

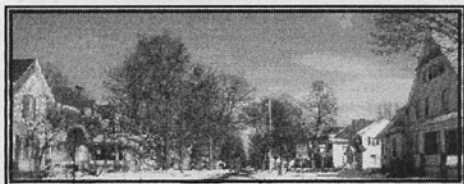


Perinton Historical Society
18 Perrin Street
Fairport, NY 14450

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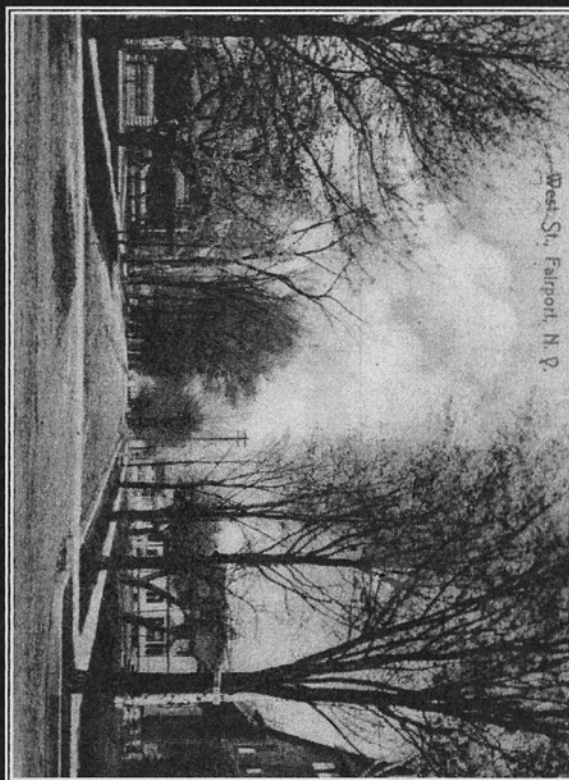
Jim & Karen Unckless
44 Potlar Place
Fairport, NY 14450-2420



Research by Bill Barry Photos by John Jongen Copyright PHS 2007

JOIN PHS:
PRESERVING OUR HISTORY TODAY, FOR TOMORROW

VILLAGE OF FAIRPORT, NY



2007 Historic
House Tour



By
Perinton Historical Society

House Tour of Historic West Street, Fairport, New York

Welcome to the 2007 annual Perinton Historical Society (PHS) historic house tour in the Village of Fairport, NY. PHS volunteers are pleased to again produce this event for our friends and neighbors.

We thank the homeowners for their generosity and hospitality in opening their homes to us. In return we promise them that we will take great care to protect their beautiful homes and prized possessions. To respect our hosts' privacy we ask visitors not to take pictures. Booties are provided to protect floors and floor coverings.

The tour starts at Potter Memorial on West Church Street on Sunday, April 29, 2007 at 1:00 PM with an introduction by Peter McDonough, President of the Perinton Historical Society. Please park in the nearby public parking lots. Homes will be open and staffed by volunteers from 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM. Tour homes are identified by numbered lawn signs.

Starting at Sign #1 head north on the west side of West Street; then return south on the east side of West Street. Visitors can also reverse the order 7-1. It would reduce the number of street crossings.

The tour concludes at the historic Deland home now called the Green Lantern Inn, at the NE corner of Main Street and Church Street. It will be open to house tour visitors from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

Restrooms are available at the Green Lantern Inn and at the Fairport Historical Museum on Perrin Street.

Membership support in the form of volunteers, donations, and dues allows the Society to achieve its mission to

"...promote Community interest in the preservation of our historic architecture, local records and artifacts for posterity, and for the enlightenment of the People of our town of Perinton."

PHS maintains the first rate Fairport Historical Museum and its historical collections and makes them accessible to the public free of charge. One of its programs is the annual 4th Graders Museum Excursion to provide students in the Fairport area with important hands-on history experience. We also help residents and former residents with historic research of their homes and their ancestors.

The Society offers monthly presentations by experts about local topics, and these are free to the public. Museum gardens are maintained by the Green Briar Garden Club and plantings are clearly marked to delight and inform gardening enthusiasts among us.

