

Smith-Jackson Funeral Home

Smith - Jackson Funeral Home. c.1816. Bate Street, Danville. Was originally a Federal structure built by Richard Crutchfield. A Greek portico was added later. The home has been used as a military hospital, as home of the Danville Federation of Women's clubs, and as the Banneker Elks Lodge. It has been the Smith - Jackson Funeral Home since 1958.



Danville and Boyle County in the Bluegrass Region of Kentucky, 1999, p50

Fackler, Calvin Morgon. Early Days In Danville. Louisville: Standard Printing, 1941,

(p148) THREE ANCIENT HOUSES.-These are all upon South Fourth Street, the western edge of the James Brown tract; and each is more than a century. The first is connected with the Crutchfield family which was once nearly as numerous here as the Smiths. William of that ilk must have come to Danville before 1797, for he bought 80 acres of land from George Caldwell, November 28th of that year.(1) And he is described in the deed apprenticing James Hopkins to him, as "a carpenter and house joiner," what we would call now-adays, building contractor.(2) Possibly he did the work for Robert Russel, Senior.

(p149) We believe that Mr. Richard D. Crutchfield, whose house we are now to visit, was the son of old William. When he bought his lot from pioneer James Brown, January 27, 1816, it consisted of five acres lying between what are now called Dillehay and Fackler streets.(3) As he added a much larger body, 29 acres, to it three years later, it is likely the house had already been erected. (4) So, here upon that first lot he established his home which must have finally been filled to overflowing. They had ten children; and, rather startlingly, we read that "Jonathon Nichols" was married to two of them, Agnes and Emmeline, at the time of their father's death. Instead of polygamy, as it might appear, it only means that "Black Johnnie" and "Red Johnnie's" first wives were sisters.(5) The long yard began at Fourth Street, and ran back several hundred feet. The mansion, as you approached it through a growth of sugar maples and other native trees, seemed little more than a story, with enclosed porch, small pillared, but rising to a full second in the rear. It must have been flanked by right and left wings originally, but the north one had long since disappeared when first we knew it. The south wing is now gone; dismantled some forty odd years ago. It was two stories high, and had an arched driveway through the center, which made it look like a Spanish hacienda. It had no opening into the main body; and somehow to the small mind it felt spooky. So, too, it impressed the young Stodghills, then living there.

From the time when the growing Crutchfields crowded its walls until now, has been more than 120 years. Today it is a pathetic ruin, with only the memory of its former cheer to live upon. During the Civil War the place was used, for a (p150) while, as a military hospital for the camp which was adjacent, in the Reed woods. Again, probably after that, though we are not certain, it became a hydropathic establishment; and the lawn was filled on fair days with cots upon which the ghostly swathed patients lay. The method was to first roll them in icy wet sheets, then wrap like mummies.

NOTES:

- (1) Caldwell to Crutchfield, Deed Book 3, p. 360, Mercer.
- (2) Allin Clerk to Crutchfield, Sept. 1803, Deed Book 5, p. 6, Mercer.
- (3) Brown to Crutchfield. Deed Book 9, p. 461. Mercer.
- (4) John Tadlock to Crutchfield, 1819. Deed Book, 11, p. 234, Mercer.
- (5) Crutchfield heirs to Hopkins. Deed Book 3, p. 448, el seq., Boyle.

From the Smith-Jackson website, <http://smith-jackson.com/aboutus.htm>:

John W. Smith, owner of the Smith-Jackson Funeral Home of Danville and the Smith Funeral Homes of Frankfort, Lexington and Nicholasville, got his start in Danville in 1939 when he came here to become associated with what was then the Jackson Funeral Home, owned by Ashby Jackson. He bought a half-partnership interest in 1939 and the name of the firm was changed to include those of both partners. He purchased the other half of the business in 1945 and retained the name which was, by then, well known.

A native of Nicholasville, Mr. Smith attended Atlanta University High School and was a student at Morehouse College of Embalming for two years. He was married in 1939 to Miss Evelyn Truitt of Atlanta. They have two sons, Norman B. Smith of Atlanta and Michael M. Smith of Danville.

The Smith-Jackson Funeral Home, operated at 106 West Walnut Street, was destroyed by fire. Mr. Smith then purchased the old "Woodcock House" at 446 Bate Street, one of the old historical homes of Danville which was designated by the Kentucky Heritage Commission as "Crutchfield House." Mr. Smith completely remodeled the home into the present modern quarters of Smith-Jackson Funeral Home. Following Mr. Smith's death the firms are now under the operating control of his son Michael M. Smith, who continues to carry on in the footsteps his father laid before him to serve the family with respect and pride.

