



Green Historical Society

Landmark No. 6—Aultman Schoolhouse

Aultman Schoolhouse Class Photograph
dated January 26, 1910



On January 18, 2011, The City of Green Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously to designation 3431 Greensburg Road, North Canton, Ohio, as a local landmark. Aultman Schoolhouse is the sixth local landmark to be designated in the City of Green. The Green Historical Society thoroughly researched the architectural and historical significance of the property. However, the construction date of the schoolhouse remains a mystery. The Summit County Recorder's Office lists the construction date as 1870. Unfortunately, the original records that this date was based upon are no longer available at the Recorder's Office. A map of Green Township from 1891 does not indicate a schoolhouse at the location of Aultman School. The 1891 map illustrates 14 districts within Green Township and two joint districts with Stark County. The Aultman area is illustrated as part of District 6 and a schoolhouse is shown within District 6 to the south on the land of Frederick Boettler. Reference is made in a 1901-02 school year souvenir to a District 6 - Room 2 that may be Aultman School. It is assumed that the schoolhouse was built to service the expanding population in the Aultman area. The population of the Aultman area was growing from 1870-1910. The hamlet of Aultman spread across the western edge of Green Township and ran along the railway line into Lake Township in Stark County. Aultman extended along Greensburg Road toward Greentown. A map from 1896 of Lake Township labels the Greentown/Aultman district as a "Special District" and the district runs to the Green Township line near the schoolhouse. It is also possible, though unconfirmed, that this schoolhouse was part of a joint or special district with Lake Township or perhaps this area was part of a joint or special district until this schoolhouse was built. There were new rules for schools passed in 1910 and taking effect in 1912 that required students to attend school in the county that they lived in. This ended our "joint" school districts on the borders of the township with Stark County. So, the students that lived in the Aultman area and previously walked over the line for school now had to have a school to attend in Summit County. This may have been our last one room schoolhouse built to accommodate the Aultman students who could no longer attend school in Stark County.

The Witsaman Family—Stewards of Aultman Schoolhouse for Almost 100 Years—
The Witsaman Family has preserved the property since it was sold by the Board of Education. Wilbur Witsaman purchased the schoolhouse from the Board of Education in 1923 and carefully converted the property to a private residence. Glenn Leroy Witsaman and his wife, Rebecca B. (Stadelman) Witsaman, are the current property owners and residents. Glenn Leroy Witsaman is the son of Glenn Homer Witsaman and Carolyn Marie (Heisa) Witsaman and the grandson of Wilbur Witsaman and Anna Marie (Yenny) Witsaman.

According to the Witsaman Family, Wilbur Witsaman and Anna Marie Yenny were school classmates at Aultman School. In 1914 Wilbur and Anna Marie were married. According to the Witsaman Family, Wilbur and Anna Witsaman moved to the schoolhouse with a horse and buggy from the home of Anna's sister (Leah) on the south side of Greensburg Road. Wilbur and Anna Marie had five children, Carl L., Arline, Roy, Glenn Homer, and Dawn.

Architectural Significance—Architecturally, the schoolhouse reflects its varied history. The schoolhouse is a gable-front frame cottage with three bays on the main facade. The original narrow beveled board siding is intact. While retaining the footprint and character of the original frame structure, the home also reflects many features typical of 1920's craftsman or cottage/bungalow style. These craftsman style elements are compatible with the original architecture of the structure. The architectural features of the property illustrate the property's two distinct histories: an 1880's schoolhouse and a 1920's homestead. The Aultman Schoolhouse is not only significant as a historic schoolhouse and a cottage-bungalow home; it is also one of the last structures representing the once thriving population of Aultman.

