



GAFFNEY HOUSE

Gaffney House invites you to immerse yourself in the beauty of our meticulously restored historic riverside home, where each room tells a tale and every corner hums with the whispers of the past. Experience the harmonious fusion of timeless elegance and modern opulence, surrounded by the serenity of the river and embraced by the sound of the water.

THEGAFFNEYHOUSE.COM



HISTORY. CHARM. SERENITY.

This 20th-century house was built between 1910 and 1928 by Louisville architect James J. Gaffney, who also had a major hand in designing the ever-recognizable St. James Church, and Waverly Hills Sanatorium. 4515 River Road was James Gaffney's primary residence until 1939 when he sold it and has since gone through residential phases that range from a single-family home to a stacked duplex-style residence. The house was brimming with family life up until 1979, when the last residents moved out and the property sat, empty and deteriorating, as the deed was passed down.





Gaffney House Today



Resurrected in all of its glory, the Gaffney House on the Ohio River is a historical landmark of Louisville that is now open to the public for events and overnight stays.

In October 2020, the house's fate changed for the better when Gaffney Historic River, LLC purchased the property and began the task of restoring this beautiful piece of historic architecture to its former glory with help from WorK Architecture + Design and Wilkinson Builders Inc.

The Gaffney House is a beautiful composite design that takes elements of Mannerist, Pre-Columbian, and Arts and Crafts-style architecture to create a truly unique structure. James Gaffney is well-known for his Frankenstein design approach - piecing the best parts and pieces from his influencing styles for a result that contains history and expert craftsmanship in every detail - and his River Road residence does not deviate. From a Pre-Columbian sun motif to the red clay roof that displays a Mayan-like sun design on terracotta tiles and brick, this house drips with personality, character, and nuanced features which contribute to a wondrous discovery of architectural beauty and awe-inspiring interior design everywhere you look.

This is why Gaffney Historic River, LLC is offering the rental of the house - James Gaffney's work is something to be beheld by all, and the house, meant to be lived in. The property has been restored and is now proudly offered as a unique rental stay in Louisville, KY for short-term visits, corporate retreats, and weddings.

HISTORY

James Gaffney was renowned for his experimental architectural approach that took elements from a multitude of different styles for a final product that was unique to each project he designed. The Gaffney House is no exception

Gaffney House is known as perhaps the most architecturally and stylistically unique design to his name. Combining Pre-Columbian, Mannerist, and Arts and Crafts style architecture makes this house both visually and foundationally unparalleled; with such distinct features of each making an appearance, Gaffney truly put his exploratory nature to use.

PRE-COLUMBIAN – OR MESOAMERICAN – style refers to the architecture found from the civilizations that inhabited America before Columbus and European forces took over. With heavy reliance on natural materials, such as stone, stucco, terracotta, and mud bricks and favoring colorful tiles and motifs, Gaffney capitalized on this style and elements of it soon became a trademark of his. In the Gaffney House, this influence is seen in most of the floor patterns as well as the large sun motif located on the raised entrance on the outside of the house.

THE MANNERIST STYLE originated in Europe and was the antithesis of the popular Renaissance style of the time, shifting the focus of architecture and design from expression and harmony to the non-conventional elements of conventional classical styles. It was wrought with complexity, contradiction, and oxymoronic values, which is perhaps what drew James Gaffney to it. The Gaffney House features the characteristic plays on spatial relationships and ‘unbalanced’ designs, such as the 1st-floor protruding sitting room areas that extend away from the house.

Finally, the **ARTS AND CRAFTS** style’s development and popularity in the 19th century challenged the cold, mechanical nature of the Industrial Revolution by rehumanizing the residential sphere – including the architecture of housing and common areas. Characterized by natural, exposed materials structural elements, simplistic designs, an emphasis on home life, and hand-made decorations, Gaffney utilized this style in the Gaffney House with stained glass that softens light, the presence of two chimneys, exposed columns throughout the house, a white, wooden hood above the front entrance, and a plethora of areas designed to sit and relax in, amongst other details.

The common areas and bedrooms are adorned with original moldings on the cathedral and elevated ceilings, as Gaffney was the original resident of the house, many of the decorative touches are direct contributions of the architect. The experience of staying at the Gaffney House is not limited to the beauty and ideal location, but offers the opportunity to connect with Louisville’s history and glance into one of the brightest architectural minds that Kentucky had to offer in the 20th century.



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SHORT TERM RENTALS

Louisville, KY is a historic city that has so much to offer anyone traveling through the city, ranging from food, sports, art, music, and history. Placed conveniently on the Ohio River with quick access to Louisville's many parks, lively downtown, and major interstates without the noise interference - which is a huge advantage for those coming into town for our famed Kentucky Derby - the Gaffney House offers a full retreat with your own

personal 2-bedroom floor or the entire house to rent!

CORPORATE RETREATS

Our beautiful site is ideal for all seasons and weather types, as we have room for your special gathering with a beautifully-constructed indoor space as well as a maintained outdoor area with lovely views of the river and bridges. Enjoy a venue that can be what you need it to be, regardless of what your business is. Historical architecture,

ornate details, and renovated bathrooms have applications without bounds, and we would love to extend the Gaffney Hospitality to your employees, your clients, your important guests, and your keynote speakers!

Take your party for a tour through each of the four unique bedrooms that feature the work of Louisville's renowned architect, James Gaffney, develop your business goals in the quaint sitting rooms attached to the

bedrooms, have a drink with your employees by the calming flow of the Ohio River from the balcony or the patios, and enjoy the exclusive privacy that this house offers for your endeavors.

WEDDINGS

The Gaffney House is a beautiful riverside venue on the East end of Louisville with history present at every angle. With the carefully-conducted renovations recently completed, the property now hosts fully modern



Short-Term Rentals
Weddings
Corporate Retreats
Rehearsals
Photoshoots
Receptions
Luncheons
Holiday Parties
Reunions
Workshops
& More!

appliances, full-sized bathrooms, and restored original details of the house that are back in the spotlight and ready to be the perfect backdrop to your “I Do’s”.

Our venue layout happens to be ideal for on-site wedding preparations for both partners, as our bedrooms are split into two floors:

1st Floor:

The Gaffney Room and the Derby Room

2nd Floor: The KY Bourbon Room and the Colonel Sanders Room

Each bedroom has its own private bathroom, with a shower, sink, and ample space for dressing and other pre-wedding tasks. This offers the convenience of close quarters for communication and timeliness while still allowing space for both parties to get ready without bumping into each other!

Our lovely grounds have two garages, an 8-car lot at the front of the house near the entrance, and an additional parking lot by the river that can fit 10-20 additional cars – perfect for an intimate

wedding filled with your favorite people. Have a picturesque Kentucky-outdoor wedding, then follow it up with a reception inside with catered food and celebrations!

UNIQUE BOAT & BOAT SLIP RENTALS

If you’re looking to extend the fun you have at the Gaffney House, then our riverside property becomes not only a delightful view from our exclusive balconies and open patios, but a boat dock on the Ohio River that offers boat rentals and boat slip rentals.

HOURLY RENTALS

The Gaffney House is a wonderful multi-use venue that can be used for Receptions, Holiday, Retirement, or Promotion Parties, Catered Dinners, Workshops, Corporate Events, Social Events, Retreats, Off-site Meetings, Photoshoots, Reunions, Rehearsal Dinners, Luncheons, and more!

LEARN MORE ONLINE:

WWW.THEGAFFNEYHOUSE.COM

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