *Housing on the Outskirts of Columbus.*
cent, of the homes had furnaces.9 Lacking modern con-
veniences and public services, Additioners lived miser-
able lives during the winter months.

During the Great Depression, houses in the Addition
were in poor repair. Cornell found that rented houses
were in better repair than the ones owned by occupants.
Sixty-seven, or 55.9 per cent, of the houses were owned
by occupants and 53, or 44.1 per cent, were rented by
occupants. Of houses owned, only seven had no parts in
disrepair. But 60, or 50 per cent, of the homes owned
had parts in disrepair. Fifty-one parts were in dis-
repair in the 53 houses rented. These statistics indi-
cate that after an Additioner bought his home, he did
not have funds to maintain it in good repair.10

In 1917, a concerned black physician, Dr. William J.
Woodlin, founded the Welfare League of Columbus to solve
black newcomers' problems of delinquency, employment,
housing, recreation, and social welfare. In 1918 the
Welfare League was reorganized as the Columbus Urban
League. The League was incorporated by the State of
Ohio in 1920. Due to financial difficulties, however,

9"Heating and Lighting Facilities of Households,
By District and Race of Head of Household," ibid.

10"Relation of Tenure to Disrepair, by District and
by Race of Head of Household," ibid.
the League failed in its early years to do anything about the most crucial problems confronting blacks. Several individuals served as Executive Secretary, but none could solve the League's financial problems. It was not until the League turned to one of its local members that real progress was made. In September 1921 an invitation was extended to Nimrod B. Allen to become Executive Secretary of the League. Under Allen's administration, the League extended its activities to the outlying districts of Columbus.¹¹ Urban League officials believed that small incomes meant lack of food, insufficiency of clothing and "improper and unfit housing."¹²

The major problems in outlying areas, especially in the Addition, was housing. "Housing is more than shelter." It furnishes a setting for the entire family life. Children cannot be reared satisfactorily if there is no place for them to play at home without annoying adults or being annoyed by them. Weakened family controls are created in over-crowded homes. As a result, some children become juvenile delinquents. Furthermore,


children in crowded homes often encounter great difficulties in doing their homework. In addition to the mental and moral health risks, there are the physical health dangers.\textsuperscript{13}

During World War II, the Columbus Urban League held housing clinics to discuss the problems of housing for blacks. The local League urged the National Urban League to prepare a pamphlet that would list the inadequacies of housing and suggest corrective measures. Moreover, Ohio Urban League Executive Secretaries Council was requested to set up a clearing house for housing information and problems on a regional level. The responsibility of the clearing house was to receive and disseminate information regarding the housing deficit to groups in local communities.\textsuperscript{14} In the addition, the housing problem was well known.

\textsuperscript{13}Gunnar Myrdal, et al., \textit{An American Dilemma: The Negro Problem and Modern Democracy}, rev. ed. (New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1962), pp. 375-376. The problem of housing for blacks was primarily the problem of a low-income group aggravated and made worse by housing segregation which excluded blacks from many desirable areas in the Columbus area. Low-incomes contributed to overcrowding and consequent physical deterioration in black neighborhoods. cf. John C. Alston, \textit{Negro Housing in Columbus, Ohio} (Columbus, Ohio: Columbus Urban League, 1946), pp. 10-12.

\textsuperscript{14}Finding Committee Report, 1945, C.U.L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 13.
The Committee of the League's housing clinics recognized that there was not enough war housing. Most of the new units were restricted for occupancy to migrant war workers. The Committee recommended that the National Housing Administration program more housing units for the Columbus area. It further recommended that the native war workers qualify for war housing. The Committee even recommended that families move to smaller quarters or "double up" if they occupied larger quarters than needed. Doubling up, as noted earlier, weakened family controls and created mental, moral, and physical hazards. The Committee should have recommended housing to alleviate over-crowded conditions in the Addition and other areas.

On May 17, 1944, the Health and Housing Committee of the League convened. It was noted that an effort was being made in Washington to initiate a program of slum clearance. Modern buildings were to replace dilapidated houses. Under such programs, the city would condemn an area, purchase the land, and have the houses torn down. The Committee observed:

Then construction or revenue bonds would be issued which would pay perhaps 1½... (per cent) interest, and if the money that is used to purchase bonds is given consideration in the income tax returns, it would help make the investment worthwhile.\(^{16}\)

\(^{15}\) War Housing in Franklin County, 1944, C.U.L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 13.

\(^{16}\) The Health and Housing Committee, May 17, 1944, C.U.L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 13.
In this way, housing could be constructed on an economic basis. The Committee also pointed out that the facilities, schools, and transportation of the various communities would already be there. The streets in the communities would already be paved. Most of these public services, however, had never been available in the Addition. The American Addition was selected for redevelopment but Columbus failed to get the housing project.\(^{17}\)

There was a great need of modern housing in the Addition. Over-crowding was prevalent in the community. In one case, two adults and two children lived in one room. No space was available for the baby bed. In fact, there was only one bed in which all slept. Under such indecent, unsafe, and unsanitary housing conditions the very soul of man was killed. Youth in such environment had no incentive or will to do good. This environment often caused delinquency, desertion, disease, family disintegration and disorder.\(^{18}\)

\(^{17}\)A Community Gains Financially by Public Housing, C.U.L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 11; Governmental Affairs (Legislative Daily) April 12, 1945; "Negro Housing Held Back by Finance, Fritche Says," Columbus Dispatch, September 20, 1953; "Columbus Loses 524 Public Housing Units," ibid., September 23, 1953; see picture of the American Addition on page 55.

\(^{18}\)Walter P. Reuther, Testimony Presented to U.S. Senate Banking and Currency Committee, February 16, 1949, C.A.C.C., MSS, Coll. 177, Box 11; Human Interest Stories, 1947, C.U.L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 13; Housing Report, January 28, 1950, ibid., Box 14. The need for a broad attack on housing utilizing all of the resources in the Columbus area, was shown by the extent of substandard housing.
The American Addition (Courtesy of Richard E. Garretts, Columbus, Ohio).
On February 17, 1950, great sorrow struck the Corbett family in the Addition. "Five children were burned to death." The mother, Mrs. Isabell Corbett, arose early that morning and made a fire which she thought would take care of the heating while she was at work. Seven days before this tragedy, one of her daughters had given birth to a baby and was not staying at home. Mrs. Corbett had gotten her a place to stay because of the over-crowded house. The house, nonetheless, was still over-crowded. There was another sister in the house, but she escaped without injuries to herself or to her two children. But five of her brothers and sisters died in the fire without fully understanding life. The League and its George Washington Carver Unit in the Addition collaborated to supply the Corbett family with bedding and clothing.\footnote{Human interest stories, February 17, 1950, C.U.L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 13; Minutes of the Unit Council of the Columbus Urban League, February 27, 1952, C.U.L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 14.}

During the Korean conflict, more blacks came into Columbus. The demand for decent housing became even more acute. Columbus population was again spilling over the countryside into the outlying districts. Industrial
leaders were seeking new sites, and land owners were willing to sell their lands. The residents of the Addition complained about industry in their midst. Furthermore, people who owned homes in Clinton Township objected to the rezoning of 420 acres adjacent to the Norfolk and Western Railroad for industry. The area had been zoned as a residential area. The League argued that "...planners and zoners should establish sound principles and stick to them." 20

When the Korean conflict opened, the American Addition had acquired the name "shack city." After the War there was a continuation of the slum clearance fight. In the Housing Act of 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower stated: "In order to clear our slums and blighted areas and to improve our communities, we must eliminate the causes of slums and blight." The Addition, however, was not a part of Columbus and therefore would not profit from the city's slum clearance program. 21 In order to maintain a healthy environment, Additioners needed good housing.


CHAPTER III
HEALTH AND GENERAL WELFARE OF ADDITIONERS

After the crash of 1929, with many Additioners suffering from unemployment, there was a great need of professional leadership in the community. Columbus Urban League officials and Clinton Township Board of Trustees filled the void. Benevolent organizations in Columbus supplemented the aid given by the League and Clinton Township. League workers organized block clubs throughout the Columbus area before the crash. One of them, the "American Addition Improvement Association," initiated several projects to solve relief, health, and public service problems for Additioners. Urban League Block Units were well organized. All units were independent and met on a monthly basis. League workers served in guidance capacities and did nothing for units which they could do for themselves. The Block Units shared ideas in a Unit Council composed of representatives from all neighborhood groups. The Council produced a newspaper,
Unit Gossip Sheet News, and served as the governing body for the units.¹

Urban League officials and Clinton Township Board of Trustees believed that character was only secondary importance in determining a man's economic status. In the opinion of these reformers poverty was not so much a mark of personal failure as an incident of society's imperfect methods of producing and distributing goods. They believed that misery was more often imposed on people by external forces than by personal inadequacies. In the tradition of twentieth-century reformers, Urban League officials and Clinton Township Board of Trustees originated programs to solve the problems of poverty in the Addition.²

On September 6, 1929 the Association met to discuss the welfare of Additioners. One member suggested that the Association give a community "Hard-Time Dinner" on Thanksgiving. Another member moved that they select a committee and that each member pay 20 cents for the community dinner. The Hard-Time Dinner proved to be a good idea, attracting more Additioners to join the Association. In 1930 the

¹Minutes of the American Addition Improvement Association, July 19, 1929, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 12; ibid., January 3, 1930; Rules to Govern Block Units and Community Groups, ibid., Box 13; "The Columbus Urban League," Columbus Voice, July 6, 1930; Interview with Allen, December 2, 1971; Interview with Mrs. Douthitt, January 10, 1972.

²Bremner, From the Depths, p. 134.
Association gave a free Thanksgiving dinner for all Additioners. Because poverty was widespread in the Addition, community dinners had a "salutary effect" on relief recipients. Of 120 households in the Addition, 64, or 53.3 per cent, received relief. During the depression 254 persons were relief recipients.

The lowest rent paid in the Addition during the 1930's was $1 per month, the highest $12, and the average $6.77. Miss Richmond in 1926 and Cornell in 1934 reported that rent was lower in the Addition than in any other outlying district. Considering the disrepair of most of the properties, however, rents were not cheap.

Various benevolent organizations in Columbus contributed clothing for children of the Addition. At Christmas and at intervals during the year, Additioners received aid from Charity Newsies. With the support of local newspapers, Charity Newsies provided shoes for

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4 Housing Conditions in the Outlying Districts of Columbus, pp. 92-93; Housing on the Outskirts of Columbus.
### TABLE V

Number of Households with Each Rent Per Month, By District and Race of Head of Household*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District and Race of Head of Household</th>
<th>Number of Households</th>
<th>Number of Households With Rent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>With Rent Reported</td>
<td>Under $5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White All Districts</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black All Districts</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sellsville</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West King Avenue</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnside Heights</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urbancrest</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southgate</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hanford Village</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Addition</td>
<td>53</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Cornell, Housing on the Outskirts of Columbus.*
children whose mothers took them to the Newsies headquarters for fittings. The Urban League also donated clothing and shoes to the relief committee of the American Addition Improvement Association so that children of school age could remain in school. At Christmas the League collected baskets from the Red Cross and Salvation Army for deprived Additioners. The Osborne's Mush Company periodically donated mush. The League maintained the pride of relief recipients by keeping their names anonymous.

In 1930 the Urban League attempted to initiate classes in home economics for mothers in the Addition. Nimrod B. Allen, Executive Secretary of the League, and Mrs. Eva F. Warfield, a League social worker, conferred with Miss Faith Lanman, Director of the School of Home Economics at Ohio State University. Miss Lanman informed them that the department was unable to assign practice teachers because of the small student enrollment during the winter quarter. The extension department of Columbus


Public School system was likewise unable to provide teachers. Finally Mrs. Charlotte Ellis, a home economist, consented to conduct classes in food and clothing for mothers in the Addition.7

Long before the depression most Additioners cultivated gardens and some raised hogs, chickens, and cows. Mrs. Warfield suggested that the civic club hold a canning class. Noting that vegetables and fruits were cheap, Mrs. Warfield stated that new and helpful methods could be learned from a good instructor. On October 9, 1930 Mrs. A. Gunn, a home economist, conducted a class in canning. Older married women as well as the younger ones gained much from the demonstration, learning methods of canning greens, chickens, and soups.8 In 1931 the League held demonstrations in canning at two homes in the Addition. The women canned all surpluses that the gardens yielded. Clinton Township Board of Trustees supplied three-dozen jars for each family. Columbus Urban League

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workers instructed the mothers not only in canning but the causes of spoilage.\(^9\)

In 1917 in response to the war-time food shortage, Godman Guild of Columbus inaugurated a community garden project. This project was very popular among the unemployed and continued after the war. Gardeners were of various nationalities and included both blacks and whites. The ratio was about 60 per cent white and 40 per cent black.\(^10\) Guild executives administered the details of surveying, assignment of plots, collection of fees, instruction, protection, plowing, and recordkeeping. Gardeners applied at the Settlement House for assignment of lots.\(^11\) A paid supervisor was available throughout the season. His duties were to lay out plots, instruct and advise on details of planting, cultivation, harvesting, mediate differences, and act as watchman. Godman Guild employed an extra watchman when produce was ripe. Much of this home grown food and fruit was preserved for

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\(^{10}\)Garden Activities Among Negroes, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 13.

\(^{11}\)Ibid.
the winter. Godman Guild's method of solving the relief problem proved so successful that the Urban League officials and Clinton Township Board of Trustees adopted it during the depression.  

In 1931 the Council of Social Agencies and Columbus Urban League obtained forty acres of gardening land for the use of unemployed black families in Columbus. J. W. William, president of Evergreen Cemetery Association, donated the land for the garden project and Clinton Township Board of Trustees arranged to have it prepared for planting. The plot located at the corner of Joyce and Fifth Avenues, was accessible to all Additioners.

12Ibid. With the motto "Not alms but opportunity," Columbus Urban League officials knew that charity was subject to abuse, by the giver as well as taker, and that the most effective and acceptable of benevolence was not almsgiving but sensible efforts to help people to become independent and prepared to work out their own destinies. Cf. Robert H. Bremner, American Philanthropy (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1960), passim.