West Street is one of the earliest streets in Fairport. Many of the houses were built between 1852 and 1872. The two main landowners were Martin Wood who owned the property on the west side of the street and Omar Wilcox had a house on West Church and owned a large amount of property on the east side of the street.

To commemorate this house tour PHS produced a ten-page document titled 'West Street, Fairport, Then and Now' that contains the transcript of an oral history about West Street from 1919-1947 by former West Street residents and sisters Kathryn Parke and Barbara Butler. Illustrations include images of homes discussed by the sisters and a 1907 postcard image of West Street. Each West Street resident received a copy with our wish that the house tour experience has brought residents a deeper appreciation of their unique Fairport community and helped knit neighbors more closely together.

On the WEST side of West Street

Sign 1	42 West Street	Osterling
Sign 2	36 West Street	Quintana
Sign 3	24 West Street	Brown

On the EAST side of West Street

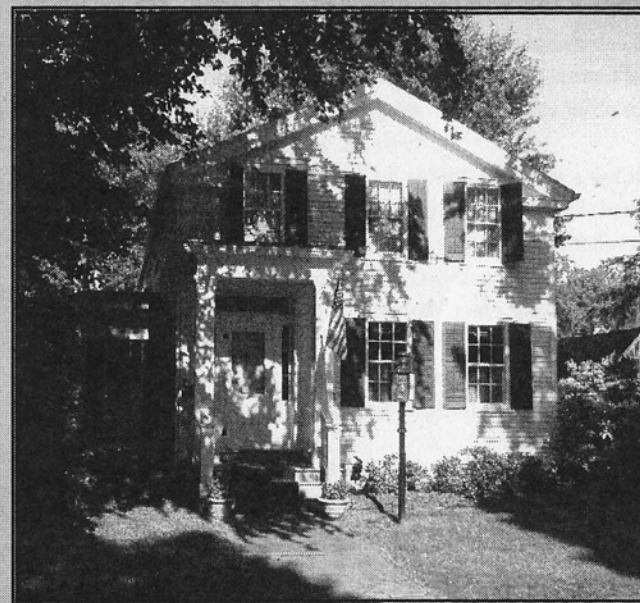
Sign 4	9 West Street	Person
Sign 5	23 West Street	Volpe
Sign 6	29 West Street	Walsh
Sign 7	35 West Street	Feeney

42 West Street

(Sign 1)

You are about to tour the oldest house on the street. This home is known as the Martin Wood House. It was built in 1851 and only five families have ever owned it. The rare Copper Beach tree in the front yard may be over 200 years old. Martin Wood was a farmer and owned six acres called Woodlawn Farm, most of which were located just to the west of the house. (Woodland Street, later Woodlawn Ave., just west of West Street was named after the farm.) Martin died in 1890 at the age of 82. Dorothy Cook bought the house in 1954 and Rich Osterling, the current owner purchased the house more than 25 years ago. Richard has completed an extraordinary restoration including burning off all paint to expose and refinish the original clapboards in the original color. Two additions have been sensitively accomplished including raising the low attic roof to a full room height for a needed large bedroom and re-allocating the side screened porch.

Carl Schmidt, a local architecture historian and author, includes this Greek Revival cottage in his book *Greek Revival Architecture in the Rochester Area*. Just imagine, it was originally considered canal front property and appears in the book, *Erie Canal Legacy*. In 1976 a researcher for the Landmark Society of Western New York described this house as the best example of Greek Revival Architecture in Fairport.



36 West Street (Sign 2)

This home is a fine example of an original American style of architecture; the Shingle Style Cottage. Built by Joseph Duncannon, it was part of the Martin Wood subdivision. Records date it at 1902, but, it is more-likely vintage 1875-1880 as its front door and interior woodwork and design are resident in other village homes of that era.

It has a spacious double lot, a unique roofline, a beautiful, small-scale carriage house, a grand front porch and numerous smaller porches...just as a waterfront cottage would have.

