

Powell-Smith Property

Dr. Llewellyn Powell owned lots 10 and 11 in Hancock and Craddock's Ward Place, which totaled 40 acres. According to the plat map in Deed Book OO Page 239, Lot 10 (20 acres) abutted Tyler Lane on the southeast side and Lot 11 (20 acres) extended further southeast from Lot 10 to Gardiner Lane. The plat map labels the dimensions of Lot 10 as roughly 72 poles long by 45.3 poles wide, which translates to 1188 feet long by 747.45 feet wide. The center of Lot 10 is roughly 113.25 poles (1868.25 feet) southwest of Bardstown Road. According to Lojic, the Powell-Smith House is situated approximately 423.6 feet southeast of Tyler Lane and 1866.5 feet southwest of Bardstown Road. Thus, the current location of the Powell-Smith House is well within Powell's Lot 10. Furthermore, when Bishop Smith sold his property to Bennet Hornsby the legal description of the property included the name Kalorama. Two 1860 *Louisville Daily Courier* advertisements announcing the auction of Smith's property also referred to it as Kalorama. That name was part of the legal description in the deed records until 1881 when the A. and Emily Glazebrook sold it to Mary and Joseph Chase. When their daughter Elizabeth Chase married Nicholas Bohn in 1916, *The Courier-Journal* newspaper announcement listed their future home as "'Kalorama' on the Bardstown road" (February 12, 1916).

While the 1836 newspaper advertisement may have been referring to another house on Powell's 40-acre property, historic records on Bishop Smith place him at Kalorama by 1841, which explains why he was not present for the 1840 Census. J. Stoddard Johnston's speech to the Filson Club was published in *The Courier-Journal* on December 20, 1908. The article reminisces about past Christmases spent at the country home of Col. George Hancock "...near the Bardstown Pike, three miles from the city and in a neighborhood noted for its congenial society. Near him was Farmington, the homestead of Judge John Speed, with a large number of his sons and daughters, many of who became conspicuous in after life. Bishop Smith of the Episcopal Church; Dr. Llewellyn Powell and Hamilton Smith lived nearby..." According to Johnston's speech, Dr. Powell and Bishop Smith both lived in the neighborhood around the same time. That could explain why Lots 10 and 11 were sold separately and why Dr. Powell was enumerated in the 1840 Census in that location.

Kalorama

The Kalorama house or school would not have been located near Kalorama Avenue, now Winston Avenue. That avenue is located on portions of Hamilton Smith and Daniel Doup's property. In that part of town, Bishop Smith only owned Lot 10 across Tyler Lane. Since many of the references to the Kalorama School refer to it as Bishop Smith's house, it is likely the property in question. For example, *The Papers of Henry Clay: The Whig Leader, January 1, 1837-December 31, 1843* summarize a letter from Bishop Smith to Clay dated January 3, 1842. Bishop Smith bemoans losing his position as the Superintendent of Public Instruction of Kentucky "because he has gone into debt by purchasing a house to retire to in his old age and is spending additional sums to render it 'commodious for twenty young Lady Boarding Scholars.'"

The Henrietta Clay Gist Letters at the Filson Historical Society provide a first-hand account of one of Bishop Smith's students at Kalorama. While Gist writes her address as Kalorama, Kentucky, the letters are postmarked from Louisville. In the letters, she mentions that she studies guitar, piano, French, and literature, including Shakespeare, which were common subjects taught to young girls in the 19th century. She also mentions that only seven girls were living at the school at one point around Christmas time. It is possible that some girls boarded at the school while others lived locally. There is very little evidence that

quantifies the number of students that boarded at Kalorama. Through the letters, Gist recounts attending an event at Hamilton Smith's house, which was "just across the avenue opposite Kalorama."

