



### Albert Lee House, Champaign, Illinois



<b>Title</b>	Albert Lee House, Champaign, Illinois
<b>Coverage / Year</b>	1978
<b>Description</b>	Albert Lee House, 605 N. Walnut, Champaign. This is the residence of Albert Lee, an African American man who served on the staff of the University of Illinois for fifty-two years.
<b>Interpretation</b>	Lee was born on farm near Champaign in 1874. He graduated from Champaign High School in 1893, and attended the University of Illinois from 1897-1898. The encouragement of civil rights for black people in Champaign County started on an institutional level in 1895 when the University of Illinois hired Albert R. Lee as its first black employee. Initially he served as a messenger, but as he matured he became known as the "Dean of 'colored' students." Although there was no official title for the position, Mr. Lee became the person to whom black students looked for assistance in matters of housing, transportation, recreation, and classroom problems. Albert Lee served through seven university administrations and retired as Chief Clerk in the office of University President George B. Stoddard in 1947. No other person did more to encourage and help young black students through stressful and sometimes hostile times, when their quest for higher education was made difficult by discrimination.
<b>Lesson Plans / Themes</b>	Urban Treasure Hunt School Museum
<b>Learning Standards</b>	16 History 18 Social Systems
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