13The Urban League Gardens, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 10; Report of Neighborhood Secretary, April 19, 1932, ibid., Box 12; Transcript From Annual Report - Urban League Neighborhood Department, February 13, 1932, ibid., Box 10; Max Bogatin to Members of the Board of Directors of the League, June 25, 1931, ibid., Box 13; "Jobless Can Garden," Citizen-Journal, June 8, 1931; "40 Acres Ready to Aid Negro Family," Ohio State Journal, June 9, 1931; "Gardening Land For Unemployed Negroes Secured; Plot of 40 Acres Obtained Near American Addition; Seeds Sought," Columbus Dispatch, June 9, 1931; Interview with Allen, December 2, 1971; See garden plots on page 66.
### PLOT 1
#### Joyce Avenue

**947 Gardens**  
Joyce + Fifth Avenues Tract No. 1  
Lot 60 x 94

---

**Water Tower**

---

### Fifth Avenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plot</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>J</th>
<th>K</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A8</td>
<td>B.26</td>
<td>C.26</td>
<td>D.26</td>
<td>E.26</td>
<td>F.26</td>
<td>G.26</td>
<td>H.26</td>
<td>I.26</td>
<td>J.26</td>
<td>K.26</td>
<td>L.26</td>
<td>M.26</td>
<td>N.26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Houses

- **House A**
- **House B**
- **House C**

---

**1931**
Families in the Addition applied for lots at the Urban League office. One-hundred and fifty-six families in the Addition received lots 40 by 100 feet for use during the summer and fall seasons. The Red Cross and City of Columbus supplied seeds. Produce was not sold but consumed by needy families. In connection with the garden project, the Urban League established canning schools in which home economists conducted classes throughout black communities in Columbus. Additioners canned all vegetables not consumed during the summer for winter use.\textsuperscript{14}

A study conducted by the Urban League's unemployment committee revealed that blacks constituted only 10 per cent of the population in Columbus, but 37.6 per cent of the blacks were out of work. Allen noted that "These Negroes are not transients but residents of Columbus, the majority of them having lived here five years or longer."\textsuperscript{15} Consequently there was a great need of relief projects in the Columbus area, especially in American Addition.

\textsuperscript{14} Bogatin to Members of the Board of Directors of the League, June 25, 1931; Citizen-Journal, June 8, 1931; Ohio State Journal, June 9, 1931; Columbus Dispatch, June 9, 1931; Interview with Allen, December 2, 1931; See garden plots on page 66.

\textsuperscript{15} Gardening, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 13; "Social Agencies Seek Solution For Unemployed," Columbus Dispatch, April 20, 1931; Interview with Allen, December 2, 1931.
The Urban League prepared subsistence gardening manuals to aid Additioners in planting their crops and assigned a trained agricultural leader to the community. Additioners were also advised to consult people trained in agriculture, such as, vocational agriculture instructors of the local high schools, members of the gardening committee, and county agricultural agents.  

Many Additioners were farmers before they settled in the community but they learned much from professional leaders.

As the garden project developed, Additioners received a "plan for a vegetable garden" which advised them to plan their gardens on paper before planting. League workers gave them a sketch of a planned garden flexible enough to suit soil conditions and desires of gardeners. The Urban League officials selected vegetables with the idea of securing the largest possible food return with least risk from soil, insect, and disease troubles. Moreover, they urged Additioners to plant seeds of hardier crops as early as possible. Additioners were also


17 Plan for a Vegetable Garden, ibid; See suggested plan for a vegetable garden on page 69; Interview with Allen, December 2, 1971.
### Suggested Plan for a Vegetable Garden—50 by 100 Feet

Prepared by L. H. S. 19

Chair, Dept. of Industrial Gardens

1. Please refer to the diagram for the layout of the garden beds. The diagram shows the planting schedule for the various vegetables.

2. The planting schedule is divided into months, with each month listing the specific vegetables to be planted. The schedule is organized by the month of planting, followed by the month of harvest.

3. Each row in the table represents a specific vegetable, with columns indicating the month of planting and harvest, as well as the amount of space required for each crop.

4. Cultural practices for each vegetable are noted in the margin, along with any special requirements or notes for planting and care.

#### Table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Vegetable</th>
<th>Planting</th>
<th>Harvest</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>1. Lettuce (early seed sown)</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>For early crops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>2. Spinach (March seed)</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>For early crops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>4. Peas (Mid-Season)</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>For early crops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>5. Beans (Mid-Season)</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>6th</td>
<td>For early crops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>6. Corn (Early)</td>
<td>6th</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td>For early crops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>7. Tomatoes (Early)</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td>8th</td>
<td>For early crops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>8. Tomatoes (Mid-Season)</td>
<td>8th</td>
<td>9th</td>
<td>For early crops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>9. Tomatoes (Late)</td>
<td>9th</td>
<td>10th</td>
<td>For early crops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>10. Sweet Corn (Early)</td>
<td>10th</td>
<td>11th</td>
<td>For early crops.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Additional Notes:

- The garden is designed for a 50 by 100 foot plot.
- The planting schedule is optimized for early crops, with specific timing for each vegetable to ensure optimal growth.
- Cultural practices include proper spacing, irrigation, and pest control.
- The garden is intended for home use, with vegetables intended for both fresh consumption and preservation.

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*Note: The diagram and schedule are subject to change based on local climate and soil conditions.**
instructed that they could plant more than one kind of vegetable in the same row, to avoid raised beds which would dry out quickly, and patchy planting which made weeding difficult.\textsuperscript{18}

In 1935 the Federal Emergency Relief Administration of Ohio assigned supervision of subsistence gardens to each county Works Division in Ohio. Thereafter only relief recipients were eligible to receive provisions for gardens. Urban League officials, after this change, submitted only applications of relief clients. In one instance, the Urban League turned down forty-six applicants because they were no longer on relief.\textsuperscript{19}

Garden projects continued during World War II. The League assigned one-hundred and ninety gardens in 1941. In that year most gardens in Columbus suffered because of dry weather and Additioners were very disappointed with their crops. During times of need, however, Additioners

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usually shared their food with neighbors. Two years later they produced better crops. With good weather and good farming skills, Additioners produced beautiful crops. One Additioner stated: "I planted by the book..., and I had the best garden I ever had in my life." 20

Subsistence gardens played an important role in Additioners' relief during the emergency period. The League encouraged each unemployed and part-time worker in the Addition to maintain a garden. Gardens helped to boost the morale of idle Additioners by enabling them to contribute toward "self preservation." Additioners took great pride in their gardens and competed with each other to produce better crops. 21

During the depression 254 persons in 64 of the 120 households in the American Addition (approximately 53% of the households) received relief. On June 1, 1939 the State Legislature passed a bill which made the Board of County Commissioners "the local relief authority outside the municipalities of Franklin County" and designated the


Board of Township of any township to act as agents of the county in administering poor relief. After passage of the act all townships in Franklin County requested that their Boards of Trustees serve as agents for poor relief. Thereafter the County Commissioners authorized the Boards of Trustees in all townships to investigate the eligibility for poor relief and issue orders for relief. People in the American Addition were poverty-stricken prior to and after the depression. During the winter months in the 1930's and 1940's Clinton Township supplied the families with coal. Every week Clinton Township Board of Trustees provided trucks to procure and deliver butter, meal, lard, beans, and bacon in accordance with the number in the recipient family. There was also a quota for clothing and bedding and, according to Ray Reynolds, a member of Clinton Township Board of Trustees, Additioners also received blankets, sheets, and mattresses. Nevertheless, many Additioners continued "to rely on the dumps in their community for clothing, bedding, and sometimes foodstuff."

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23 Interview with Reynolds, January 18, 1972; Interview with Wesley Douthitt (Columbus, Ohio, January 10, 1972).
Additioners were also interested in improving their health and public services. Lacking street signs and lights, the Additioners' streets were usually unsafe. Several Additioners could not afford periodical medical examinations for their families. Poor housing and depressed conditions generated crime and disease in the Addition. Urban League officials and Clinton Township Board of Trustees believed the cure for poverty in the Addition was simply an alleviation of their unjust and degrading conditions of work and living.\textsuperscript{24}

With the philosophy of twentieth-century reformers in mind, Urban League officials during the depression guided Additioners toward a more varied program of interest as well as a number of special projects. While they were primarily concerned with improving the general character of their community, Urban League officials also developed Additioners interest in current, social, and civic programs which kept them better informed of public issues. Additioners became better acquainted with health officers in their community by inviting them into their community and hearing more about their work. In

\textsuperscript{24}Bremner, \textit{From the Depths}, p. 138.
exchanging ideas with other block units, the Improvement Association (now known as the George Washington Carver Unit) learned more about the value of balanced meals, care of children, and how to grow better vegetables. In other words, they attempted to create a more friendly and healthy environment.²⁵

Protection of health is an ancient welfare function of cities. In 1931 Cecil C. North, a sociologist at Ohio State University, observed:

Long before the community recognized the responsibility for families in distress or for needy children or for the recreative life of its citizens, it put into effect measures to ward off contagion or to protect the water supply or to dispose of its water.²⁶

The crude sanitary and quarantine methods of older civilizations and even of primitive peoples were the precursors of our modern community program for health.²⁷ Although the sanitary and quarantine measures were outdated, these measures were still used by Additioners.


²⁷Ibid.
Most wells in the Addition had an adverse effect on the resident's health. The mortality rate of the Addition was approximately four times that of Columbus proper. Dug close to outhouses, most of the wells were unhealthy by 1929. The Improvement Association felt it prudent to seek aid from the Commissioners of Franklin County to obtain sanitary water for their community. On March 1, 1929 the Improvement Association appointed a committee composed of Allen, the Reverend James Taylor, and W. T. Reese to confer with county and city authorities for water.28 The County Commissioners assured Allen that Additioners would get water if Farmers Fertilizer Company and American Zinc Oxide Company on Windsor Avenue signed a petition.29

At the next meeting on June 7, 1929 Allen prepared a petition for the Additioners. By October 4, 1929, the petition had been signed by all property owners. A concerned white physician, Dr. William D. Inglis, conferred

28 Minutes of Extension Committee, October 29, 1928, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 12; E. G. Bradbury to Board of County Commissioners, August 25, 1931, Sanitary Engineer's, MSS, Franklin County, Ohio (hereinafter cited as S. E., MSS, Franklin County, Ohio).

29 Nimrod B. Allen to W. D. Inglis, September 21, 1929, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 10.
with the managers of the two companies about signing the petition. Lewis E. Elmond, manager of Farmers Fertilizer Company, refused to sign the petition because he feared his company's insurance rate would rise. Elmond also stated that the volume of his company's water supply was inadequate in case of fire. J. I. Wall, manager of American Zinc Oxide Company, argued that a water line would be of no value to his company since there was already city water in his plant. He noted that the cost to the company of approximately $4,000 to extend the water line was unfair. Wall informed Dr. Inglis that Additioners were in the area long before his company moved there. Wall suggested, however, extending a water main so that the line would pass property in the Addition that would benefit from it. 30

On April 19, 1929 the Board of Directors of the Urban League appointed a committee of concerned physicians to consult with the County Health Commissioners. In 1930 Columbus Health Department condemned all wells in the Addition. For a while Additioners relied on rain

30 Minutes of Extension Committee, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 12; Allen to Inglis, September 21, 1929; Minutes of Extension Committee, October 4, 1929, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 12; Allen to Inglis, March 25, 1930, ibid., Box 10; J. I. Wall to Inglis, April 26, 1930, ibid.; L. E. Elmond to Inglis, April 28, 1930, ibid.
water but this source of water proved unreliable. Afterward Additioners conveyed water in tanks from Columbus Water Works. Because Additioners transported their water in small buckets after the city placed cisterns in the community, the source of water was still insufficient and unsanitary. 31 If a healthy environment was to be achieved, there was need of a better water supply.

On August 30, 1930 Additioners submitted a second petition to the Commissioners. Additioners requested that water mains be constructed in their community with fire plugs, and other accessories to provide proper and adequate water supply and fire protection for their community. Additioners submitted their petition with the understanding that installation of such water mains would be assessed against property owners. 32 Since the water line passed the two companies, property of the American Zinc Oxide Company and Farmers Fertilizer Company would also be assessed. E. G. Bradbury, County Sanitary Engineer,

31 Minutes of Extension Committee, August 2, 1929 and December 5, 1930, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 12; Bradbury to Board of County Commissioners, August 25, 1931, S. E., MSS, Franklin County, Ohio; "The Columbus Urban League," Columbus Voice, July 6, 1930.

32 Additioners to Board of County Commissioners, August 30, 1930; Bradbury to Farmers Fertilizer Company, July 19, 1930, S. E., MSS, Franklin County, Ohio.
informed the managers of the companies that if the County Commissioners accepted the petition, it would be necessary to assess abutting property. It was impossible for property owners in the Addition to pay the entire cost. Again Farmers Fertilizer Company and the American Zinc Oxide Company refused to assume any of the financial responsibility to extend the water line. The County Commissioners had the power, however, to proceed without the companies' approval of the petition. On November 10, 1931 the Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution to extend the water line to American Addition. On December 8, 1931 the County Commissioners held a hearing to discuss the resolution.

On December 16, 1931 the Board of County Commissioners finally voted to proceed with the installation of water mains in the Addition. The installation of water mains was delayed, however. First, Columbus Mayor had

33Allen to Inglis, November 20, 1930, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 10; Minutes of Extension Committee, ibid., Box 12; Bradbury to Farmers Fertilizer Company, July 19, 1930; Wall to Bradbury, October 22, 1930; Bradbury American Zinc Oxide Company, October 8, 1930.

34"Resolution of Necessity for Water Main in Sewer District Mifflin No. 1, Improvement No. 159," S. E., MSS, Franklin County, Ohio.

35Hearing on Water Main in Sewer District Mifflin No. 1, Improvement No. 159, December 8, 1931, ibid.
to sign the contract and, second, the pending United States Supreme Court decision in regard to the Allen County case. On June 17, 1931 there arose in Allen County, Ohio a question in regard to the validity of certain bonds issued by Allen County officials. The case was fought through to the Supreme Court of Ohio, winning a favorable decision. When it reached the United States Supreme Court the case was dismissed for a lack of federal question. Columbus officials thereafter signed the contract for water. In August 1932 Additioners' water line was finally installed.\(^{36}\)

On August 26, 1932 the Improvement Association held a celebration for their success in getting city water. That evening the American Addition baseball team defeated Alexanderian Civic Center. A parade of 100 little Additioners carrying the United States flag was an attractive affair. Later that evening Dr. Inglis was the principal

speaker, and he spoke of the importance of a clean healthy environment.\textsuperscript{37} Despite the improvement of the means of a good healthy environment, many Additioners could not afford to enjoy them.

During the struggle to have the water line extended to the Addition the City of Columbus placed cisterns throughout the community. Only 55 per cent of the households in the Addition signed the petition for water. Apparently not all property owners paid to have water installed. Cornell reported in 1934 that of 120 households in the Addition only 31, or 2.5 per cent of the households, had city water. There were 81 wells and 8 cisterns in the Addition. Only 16 heads of families had water within their homes, 60 in yards, and 44 had no water. With 64 households on relief, many Additioners probably could not afford to pay for the installation of water. Then, too, 53 of the heads of households were tenants, and perhaps their landlords refused to pay to have water installed. Additioners continued to share their water

and some even used the condemned wells. 38 Under such conditions the water main did not produce a healthy environment.

Cornell noted that out of 120 households in the Addition there was only one flush toilet and 119 privies in the community. Moreover, location of toilet facilities was inconveniencing to Additioners. Only 1 head of household had a flush toilet within his home, 111 in yards, and 8 off premises. 39 As Additioners shared water, they also shared toilet facilities. Consequently health conditions remained primarily the same as before the movement for sanitary water.

