

1854      The Davis Home      1965



Built in 1854 by a carpenter named Shelton assisted by capable slaves for Peter J. Willis, a pioneer merchant who came to Montgomery about 1840-41. The house was furnished with furniture purchased by Mr. Willis on one of his frequent trips to New York. The furniture was shipped to Galveston by boat—thence up the bayou to Houston. It was then brought by ox-wagon to Montgomery. Part of the furniture including gold leaf cornice, pier glass mirror, piano, four-poster bed, marble-top tables, secretary, and others, are still in use.

Sam Houston, a frequent visitor to Montgomery and a good friend of Mr. Willis, has visited in the home a number of times.

When Mr. Willis' wife Caroline, for whom the side street was named, died a few years after the house was completed, it was closed for several years. Magnolia Willis (Mrs. George Sealy), the youngest and last living child, died several years ago in Galveston. Magnolia Petroleum Company bears her name.

On December 1, 1868, Ilai C. Davis bought the home and all furnishings, including the bric-a-brac. It has never passed from our possession. Five generations of children have loved and enjoyed it. It is now owned by his granddaughter, Anna Davis Weisinger, and her husband, Raymond.