

History:

The property on which this house was built originally belonged to Daniel C. Wood. Twenty acres of the property were sold to Francis Adeline Baker on April 1, 1859. (Francis Baker was born on June 17, 1787 and died on May 9, 1868.) The purchased property was platted June 5, 1865 and named the Francis A. Baker addition. It included land between South 18th and South 20th Streets, State Street to 115 feet beyond Kentucky Street.

Lot two of the property was purchased in 1866 by James Furness, a land dealer, and his wife, Elizabeth.

From available records, the exact development of the property is unclear. Much of the land was once an apple orchard. The building toward the back of the property (north edge) could have been a modest house which later became a barn or storage area. It is a simple one and one half story building with Greek Revival Returns. The newer structure was built in the mid-portion of the property. It is one of the earliest vernacular houses in the East End Historic District similar in design to the back building and also built of red brick. Over the years the original porch has been replaced by a smaller one. It is believed that the first building pre-dates the second structure by several years.

A series of enclosed porches has connected the barn with the house and other remodeling has made it difficult to determine the original uses of some of the rooms. The rooms in the newer building are clustered together. It is said that this was done in the early years to help conserve heat. The front door retains the original double vertical-paneled door.