While the fight for water was being waged, Urban League officials also tried to improve the health of Additioners in other ways. League workers selected a committee for "National Negro Health Week," beginning

38 Bradbury to Board of County Commissioners, August 25, 1931, S. E., MSS, Franklin County, Ohio; "Type and Location of Sanitary Facilities of Households, By District and Race of Head of Households," Housing on the Outskirts of Columbus; "Number of Households with Each Rent Per Month, By District and Race of Head of Household," ibid; "Number of Households and Persons Reported as Receiving Relief, By District and Race of Head of Households," ibid.

39 "Type and Location of Sanitary Facilities of Households, By District and Race of Head of Households," Housing on the Outskirts of Columbus.
March 31, 1929. Additioners recognized that the sick often constituted the greatest menace to the health of the well, and their cure was, consequently, a major necessity in checking the spread of sickness to well Additioners. Control and elimination of all infectious and contagious diseases in the Addition required free treatment of the sick. Free treatment of the sick was the most important of all preventive measures.  

Under the auspices of welfare groups the Urban League set up a health clinic in the Addition and other outlying districts during the National Negro Health Week. Local physicians and county nurses supported the health clinic. The clinical staff examined and vaccinated the students at the American Addition school. In 1931 Allen stated: "The Negro, comprising about 10 per cent of the population of Columbus, leads the white death rate by 3.7 per cent." In order to encourage Additioners to pay more attention to health, the staff distributed health literature at the clinics. After physical examinations, the staff referred many Additioners to clinics in Columbus if they were indigents. Clinton Township Board of Trus-
tees transported many Additioners to Columbus for physical examinations. After three years, however, because of insufficient funds, the Trustees discontinued this service. Afterward the health committee of the Council of Social Agencies provided transportation. Moreover, the Improvement Association sponsored a special health program with Dr. Harlez Mannel as the main speaker. They asked ministers in the Addition to emphasize cleanliness and good health habits. In May 1950 the Urban League opened a Baby Information Center in the Addition. 41

In order to insure a safe environment, the health committee of the Improvement Association was also interested in cleaning up the community. The health committee sponsored periodical clean-up campaigns. During clean-up campaigns the committee divided the community into five sections with a clean-up leader assigned to each section. It made a special effort to get the cooperation of all Additioners by house-to-house visits. The committee cleaned houses and yards, removed rubbish from streets

and alleys, tore down and removed dilapidated buildings, repaired fences and planted flowers in each section.\(^{42}\)

The community was further beautified when the committee placed street signs at each corner, and installed traffic signs with a 35 mile speed limit on Joyce Avenue and 20 mile in the Addition proper. When the clean-up campaign developed they asked all Additioners to place their rubbish in containers on the streets and alleys. Additioners and the Township Trustees furnished trucks for the clean-up campaigns. In 1951 Additioners appealed to Columbus officials to improve sanitation in the community with garbage service. Columbus city officials denied such service because the community was outside the city limit.\(^{43}\) Usually after each clean-up campaign a representative from the State Department of Health would show health pictures. On one occasion, Dr. A. B. Lippert from the State Department of Health showed the following films: "Tuberculosis," "The Fly," "Care of the Child," and "Pure Foods."\(^{44}\)

\(^{42}\) Minutes of Extension Committee, April 5, March 15, and August 16, 1929, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 12; "Clean-up is Planned in American Addition," Ohio State Journal, April 20, 1931.

\(^{43}\) Report of Community and Neighborhood Department, October-December, 1950, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 13; Speech for the Workshop, December 26, 1950, ibid., Box 20; Thirty-fourth Annual Report of Extension Department, ibid., Box 34.

\(^{44}\) Minutes of Extension Committee, May 3, November 1, and 15, 1929, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 12.
Several Additioners raised hogs and goats in the community which hindered the development of a healthy environment. In 1929 the Improvement Association decided to petition the County Board of Health to have all hogs and goats moved not less than 1500 feet from any residence in the community. After several petitions, the Board informed them that it was not unlawful to raise hogs and goats in the county. Residents of the community could achieve an improvement in their condition through education. Dr. Lottie Blake, a physician, prepared a letter regarding the danger to health in keeping hog and goat pens in unsanitary conditions. She mailed this letter together with health literature to every home in the Addition. A representative from Clinton Township Board of Trustees worked with Additioners in keeping the pens in the condition required by law. Further, the Improvement Association appointed a committee to work with the County Board of Health to see that all hog and goat pens were kept in a sanitary condition at all times. Nevertheless, in 1939, Clinton Township constables arrested thirteen Additioners and carried them before the Justice
of the Peace for violating health regulations. In 1950 the George Washington Carver Unit improved the health of the community by having all hog and goat pens removed.

The hog and goat pens were not the only menace to the health of Additioners; the lack of "sanitary disposal of wastes" presented another menace. Sanitary disposal of wastes includes sewage disposal, garbage collection and disposal, and street cleaning. North believed "Many things which are frequently regarded as health menaces are simply offensive nuisances." Wastes in the Addition became a health problem when their disposal affected water supply and when Additioners left the dump open to flies. Moreover, garbage, animal manure, rubbish, and unsanitary toilets in the Addition provided breeding places for flies. When Additioners removed wastes, they sometimes placed them in dumps near the community, thus allowing the menace to continue.

45American Addition Improvement Association to Board of County Commissioners, September 3, 1929, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 10; Minutes of Extension Department, June 7, and 25, 1929, ibid., Box 12; Report of Neighborhood Secretary to Extension Department, April 17, 1935 and September 15, 1949, ibid., Box 13; Minutes of George Washington Carver Unit Weekly Meeting, July 19, 1946, ibid., Box 17; Report of Community and Neighborhood Department, September 1, 1949, ibid., Box 19.


After clean-up campaigns Additioners hauled the garbage to a nearby dump which was also used by Columbus Sanitation Department. In 1939 the Improvement Association appointed a committee to discuss plans to get city officials to move the dump to another area. After much deliberation the committee recommended that "'the dump means too much to us' to ask for its removal." Additioners voiced many objections to having the dump removed. In objecting to the dump's removal, one woman stated: "...she had no mattress for her bed and no money to buy one. When passing the dump one day she saw a discarded mattress and promptly took it home for her bed." In another case, a woman complained that she never had money to buy candy and fruit for her children but candy and fruit could be found on the dump. If they closed the dump, she noted, her "children would not get these things." A third woman noted that she was able to get enough fruit and vegetables from the dump to can for winter use; therefore, she objected to cutting off this source of food. As already noted, many Additioners got clothing, bedding, and shoes from the dump. One hog raiser stated that he

48 Minutes of the American Addition Civic Improvement Association, September 29, 1939, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 13; See mattress used by an Additioner on page 90.
The American Addition Dump (Courtesy of Columbus Health Department, Columbus, Ohio).
An American Addition Toilet and a Mattress used by an Additioner (Courtesy of Columbus Health Department, Columbus, Ohio).
could easily feed his hogs from discarded food found on
the dump and he did not have to carry it very far. Only
one Additioner, after the discussion, desired having the
dump closed. The poverty of Additioners took priority
over a good healthy environment.  

The Improvement Association held a meeting and
agreed to leave the dump open for six months. The mem­
ers of the Association requested that someone burn all
rubbish and grade the land with dirt and ashes. Children
under ten years of age should not be permitted near the
dump and the Improvement Association recommended placing
a wire fence across the front of it. If these guide­
lines were not observed, they recommended closing the
dump. In June 1946 the Additioners renewed their move­
ment to have the dump closed because it was near some of
the finest homes in the community, again many Additioners
objected. Meanwhile another dump opened in Lea Crest
Addition adjacent to the American Addition. The combina­
tion of odors from the toilets and dumps in the community

49 Minutes of the American Addition Civic Improvement
Association, September 29, 1939; Interview with Charles
Bosley and Wesley Douthitt (Columbus, Ohio, January 20,
1972); See the American Addition dump on page 89. Poverty
and disease demoralized home life of Additioners to an
alarming extent.

50 Minutes of the American Addition Civic Improvement
Association, September 29, 1939.
made life unbearable for Additioners. Since school was to open in September, it was the opinion of the Improvement Association that something should be done. In October 1946 they had the dump closed and toilets cleaned.  

As soon as one dump closed, however, another one opened. In 1946 shortly after the Improvement Association closed the dump Mrs. Hattie Haynes opened one on Petrel Alley. Wiley Zellner, president of the Improvement Association, informed Howard Reynolds of the County Board of Health that the dump was annoying Additioners. Zellner reminded Reynolds that flies carried germs and there were many because of the dump. The Association requested the Urban League to have the local newspapers write a series of articles and take pictures of the dump to arouse public opinion so that county officials would act. The members of the Improvement Association finally agreed that until the American Addition was incorporated very little could be done to rid the community of the dumps.  

51 Quarterly Report of Community and Neighborhood Department, August 16 and October 16, 1946, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 17; See picture of a toilet in American Addition on page 90.  

52 Wiley Zellner to Howard Reynolds, June 17, 1948, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 13; Minutes of Extension Committee, October 11, 1948, ibid.  

53 Minutes of Extension Committee, October 5, 1948, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 13; Community and Neighborhood Department, October 2, 1948, ibid., Box 25.
1, 1949 Reynolds ordered Mrs. Haynes to close the dump. Additioners also feared that sparks from burning trash on the dump would ignite and cause serious damage to the community.

Prior to 1949 Clinton Township Board of Trustees had a contract with Columbus Fire Department to cover areas in the township. Because Columbus Fire Department charged a considerable amount of money for these services, Clinton Township Trustees purchased pumps from other Fire Departments and organized a volunteer unit in the Addition. The young men in the Addition willingly joined the unit and the women volunteered as auxiliaries. The sixteen firemen were given a first-aid course and all qualified. In 1949 Additioners erected a firehouse with modern conveniences. Additioners sponsored bake sales, dinners, and lunches to raise money for an emergency fire truck for the squad. Occasionally they used the emergency vehicle as an ambulance for incapacitated Additioners. According to Rey-

54 Report of Community and Neighborhood Department, October-December, 1949, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 13; Community and Neighborhood Department to Board of Directors, September 15, 1949, ibid.; Columbus Urban League Thirty-Second Annual Report, 1950, ibid., Box 43; Interview with Mrs. Douthitt, January 10, 1972.
nolds, "They had one of the best qualified and... highest rating of our volunteer association in Franklin County."55

Although Additioners tried to maintain a clean and healthy environment, outsiders often made their lives miserable. Lessening of vice and crime in the Addition was the objective of its civic club. Because dance halls in the Addition attracted noisy outsiders, members of the Improvement Association wanted to move them out of the community.56 Additioners complained about shooting, cutting, fighting, and bad language indulged in by patrons of Charlie Bowman's Place on Woodford Avenue. In Ruby Clark's Place on Lee Avenue fighting disturbed divine worship. Additioners were also annoyed by the many cars parked in the community from Saturday nights to early Sunday mornings.57 In 1952 a feud between two East-Side men ended in an Addition shooting. Sanders McCollough

\[\text{Report of Community and Neighborhood Department, October-December, 1949, April-June, 1950, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 13; Columbus Urban League Thirty-Second Annual Report, 1950; Interview with Reynolds, January 18, 1972.}\]

\[\text{Minutes of Extension Department, June 21, and October 4, 1929; "The Columbus Urban League," Columbus Voice, July 18, 1972.}\]

\[\text{American Addition Improvement Association to John J. Chester, October 16, 1929, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 10.}\]
followed William Bosley to the Gardner Tavern and shot him. Additioners were basically good and peaceful people, but it was almost impossible to maintain a clean and healthy environment with noisy outsiders in their midst.

In 1949 the Township Trustees assigned two constables to the Addition. James McCoy, an Additioner, served as constable for the Addition for ten years. Each constable used his own car. Moreover, Franklin County Sheriff appointed a deputy sheriff for the Addition. Sometimes the deputy called the sheriff into the community when outsiders caused trouble. Eventually Additioners began to recognize and appreciate the work of these officers. In 1949 a police and fire levy passed unanimously to compensate policemen and firemen in Clinton Township.

During the depression Columbus Urban League officials and the Township Trustees and other benevolent organizations created programs to solve relief, health, and public

58 "Bitter Feud Ends in 'Addition' Shooting," The Ohio Sentinel, October 18, 1952; Interview with Reynolds, January 18, 1972.

service problems for Additioners. They provided food, clothing, and other provisions for poverty-stricken Additioners. So that Additioners would become independent, the Urban League planned a garden project so that they could grow more of their food. To insure them a sanitary water supply, Urban League officials interceded for Additioners to have a water line extended to the community. Furthermore, the League sponsored health clinics during the National Negro Health Week. Urban League officials and the Township Trustees initiated periodical clean-up campaigns by which Additioners beautified their community. County and Township officials appointed officers to insure Additioners a safe environment. Additioners were thankful for aid given by the various organizations and they evinced their appreciation through divine worship.
CHAPTER IV

RELIGIOUS LIFE OF ADDITIONERS

After blacks purchased lots in American Addition, they promptly organized churches. Like blacks in Columbus, Additioners felt it necessary to engage in divine worship. They considered themselves neglected without a religious message to live by during week days. Moreover, Additioners held most of their civic meetings in churches. Traditionally the church was the center of social life for blacks, as well as a refuge from a hostile rural environment. The black church was the organization that created cohesion among slaves; it was also the basis of organized life among blacks who were free before the Civil War and among freedmen following Emancipation. Additioners, assisted by Columbus Urban League officials and the Clinton Township Board of Trustees, employed this pattern to perpetuate an organized social life.

The Columbus metropolitan environment changed the mental outlook of Additioners. Additioners endeavored to explain their experiences in terms of their traditional outlook on life which was always imbued with religion and an image of the world provided by the Bible. But new experiences could not be contained in the conventional ways of reflecting about the world; Additioners were very much impressed by the novel status in which they found themselves. They saw blacks in unusual roles as policemen, firemen, and in position of trust and authority and that blacks could vote as whites did. Through these experiences they acquired a new view of themselves.\(^2\)

seeing the need for a larger edifice, sold two of his lots to the church and Mt. Zion was built on its present site in 1915. Reverend Taylor served as pastor of Mt. Zion until 1921. Mt. Zion's membership was never very large, and from 1921 to 1947 nine ministers served the church.  

Membership increased after Reverend R. F. Hairston, Jr. became pastor of Mt. Zion in 1947. There were less than ten members when Reverend Hairston became pastor but under his leadership, membership increased to over 850. Reverend Hairston proved to be a dynamic leader, builder, and teacher. On March 17, 1948 the Zionites showed their appreciation by giving him a surprise birthday party in the church. Reverend Hairston had the support of a strong Deacon Board chaired by Deacon John Allen, Sr. Mrs. Adell Phillips served as church clerk. In 1963 Reverend Hairston organized an Educational Committee. Deacon Jerry Armstrong chaired the Trustee Board. In 1951

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3J. A. Thrower and King E. Naff, The History of the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church (Columbus, Ohio: unpublished manuscript, 1969); Douthitt, History of the American Addition. Miss Richmond reported in 1926 "In this small area, four little churches were in existence." There were two Baptist churches, one with twenty members and the other with forty members. One of these churches, however, was in the Lea Crest Addition adjacent to American Addition.
the officers increased to ten Trustees. Presently Deacon Terell W. Barnes chairs a Board of fifteen Trustees.