Danville City Directories show the following at 446 Bate:

1960 - Vacant

1954 - Davidson Wade

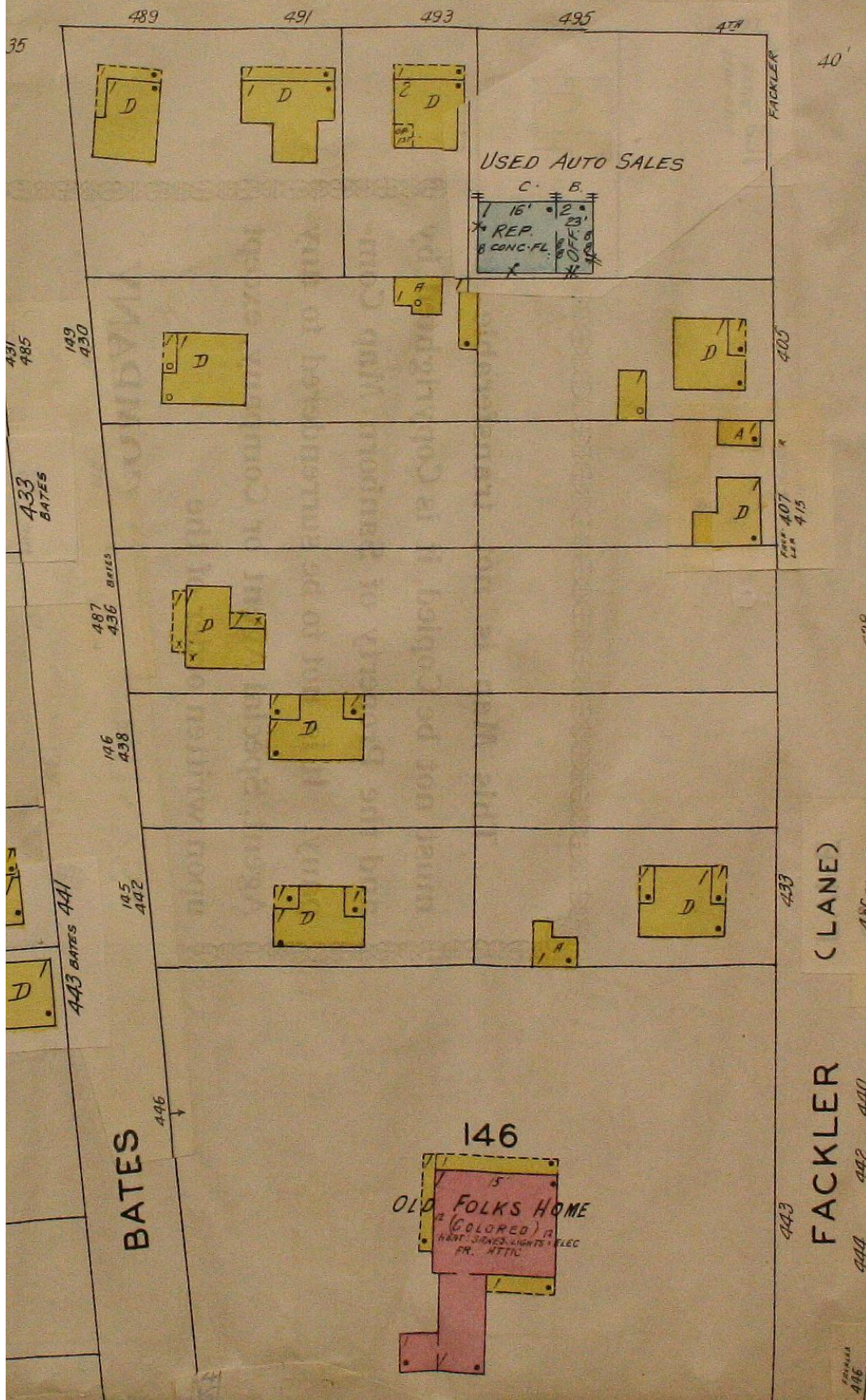
1948 - Davidson Wade, Mrs Mary L Marshall

1945 - Davidson Wade (C)

1942 - Not listed; but 436 - Lula Brown (C), 441 - William Baker (C), 442 - Joseph Epperson (C)

The map on the next page shows the building as the "Old Folks Home (Colored)

S . 4TH ST.



Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1955, p12