



**Created by:** Constance Matuke, Kenwood Elementary

**Grade level:** 4-5

**Primary Source Citation:** *John Rankin House Freedom Stairway* photograph. SC 1591, Ohio Historical Center Archives/Library. From *The African American Experience in Ohio: 1850-1920*, <http://dbs.ohiohistory.org/africanam/det.cfm?ID=4630>.

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the photograph located at the above link while answering the questions below in order. The questions are designed to guide students into a deeper analysis of the source and sharpen associated cognitive skills.

### **Level I: Description**

1. What do you see in this photograph?
2. Can you identify any details in the photograph?

### **Level II: Interpretation**

1. Why do you think it was necessary to build the stairs that high?
2. How long do you think it took for the construction of the stairs?

### **Level III: Analysis**

1. What does the photograph tell you about that time period?
2. Would the stairs have served the people the same way if they were lower?
3. Could the height of the stairs been a problem for the users?



John Rankin House Freedom Stairway Photograph, Ripley, Ohio Small Picture Collection, Ohio Historical Society