On October 27, 1955 Mt. Zion suffered a calamity when fire destroyed the church. Its treasury contained only $41.31 for rebuilding and banks and mortgage companies refused to make loans to the church. Members of Mt. Zion continued worship services, however, in the American Addition Firehouse. The Zionites remained in the firehouse for two years and four months while the new building was under construction. Robert Bennett, a member, supervised the new construction. Bennett worked day and night to complete the new edifice. When he completed the main auditorium in February 1957 the Zionites assembled in their new building. In 1959 an addition measuring 20 by 57 feet was joined to the church to accommodate the pastor's study, restrooms, conference

4Unit Gossip Sheet News, May 6, 1948, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 13; "Mt. Zion Baptist Plans Celebration of 50th Anniversary," The Call and Post, September 18, 1965; Thrower, The History of the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church. From the standpoint of formal affiliation with various denominations, blacks in northern cities continued their traditional affiliations. Before 1947 the small membership of Mt. Zion was unusual because northern churches were usually larger than southern ones. Usually the average membership of a black church in the North was close to 800 while the average for the South was less than half that number.

5Thrower, The History of the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church.
room, and baptismal pool. Bennett built the pool behind the pulpit with a beautiful fresco above it. Bennett and Deacon King E. Naff supervised the construction of the addition without pay. The Zionites showed their gratitude by dedicating the edifice to Naff and Bennett.6

Under the leadership of Reverend Hairston, Mt. Zion grew spiritually and financially. After 1952 Mt. Zion became known as the "Great Radio Church." The services of Mt. Zion were broadcast over WVKO of Columbus each Sunday. To maintain the pride of its congregation, Mt. Zion assumed the motto "The Church Where Everybody is Somebody." The motto attracted more Additioners who felt the spirit and worked diligently to better their church. From its membership ministers were ordained, many of whom now serve as pastors of churches throughout the United States.7

The religious activities of Mt. Zion satisfied all groups: men, women, and children. Annually Mt. Zion sponsored special programs for its youth, and the Sunday

6Ibid.

7"Celebrating Our 14th Year of Radio Broadcasting on WVKO," The Call and Post (Columbus) June 20, 1964; Thrower, The History of the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church.
School Department presented religious plays. In 1964 Mt. Zion Youth Council held a carnival at Tray-Lee Community Center. During the summer Mt. Zion conducted a Bible School for its youth. In April 1966 Mt. Zion served as the host of the Fourth District Sunday School and Baptist Training Conference. There were special days for women and men featuring good speakers and attracting visiting women and men Sunday school teachers. On the special days choirs from the various participating churches rendered musical programs.  

Members of Mt. Zion needed special days because during the anniversary everyone was expected to do his religious duty. Often ministers were brought in from neighboring states to handle the service. At the 50th Anniversary in 1965 Sister Josephine James, a gospel singer from Chicago, was the special guest. On anniversary days the members remained at church the entire day. Each family contributed certain foods for the festive

occasion. On the tables one found assorted meats, a variety of vegetables, bread, and soft drinks. Before, during, and after services the youth found time to solve their problems of hunger.9

In September 1964 Reverend Hairston resigned to accept the pastorate of Rose Chapel Baptist Church in Cincinnati. The Zionites were without a pastor until December 1964 when Reverend Richard Lee Hairston, son of the former pastor, assumed leadership. Under his guidance the sanctuary was carpeted; the kitchen, ladies' lounge, and pastor's study remodeled, and the vestibule covered with tile. In visiting other churches, he did much to publicize the good work of Mt. Zion and usually the choir traveled with him. Because of his stirring sermons he was in great demand by other churches. His sermons usually dealt with every day living, such as: "Our Greatest Danger," "Freedom Through Truth," "A Journey Into the Unknown," "When I Would Do Good, Evil Is Always Present."10

9"Mt. Zion Baptist Plans Celebration of 50th Anniversary," The Call and Post (Columbus) September 18, 1965.

On April 29, 1966 Terell W. Barnes, Chairman of the Trustee Board of Mt. Zion filed charges against the Reverend Hairston. Mt. Zion was on the verge of an explosive uprising because of its congregation dissatisfaction with the "pastor's general conduct." The Zionites' petition alleged that the pastor had failed to perform his duties to their satisfaction and that although dismissed at a special meeting, he refused "to vacate the pulpit." In their petition the Zionites requested Franklin County Court to restrain and enjoin Reverend Richard L. Hairston from occupying the pulpit and from interfering with religious services. Trustee Barnes also charged that because of the pastor's action, the church was unable to conduct orderly services and it suffered "irreparable damage and distraction."11

The Call and Post headline "Court Asked to Oust Pastor From Pulpit of Mt. Zion Baptist," disturbed one of the Zionites, Mrs. Eula Harris. Mrs. Harris requested the paper's editor to "Please consider a more suitable

headline, 'God is alive.' She informed the editor that only forty-nine members wanted to dismiss the pastor:

I believe our membership runs into a few hundred. Since when has any creature been given the right to judge another? The Bible says judge not your brother lest you be judged... Rev. Hairston is a Holy Ghost filled minister. All he wants is a chance. Won't your paper please help give him that chance...12

The editor replied that the court had the responsibility to determine whether the "'Holy Ghost' pastor is guilty or innocent." He noted that the court's decision would come from the judge and not from his paper headlines.13

At the hearing on May 13, 1966 the Common Pleas Court Judge Fred Shoemaker ruled that the case was not a court problem. Judge Shoemaker assigned Reverend L. H. Johnson, president of the Baptist Pastor's Conference, to conduct a vote to determine whether Reverend Richard L. Hairston should be ousted.14 On May 20, the Zionites congregated for the vote.


14Ibid.
They came — mothers with babies on their hips and three or four toddlers trailing behind; teenagers dressed in shifts and bell-bottom slacks; the old couples clinging to their grandchildren for support; the staunch, angry deacons, the sacred, the anxious, as the defiant young minister sat in the choir box facing them. His 23-year-old wife, Helen, sat in the congregation with her children...15

Because of the court's decision, Reverend Johnson told the congregation that the court had respect for the church. One of the Zionites questioning the decision, asked: "Why do we have to vote by ballots; why not take a verbal vote on this? We ought to do this our way."

Reverend Johnson stated that the case was taken out of the church and into the court; therefore, the case was to be handled as decided by the court. "All in favor of using the ballot, say amen. The amens have it...." Reverend Johnson informed the Zionites regardless of the way they voted, Richard L. Hairston would still be a Christian.

The assistant pastor requested all outsiders to leave the church.16 Nathaniel Blakely, a member, told a reporter that the members who made up the petition had no authorization from the church. The whole case was a farce to

15 Ibid.
16 Ibid.
him, "caused by a few disgruntled people who are jealous of that boy." 17

When Reverend Johnson announced the count the defeated members left the church. The victors cheered and Reverend Richard L. Hairston's celebration began with a long sermon that caused his congregation to take to the aisles shouting, "praise be to Jesus." Mrs. Hairston stated: "'I knew Reverend would win. God was on his side. Truth won out.'" Reverend Hairston indicated that he was glad the schism was over, and he was going to celebrate by taking his family out to dinner. Mrs. Georgia McKing pointed out that she had been a member of the church for eighteen years. Mrs. McKing stated that about 50 of the 84 votes he received came from people who were not members. She argued that the pastor sent out a letter to non-members who came to support him. 18

Reverend Hairston gave a copy of the letter to the editor of The Call and Post. In the letter he attempted to analyze the problem confronting Mt. Zion.

17 Ibid.

18 Ibid.
The Spiritual Air has been filled with lies, character assassination, and confusion. Our church has been blasted in the newspapers, hung on the sign board and made a mockery of. All because of a few misguided people have failed to heed the voice and direction of the Holy Spirit. This is your church. It is up to you to decide whether our church shall be a house of prayer or a rumor mill, a place of dedication or confusion, a church of love and peace or a den of envy and strife. This letter is signed because I am not ashamed of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, as all Christians should be... I am not ashamed to have the light of the Holy Spirit shine on my soul, and show to the world any false notions, mis-directions or deed, in my life.

Yours in Christ,

(signed) Reverend Richard Lee Hairston, Sr.

Reverend Richard L. Hairston said that he sent out 250 letters to members only of Mt. Zion. The letter was sent to members to counteract unsigned letters attacking his character.

Four months later Reverend Hairston presented his letter of resignation to the Zionites. He noted that he had accepted a call to pastor the Prince of Peace Mission Baptist Church on Mt. Vernon Avenue in Columbus. As the surprised Zionites sat frozen in their pews, the young pastor read his letter of resignation to be effective

19 Ibid.

20 Ibid.
within 90 days. To soften the severe shock, Reverend Hairston informed the Zionites that he accepted the offer after profound "prayer and fasting."  

Located in a storefront once occupied by a dairy firm, Prince of Peace Mission was to open its morning service on September 18. Reverend Hairston stated that the deacons would conduct "an old fashioned praise service." An evangelistic service was scheduled for the afternoon. Inviting the Zionites to attend both services, the pastor noted that the church was "'air conditioned' for your comfort, and prayer conditioned for your 'salvation.'"  

Again Zionites were without a pastor, but they prospered to the extent that they were able to remodel the sanctuary, purchase a lot east of the church, and develop a building fund. While they searched for a new pastor, visiting pastors conducted their services. Because of their tragic past, it took the Zionites more than two months to make their selection.  

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21Ibid.

22Ibid.

23Thrower, The History of the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church.
In January 1967 the Zionites were fortunate to retain Reverend J. A. Thrower as pastor. Under his leadership the congregation remodeled and dedicated the lower auditorium to one of their members, Mrs. Ruth Esther Allen. Tables and chairs were also placed in Ruth Esther Allen Fellowship Hall and new glass doors were installed at the main entrance. A bulletin board and a cross illuminated by flood lights were placed in front of the church. Under the Reverend Thrower's direction, the Zionites installed gas heat and air conditioning.\textsuperscript{24}

A year after Adams founded Mt. Zion, Reverend J. A. Payne organized Lee Avenue Methodist Church in the home of Oscar Coleman on Sampson Avenue. In 1912 Reverend V. A. Poindexter of the Lexington Conference built the edifice on Lee Avenue. Lee Avenue was well attended and its membership had a tremendous growth. The members elected Winston T. Reese superintendent of the Sunday school and under his leadership, with the aid of six teachers, much was accomplished. Like Mt. Zion most of Lee Avenue's pastors served for brief periods. Prior to

\textsuperscript{24}Ibid.
1953 fifteen pastors served Lee Avenue. In 1953 the Reverend E. B. H. Traylor became pastor of Lee Avenue.

Reverend Traylor attempted to create programs to enable the church to serve the community better. He suggested that a credit union be established for Additioners, but Additioners did not accept this idea. Reverend Traylor was also unsuccessful in organizing a community clothing store. He succeeded, however, in organizing a recreational center for American Addition youth.

In 1961 Reverend L. A. Patrick became pastor of Lee Avenue Methodist Church. The church became a part of the Ohio conference in 1964. Dr. Louis R. Wolter served as the first district superintendent for the Ohio Conference. Under Reverend Patrick's leadership, Deacons Dalton and Cornell Bosley razed the old building. They drew the plans and worked untiringly until they erected a new building in 1965.


27Douthitt, *History of Lee Avenue Methodist Church*. 
Additioners received more flavor in their religious life in 1936 when Reverend Edward Bridges organized the Church of God on Sigsbee Avenue. In this church Reverend Bridges welcomed all denominations. Additioners found unity in the Church of God. Its worshippers believed that unity must be the kind and degree "that will enable the church to give a convincing and convicting witness to the world." Many Additioners joined the Church of Christ so that they would enjoy such unity.

Most churches in the American Addition accepted what E. Franklin Frazier described as the "secularization of Negro churches." That is, black churches lost their predominantly other-worldly outlook and began to focus attention upon black's condition in this world. Churches in the Addition cooperated with Columbus Urban League officials and Clinton Township Board of Trustees in initiating programs to solve problems confronting Additioners. Ministers of the various churches believed that an improvement in the community life would also promote improvements for Additioners' individual and family lives.  

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28 Earl L. Martin, This We Believe...This We Proclaim (Anderson, Indiana: Warner Press, Inc., 1971), p. 94; Interview with Reverend Edward Bridges (Columbus, Ohio, April 16, 1972).

29 Frazier, The Negro Church in America, p. 49.
CHAPTER V
FAMILY STRUCTURE OF ADDITIONERS

Most newcomers married before settling in American Addition. After settlement in the community there were few divorces because Additioners' marriage relationships were based upon sympathy and sentiment and regulated by custom and folk beliefs. Then, too, it seems as if their problems of poverty prevented divorces. Most households in the Addition were occupied by single families with paternal heads. All ingredients for good family arrangements were present, but poverty and despair in many instances denied such neat arrangements.¹

The majority of the heads of families in American Addition were from the South. Of 120 households in the Addition 85 of the heads, or 70 per cent, came from the South; 32, or 26 per cent, from Ohio; 3, or 2.4 per cent, from other northern states. It is interesting to note that Columbus metropolitan area had greater appeal for blacks from the upper South. Heads of 56 households, or

46.6 per cent of those reporting, came from the Upper South; 35, or 26.1 per cent, from the Lower South. Heads of 51 households, or 42.5 per cent of those reporting, came from South Atlantic states -- Virginia, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina, while 30, or 25 per cent, came from East South Central states -- Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi. In 1934 Cornell noted that most heads of families in American Addition migrated to Ohio during World War I, but 8, or 6 per cent of those reporting, moved to Ohio during the depression.

Prior to 1934, several heads of families in the Addition had lived in Columbus metropolitan area for a number of years. Whether or not they lived in Columbus proper is not definite. But since most Additioners longed for a rural way of life, it is safe to assume that they lived near the periphery of Columbus. Heads of 13 families had resided in Columbus metropolitan area less than 8 years; 67, or 56.3 per cent, lived in the area 8 years.

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2 Cornell, "Origin of Negro Heads of Households by District," *Housing on the Outskirts of Columbus.*

3 Cornell, "Length of Residence of Head of Household in Ohio, by District," *ibid.*
or more but less than 24; 28, or 23.6 per cent, 24 years but less than 40; and 11, or 9.2 per cent, lived in the area for 40 years. 4

Most heads of households settled in the Addition after entering Columbus. The head of one family settled on the periphery of the Addition around the turn of the century. This was the occupant of the log cabin just north of the community. Heads of 34 families moved to the Addition before and during the war. About 13 of these heads of families were among the first settlers of the community. Heads of 51 families, or 42.5 per cent, settled in the Addition during and immediately after the war; 23, or 19.1 per cent, had lived in the village 16 but less than 24 years. Moreover, heads of 34 families, or 28.8 per cent of those reporting, moved to American Addition during the depression. 5

Contrary to E. Franklin Frazier's thesis that heads of black families upon migrating North became matriarchal, most heads of families in the Addition were patriarchal. In other words, there were few "fathers on leave" from their families in the Addition. Additioners'

4Cornell, "Length of Residence of Head of Household in City, by District," ibid.