The new "old fence" in the side yard was saved from an 1864 property and artfully reconfigured to its new design. Take careful note of the replica carriage house post lanterns also designed and crafted by the owner.

New owners Keith and Kathy Quintana moved from Summit Street four years ago to rescue this dusty jewel. New exterior paint, a new roof, fabulous gardens and a stripped and refinished front door with the original bell now welcome you.

Inside, the stripping of paint and refinishing of all woodwork continued. Note the unusual Double Pocket doors. A new "Coal" gas unit lives in perfect architectural harmony with the original fireplace mantel.

Take notice of the "odd" little door in the dining room. Can you tell the owners what its use was for?

Extensive changes have been made to all second-floor rooms. Future projects include a kitchen/pantry re-design.



24 West Street (Sign 3)

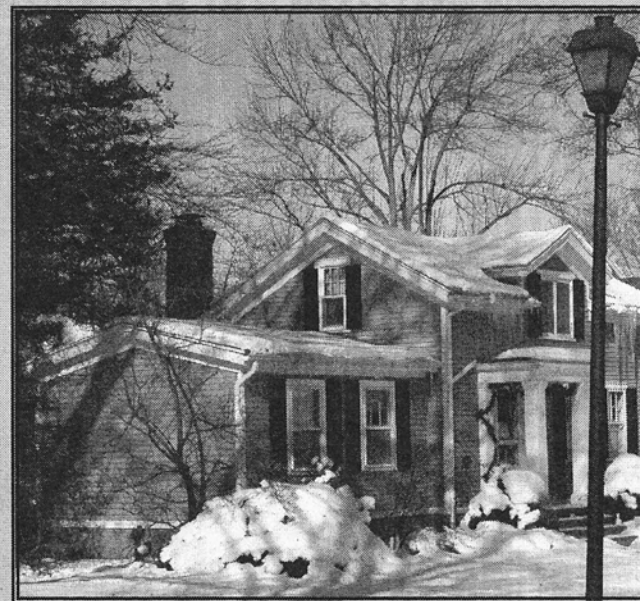
This is the small and charming Greek Revival home of Eric and Elizabeth Brown. Once a part of the Martin Wood land parcel, it was sold as a building lot [circa 1850-1860] At that time, there was no village of Fairport, only the town of Perinton. It has a sister house with the same appearance on West Street. Can you find it?

The house features a classic pillared entrance doorway and a corniced upper window insert [dormer], typical of the balance and symmetry achieved in Greek Revival design. In 1946, the Palmer sisters bought the house and proceeded to restore some of its features. At that time, a fireplace with a classic mantelpiece was added. Also added at the same time was the unusual tiger maple bannister in the entry hall.

The sisters were noted as experts on early American antiques; especially the delicate free-hand painted 18th century designs seen on trays and furniture pieces.

In 1976, the property was purchased by gardener extraordinaire Carl B. Miller. Please feel free to explore the rear gardens as you leave.

Eric and Elizabeth purchased the home only two years ago and have begun to renovate the first floor. Once again, new owners are setting out to restore this quaint home. Its exterior colors appear elegantly no matter what the seasonal backdrop.

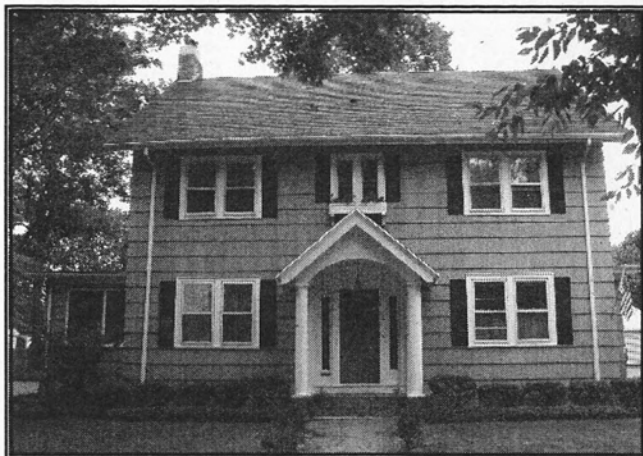


9 West Street (Sign 4)

This home was originally built in 1921 by John Bahler and his wife Bertha. Previously, they had rented the upstairs of #11 West Street. He owned a hardware store on West Avenue (originally known as Schummers Hardware) which he purchased in 1919. The sign from the store is on display at the Fairport Historical Museum.

