

Documentation to Support Historical Significance

Henry Heiss Family History

The property of the subject designation is part of Green Township, Stark County, Range 9, Township 12, Section 27 SE. The 23.84 acres was deeded from Lucretia Oberlin to Henry Heiss in 1867. Henry Heiss then transferred the property to Aaron Swartz in 1867.

Henry and Eliza Heiss had a daughter, Sophia Heiss (according to Evangelical Messenger Obituary Records).

Aaron Swartz Family History

Aaron Swartz married Sophia Heiss (year unknown). In 1865, Henry Heiss conveyed 160 acres of Section 21 of Green Township to Aaron Swartz. Aaron and Sophia Swartz lived at this property until the subject residence was completed in 1882.

Aaron Swartz was born May 22, 1832 to Christian Swartz and Elizabeth (Myers) Swartz. Sophia Swartz died June 20, 1893. Aaron Swartz then married Lora E. (Thursby) Swartz around 1895 (see 1900 Census).

Aaron Swartz was a Second Corporal in Company H, which defended Washington, D.C. in the Civil War. The Aaron and Sophia Swartz were members of the Evangelical Association.

Steese Family History

Aaron Swartz died April 3, 1912. Lora E. (Thursby) Swartz then conveyed 28.84 acres in Sections 10 and 27 (including the Walnut Woods property) to Vinnie Steese in 1913. Vinnie Steese (b. ~1888) was the daughter of Henry J. Steese and Katherine (Neitz) Steese. Henry J. Steese retained a life estate in the subject property.

Clause Family History

Vinnie Steese married William N. Clause. According to Pauline Franks (longtime Green, Ohio resident), Henry J. Steese, Katherine Steese and their granddaughter Marian (first daughter of William Clause and Vinnie Steese Clause) lived on the property for several years. Marian resided with her grandparents. William Clause and Vinnie Steese resided near Buchtel High School in Akron. After Vinnie Steese Clause's death in 1944, the property of the subject designation passed to Robert E. and William N. Clause. Robert E. Clause and wife Mary Clause (still a resident of Green) then raised their family in the home of the subject property.

Documentation to Support Architectural Significance

The home on the property of the subject designation was constructed around 1882. The home is a brick, high style, Italianate Victorian Farmhouse. The home features a symmetrical façade with a central gabled projecting wing with a 2-story bay window. Several examples of Victorian Cross-Gable Farmhouses were built in Green Township. However, the home of the subject designation is the only remaining brick Victorian Cross-Gable Farmhouse.

The home includes evenly spaced carved cornice brackets around the entire perimeter of the cross gabled roof . Decorative corbelled brick surrounds the cornice. The home has a two-story angled bay window complete with carved cornice brackets. A pair of Victorian porches with ornate turned posts and balusters flank either side of the bay window. Each porch has a respective entry with a 2-panel door and transom. The segmental-arched windows of the first and second story are each are topped with triangular hoodmolds with keystone and end blocks with a sunflower design.

The gable ends of the home have 2 bays and a small attic window in the gable face. Small porches at rear doors connect a small brick 1-story wind at the NW corner and a modern 1-story gabled brick addition at the SW corner.

The subject designation property also includes a Standard Forebay barn with gabled roof, vertical siding, banked door on the West, and a shallow overhand on the East. Window openings are louvered. Decorative Gothic arch designs are present in the gable end louvers.