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The Ranson house, located at 201 Garrard Street, was built in 1853. The bricks of the home were laid by George C. Tarvin, the man who directed the work on the Licking River Suspension Bridge (located on the site of the present Fourth Street Bridge) which was built the same year. The exterior of the home features a grillwork front, an iron fenced, and a recessed porch typical of the period.

On July 23, 1853, soon after its construction was completed, the house was struck by lightning. Fortunately however, the bolt passed through the house's conductor without causing any damage.

The house could be heated with either a hot-air furnace or by coal in the grate, or by both when necessary. The house was also equipped with gas light fixtures and water tanks in the attic which provided several of the rooms with filtered water. Other interesting features included detailed woodwork and marble mantles.

Mr. Ranson served as the first president of the Covington and Cincinnati Bridge Company and played a leading role in the planning and construction of the Suspension Bridge. He also served the community as a director of the Deposit Bank of Covington. In November of 1858, Mr. Ranson died. Since then, the house has changed owners numerous times.