

Moorman House / WeatherBerry

2731 West 2nd St
Owensboro, KY 42301

The Moorman House, built circa 1840, is Greek Revival with Italianate decorative features that are believed to have been added between 1850 and 1880. As originally designed, it was typical of rural residences in western Kentucky whose owners were financially successful.

It is constructed of poplar frame with hand-hewn beams and is a two-story, four-square with a central passage plan. The siding is clapboard and the foundation is brick. Two separate additions are found on the rear of the house. The wraparound porch was added around 1910, replacing one added between 1880 and 1900. The house has been remodeled four times: in 1877, 1885, 1950, and recently.

R. G. Moorman, a local businessman, built the Moorman House, and his grandson, Henry DeHaven Moorman, gave the house to E. C. Berry for the settlement of a debt in March 1877. E. C. Berry was a distiller from Nelson County who had purchased the R. G. Moorman Packing Plant in 1867. He converted it to the E. C. Berry Distillery, site location unknown. E. C. Berry died shortly thereafter, in August 1877. His wife, Sallie Berry, and their seven children remained in the house. After Sallie died, Henry Scott Berry, one of her sons, and his wife, Bessie Ewing Berry, lived there until they died in the mid to late 1940s. They operated a weather station for the United States Weather Bureau for thirty years. Mr. Berry helped finance Columbian College, a Catholic school for boys, in Owensboro. Mrs. Berry helped form the Welfare League in Owensboro in 1916. Their daughter, Mary Elizabeth (Honey) and her husband, Thomas Payne, owners of Home Furniture Company, took possession. After Mary Elizabeth's death, Henry Berry Payne and his wife, Eudora (Dodie) lived there until 1991. Then, Dr. William and Susan Tyler bought the house and opened a Bed and Breakfast, naming it Weatherberry. They had it placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992. The beautiful gardens were planned by the Tylers.

The Moorman House was purchased at auction in June 2000 by Richard and Sally Anderson, who subsequently did extensive rehabilitation.