

PNP364860

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 25 1977
DATE ENTERED	JUL 20 1977

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC **AND/OR COMMON**

Tyler-Muldoon House

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 132 East Gray Street

CITY, TOWN: Louisville

STATE: Kentucky

VICINITY OF: _____

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 3 & 4

CODE: 021

COUNTY: Jefferson

CODE: III

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Foundation Offices

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: J. Graham Brown Foundation

STREET & NUMBER: 304 West Liberty Street

CITY, TOWN: Louisville

STATE: Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER: Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN: Louisville

STATE: Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE: _____

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN: Frankfort

STATE: Kentucky

(continued)

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

No. 132 East Gray Street, the "Tyler-Muldoon House," is located on the southwest corner of Gray and Brook Streets in Louisville. The house was built in 1866 for Erastus D. Tyler, a Louisville insurance and real estate agent. It was later owned by Michael Muldoon, founder of the marble-cutting firm that was the predecessor of the present Muldoon Monument Company. The J. Graham Brown Foundation acquired the house in 1976 and will renovate it for use as offices.

The house is the only surviving nineteenth century structure on Gray Street, once an elegant residential avenue. The site is now in the midst of hospital and medical office complexes. The northbound lanes of Interstate 65 are immediately west of the site. On the northwest corner, directly across Gray Street, is a small parking lot. The parking garage for Norton-Children's Hospital occupies the northeast corner of the intersection and on the southeast corner is the Scottish Rite Temple. (See Map # 1)

The Tyler-Muldoon House is a three-story brick townhouse with simple Renaissance Revival styling and more ornate details. The brick has been painted gray and there is both cast-iron and white-painted stone trim.

The Gray Street facade is three bays wide with a recessed, hooded doorway at the east end. The slightly arched door hood is supported by large brackets with carved, stylized acanthus motifs. The paneled wood surround of the entry is painted white. The recessed door has a round-arched top with a white painted molding enframing featuring a keystone decorated with an acanthus motif. The double-hung, two-pane over two-pane windows on the first and second stories are topped by ornate terra-cotta caps with foliage designs. The third story windows are small with rounded tops. A brick stringcourse forms arches above the third story windows and continues around all sides of the building. Fenestration on the rear and sides consists of varying sizes of two-pane over two-pane, double-hung windows with slightly arched, flush brick lintels (see photos #1 and #2).

On the east side of the house is a small porch with ornate cast-iron cresting and roof supports. It is reached by brick steps from the sidewalk and is partially obscured by overgrown shrubbery. Also on the east side is a one-story, three-sided bay containing four windows and having an ornamental iron balustrade at the roof. A second-story door opening onto this bay is topped by a wooden hood with carved bracket supports and Gothic-style trim (see photo #3).

The rear of the house has an ornate cast-iron porch with slender columns supporting the roof which has a decorative cast-iron balustrade. A simple roof cornice is underscored by dentils (see photo #4).

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1866

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tyler-Muldoon House is stylistically typical of many Louisville houses built in the mid-nineteenth century. The architect is unknown, but the house bears some resemblance to those designed by Louisville architect Henry Whitestone (1819-1893). Many of the architects and builders of homes during this period were influenced by Whitestone's work.

The site was once part of John T. Gray's Subdivision of 1846, which was bounded by Broadway, Preston Street, Chestnut Street, and an alley west of Third Street. In 1859 Jacob L. Smyser acquired a 75' by 200' lot on the southwest corner of Gray and Brook Streets from the estate of Lucy A. and George Gray, and in 1860 Smyser sold this lot to Norvin Green for \$6000. In 1866 Green sold the western half of the lot to William F. Chandler and the eastern half at the corner to Margaret M. Tyler, wife of Erastus D. Tyler. That same year Mrs. Tyler purchased a two-and-one-half foot strip of land to the west from the Chandlers.

