

## History of the Pink Lady at One Baldwin

The Pink Lady, otherwise known by its address, One Baldwin Street, is the elegant Italianate home just west of the State House. It earned its nickname following World War II when it was run as a guesthouse with many legislators as boarders. The house was first painted pink in the 1920s, and it retained that scheme until 1973 when it was acquired by the State as an office annex for State House staffers. Painted white or beige from 1973 into the 1990s, the house nevertheless retained its nickname. In 1998, the pink scheme was finally restored to its exterior.

The house was built in 1848 for prominent Montpelier businessman Daniel Baldwin, who founded the Vermont Mutual Life Insurance Co. in 1828—still operating out of offices on State Street. Baldwin was also an early investor in bringing the railroad to Montpelier, and was founder and general manager of the Montpelier Gaslight Co.—whose gaslighting illuminated the State House and many other structures in the capital city from the 1850s to the early 1900s. In 1871, the house was purchased by Baldwin's son-in-law, Marcus Gilman—a wealthy Chicago retailer who returned that year to his native Vermont, retiring from his business career to devote himself to writing history and serving as librarian of the Vermont Historical Society, then housed in the State House. Gilman substantially remodeled the house during his occupancy with elaborate interior woodwork, including mahogany paneling in the dining room, bay windows, stained and leaded glass, and a wraparound piazza.

After Gilman's death, the house was owned by Charles Mather, another prominent Montpelier businessman, until its purchase from his widow by Lillias Bailey and her mother in 1945. Mrs. Bailey transformed the house into a guesthouse and ran it as such until its sale to the State in 1973.