Craig and Barbara Person moved in on a snowy February day in 2005 and are only the fourth owners in 86 years. Originally built with a grey stucco exterior, the house was faced with cedar shakes at some point in the 80's. Baths and kitchen have been updated. Nearly all the doors, walls, windows, woodwork and hardware are original. Only one major modification to the original structure was completed by extending the room behind the living room to create a den. Painting, wallpapering and minor bathroom refurbishing have taken place under the ownership of the Persons.

This is a beautiful example of the "next generation" of classic Fairport homes from the 20th century.



23 West Street (Sign 5)

This home is typical of a smaller village home with a shortened second story. You will be touring the first floor only. This property and its neighbor #20, were part of the Wilcox property. Mortimer Wilcox was the Fairport Postmaster and ran a country store from 1871 to 1885. He had a house on West Church Street adjacent to the property on West Street. This home may have been built between 1840 and 1860.

It was purchased by Mike and Carole Volpe in 2000. As it perhaps was early in its life, the house is now a busy place filled with the activities of raising four young children. The Volpe's removed a wall and opened up the kitchen and dining rooms. Note the wooden ceiling. On display are older photos of the house and some of the interesting items found in the walls during demolition. Future plans include a second floor re-do.



29 West Street (Sign 6)

Village records date this house at 1902 but it may date to the late 1800's. It was built by C.F. Parmalee and cuts a unique profile with its diagonal square tower. From the 1930's to 1977 it was the home of Bessie Kinney. Bessie was the Principal at the Midvale School just down the road on Baird Road in the Town of Perinton.

Ellen Stoll Walsh and Ben Walsh reside here. Ellen, who has owned the home since 1974, has worked diligently over the years to preserve this very unusually-designed home. At one point, the foundation had been compromised and the turret had begun to pull away from the walls of the house. Once those structural repairs were completed, other exterior and interior work began.

The original front porch rails had once been replaced with inappropriate wrought iron. The front steps and rails were restored to an original look as was the rear porch. Five years ago, the exterior colors were changed. All of the interior woodwork was stripped and refinished. The attic was converted to a studio for Ellen who both writes and illustrates children's picture books. To date, she has published 16 books translated to 10 languages.

A previous owner replaced a rear staircase that met the front staircase at the landing with a small powder room. Significant plaster repairs have been completed. Note the narrow floor boards on the second floor and the wide hallway. Future plans include re-landscaping the yard.

Enjoy visiting all three floors of this wonderful home.



35 West Street

(Sign 7)

This home is estimated by the assessment records as being built around 1910, is 3,000 sq. ft., has two staircases and occupies a ½ acre of land. From the 1920's to 1973, Irving and Nina Bramer owned the house. Irving was a druggist and ran Bramer's Drug Store for many years at 2 South Main Street near the canal. Joe and Kathy Feeney bought the house in the fall of 1981.

As far as anyone knows; the house has always been painted white. Modifications have evolved over the years beginning with the removal of carpet to expose hardwoods and a new roof and gutters. All mechanics and new baths were completed. The front porch has seen two replacements. This last one in 2006 blends perfectly with the period architecture and created a larger sitting porch which never needs to be painted.

The living room is a show of family antiques including a settee originating from Bolt Castle in the 1000 Islands. Note the Waterford lights. Also be aware of the hand-cut wood floor design of the dining room.

Two additions have added a family room and a sunroom and patio. All windows are original to the house. New landscaping and a fire pit add to the outdoor charm of this impressive residence.

Reception following your tour at
Green Lantern Inn/Deland Mansion from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Located at South Main and West Church Streets
Refreshments and cash bar available
Visit with friends and compare tour notes

