

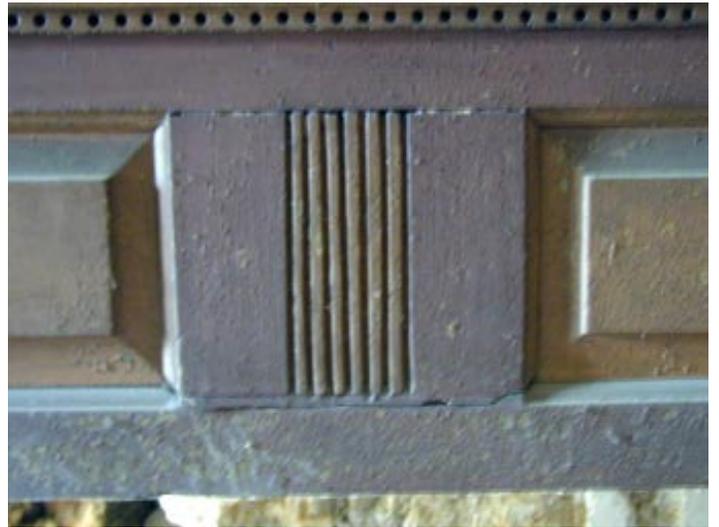


The Rebecca Newland House is one of the earliest standing brick houses in the state of Kentucky. Construction details such as molding profiles, saw marks, and the use of wrought nails, indicate that the house was built before 1805, most likely in the late eighteenth century. It could even be older than the Whitley House (about 1794), with which it shares many stylistic similarities, although the woodwork in the two buildings seems to have come from different craftsmen. Another feature which argues for an early date is the floor plan, which originally consisted of three rooms on the main floor. This consisted of a large parlor to the left flanked by two smaller rooms on the right, most likely a chamber and an office or drawing room. The house has patterned brick end walls, an uncommon feature in Kentucky. Examples are found in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and North Carolina. The technique was already going out of fashion by the time of Kentucky's Settlement

The intact nature of the Newland House is remarkable. The paneling, doors, intact paint colors, and construction details are remarkable documents of early Kentucky. Changes to the original structure include the opening up



of the two smaller first floor rooms to create a single large room, and the rear additions to the building, which are early and historic in their own right. In the parlor, a paneled hearth wall with staircase survives intact, as does chair rail, baseboard, and doors on the other three walls. The woodwork retains early paint as well. Upstairs, there are more plainly finished private rooms in a remarkable state of preservation. The original kitchen appears to have been





in the basement of the house, soon replaced by the rear ell addition. The mantle in this addition is most likely one that was removed from the first floor fireplaces when the two small rooms were enlarged into one.

Jeremiah Taylor, a local history student who has studied the Newland House and spearheaded efforts to save it, has correctly pointed out that the house manifests the early transformation of Kentucky from a settlement area to a “socially stratified agricultural society.” It is a rare survival of the earliest substantial houses built in the state, one of only a handful which can, with some confidence, be dated to the eighteenth century. As such, it is an incredibly valuable document of that transformational episode in our history. Its loss would be deeply regretted now and in the future. Its current condition makes it imperative that it is saved very soon, or it will be lost forever.