5Cornell, "Length of Residence of Head of Household in District," ibid.
TABLE VI

Sex, Age, and Marital Condition of Members of Negro Households*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Both Sexes</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Married</th>
<th>Widowed</th>
<th>Divorced</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Married</th>
<th>Widowed</th>
<th>Divorced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>548&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>243&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 5</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 9</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 14</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 19</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 24</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 29</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 to 34</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 39</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 to 44</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 49</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 to 54</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 to 59</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>60 and older</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Cornell, Housing on the Outskirts of Columbus.

<sup>a</sup>Not including 1 male not reporting complete data.
marriages were held together by their folk beliefs and customs.\textsuperscript{6} Both during the depression and after it, there were few divorces and desertions. Of 120 heads of families 109, or 98 per cent, were males and only 11 females. And, too, most of the heads of families were relatively young. Of 120 heads of families, 97 ranged in age from 20 to 50 years.\textsuperscript{7}

Most girls and boys in the Addition waited until they were in their mid-twenties to marry, but once married there were few divorces. Apparently they waited until they felt they had the needed security for a stable family life. Often, however, they were disillusioned because of their poverty. The three divorced females probably moved to the Addition after they received divorces. The girls and boys did not marry before their 18th birthday as their mothers, fathers, grandmothers, and grandfathers had done. Furthermore, by the 1930's the black family was gradually changing.

\textsuperscript{6}Frazier, The Negro Family in the United States, pp. 245, 283. When it came to severing their marital ties, Additioners had only erroneous ideas concerning the meaning of divorces.

\textsuperscript{7}Cornell, "Age of Heads of Households, by Sex, Race and District," Housing on the Outskirts of Columbus.
The proportion of old people in the Addition was low, persons over 50 aggregated only 17 per cent of the population. On the other hand, the percentage of working people (approximately 18 to 62 years of age) was high, forming 56 per cent of the population while the percentage of children was normal, or about 25 per cent of the total. The age distribution of Additioners remained constant from the 1930's through most of the 1960's.  

Mary Louise Mark observed in 1928:

In most large populations undisturbed by immigration or emigration about one-half of the population will fall between the ages of 15 and 50, while two-thirds of the remaining population will be younger and one-third older.

The majority of Additioners lived in single family households. There were 99 single families in American Addition, or 82 per cent of those reporting; 6 two families, or 5 per cent. There were, however, 14 cases where no family life existed. In most instances, the ingredients for good family living were available, nevertheless, such arrangements were prevented by poverty. In several cases where there were pre-school children

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8 Interview with Mrs. Douthitt, January 10, 1972; Interview with Reynolds, January 18, 1972.

9 Mark, Negroes in Columbus, pp. 35-36.
the wives took jobs and their children did not receive the needed attention. In other cases, males were unable to find employment to support their families. Even after securing employment the wages were usually below that required for subsistence. In 1960 the American Addition family income was only $2,083 compared with the city wide average family income of $4,789. Further, in 8 cases, boarders, lodgers, and unrelated dependents hampered good family arrangements.10

In 1960 when Tray-Lee Community Center became a branch of Neighborhood House, the families received guidance from trained workers. American Addition mothers engaged in sewing and other crafts which enabled them to improve their homes. The workers organized the Gun and Rod Club for the fathers interested in hunting and fishing. The guidance of workers at Tray-Lee had a tremendous impact on Additioners family life. Moreover, after Tray-Lee came under the auspices of Neighborhood House, Additioners wanted to assume community responsibility; that is, they wanted to plan and to work together for a

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10 Cornell, "Type of Household Studied, by District and Race of Head of Household," Housing on the Outskirts of Columbus; Gordon F. Serrot to Frank Cleveland, October 8, 1963, Tray-Lee Community Center Files, Columbus, Ohio (hereinafter cited as T. L. C. C., Files, Cols., O.).
better community. Although they wanted to share in community responsibility, many of them had occupations which prevented them from participating. 11

**TABLE VII**

Occupations of Additioners*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Craftsmen and Foremen</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Workers</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laborers</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck Drivers</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Population</strong></td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*An Anonymous Family Survey of American Addition, January 8-16, 1972. As far as the writer could ascertain the above figures are reliable. In the community there are a number of welfare recipients and retired Additioners. Before May 1971 the population of the Addition had always been approximately 1800.

Prior to 1948 most male Additioners found employment at American Zinc Oxide and Farmers Fertilizer Companies. In the early days these plants drew many settlers to the Addition. In 1948 there was a strike at American Zinc Oxide which precipitated the firing of most Additioners. In 1952 Farmers Fertilizer Company closed. After the strike and the closing of Farmers Fertilizer, 

Additioners secured employment within Columbus and at Lockbourne Air Base. They also worked for the three contractors in American Addition. Additioners desired gainful employment so their children would enjoy social, economic, and educational rewards.

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12Interview with Mrs. Douthitt, January 10, 1972; Interview with Bosley, May 2, 1972; Interview with William Talley (Columbus, Ohio, May 2, 1972).
CHAPTER VI
AMERICAN ADDITION YOUTH

We have to-morrow
Bright before us
Like a flame
Yesterday, a night-gone thing
A sun-down name
And dawn to-day
Broad arch above the road we came
We march!

Langston Hughes

Newcomers to American Addition desired a rural environment because they felt such environment to be conducive for child rearing. Once in the Addition, however, they discovered that the area lacked many of the conveniences for the rearing of children. Located on the periphery of Columbus, adjacent to railroads, and behind two chemical plants, Additioners found themselves in a polluted area. In order to get to school their children walked two miles into Columbus. In doing so, they traversed daily a long, narrow viaduct. During their leisure time the children lacked certain equipment
for play, there were only open fields. Again with the aid of Columbus Urban League and other benevolent organizations, Additioners obtained certain recreational facilities and school bus transportation for their children.

Like blacks in Columbus, Additioners desired an education for their children. One Additioner informed Richard C. Minor that her family moved to American Addition in 1912. She immediately enrolled her children in the Atcheson School on Joyce Avenue. A philanthropist built the school for the community. At that time, the informant's children were the only black children in the school. Her children's presence there did not cause problems, but as other blacks came into the community many problems developed. Fights and brawls among the children occurred daily. To solve this problem, the Board of Education placed three "portables" in the community on the site reserved for education. In the portables, American Addition youth studied the first three grades.

1 Interview with Allen, December 2, 1971; Interview with Mrs. Douthitt, January 10, 1972; Interview with Reverend Traylor, April 20, 1972.
while the older children remained at the Atcheson School.2

The American Addition School was not conducive for learning. Nearby the school an Additioner raised hogs and the hog pens emitted a horrible odor. Hattie's dump, only a stone's throw from the school, made the situation worse. Often the children were not allowed outside the portables because of the hog pens and dump. Columbus Urban League officials interceded for Additioners and had Hattie's dump closed. The school's principal reported the condition of the hog pens to the School Board and the Superintendent asked the owner to move them out of the community.3

When American Addition youth reached the seventh grade, they had to travel two miles into Columbus to Champion Avenue School. Because of the two viaducts there were many truancies and dropouts. In 1933 the Improvement Association asked Columbus Urban League officials to appeal to Columbus Board of Education for school bus transportation. On December 4, 1933 Allen

2Directory: Public Schools - Columbus Board of Education (Columbus, Ohio: Stoneman Press, 1925), p. 35; Richmond, Housing Conditions in the Outlying Districts of Columbus, p. 13; The Negro in Columbus, Ohio, p. 29.

3Interview with Mrs. Douthitt, January 10, 1972; Interview with Mrs. Willa Mae Edwards (Columbus, Ohio, April 23, 1972); See pictures of American Addition School classes of 1929, school staff, and May Day activities on pp. 125-126.
Staff of American Addition School, a class of 1929, and May Day activities (Courtesy of Mrs. Estella Fields, Directress of Tray-Lee Community Center, Columbus, Ohio).
American Addition School classes of 1929 and May Day activities (Courtesy of Mrs. Estella Fields, Directress of Tray-Lee Community Center, Columbus, Ohio).
informed Superintendent J. C. Collicott that American Addition youth encountered "a dangerous health hazard" in crossing the two viaducts to get to school. The Norfolk and Western viaduct was extremely dangerous. There were no sidewalks and the viaduct was often clouded with mist and smoke from the trains. Automobiles usually crossed the viaducts with tremendous speed, and during early morning traffic the children were certainly in danger of being struck. Allen reminded Collicott that children living two or more miles from school were entitled to bus transportation. Collicott argued that the American Addition was less than two miles from Champion Avenue School; consequently, the School Board was not required to provide bus transportation in such case.

Additioners continued their fight for bus transportation. In 1947 the George Washington Carver Unit asked the Railway Power and Light Company to extend the Ohio Avenue bus line to the American Addition. A representative from the company agreed to make a survey of the

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5 Interview with Walter Tarpley (Columbus, Ohio, November 15, 1971).
Meanwhile, Additioners submitted letters to prominent members of Columbus City Council. Again they were informed of the law which required the School Board to provide bus transportation for children beyond the two mile limit.

Bus transportation was greatly needed for American Addition youth. Of 197 youth in the Addition 138, or 60 per cent, were of school age. There were 77 boys and 61 girls of school age and only 30 boys and 29 girls of preschool age. Because of the inconvenience in getting to and from school, many of the Addition youth deferred their education. Therefore, the illiteracy rate in American Addition was extremely high until the 1960's.

In 1956 Columbus City Council approached the School Board about bus transportation for the Addition children. The School Board official still insisted that the area was within the two mile limit. The City Council had Columbus Traffic Department measure the distance and American Addition proved to be outside the two mile limit.

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6 Minutes of the Neighborhood Department, October 20, 1947, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 13.

7 Cornell, "Number of Persons of School Age and Number Under School Age," Housing on the Outskirts of Columbus.
With this fact, the City Council reapproached the School Board official. The Superintendent then agreed to establish a bus line in September 1956. After Columbus annexed the American Addition in 1959, school bus service was again suspended. It was not until 1965 that this service was reactivated. During that period, Additioners purchased their own bus. With school bus transportation many of the children not only finished high school but are presently in college.8

When the children returned home after school, there was no playground for recreation. The children played ball in the streets and alleys until their parents made them move their games to the open fields. In 1934 Columbus Urban League received funds from the Federal Emergency Relief Agency to conduct a playground for American Addition, but after the depression the children were again without recreation facilities.9


9Minutes of American Addition Improvement Association, August 2, 1929, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 12; Report of Neighborhood Secretary, November 23, 1933, June 1, 1934, ibid; Report of the Department of Health, September 20, 1934, ibid., Box 23; Columbus and Franklin County Playgrounds, November 1, 1939, Federal Writers Project County Works Files, MSS, Coll. 1160, Box 9 (hereinafter cited as F. W. P. C. W. F., MSS, Coll. 1160, Box 9); Minor, The Negro in Columbus, Ohio, p. 215; Richard C. Minor, Negro Recreation in Columbus, Ohio (Unpublished Master's Thesis, Ohio State University, 1926).
Often the children would return to Columbus for recreation. During the winter the children used the hills and slopes to coast on their sleds. Clinton Township Trustees were often asked not to put cinders on certain streets in the winter. The "acid ditches" made sledding a dangerous event. The ditches were filled with wastes from the two chemical plants west of the community. In the evenings all the teenagers congregated at "the barn." The barn was a drafty building divided into a dance hall and snack bar. There were no restrooms, water fountains, or chairs, but the barn was usually crowded. Because Columbus did not provide recreation centers for its black youth, teenagers came from all over Columbus and there were occasional gang wars. When the firehouse was built, dances were held twice a month. Adults also attended the dances. Sometimes the teenagers would favor Gardner's Bar on Joyce Avenue and "Sags" on Sigsbee Avenue.11

10 Interview with Mrs. Douthitt, January 10, 1972; Interview with Wesley Douthitt, January 20, 1972.

11 Report of the Community and Neighborhood Department, January-March, 1950, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 13; Interview with Mrs. Edwards, April 23, 1972; Minor, Negro Recreation in Columbus, Ohio.
American Addition youth recreation was conditioned by three elements. First, the children were usually barred from using certain recreational and amusement facilities in Columbus, and were inadequately supplied with private facilities. Second, their background caused their recreational patterns to follow those of the rural South. Third, because their recreation and amusement had to be carried on almost entirely in their isolated community, American Addition youth recreation developed peculiar traits of its own, different from those that characterized recreation in the white community. One of the most important characteristics of their recreation and amusement was their tendency to be intimate, informal, and sociable.12

Life in American Addition was generally dull and uneventful. There was little to do during a large part of the year. Because of the lack of facilities, the children's recreation tended to be informal and unorganized. Besides playing ball, sledding, and dancing, much of their time was spent in loafing, boasting, talking, telling tall stories, and singing. All the boys and girls participated, and their behavior was free, easy,

12Myrdal, An American Dilemma, p. 982.
and spontaneous. While it was true that the children's recreation behavior was relatively unrestrained and uninhibited, it was not a constructive form of amusement; it was monotonous and offered no chance to develop skills, physical or mental.\footnote{Ibid., pp. 982-983; Minor, \textit{The Negro in Columbus, Ohio}, pp. 213, 222-223.}

Often when commercial amusement came to Columbus, American Addition youth did not have the money to attend the event. Most of the families did not have the money to provide allowances for their children. The children's desire to attend the event led them to take coal from the railroad yards to sell. Sometimes they took the coal to help support their families. Occasionally they were apprehended by Columbus policemen and incarcerated. Because of their poverty, the incarceration of some of them did not stop others from pilfering coal.\footnote{Interview with Mrs. Edwards, April 23, 1972.}

The establishment of Brush Lake Summer Center provided another means of recreation and amusement for American Addition youth. In 1942 Columbus Urban League purchased Brush Lake. Located in the eastern part of Champaign County, Ohio, Brush Lake was only a one hour drive from Columbus. The Urban League purchased 54.48
acres of land. The lake itself comprised fifteen acres. The lake was fed by springs which provided a continuous and never-failing source of fresh water. The ground and buildings covered ten acres and there were ten acres of farm land. The remainder of about twenty acres consisted of brush land and trees on the far side of the lake. All of the buildings were in good condition. Brush Lake Summer Center was one of the most beautiful camps in the country. The grounds, sloping gradually to the lake, were in good condition. There were electric lights, gravel and board walks, concrete benches, and beautiful trees covered the entire grounds.  

In establishing Brush Lake Summer Center Columbus Urban League officials adopted a form of welfare that was developed around the turn of the century. Before that time Columbus provided no facilities for play. Therefore when the modern play movement began about the last decade of the nineteenth century there were no traditions to overcome except that of *laissez-faire*. From

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the beginning the point of view maintained in public recreation was constructive and democratic. Columbus Urban League officials employed this view when they formulated the objectives of Brush Lake.