According to Thomas James De La Hunt's *Perry County: A History* (1916), Hamilton Smith had a country estate named "Villula" on the Bardstown pike, which was later owned by the Trabue family after Smith moved to Cannelton, Indiana in 1851 (*Louisville Courier Journal*, February 8, 1875). This would explain why the 1859 Atlas depicts the property across Tyler Lane from Bishop Smith as Trabue property. Furthermore, the obituary of William Allen Richardson states, "...he afterward moved with his family to the handsome Hancock place, 'Hayfield,' so well known for its hospitality in those and later days. The place adjoining was occupied by Bishop Smith, and Hamilton Smith's 'Villula' was just across the lane. The attractions of this neighborhood induced Mr. Richardson, in 1859, to plan and develop 'Ivywood' and build there what was for many years his charming country home..." (*Louisville Courier Journal*, October 31, 1892). Hancock sold Hayfield (3000 Bunker Hill) to C.W. Short circa 1840. Short is the property owner on the 1859 Atlas and was Richardson's father-in-law. Richardson's Ivywood was located across Tyler Lane from Hayfield and has since been demolished (Samuel W. Thomas, *The Architectural History of Louisville, 1778-1900*, 2009). Richardson is listed as the property owner on the 1859 Atlas.

Federal Architectural Style

The date ranges associated with architectural styles are not finite. As with many popular trends, they tend to start in larger, more populated areas and then trickle out to other areas of the country. Virginia Savage McAlester's book *A Field Guide to American Houses* is widely recognized as a valuable and accepted source for architectural styles. She lists Georgian style houses as generally occurring from 1700 to 1780 and locally to circa 1830. She lists Federal style houses as generally occurring from 1780-1820 and locally to circa 1840. The Federal style was a development and refinement of the preceding Georgian style, but they are quite similar in style, so similar that the terms are at times used interchangeably. Samuel W. Thomas, a prominent Louisville architectural historian, created his own category for Georgian style homes in the city called Beargrass Georgian because he believed the design features extended well into the Civil War era (1789-1864). Thomas created his own category for Federal style architecture as well called Federal or Early Classic Revival, which he dated 1810-1835 and 1915-1930. Once again, this idea was based on what he observed while researching historic Louisville homes. McAlester's timeline for the architectural styles certainly overlap with Thomas's but his are more tailored to Louisville specifically.

According to McAlester, Colonial Revival architecture dates from 1880 to 1955. The Georgian and Federal styles "form the backbone of the Revival, with secondary influences from Postmedieval English and Dutch Colonial prototypes." If the Powell-Smith house were Colonial Revival in style, then it likely would have been constructed by Theodore Harris's family as they owned the property in that time period. However, his daughter Sunshine Harris Ballard secured the safety of Bishop Smith's study by moving it to her home on Upper River Road. Furthermore, it was Sunshine Ballard's brother-in-law R.C. Ballard Thruston, who took the 1911 photographs of Kalorama, which were later donated to the Filson Historical Society. In those photographs, the Powell-Smith House has Victorian-era alterations that are more in line with the Italianate architectural style, but the Federal window pattern and building form are still evident. Therefore, it is likely that the Victorian-era alterations were more cosmetic, than a completely new construction. Due to the timing of the photographs, architectural styles, and deed records, it is unlikely that the Powell-Smith House was constructed in the Colonial Revival style but in the Federal style with later alterations.

The 1911 photographs depict a small, octagonal structure on the west elevation of the house, but the house shows no signs of significant alteration in that location. It is possible that this structure was a dovecote or pigeonier, which sheltered domestic fowl. Some dovecotes were built on piers, while others were more substantial. They also could be attached to the main house or be a separate secondary structure, but they would not have worked as additions to the main house. Pigeons were a minor dietary source, but a sign of wealth if they were maintained on the property. "Imagine an engine that provides an endless supply of goods and produce--meat, eggs, down, fertilizer, and even gunpowder" (Michael Olmert, *Kitchens, Smokehouses, and Privies*, 2009). Dovecotes went out of style in the late 19th to early 20th century (John Michael Vlach, *Back of the Big House*, 1993).