

The Filson Historical Society

Mss. Pirtle, Alfred, 1837-1926.

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.P672 Writings :

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The Jefferson County Court House
Typewritten carbon. 1 p.

31x16

*The Oldest Dwelling in Louis-
ville.*

Catalogued.

The Jefferson County Court House.

It is traditional that James Guthrie, a distinguished Democrat
the Legislature,
in 1832, persuaded that Louisville, was the proper city to be
the Capital of this State, ^{thus} obtaining a hold on that body, the
promised substantial State aid when the ac~~ts~~ts should have been
passed, for moving the capitol. With this ex~~pe~~pectation, Jefferson
County, took the idea in hand and employed Gideon Shryock, of
Lexington, the coming architect of the day, to design and build
a Court House, which might be made a State House at the
demand of the State. This building dates from 1832, but was only f
finfished far enough to meet the wants of the county. It was not until
1859, that sundry citiz~~q~~ens, put their shoulders to the wheel, and
Albert Fink, was put in charge of finishing the Court House
as it is to day.

Authenticity - Capt Alfred P. Smith

Other tools have been recognized as danglestucks, niddy-noddies,

Old Gwalthmey House Was Built Before 1810

The Gwalthmey-Grayson house at 432 S. Sixth, which is scheduled to make way for the new State Office Building, was built between 1806 and 1810 by John Gwalthmey of Virginia. It is known as the oldest brick house in Louisville.

Gwalthmey purchased the land from Henry Young, who had inherited it from his father-in-law, Samuel Kirby. The land was deeded to Kirby in 1785 by the trustees of Louisville.

Bricks were floated down the Ohio River in flatboats for the house. The site selected by Gwalthmey was on the margin of a beautiful lake where the Jefferson County Armory now stands. Built on an Indian mound, the house was surrounded by huge trees.

Gwalthmey Sold House to David Ward

In 1816, Gwalthmey sold the house to David L. Ward, whose daughter, Sallie, later became the owner. Sallie Ward married F. W. S. Grayson, thus providing the second part of the name by which the house is known today.

In 1888, J. C. Baumberger, a native of Switzerland, bought the house because it reminded him of a Swiss chalet. The Baumbergers occupied it until 1943. It was then purchased by Horace Mattingly and converted into a rooming house.

Upon Mattingly's death in 1949, it was sold to George W. Burke and Mrs. Florence Kramer, who operate it today as a rooming house for Negroes.

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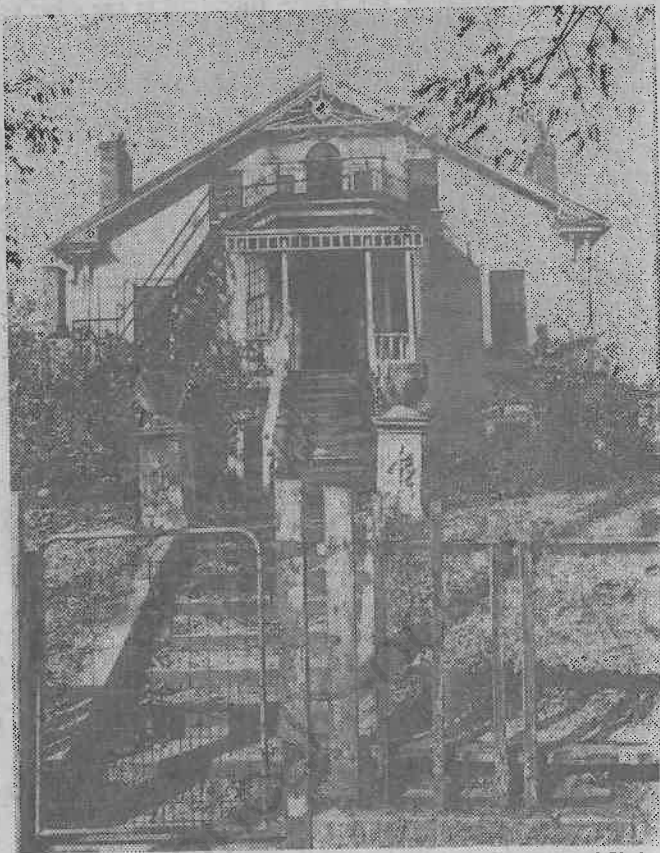
The Oldest Dwelling in Louisville.

By this we mean, a dwelling used only as dwelling, or dwellings. We think it probable, that an older mayn be found, on Market, or Jeffers or Main street, but they are now used for other purposes.

In 1822, Frederick R. Grayson bought the house now known No. 432 S. sixth st. It is said the house dates from 1821. Grayson was Miss Sally Ward, who was aunt to the celebrated belle, Sallie Ward.

The lot of the house was 100 feet wider than it is now, and backed commons, the alley coming later. Some fifty feet south of the house a deep
slightly to the front of the lot, was dug a deep well, giving an unlin
supply of the oldest water. The march of improvement, has had a dwell
built upon the lot where stood the pump of the well.

...a 10-year lease on the Terminal Column 4, back page, this section



Courier-Journal Photo

COMING DOWN is the oldest brick house in Louisville. The Gwalthmey-Grayson house was built between 1806 and 1810. It sits on the southernmost portion of the new State-building site.

Courier-Journal, Oct. 17, 1933.