...to help further the normal participation of the Negro into the opportunities and responsibilities of good citizenship through providing a place where families and individuals, without regard to race, color, or creed, may enjoy a beautiful natural setting for camping for the youth, retreats, chautauquas, small conventions, and relaxation for the family....

While the officials of Columbus Urban League designed Brush Lake's program to bring to blacks greater opportunities, they opened the camp to all races, creeds, and nationalities.

Camp Brush Lake served some American Addition youth who were able to pay in full and others who paid by selling papers. The Urban League officials planned so that all the Addition children would share in their expense. Because of the extreme need for camping for black children, Columbus Urban League officials were primarily concerned with the recreational, educational,


17 Brush Lake, A Summer Center, 1942; Camp Brush Lake, n.d., C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 43.

18 Brush Lake, A Summer Center, 1942; Interview with Wesley Douthitt, January 20, 1972.
religious, and home influences of the young people. Brush Lake provided water for swimming and fishing. There were hills to climb, trees for shade and woods for outposts. There were meadows, sun, flowers, and birds. In such environment some American Addition youth did not want to return home after summer camp.

On one occasion a little Additioner who had gone to camp for his first time did not want to return home. His mother signed him up for one week because she could not afford to send him for a longer period. She came out on a Sunday to take him home since she was to work at the hour he was to return on Monday. The little chap was in a "rage when she suggested taking him home," but after a long persuasion by the counsellor the mother agreed to let him stay overnight. When his mother left he stated that he was not going home on Monday. The counsellor feared that he would do something unusual to remain at camp for a longer period.


20 Camp Brush Lake; Augusta, A Study and Evaluation of Columbus Urban League's Program.

21 Quarterly Report for Community and Neighborhood Department, April-September 1953, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 20; Public Relations Department Quarterly Report, July-September 1953, ibid., Box 23.
On Monday morning all the children were ready to return home except the little Additioner. He stated that he could not find his shoes and that his mother would "spank him" if he returned without them. The counsellor did not want him to leave in that condition either, so a special search was put on for his shoes. The little Additioner delayed the bus for approximately 45 minutes while all campers and staff members searched for his shoes. Ultimately the shoes were found swinging in mid air at the top of the flag pole. The counsellor concluded that the little Additioner enjoyed Camp Brush Lake to the extent that "he would mar the beauty of Old Glory...."22

The little Additioner was extremely fortunate since many American Addition youth could not afford to attend the camp. So that all youth in the Addition would enjoy an organized playground, Reverend Traylor and members of Lee Avenue Methodist Church asked Clinton Township Trustees to provide playground facilities for the community. The Trustees stated that they were not authorized to provide playground facilities or equipment.

22Quarterly Report For Community and Neighborhood Department, July-September 1953; Public Relations Depart- ment Quarterly Report, July-September 1953.
Advised that such action came under the jurisdiction of County Commissioners, the group petitioned the county for playground facilities. The County Commissioners informed the group that they did not have a recreation department. C. P. Lauderbaugh, president of the Board of County Commissioners, informed the Reverend Traylor that the county assisted subdivisions by grading land for park or playground purposes. In one instance two civic associations in subdivisions entered into a contract with the county whereby they established and agreed to maintain a playground. In another instance subdividers deeded land to the county and the county agreed to maintain the park area. But in no instance had the county purchased land and established a park or recreation area. Lauderbaugh noted that if Additioners had land or could obtain the use of any land for recreation the county would grade the land and help in the maintenance of the grounds.

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23 E. H. B. Traylor, et al., to Board of County Commissioners, April 27, 1954, Commissioners' Archives, Franklin County, Ohio (hereinafter cited as C. A., Franklin County, O); "Additioners Lose Round In Fight for Playground," The Ohio Sentinel, May 1, 1954.

24 C. P. Lauderbaugh to Traylor, May 3, 1954, C. A., Franklin County, O.

25 Ibid.
education and the County Commissioners graded five acres for the playground. Clinton Township maintenance workers cleaned out the acid ditches in the community.  

In December 1956 Reverend Traylor and the Lee Avenue improvement committee established the Tray-Lee Community Recreation Center on Helena Avenue. The improvement committee named their center to honor its founders, Reverend Traylor and Reverend Lee Moorehead, pastor of Indianola Methodist Church. In the beginning, the leaders of the improvement committee desired a building as a combination recreation and community center. Columbus School Board and a local business firm cooperated to provide a building. The School Board gave a frame building which Felton Avenue School had used for classrooms. The business firm paid more than $700 to have the building moved to the community. With a building and land for play, the improvement committee planned a multi-faceted program. They initiated arts and crafts classes -- showed movies, gave


dances, and organized Bible classes. The building was also available for community meetings.\textsuperscript{28}

Although the improvement committee was primarily concerned with organized recreational activities for their children, they also saw a need for organized adult programs. An adult education program was planned. Reverend Traylor noted the necessity for such program by stating that "70 per cent of the residents . . . did not complete elementary school and less than 10 per cent have high school diplomas."\textsuperscript{29} In other words, there was a need to improve the American Addition parents' backgrounds through educational programs. With such improvement, the parents would be able to give more educational guidance at home.

In 1957 Joseph Wall, Executive Director of Neighborhood House, gave some staff service to Tray-Lee Community Center. The next year John McDowell, Director of the Settlement House Survey, recommended that the Neighborhood House develop a recreation program and a neighborhood council in American Addition. Wall requested

\textsuperscript{28}"Community Center Boon to American Addition," Citizen-Journal, December 7, 1956; Director's Annual Report, March 6, 1962, T. L. C. C. Files, Cols., 0; Interview with Wesley Douthitt, January 20, 1972.

\textsuperscript{29}"Community Center Boon to American Addition," Citizen-Journal, December 7, 1956.
the United Community Council to allocate $1,200 in order
to continue the services of one staff member and $800
for a part-time assistant for the last months of 1958.
In compliance with the request, the Council transferred
$1,200 from the Field Instruction Unit to Neighborhood
House. Moreover, Reverend Moorehead recommended that
the Methodist Churches collaborate with Neighborhood
House to finance the American Addition program for
1959. The following year the Columbus Foundation
donated $1,500 to improve the facilities of the center
and Tray-Lee became a branch of Neighborhood House.
These funds made it possible for a more effective group
work program for American Addition youth.

The Tray-Lee Center opened at 9:00 a.m. and remained
open until 10:00 p.m. It provided facilities to serve
the families of the community. Pre-school convened
between nine and twelve each week day. The children
engaged in educational and cultural activities. In the
afternoon the Tray-Lee facilities opened to the school age groups. The staff divided the groups into special

30 Minutes of Executive Budget Committee, August 27,
1958, United Community Council Files, Columbus, Ohio
(hereinafter cited as U. C. C. Files, Cols., 0).

31 Neighborhood House 52nd Annual Meeting, 1960,
T. L. C. C. Files, Cols., 0; Neighborhood House 53rd
Annual Meeting, 1962, ibid; Director's Annual Report,
March 6, 1962.
clubs according to their interest and age. These groups learned woodworking, music, art, and other crafts and games. Since many of the teenagers were school dropouts, the staff desired many changes in the evening programs. The teenagers engaged in table tennis and games of skill and social dancing. The leaders were for the most part concerned with creating situations through which American Addition youth would enjoy a meaningful experience and become useful citizens.  

During the 1960's American Addition youth began to voice their opinions about the needs of their community. They noted a need for virtually every competition sport known, that is, they desired organized teams. Furthermore, there was a need for a swimming pool and a skating rink and they recommended that these facilities be opened at night. The Addition youth wanted a movie theater and a camping or park and picnic area near their community. Their major concern, however, was the need for summer jobs so that they could afford to enjoy these facilities.

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32 Director's Annual Report, March 6, 1962; Interview with Wesley Douthitt, January 20, 1972.

33 Dee Roth, *Summer Activities Study*, June 1968, U. C. C. Files, Cols., O.
American Addition youth criticized the physical condition of their community. They wanted the streets and alleys in their community cleaned and repaired. The alleys in particular, to them, were in serious need of being cleaned. Scattered with glass, the alleys were unsafe for both motorists and children. There was a lack of sufficient street lighting in the community. They saw a need to clean, maintain, and improve the yards and lawns. And, too, the youth pointed out that the houses were in deplorable conditions. They recommended repairing and remodeling the houses rather than building new ones. The youth felt that Columbus had neglected their community since its annexation in 1959. The Addition had over the years attracted rats and many dogs. In the 1960's the youth in the Addition recommended that authorities should "clean-up the neighborhood" or "make the people keep the neighborhood clean."\(^{34}\)

In 1971 benevolent organizations in Columbus donated funds for the refurbishing of Tray-Lee Center. The building was thoroughly remodeled with a beautiful carpet, new toilet facilities, fence for the playground, 

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\(^{34}\)Ibid; Director's Annual Report, March 6, 1962, T. L. C. C. Files, Cols., O; Interview with Wesley Douthit, January 20, 1972; Interview with Mrs. Edwards, April 23, 1972.
roof repaired, modern cabinets for the pre-school room, and rewiring. At the dedication ceremony on December 4, 1971 Bonnie Sutton, a teenage Additioner, led the choir in singing "All You Need." 35 Bonnie expressed a need for unity among Additioners as she sang: "We don't need more time for us to spend competing with one another. What we need is Christ within...." 36 With unity American Addition youth expected a brighter tomorrow.

In the 1930's Additioners became more concerned about their children's education. They improved the environment of the American Addition School by having hog pens removed and a dump closed. Because their children encountered certain dangers in traveling to Champion Avenue School in Columbus, Additioners requested Urban League officials to appeal to the School Board for bus transportation. Many of the children deferred their education because they had to walk more than two miles into Columbus for school. Although the fight for transportation began in the 1930's, it was not until 1956 that the School Board decided to provide transportation for

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35Tray-Lee Community Center Open House, December 4, 1971, T. L. C. C. Files, Cols., O.

the children. After acquiring school bus transportation, many of the Addition youth finished high school and enrolled in universities and colleges.

Due to the lack of recreation facilities the youth school days were uneventful. When they returned home after school, they had only open fields for play. There was no organized recreation in the Addition. In 1942 Columbus Urban League established Brush Lake Summer Center, but most parents in the Addition could not afford to send their children to the camp. There was a great need for organized recreational activities for American Addition youth. In 1954 Reverend Traylor started a movement for organized recreation in the Addition; two years later benevolent organizations donated funds for the establishment of Tray-Lee Community Center. In 1960 Tray-Lee became a branch of Neighborhood House with a trained worker. The establishment of Tray-Lee produced a renewed self-respect and self-dependence for the children in American Addition. After the annexation of their community to Columbus, the life of American Addition youth entered a new dynamic phase.
CHAPTER VII

ANNEXATION AND REHABILITATION OF AMERICAN ADDITION

As Columbus grew, more blacks settled in American Addition. In 1955 the Department of Business Statistics of Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce estimated that the black population increased by 2,000. Like the early settlers, newcomers to the Addition desired certain public services on the periphery of a city. There was a great need for bus transportation, sanitary sewage and drainage, garbage and refuse collection at scheduled intervals, good street maintenance, and natural gas. In 1955 American Addition was completely surrounded by Columbus and some Additioners felt that an improvement would come only if the Addition were annexed to Columbus. Urban League officials aided Additioners in their fight for annexation.¹

¹Facts about Annexation, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 41; Herman P. Nelson, A Comparative Analysis of Property Valuations in Four Selected Areas (Columbus, Ohio: Columbus Urban League, 1957). In acquiring new housing, blacks in the Columbus area experienced special difficulties beyond those which confronted others. According to census data, blacks received less housing value and less home financing service per dollar spent by them for shelter than do whites. Moreover, blacks received less favorable home financing terms in the Columbus area.
In 1954 Columbus rejected the Additioners' first petition for annexation because twenty-three Additioners withdrew their names from the petition. Mrs. Beatrice Collins, an Additioner, in a letter to the Urban League, expressed a concern for her neighbors. She informed Andrew G. Freeman, new Executive Secretary of the League, that there was a need to reorganize the defunct George Washington Carver Unit. The block club had dissolved because of the absence of professional leadership. Mrs. Collins noted the discontent of Additioners while "there are still things to do."

On August 5, 1955 the Urban League officials and Additioners met in the home of Mrs. Mary Copeland. The Urban League officials attempted to ascertain what the Additioners wanted, what they had done, and what were their plans for the future? Additioners informed the officials that they wanted their community annexed to Columbus. They had circulated two separate petitions for annexation without success. Because the required number of freeholders did not sign the petition, they never received a hearing before the County Commissioners.

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2American Addition Case Record, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 14.
In the winter of 1954 they had circulated their more recent petition. More than the required 51 per cent of the freeholders signed the petition but twenty-seven of them withdrew their names because of misinformation.\(^3\)

Since the American Addition was deprived, depressed, and underprivileged, Additioners felt that annexation would answer many of their problems. With annexation they would get sewage facilities, bus transportation, natural gas, police and fire protection at cheaper rates, garbage collection, and improved streets. But the Urban League officials needed more information concerning the Addition so that they could better serve the community. The officials suggested that time be granted for them to make community visits to examine the attitudes toward annexation; to talk to outside persons who had previously assisted in the attempts at annexation; and to get other annexation data. The Urban League officials promised Additioners that Herman Nelson, Housing Secretary of the League, would discuss the findings at a subsequent meeting.\(^4\)

\(^3\)Ibid.

Nelson discovered that twice the Metropolitan Annexation Committee had paid the annexation fees for American Addition but many petitioners withdrew their names at the last minute. The Committee refused to pay the fees again. Seemingly, "Mr. Ray Reynolds, Commissioners of Roads, and Mr. James McCoy had used their influence to block the annexation." It appeared as if very little had been done to solicit community support in a sound and practical way. In other words, most Additioners did not fully understand all the ramifications of annexation.5

On August 19, 1956 Urban League officials visited the home of Mrs. Julius O. Saurez, a member of the Metropolitan Annexation Committee. Mrs. Saurez stated that the approximate cost of annexation was $187. This fee would pay for the registered engineer and notices in the newspaper of the public hearing. The Annexation Committee would provide an Attorney free of charge. Mrs. Saurez did not know why some Additioners had previously removed their names. A county official

5American Addition Case Record.
informed her that if Additioners removed their names again, the case would still be heard. Moreover, she noted that she would handle the mechanics of the petition if Urban League officials supervised Additioners in signing the petition.\(^6\)

When Nelson examined the attitudes of Additioners he found many undesirable traits. There were internal conflicts, political differences, and vested interests dividing Additioners. But the residents accepted the integrity, philosophy, and social work practices of the Urban League. Nelson was able to produce "a spirit of mutual understanding, mutual respect, mutual cooperation, and mutual goodwill" among Additioners. With such accomplished, he filed a petition for the annexation of American Addition to Columbus with Franklin County Commissioners. This was the first step toward improving the physical condition of the community.\(^7\)

Although Nelson stimulated some unity among Additioners, the community still had its opponents to annexation. On February 7, 1957 James McCoy requested a meeting of his committee on "The Study of Annexation"

\(^6\)Ibid.

in the Urban League's office to settle the issue of annexation. Nelson felt that the Urban League's office was not the place to settle Additioners' internal problems. Also Nelson indicated that such meeting would produce greater discord and dissension in the community between the various factions. Consequently, he suggested that McCoy carry out the plans of discussing the issue with the Regional Planning Commission.  

