

1898 C'ville's old homes

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The Few Land Marks Yet Remaining in Crawfordsville. Among a number of old residents, the other day, a conversation arose regarding the oldest houses still standing in Crawfordsville. From them it was learned that there are yet houses occupied here that were built sixty or more years ago, and some to them bid fair to remain as monuments of the old style of building in the early history of the town. In their day they were no doubt thought, or some of them at least, to be ornaments of the town and their owners were quite proud of them. In the days when these houses were constructed Crawfordsville was an insignificant village. Then the population was not much crowded for room.

There was a generous hospitality among the people then whose absence to a considerable extent is noted in these hustling times of money getting, and increasing selfishness. The latch string was much more open then than now.

The oldest house standing in Crawfordsville today is the two-story frame building directly east of the Sherman house, and at present used as a barber shop. It is said to have been erected in 1825—almost three quarters of a century ago by a man named Miller. It was constructed of logs cut from trees standing in front of it on the ground now composing a part of Market street. This house is older than most of the citizens now residing here. It was a few years after its erection covered on the sides and ends with lumber. The house was considered quite a "mansion" for some years before the village began to put on airs of importance.

The building known as the Parka house, on south Washington street, was erected about the year 1835. Ex-Auditor James H. Watson was born in this house sixty-one years ago. The front lower rooms were in an early day used as a store, and John Kerran, when a boy, clerked for the proprietor. The house is weather beaten and decayed in many places, and that it has stood and been used for so many years is remarkable, considering the value of the lot it occupies.

The oldest brick house in town is on north Washington street, at present owned and formerly occupied by ex-county commissioner, Michal Price, and standing across the street from the county jail. The date of its construction is not exactly known, but believed to be about the year 1834. It was occupied first by one Charles Tyler, an officer in the land department of the government. He resided in it about four years when he removed away from here. It was very solidly built for those early times and there is no reason, unless destroyed by fire, why it should not exist for many years to come.

The large two-story frame house on east Main street, sitting probably fifty feet from the sidewalk, and at present occupied by Will Griffith and mother, is one of the old landmarks of that part of that city. It was erected in 1837 by the father of Beal Galey and was very substantially built. The timbers in it were cut from the hardest oak and framed in a style to withstand the storms of time which the house has done for over sixty years.

The house occupied by the father of the Speed boys, on the north end of Grant avenue, one story, is an old resident. It is of logs, framed over, and is probably sixty-five years old. The builders' names of many of these old domiciles is lost in the misty past, yet that many of them built better than they knew, is evident that the works lived after them.