

FIVE OF THE OLDEST HOMES IN MAYFIELD

Robert B. Ligon

The oldest house in Mayfield is the Anderson House located on the corner of North Sixth and Indiana Avenue. Mr. and Mrs. Jess Anderson and their daughter, Miss Martha Nell Anderson live in the house. This house was built in 1852 just 29 years after John Anderson founded Mayfield and built his log cabin which was located where our present Court House stands. Colonel Lucian Anderson, the son of John Anderson, built this house on a lot just one block north of the corner of 6th and North Streets where the old Mayfield Hospital recently stood before it was torn down. A few years later Colonel Anderson moved the house to its present location just two blocks north of its original location. This house has not always been in the Anderson family. However, its present owner, Mr. and Mrs. Jess Anderson purchased the house about 35 years ago and so it having been returned to the Anderson family remains in their possession. The home is now 133 years old and in good livable condition. The house was enlarged many years ago to its present size. This information was given to me by Miss Martha Nell Anderson who continues to live there with her parents. It is a beautiful white frame house.

The next to the oldest house in Mayfield was built by John Bolinger in 1856, just four years after the Anderson House was built on East South Street on what is now the South side of the square about where Barton's Clothing Store now stands. The house stood there for 49 years until John Bolinger sold the house to the Carter Brothers who bought up much of the property in that block to establish some business houses. This house was moved down Prairie Street, (now South 7th Street), to its present location by Mr. Lon Carter. When they passed away, their daughter Jean Carter who later married Reece Barton became the owner of this house. Their son, Mr. Lon Carter Barton, who is a very eminent historian, continues to live there. I am indebted to Mr. Barton for much of this information.

The third oldest house in Mayfield that is still standing was built by George Bolinger, the brother of John Bolinger, who built the second oldest house in Mayfield. Both John and George Bolinger were brothers of my Grandmother Ligon. The Bolinger family migrated to Mayfield in the early 1840s from Pennsylvania. This old Victorian House was probably the first solid brick house built in Mayfield. Mr. Barton thought this house was built around 1870. George Bolinger married my Grand Mother Browning's sister, Tennie Moss. I remember as a child visiting my Great Aunt Tennie and Great Uncle George who was my Father's Uncle. The house was approximately 50 years old then. Mr. Lon Carter Barton told me that it was the recollection of his grandparents that the George Bolinger Home was built right after the Civil War. My parents who were born in 1875 and 1878 both re-



Anderson Home, Mayfield, Kentucky
Built by Lucian Anderson in 1852



Lon Carter Barton Home, Mayfield, Kentucky
Built in 1856

Photos Courtesy of Mrs. Jesse Anderson

membered the home as long as they could recollect. The house has been preserved and currently lived in.

The fourth oldest house in Mayfield is the old W. H. Lee House which is located at 527 South 7th Street next door to where I live. This house was built around 1880 by Judge Lee. When my father built our house in 1928, he remarked that he used to bring stovewood into Judge Lee at that house. He did this when he went to the old West Kentucky College around 1890, when he was about 15 years old. The house was built then and was several years old at that time. While we do not know of the exact date of its construction we do know that it was before 1890. The home was later purchased by John Atwood who was a local grocer. Then Dr. E. F. Day and Mrs. Newt Harris later owned the house. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Mitchell purchased the house from Mrs. Harris who was Mrs. Mitchell's grandmother. The Mitchells have just sold the house to Joe David and Vickie Smith who are connected with the City School System.

The fifth oldest house in Mayfield is the Robert Earle Griffith Home which was built in 1895. I contacted Mrs. Rebecca Randolph, the daughter of the late Mr. Griffith and got this information from her. This is a beautiful Victorian Home and is the second oldest solid brick home with many large rooms located on a very large lot where South 8th Street runs into Farthing Street. The house is located back about 100 feet from the street and shows up beautifully from the street. The house has many large rooms. Down stairs there are two large reception rooms, a parlor, a library, dining room, kitchen, butler's quarters and a beautiful oak stairway that was carved by the late Elmer Tripp, one of the most skilled craftsmen that lived in Mayfield. Up stairs there are three large bedrooms and two bathrooms. One would have to see the inside of the house to really appreciate it. The late Robert E. Griffith was a tobacco buyer on the Mayfield market during the era before and after World War I when my father was in the business with him.