The opponents of annexation feared that the Addition would be zoned as a commercial area instead of residential. The plans were in a state of fluctuation between residential and commercial. Nelson proposed two questions for Additioners to ask the Regional Planning Commission: (1) To what extent can the Commission prevent the Health Department from declaring the American Addition a "health hazard" and subjecting it to condemnation proceedings? This movement was in progress, and (2) To what extent can the residents of the American Addition receive aid from the County Planning Commission to assist them in getting improvement loans and other assistance?


9Ibid.
The Commission informed the committee that there were no future plans for the Addition. Nevertheless, the planning map indicated that the area would be commercial. Further, the Commission noted that the map was not definite and suggested that annexation would be in the best interest of Additioners. But Additioners desired to know something definite because they wanted their community to remain residential. The County Commissioners scheduled May 7, 1957 for the public hearing.¹⁰

Prior to the hearing, Nelson sent a letter to the freeholders in American Addition. He informed them that the Urban League was not trying to sell them on annexation, nor was it opposed to their remaining in Clinton Township. The League's job was to get the facts and make them available to the people. Nelson discovered that the Addition had been zoned for one family dwellings and would remain the same if Columbus annexed the area. Furthermore, only the people of the Addition could change

the zoning. At the hearing the County Commissioners approved the area for annexation to Columbus. Even after the County Commissioners approved the area for annexation, some Additioners still feared the consequences of annexation. They took their case to court. Proponents of annexation argued that Columbus would improve their community by extending city services. Opponents argued that instead of rehabilitating the community, Columbus would clear it and destroy "the oldest Negro village in Central Ohio." Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge decided the case in favor of annexation by Columbus. County zoning in the area was manufacturing, small business, and single family residential. Matt J. Mosbacher, mayor's administrative assistant, informed Robert H. Smith, president of the City Council, that since the area was substandard and in need of rehabilitation, it was expedient to annex it for the general welfare of Columbus. The ordinance for the annexation of American Addition passed the

Council and Mayor M. E. Sensenbrenner approved it on January 13, 1959.12

After annexing the Addition, Mayor Sensenbrenner ordered a clean-up campaign for the community. He instructed his cabinet members to cooperate with Additioners in cleaning up the community. Sensenbrenner stated: "We're going to help them help themselves. We aren't going to do all the work." The Fire Department granted an open burning permit to lessen the hauling cost. Columbus Service Department provided trucks to haul debris and rubbish at no cost to Additioners. They hauled the debris and rubbish to an open field for burning. City workers hauled more than 1000 truck-loads of trash and dilapidated shacks from the Addition. Also, city officials relocated 24 of the 250 families living in the community.13 Although there had been clean-up campaigns in the community before, this was the major move toward rehabilitating the community.


Shortly after the clean-up campaign, Columbus officials attempted to make a $4 million slum clearance project out of the newly annexed Addition. The City Planning Commission ordered its staff to study the possibilities of zoning the area for industry. John P. Willison, Director of Slum Clearance, stated that the area would qualify as a slum clearance project. The estimated cost of the project to taxpayers would have been $4,000,000. But the problem occurred in raising one-third of the total cost, $1,300,000, to improve the area. Willison noted that the only way of getting the money was from other city departments. Then, too, Federal regulations required that buildings occupy at least 55 per cent of an area proposed for slum clearance. Since American Addition was surrounded by railroads, industry, and a cemetery, Columbus officials wanted the area zoned for industry. At that time very little money could be obtained from other departments.

Since 1946 Additioners had constantly fought for sanitary sewers. At a meeting with Clinton Township Trustees they received details on the procedure for

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filing their petition. In 1947 the Trustees approved the project and instructed Additioners to present their petition with 90 per cent of the freeholders' signatures to the County Commissioners. The Commissioners promised Additioners that they would follow through on the project. Grover Clements, County Sanitary Engineer, spoke to the George Washington Carver Unit on the importance of sanitary sewers. He estimated the cost to each freeholder at $250 to be paid over a period of ten years. After these preliminaries the project died because there was a need to involve Columbus officials. On October 31, 1960 Additioners filed their second petition with the City Council and in the following month the Council passed a resolution of intent to install sanitary sewers.\textsuperscript{15}

In the Spring of 1962 the Staff of Tray-Lee Community Center made a survey of the Lea Crest and American Addition areas. The survey was to determine the needs of the people so the Staff of Tray-Lee could plan its program around those needs and secure an adequate picture of the community so that recommendations for its improvement could be made. The survey revealed the age and sex of Additioners, condition of houses, Additioners' educational background, percentage of home owners and tenants, percentage of employed, unemployed, and retired Additioners, and number of welfare recipients. After the survey, Tray-Lee Staff made the following recommendations to the City Council:

1. That an appropriation of funds be made to build a sewer line in the Lea Crest and American Addition.

2. That the Housing inspectors be instructed to do a more intensified job in our area in an effort to bring housing conditions up to minimum standards.

3. That the now existing ordinance on the clearing and cleaning of vacant lots be enforced more strictly.

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17 Comer, Tray-Lee Report.
On March 28, 1963 Frank Cleveland, program worker for Tray Lee Community Council, presented these recommendations with another petition to Mrs. Golda N. Edmonston, president of the City Council. The Council invited Additioners to one of its meetings and noted that the petition was improperly prepared. Because of a change in the City Charter, the Division of Sewage and Drainage had to grant a new one. Additioners prepared a fourth petition.\(^1\)

After receiving the fourth petition the City Council had the Planning Department study the area. On October 7, 1963 the City Planners made their recommendations. They found that the primary deficiency in utilities services in American Addition was the lack of sanitary sewers. An eighteen inch sanitary sewer ended at the east boundary of the area on 12th Avenue. They noted that the present sanitary facilities were septic tanks and outhouses. City Planners claimed that the Sewage and Drainage Division had never received a formal application from Additioners for an extension of the eighteen inch sewer line. For that reason the Division was

\(^1\)Interview between Rosenblatt and Cleveland, November 2, 12, 1970.
unable to enter into the extensive engineering work required to determine the size, location, and cost of sewer extensions until Additioners submitted such application. City Planners argued that assessments against abutting property could not be determined in advance.¹⁹

It was the intent of Additioners that the area should remain residential in character. Considerable effort on the part of Additioners, and especially the Community Council, had been directed towards this objective. The 1962 survey made by Tray-Lee Staff showed that 68 per cent of 116 families were for the most part pleased with their houses, 59 per cent wanted to build or remodel, and 76 per cent did not want to be relocated.²⁰ Additioners believed that their community had the potential of being made attractive again.

The City Planners stated that American Addition had "serious limitations to future development as a residential community." They based their recommendation on the high percentage of deteriorating and dilapidated houses. The dwellings' value was very low and there was low average income per family. Then, too, there was a

¹⁹Gordon V. Serrott to Frank Cleveland, October 8, 1963, T. L. C. C., Files, Cols., 0; See map of existing sanitary sewers on page 160.

²⁰Comer, Tray-Lee Report; Serrott to Cleveland, October 8, 1963.
EXISTING SANITARY SEWERS

Pipe Size (Diameter)
Shown in Inches

1971

MAP V

Scale: 1" = 2000'
difficult problem confronting private developers in acquiring land to permit adequate residential replatting due to the fragmented ownership of land. American Addition had several absentee landlords. Manufacturing, commerce, small businesses, railroads, and a cemetery surrounded the community. Adverse effects of smoke, fumes, noise, and dust from adjacent manufacturing operations made the community unfit as a residential area. The City Planners recommended that due to its location in Columbus and its relation to existing and proposed rail lines, the area had to be considered "as most appropriate for future industrial development."21

On May 13, 1964 representatives for Additioners met with city officials to discuss the Addition future. Cleveland informed Mayor Sensenbrenner that the City Planners recommended the area for future industrial development, but Additioners were "militantly opposed" to any zoning changes. When a city ordinance passed in 1960, Additioners circulated a petition to freeholders to authorize assessments to pay for the installation and maintenance of sanitary sewers. The drive for sewers

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21 Serrott to Cleveland, October 8, 1963.
and other efforts to rehabilitate the community were hampered by the threat of rezoning since the Planners stated that the area had serious limitations to future development as a residential community.  

Additioners argued that while a "'cold' study" might indicate that their neighborhood was undesirable as a residential area, "they do live there, lived there before the city even considered annexing the area, and intend to continue living there if at all possible." Neighborhood consciousness was extremely high in the Addition, and after the first annexation struggle there was a tremendous amount of home improvements. Continued home improvements, and investments in streetlights, sewers, sidewalks, and other facilities were futile investments as long as the future of the area was in doubt.  


Mrs. Mary Bosley, president of Tray-Lee Community Council, best expressed the sentiments of Additioners in a letter to Mayor Sensenbrenner. She explained in part:

The people of the American Addition want it clearly understood that they are not asking for charity. They ask only for protection, utilities, rights and responsibilities that belong to the citizens of Columbus. They are seeking their own self-determined course directed toward self-improvement.

The people...are militantly opposed to any form of Urban Renewal in their community. Residents of the area will oppose urban renewal or zoning changes by all means available...24

Sensenbrenner requested action without expressing an opinion on what should or should not be done. "I personally don't give a rap what is done," he stated. "I just want to do what's best for the neighborhood..." He ordered Harold Buchanan, director of City Planning, to "get something going" on the question of zoning in the Joyce-Windsor Area, including American Addition.25

There was a critical need to rehabilitate the area because the Addition had evolved as a notorious community. James Ethridge, director of the League Housing Department,


recognized this need in a speech before the Social Action Committee of the Ohio Presbyterian Church.

It may be shocking to some of you, that in 1964, in an All-American City, the city of Columbus has areas without running water, without inside toilet facilities, and without sanitary drainage systems. An area where the underground water supply has become contaminated because the residents must construct and use what is commonly referred to as outhouses. An area where more than 90 per cent of these structures are considered not fit for human habitation...

Additioners needed sewers and other public services so that they could live like other citizens of Columbus.

Quality of housing in American Addition was as varied as the excuses Columbus officials proposed for ignoring them. Some of the houses, such as those of the Fields brothers, were of a higher standard than most houses in Shepard Addition and Eastgate. Many others complied with Columbus housing code. Others were substandard, due-to-be-condemned shacks. But the City Council wanted to impress Additioners with the idea that they had nothing to live in the community for. On the other hand, Additioners defiantly insisted that they did live there, paid their taxes and were therefore entitled to the benefits of urban living as guaranteed

26 Speech of James Ethridge, Director of Housing, June 30, 1964, C. U. L., MSS, Coll. 146, Box 16.
by the City Charter. In order for the community to be completely urbanized there was a need for sanitary sewers.27

It seemed as if the city officials wanted the residents of other areas to believe that American Addition was run-down, rat-infested, and hardly worth saving. But the people of other areas were not exposed to the community pride that had, in fact, rehabilitated much of American Addition without help from the city government. Ignored by city inspectors, Tray-Lee Staff and Additioners attempted to rehabilitate their homes on their own, "knowing that the city might not care, knowing that they would still have to dump their dishwater...(into) the streets, knowing they must still use outdoor toilets." Additioners felt as if they were the stepchildren of Columbus. With nothing but community pride as an incentive, Additioners, most of them homeowners, converted much of the Addition from a blighted slum into a respectable residential area.28 In October 1964 the

27 "Cleveland News Release," The Call and Post, April 1963; See some of the "due-to-be-condemned shacks" on pages 166-167.

Condemned Shacks in American Addition (Courtesy of Columbus Health Department, Columbus, Ohio).
Condemned Shacks in American Addition (Courtesy of the Editor of The Call and Post, Columbus, Ohio).
community leaders were trying to get Additioners to willingly pay the assessments necessary to finance a sanitary sewer line.29

The next year Terell W. Barnes, president of Tray-Lee Community Council, informed city officials that Additioners were ready and willing to have sanitary sewers installed. Barnes stated that other departments of the city should take their position on the Addition and compel the slowful ones to comply with the rules of health, safety, and sanitation.30 Barnes also expressed the sentiments of Additioners to the City Council:

We are interested in protecting the health and safety of the people in our community. We are a member of this All American City, and we feel that we should be treated like all other citizens. We want to know what plans the city has for the American Addition. If it is to be zoned for industry, please tell us so that we can make other arrangements. If it is not going to be zoned for industry, install sewers so that we can make our community as attractive as we know it can be made.31

After Additioners met with the mayor, Sensenbrenner informed Barnes that they had to submit a petition which complied with the provisions of the City Code.32


31 Barnes to Sensenbrenner, 1965.

In February 1965 thirty-four homeowners attended a meeting at the Community Center to express their desire to make their neighborhood more attractive. At the invitation of Tray-Lee Community Council, Walter Tarpley, Community Relations Director, spoke to residents of American, Lea Crest, and Lindale Additions, and heard their request for the city to do the following things: They requested sanitary sewers, which they were able and willing to pay for; tear down old, vacant houses in area; clean vacant lots; cut down weeds; and put tile in an acid ditch which divided the area. Additioners pointed out that since they did not have to make large monthly mortgage payments, they could send their children to college and buy other necessities. Moreover, they informed Tarpley that several builders were ready to erect more and better homes in the area as soon as the city installed sanitary sewers.\(^3\) In other words, Additioners had many reasons to remain in the area.

In June 1965 N. H. Vanderwerf, Associate Director of Columbus Area Council of Churches, requested the aid

\(^3\)"Tarpley Brings Hope to American, Lindale Addition Homeowners," The Call and Post, February 13, 1965; See littered vacant lots and inoperable automobiles in the American Addition on page 170.
Littered, vacant lots and inoperable automobiles in American Addition (Courtesy of Columbus Health Department, Columbus, Ohio).
of other benevolent organizations in getting a petition for sanitary sewers completed. The Council of Churches united with other groups, institutions, and agencies to support Additioners in City Hall. Their object was to get a favorable decision on the petition and "action follow-through." They held two planning and strategy meetings at Tray-Lee Community Center, did some investigation, and presented their case to the mayor. After discussing the problem with Mayor Sensenbrenner and his staff, they discovered that it was necessary to complete a new petition. The members of the coalition believed that Additioners should complete the petition, but they wanted to help in any way possible. Meanwhile, Tarpley located the "lost" petition that Additioners circulated in 1960 in the City Council Clerk's file room.