E. D. Tyler was listed at the southwest corner of Gray and Brook Streets in the 1866-67 Louisville city directory. Prior to then he had lived on Walnut Street and on Second Street between Green and Walnut. Tyler was first listed in the directories in 1855-56 as a clerk at William Garvin's wholesale dry goods business. By 1858 he was listed as a partner in the insurance firm of Tyler and Company. Two other partners were James E. and Samuel T. Tyler, but their relationship to E. D. Tyler is not known.

Tyler remained in the insurance business for a number of years, but apparently was also involved in the stock market and real estate. In the 1860s he was associated with Samuel P. Weisiger, a successful businessman and entrepreneur, in several real estate ventures. One was the construction of the Central Market Building on the east side of Fourth Street between Liberty (Green) and Walnut Streets. The site is now occupied by the Kaufman-Straus Building, designed by Mason Maury in 1902-03. The lots on Fourth Street were purchased by Tyler and Weisiger from S. S. Nicholas and the Prather heirs and the original deeds are in The Filson Club Manuscript Collection. The architects of the Central Market Building were McElpatrick and Wood. The Louisville Daily Journal, in August, 1866, referred to Tyler and Weisiger as "gentlemen of means and practical business talent" who had invested \$100,000 in the building. In 1872 the Central Market Building became the home of the Public Library of Kentucky, later to become the Louisville Public Library. During this same period, 1866-67, Tyler was building a row of rental tenements on Fourth Street between Walnut and Chestnut.

In 1868 Tyler sold the house on Gray Street and thereafter his residence was listed in the directories as "West Louisville" or the "country." He was listed as a real estate agent and broker for a number of years. A will was recorded in 1868 but no record of E. D. Tyler's death or burial has been located. An E. D. Tyler was listed in the

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allison, Young E. The City of Louisville and A Glimpse of Kentucky. Louisville: publisher unknown, 1887, p. 127.

Atlas of the City of Louisville. Louisville Abstract and Loan Association, 1876.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1 | 6 | | 6 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 0 | | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 0 |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Tyler-Muldoon House is located on the southwest corner of Gray and Brook Streets in the Fourth City District, Block 16-F, Lot 100. The lot is a rectangular plot 35' x 170' x 40' x 195'.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary Jean Kinsman

ORGANIZATION

Louisville Landmarks Commission

DATE

3 December 1976

STREET & NUMBER

617 West Jefferson Street

TELEPHONE

587-3501

CITY OR TOWN

Louisville

STATE

Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Charles W. Meltzer

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 3/10/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Charles W. Meltzer*

DATE 7/20/77

DATE 6.7.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Tyler-Muldoon House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 2

Brown-Doherty Survey
Local
Louisville, Kentucky

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Tyler-Muldoon House
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city directories until 1884, but it is not known if this is the same E. D. Tyler or his son.

The purchaser of the Tyler house in 1868 was Alice Lithgow Muldoon, wife of Michael Muldoon, founder of the firm that still exists as the Muldoon Monument Company.

Michael Muldoon was born in Ireland and came to New York City in 1849. He learned the marble-cutting trade and after working as a journeyman marble-cutter in New York, Baltimore and West Virginia, he came to Louisville in 1857 and opened a marble-cutting establishment with George Doyle and Charles Bullit, a French sculptor. The business was known as M. Muldoon and Company. In 1863 the firm opened a studio and workshop in Carrara, Italy, under the supervision of Mr. Bullet, where most of the actual carving was done.

The Muldoon Company was outstanding in the design and erection of monuments and mausoleums across the country as well as in Kentucky. The firm built most of the Confederate monuments erected in the South in the late nineteenth century, including the Confederate monument on Third Street in Louisville and the Confederate pylon at Fort Donelson, Tennessee. The sarcophagus at the grave of John C. Calhoun in South Carolina was also the work of the Muldoon Company. In the 1920s and 1930s the Muldoon firm was said to be the only one of its kind in this part of the country to have a registered architect in charge of design. Carl J. Epping, president of the Kentucky Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, was then director of the design department. Epping also was the architect for a new building for the firm erected in 1927-28 at 808 East Broadway which still houses the company. The Muldoon Monument Company remains well-known in the design and building of monuments.

