

ALTAMONT HOTEL

- February, 1905 Announcement that “the Grand View Hotel was to be built near the end of the Ft. Thomas streetcar line on Alexandria Pike. It was to be a four-story building with 150 rooms; the cost \$65,000. Writer adds that the four-acre site is near the Bivouac Hotel and high enough to provide a view of five counties.
- July 12, 1905 Announcement of new family hotel to open August 1. Samuel Bigstaff, local attorney who arranged the US Army Post being moved to the Highlands was one of the planners for the hotel.
- August 1, 1905 Hotel opens as a family getaway.
- August 5, 1906 Purported bigamist, Jake Holtman, and one of his wives is living in the Altamont Hotel and had a “struggle” there.
- December 1, 1906 Lafayette Council or Newport celebrated its 15th anniversary with a banquet at the hotel.
- March 7, 1907 Wiedemann and Crawford take over management. Mr. Talbot took over management position on April 1st.
- May 29, 1907 Garage built on property, architect Gordon Shepard.
- August 25, 1907 Lots for sale on Altamont property, Samuel Bigstaff as contact. Incentive to develop property.
- October 31, 1907 Shelly Arms Hotel formerly owned and operated by Lewis Foos passes to Highland Hotel Co. Hotel to close for winter for major alterations.
- October 23, 1908 City wants Altamont sewer that empties into the Ohio River to be abandoned
- January 23, 1909 Hotel held in escrow by receiver Sam Anderson, legal battle between Wiedemann and Crawford begins.
- March 8, 1909 Altamont Hotel bought by Louis C. Widrig, a druggist and capitalist from Newport

March 9, 1909	Announcement that hotel was sold to the Wiedeman interests. Shelly Arms Hotel not included in sale.
March 14, 1909	Shelly Arms sold.
June 13, 1909	Mrs. John A. Murphy 'takes quarters' for the summer at the Altamont.
August 25, 1909	Murphy falls into elevator shaft and is 'wedged in the machinery.'
September 8, 1909	Murphy dies while under care at hospital.
February 3, 1910	C.T Baker, relative, files negligence suit against hotel.
March 27, 1910	Hotel to be closed for the year, remains closed for the next two years.
April 20, 1910	Announcement that the Fort will become a State Military College.
April 21, 1910	Court decides Charles Wiedemann to pay Attorney and investor L.J. Crawford, his share in ownership of the Altamont and Shelley Arms Hotels.
April 28, 1911	The trial in death of Caroline Murphy who dropped to her death in elevator shaft of Altamont.
May 6, 1911	Hotel company wins lawsuit re: elevator shaft death. She had died due to a weak heart, not the fractured skull that she had.
December 9, 1911	Announcement that hotel may be sold
December 22, 1911	Hotel will be sold
January 23, 1912	Commissioner sells hotel
January 25, 1912	Altamont sold by Master Commissioner for \$50,000. L.J. Crawford was purchaser.
March 3, 1912	Allen Gristock is named as new manager.
May 1, 1912	Hotel reopens after being vacant for two years.
September 15, 1912	Marjorie McKinley, niece of President McKinley visits.

- September 15, 1912 Chas H. Miller leaves management position at Grand Hotel, becomes acting manager.
- April 28, 1912 Banquet by the Ohio College of Dental Surgery with 60 members present at elaborate dinner. "The Pork Chops Band" played.
- June 17, 1912 300-400 ladies attend the National Credit Men's Convention luncheon.
- August 18, 1912 Samuel Bigstaff dies of stomach cancer at his home (Shaw House) in Fort Thomas
- October 23, 1912 Deal made for Cincinnati physicians to take over the Altamont Hotel and operate it as a private hospital.
- September 29, 1913 Highland Country Club founded at Hotel.
- February 6, 1914 Miss Mary Wynne suffers a stroke of paralysis at Altamont.
- December 14, 1914 Garage on property collapses due to snow, was thought to be from an explosion.
- February 29, 1916 L.J Crawford purchases Shelly Arms, begins drilling wells.
- March 7, 1916 Altamont Springs Hotel Company files articles of incorporation for both Altamont and Shelly Arms. Plans for some of the buildings were made by Samuel Hannaford & Sons, Architects.
- March 10, 1916 New director named. Both Altamont and Shelly Arms reopened under joint name of Altamont Springs Hotel. Bathroom plans are being presented.
- Announcement of mineral springs. Three springs containing high quantities of sulphur and magnesia were supposedly found.
- March 21, 1916 Officers and their wives of the Fort Thomas Army Post were guests at dinner at the Altamont, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Grant.
- March 23, 1916 J.C. Clutts elected President of new hotel company.

May 31, 1916	Altamont Hotel Co. formed and acquired both the Hotel and Annex. Plans include to build a bathhouse and springhouse.
June 29, 1916	Bottling plant and power plant to be constructed at the base of the property.
July 18, 1916	Smallpox case reported at Fort.
April 29, 1917	Ads for Altamont Springs Hotel and Mineral Baths. Baths include Turkish, Russian, medicated, graduate, sulphur, electric, Nauheim and other forms.
October 4, 1917	Price for a two-room suite with bath, for a couple, at \$50.00 per week. Single rooms are \$25.00 and \$30.00 per week. Three and four room suites are available.
October 19, 1917	DAR Convention held at Altamont Springs Hotel. Members of Jemima Johnson Chapter of Paris, KY will attend. The Keturah Moss Taylor Chapter of Newport will host.
November 9, 1917	Ads now declare three waters: Sulpho Saline, Magnesia, and Lithia. Rooms are singles and en suite.
March 4, 1918	Hotel becomes military (disabled) hospital when Government leases Altamont and Avenel. This would become a 7-year lease.
September 20, 1917	Joe Klutz, one of the owners, is married
November 5, 1920	Hospital becomes general hospital for the Seventh District of the service, which comprises the States of Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio. Hospital staff will live in the Avenel. The hospital will have 200 beds.
May 4, 1921	Article about beauty and structure. Hospital caring for 108 soldiers.
March 28 1926	Hospital to close. Government does not renew their lease.
June 30, 1926	Hospital lease officially ends.
January 24, 1928	Hotel will be sold by Altamont Hotel Co.
June 28, 1928	Public auction of hotel. Price \$101,000 to Adam Haas, real estate broker of Newport.

- October 7, 1928 Advertisement that an elevator is for sale at the former hotel.
- October 21, 1928 Hotel to be torn down by W.S Gubsner Wrecking & Construction
- April 29, 1929 House designed by Weber architects in former footprint of hotel.
- December 30, 1985 Grand hotels of Northern Kentucky Historical Hotel
- August 16, 2002 Historical article on hotels

Description of the Altamont:

The 60-room hotel cost \$100,000.00. The facility had a large dining room, first-floor verandas, billiard and grill rooms, and acres of shaded trails. Nearby, a smaller resort hotel called the Shelly Arms was also built by Bigstaff. Both hotels were located on what is Crown Avenue.

Samuel Bigstaff

“His greatest success was his ability to see what was coming and plan for it,” Stegeman.