In January 1966 the City Building Department inspectors began surveying the American Addition to determine what should be done there. Michael Dorrian, Deputy Safety Director, appointed inspectors to make the survey. Information gathered during the survey was

34 N. H. Vanderwerf to David Dunning, June 10, 1965, T. L. C. C., Files, Cols., O.
to determine whether the area would be rezoned industrial or would it remain residential. The inspectors in the report did not attempt to draw any conclusions, instead, the decision on whether to improve the area was left to the property owners. The 1960 census on housing registered 29 of the 259 houses in sound condition and 151 dilapidated. The survey revealed that the average value of the occupied houses was $6,500 and average rent $34 compared to a citywide average of $14,300 and $68. Most Additioners used outhouses, and few of them had running water from the 12-inch waterline. For several years Columbus neglected the community and Additioners, 70 per cent of whom owned their homes, made no effort to improve their homes because of rumors that Columbus wanted their community as an industrial park. Patrick Phelan, Urban Renewal Director, reported that the area was suitable as a park-like complex if the Addition was to remain a residential area.


As a result of the findings, Sensenbrenner attempted to make certain improvements in American Addition. He asked Tarpley to serve as director of a special task force to help the people of the area communicate with city officials. Dorrian was to have substandard and vacant buildings in the area torn down. Sensenbrenner instructed John Stanley, Finance Director, to make available finances needed for the project. Columbus appropriated $25,000 for a study of the area and demolished the old structures there - digging a large trench and burying them. Sensenbrenner stated that because the area was economically substandard, a new approach was to be used to provide needed public facilities. He proposed aid for Additioners to improve their homes so that the homes would meet minimum living standards. In regard to the petition, Sensenbrenner stated: "I think these people are tired of hearing it will cost 'about' so many dollars. These detailed studies will tell them exactly how much it will cost for sewer..." Sensenbrenner made one stipulation, that is, a majority of the property owners living in the area, not the absentee landlords, sign the new sanitary sewers petition.\(^{38}\)

In September 1966 Sensenbrenner directed Warren Cremean, Service Director, and Tarpley to prepare legislation for construction of a $228,000 sanitary sewer line in the Addition. Tarpley and Cremean prepared two pieces of legislation. One was a resolution of necessity and the other an ordinance allowing the Service Department to contract for detail plans and specifications. Tarpley stated that the cost of the line would be paid by residents in the area. "Those are the terms they wanted and those are the terms they are getting." Barnes issued a statement of appreciation to all who contributed time and encouragement in the seven year appeal for sewage and "other capital improvements for this community." Although Additioners began their fight for sanitary sewers in 1960, it was not until 1969 that Columbus finally installed them. The next year Columbia Gas of Ohio installed natural gas.


While Additioners fought for sanitary sewers, Columbus clean-up crews worked in the area to rid it of debris and rubbish. In March 1966 six crews, composed of prisoners, began work in the Addition. Jack E. Mangold, superintendent, Division of Sanitation, got a burning permit from the Fire Department and dug a hole and burned as much of the rubbish and debris as possible in the immediate area. The superintendent asked Additioners to pile their refuse near the curb to expedite time. The Sanitation Division employed a bulldozer on littered lots where no one resided. Again city officials had several vacant buildings razed. Further, the Sanitation Department employed youth during the summer to clean the community. Phelton Simmons, supervisor, Columbus Health Department, helped to organize the clean-up campaigns. He arranged the youth schedules for six hours a day and four days per week. The City of Columbus provided trucks and some equipment, but the number of tools were inadequate for the job.  

41 Estella Fields to Clifford Tyree, March 24, 1966, T. L. C. C. Files, Cols., O; "Clean-up Continues in Addition," Columbus Citizen-Journal, March 29, 1966; Sister Evangelia, Pride In Lower Linden Project (Columbus, Ohio: Unpublished manuscript, 1968); Interview with Phelton Simmons (Columbus, Ohio, February 11, 1971); See youth as they prepare for work, at work, and the task that confronted them on pages 176-177.
Littered lot and youth as they prepare to meet this task (Courtesy of Columbus Health Department, Columbus, Ohio).
Youth at work in American Addition (Courtesy of Columbus Health Department, Columbus, Ohio).
In May 1971 the Housing Department made another survey of the Addition. There were still vacant, deteriorated, and poorly maintained buildings in the community. The inspector found high weeds, brush, building materials, garbage, trash, and debris on most vacant lots and open fields. From the exterior approximately 50 per cent of the houses were in good condition; 25 per cent fair; and 25 per cent in poor or condemnable condition. The inspector recommended razing approximately 25 old and deteriorated buildings at once. He also found about 100 junked and unlicensed cars, trucks, and buses on the streets and on private property. Lacking curbs and gutters, most of the streets were narrow, unpaved, and usually unpassable when it rained. Ruts and many holes marked the alleys. Furthermore, there were open ditches with standing water and several lowlands and swamps. Additioners had no street lights in the northern section and the lights were very poor in the southern. 42

In April 1971 G. Phillip Dolan, director, Department of Development, presented the Joyce-Woodland-17th Avenue Area Study which supported the inspector's findings.

42 Paul E. Junk, Survey of the American Addition (Columbus, Ohio: Unpublished manuscript, 1971); See inoperable automobiles on page 179.
Some inoperable automobiles in American Addition (Courtesy of Columbus Health Department, Columbus, Ohio).
Because Columbus installed sanitary sewers in American Addition in 1969, Dolan recommended the area as a residential area. Also, Dolan recommended building either separate or coordinated junior and senior high schools in the Addition. A park was to be included in the development of the community. After this study city officials acted with tremendous speed to clean the community.43

In July 1971 crews from various city departments converged on American Addition. In advance the City Council gave the Building Division special permission to burn debris from shacks to lessen the hauling expense. William Warren, Building Inspector, supervised the project. Warren stated that conditions in the Addition were "terrible." He condemned twenty-four houses and tried to relocate the families. Warren found three of these houses on a 100 by 100 feet lot with forty inhabitants. The relocation of these families presented the biggest problem. But Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority and other agencies helped to find homes for

436. Phillip Dolan, Joyce-Woodland-17th Avenue Area Plan (Columbus, Ohio: Department of Development, 1971), passim; See maps of proposed land use and urban renewal on pages 181-182.
MAP VII

PROPOSED URBAN RENEWAL AREA

RESIDENTIAL

COMMERCIAL

INDUSTRIAL

1971

Scale: 1" = 2000'
them. Cleaning the vacant lots presented another problem. Further, Sensenbrenner required Additioners who supplemented their incomes by raising chickens, turkeys, hogs, goats, and cows to either sell them, kill them or move them to the country. After complying with the order, several Additioners could barely live.44

In 1954 Additioners began to fight for annexation to Columbus. Through annexation some Additioners felt that they would receive certain public services. Other Additioners feared that annexation would bring on grave consequences. They argued that after annexation Columbus would clear their community and destroy the oldest Negro village in Central Ohio. They took their case to court. The Judge of Franklin County Common Pleas Court decided the case in favor of annexation. With the help and guidance of Urban League officials the dream of annexation became a reality. In 1959 Columbus annexed American Addition. The Addition's annexation led to its rehabilitation.

44 "Joyce-Av Community Feeling Clean-up," Columbus Dispatch, August 2, 1971; Interview with Mrs. Douthitt, January 20, 1972.
Rehabilitation of the community was a traumatic experience for most Additioners. After annexation, Mayor Sensenbrenner ordered a clean-up campaign and the city crew demolished several shacks which led to the relocation of many Additioners. During the 1960's Columbus officials initiated periodical clean-up campaigns which removed inoperable automobiles, trash, garbage, and debris. Most Additioners feared that Columbus was going to make an industrial park of their community. This was an idea that they militantly opposed. Although they filed a petition for sanitary sewers in 1960, it was not until 1969 that Columbus installed them. The installation of sanitary sewers insured the Addition as a residential area. In 1970 Columbia Gas of Ohio installed natural gas. During the struggle for sanitary sewers, most Additioners improved their homes. After the major clean-up campaign, American Addition was again an attractive community.
SUMMARY

Under the ordinance of 1787 Congress prohibited slavery in the Northwest Territory. By 1800 there were only 377 blacks in that part of the territory which was to become the state of Ohio. There were no blacks on the site of the present Franklin County, Fairfield, and other neighboring counties. Freedmen and slaves seeking freedom came into the State during the War of 1812. As the sectional controversy developed, the trek of fugitive slaves to Ohio intensified.

The most rapid black population growth occurred in Columbus between the censuses of 1910 and 1920. The newcomers, disliking cities, settled in areas where rural or a semi-rural way of life could be carried out to supplement their incomes. Many newcomers settled in the American Addition on the edge of Columbus instead of in established black communities or the central business district.

With the influx of blacks to the Addition during World War I, most whites left the community. By 1925, 91.2 per cent of the population in the Addition was black. Of the 113 households in the Addition, only six belonged
to native whites and four to foreign born whites. Among the blacks, 72.8 per cent came from the North. The American Addition had become a predominantly black community -- and one in which housing would become the major problem.

Newcomers to the Addition bought land, but lacked money to build decent homes. Since neither Franklin County officials nor Clinton Township Board of Trustees regulated building in the community newcomers built shacks from a combination of materials. Houses were built close to each other, and often shacks were erected behind houses on the same lots. In the absence of building regulations, the newcomers created an unhealthy environment and the community, once quite attractive, became an ugly slum.

After the crash of 1929, with many Additioners suffering from unemployment there was a great need for professional leadership in the community. Columbus Urban League officials and Clinton Township Board of Trustees filled this void. Benevolent organizations in Columbus supplemented the aid given by the League and Clinton Township. Before the crash League workers had organized block clubs throughout the Columbus area. One of them, the American Addition Improvement Association, initiated several projects to attack relief,
health, and public service problems for Additioners. Urban League block units were well organized. All units were independent and met on a monthly basis. League workers served in guidance capacities and did nothing for units which they could do for themselves. The block units shared ideas in a Unit Council composed of representatives from all neighborhood groups. The Council produced a newspaper, Unit Gossip Sheet News, and served as the governing body for the units. The Unit Gossip Sheet News was very helpful to Additioners during the depression.

When the depression opened, Urban League officials, Clinton Township Board of Trustees, and other benevolent organizations created welfare programs for Additioners. They provided food, clothing, and other provisions for poverty-stricken Additioners. They planned garden projects to enable Additioners to grow more of their food. To insure a sanitary water supply, Urban League officials interceded for Additioners to have a water line extended to the community. Furthermore, the Urban League sponsored health clinics during the National Negro Health Week. Urban League officials and Clinton Township initiated periodical clean-up campaigns by which Additioners beautified their community. County officials
and Trustees of Clinton Township appointed a deputy sheriff and a constable to insure Additioners of a safe environment.

After blacks purchased lots in American Addition, they promptly organized churches. Like blacks in Columbus, Additioners felt it necessary to engage in divine worship. They considered themselves neglected without a religious message to live by during week days. Moreover, Additioners held most of their civic meetings in churches. Traditionally the church was the center of social life for blacks, as well as a refuge from a hostile environment. The black church was the organization that created cohesion among slaves; it was also the basis of organized life among freedmen following Emancipation. Additioners, again assisted by Urban League officials and Trustees of Clinton Township, employed this pattern to perpetuate an organized social life.

Most churches in the American Addition accepted what E. Franklin Frazier described as secularization of Negro churches. That is, black churches lost their predominantly other-worldly outlook and began to focus attention upon blacks' condition in this world. Churches in the Addition cooperated with Urban League officials and Trustees of Clinton Township in initiating programs to solve problems confronting Additioners. Ministers of
the various churches believed that an improvement in the community life would also promote improvements for Additioners' individual and family lives.

Most newcomers married before settling in American Addition. After they settled in the community there were few divorces, for Additioners based their marriage relationships upon sympathy and sentiment and their marriages were bound by customs and folk beliefs. Then, too, the problem of poverty prevented divorces. Most households in the Addition were occupied by single families with paternal heads. All ingredients for good family arrangements were present, but poverty and despair in many instances denied such neat arrangements. Usually the males were unable to find employment to support their families. Additioners desired gainful employment so their children would enjoy social, economic, and educational rewards.

Newcomers to American Addition desired a rural environment because they felt such environment to be conducive for child rearing. But once in the Addition they discovered that the area lacked many of the conveniences for the rearing of children. Located on the edge of Columbus, adjacent to railroads, and behind two chemical plants; Additioners found themselves in a polluted area. In order to get to school their children
walked two miles into Columbus. In doing so, they traversed daily a long, narrow viaduct. During their leisure time the children lacked certain equipment for play, there were only open fields. Again with the aid of Columbus Urban League and other benevolent organizations, Additioners obtained certain recreational facilities and school bus transportation for their children.

In the 1930's Additioners became more concerned about their children's education. They improved the environment of the American Addition School by having hog pens removed and a dump closed. Because their children encountered certain dangers in traveling to Champion Avenue School in Columbus, Additioners requested Urban League officials to appeal to the School Board for bus transportation. Many of the children deferred their education because they had to walk two miles into Columbus for school. Although the fight for bus transportation began in the 1930's, it was not until 1956 that the School Board decided to provide transportation for the children. After acquiring school bus transportation, many of the Addition youth finished high school and some enrolled in universities and colleges.

Due to the lack of recreation facilities children and youth had only open fields for play. In 1942 Columbus Urban League established Brush Lake Summer Camp, but
most parents in the Addition could not afford to send their children to the camp. In 1954 Reverend Traylor started a movement for organized recreation in the Addition; two years later benevolent organizations donated funds for the establishment of Tray-Lee Community Center. In 1960 Tray-Lee became a branch of Neighborhood House with a trained worker. The establishment of Tray-Lee produced a renewed self-respect and self-dependence for the children in American Addition. After the annexation of their community to Columbus, the life of American Addition youth entered a new dynamic phase.

As Columbus grew, more blacks settled in American Addition. In 1955 the Department of Business Statistics of Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce estimated that the black population in the Columbus area increased at a rate of 2,000 per annum. Like early settlers, newcomers to the Addition desired certain public services. There was a great need for bus transportation, sanitary sewage and drainage, garbage and refuse collection at scheduled intervals, good street maintenance, and natural gas. In 1955 American Addition was completely surrounded by Columbus and some Additioners felt that an improvement would come only if Columbus annexed their community. Urban League officials aided Additioners in their fight for annexation to Columbus.
Although some Additioners felt that they would receive certain public services through annexation; others feared that annexation would bring on grave consequences. Argued that after annexation Columbus officials might clear the community and destroy the oldest Negro village in Central Ohio, they took their case to court. The Judge of Franklin County Common Pleas Court decided the case in favor of annexation. In 1959 Columbus annexed American Addition.

Rehabilitation of the community was a traumatic experience for most Additioners. After annexation, Mayor Sensenbrenner ordered a clean-up campaign and the city crew demolished numerous shacks which led to the relocation of many Additioners. During the 1960's Columbus officials initiated periodical clean-up campaigns which removed inoperable automobiles, trash, garbage, and debris. Most Additioners feared that Columbus was going to make an industrial park of their community. This was an idea that they militantly opposed. Although they filed a petition for sanitary sewers in 1960, it was not until 1969 that Columbus installed them. The installation of sanitary sewers insured the Addition as a residential area. In 1970 Columbia Gas of Ohio installed natural gas. As they struggled for sanitary sewers, most
Additioners improved their homes. After the major clean-up campaign, American Addition was again an attractive community.
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