Michael Muldoon was prominent in the Louisville business community. He was a member of the Board of Park Commissioners, a director of the Kentucky Mutual Life Insurance Company and aided establishing the Home of the Innocents. In 1865 he married Alice Lithgow, daughter of John S. Lithgow, mayor of Louisville and a well-known manufacturer who built the Board of Trade Building in 1873 (now destroyed). Michael Muldoon died in 1911 and was buried in Cave Hill Cemetery.

In 1877 the Muldoons sold the house on Gray Street and it has had a succession of owners since then. The Herman Rothert family owned the house from 1892 until 1920. Mr. Rothert was a prosperous tobacco buyer and exporter. One of his sons, Otto A. Rothert, was secretary of The Filson Club from 1917 to 1945, as well as being a writer of history and an authority on the life and works of Louisville poet, Madison Cawein. In the years after 1920 the house became a rooming house, a fraternity house, and finally an antique shop.

In 1866 when E. D. Tyler was building his house, tree-lined Gray Street was

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approaching its zenith as a fashionable residential avenue. In the late 1850s and early 1860s Gray Street was considered "somewhat in the suburbs." The more stylish streets on which to live were Green, Walnut and Chestnut. In 1854 Grace Episcopal Church had been built on Gray Street as a mission chapel of Christ Church Cathedral. It was designed by the New York architectural firm of Wills and Dudley and was located on the north side of Gray between Floyd and Preston Streets. In the ensuing years more houses were built and by 1876 the street had reached a high point as an elegant place to live.

An 1876 atlas of the city shows that the eastern portion of the block between First and Brook Streets was divided into large lots with substantial houses. Besides the Muldoons, this block was the home of the J. R. Middleton family, the Gheens family, and W. G. Anderson, an early vestryman of Grace Church.

The next block east, between Brook and Floyd Streets, was perhaps even more elegant. The north side contained only five houses on spacious lots. These included the home of George G. Fetter, whose daughter Selena became a well-known actress, the Joseph Griffin house where the great actress Mary Anderson lived briefly as a child, and the T. L. Jefferson house which stylistically resembled Whitestone's work to a greater degree than the Tyler-Muldoon House. (See Map # 2)

By 1884 Louisville was beginning its residential expansion along Third and Fourth Streets south of Broadway and Gray Street was becoming a quiet, charming neighborhood, but was no longer the stylish thoroughfare it had been. The old houses changed hands and by 1896 most of them had new owners. The twentieth century saw many of the houses divided into apartments or turned into boarding houses and by the present decade the handsome Gray Street residences had been razed to make way for the expressway, the Medical Towers buildings, hospitals, and parking garages. Only the Tyler-Muldoon House has survived.

In September 1976, the house was purchased by the J. Graham Brown Foundation for future use as offices. The Brown Foundation is a legacy of the late J. Graham Brown, Louisville hotelman, businessman and philanthropist, who died in 1969. Brown left his entire \$100 million estate in trust to be used for charitable, educational and religious purposes primarily in Louisville and Kentucky, though not restricted solely to these areas. Some of Brown's outstanding gifts include a \$1.5 million grant to found the Louisville Zoo, \$1.5 million to build a Red Cross Regional Blood Center in Louisville, and substantial donations to the University of Louisville and Hanover College in Madison, Indiana.

The purchase and renovation of the Tyler-Muldoon House by the Brown Foundation demonstrates once again the viability of adaptive re-use of old structures while preserving the history of a street and an era.

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Tyler-Muldoon House
Louisville, Kentucky
Jefferson County

MAR 25 1977

Sanborn Map Company

Map # 1
Sanborn Map of site.

JUL 20 1977

Tyler-Muldoon House
Louisville, Kentucky
Jefferson County **MAR 25 1977**

Atlas of the City of Louisville,
1876
Louisville Abstract & Loan Ass'n
Map # 2
Map of site in 1876. **JUL 20 1977**