

## 126 AYRAULT ROAD

Ayrault Road was the site of Perinton's earliest settlements. The Old Northfield highway records note an Ayrault Road as early as 1800. Glover and Johanna Perrin settled just west of the intersection with Moseley Road in the 1790's, and were soon followed by other Perrin family members who settled nearby. In the first decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Arnold, Slocum, and Benedict families settled in the vicinity of Ayrault and Turk Hill Roads. The land for Perinton Center Cemetery, Perinton's oldest burying ground, across from Martha Brown School, was deeded by Lyman Barker to the cemetery trustees in 1813.



The entire road was not always called by its present name, as the 1902 map identifies the part west of Turk Hill Road as Wapping Bridge Road. The Ayrault family, after whom the road is currently named, were farmers who owned extensive property on the eastern end of the road in the vicinity of Fairport High School.

Pioneer John Nichols purchased 143 acres of land along what was then Wapping Bridge Road in 1834 and built his house. Elijah Nichols was listed as owner of the property in 1852 with other family members owning farms in the area as well. Martin Stiles owned the house between 1858 and the 1870's. The owners as of 2008, John and Mary Gordon, purchased the property in 1975 from Ruth Zurbuck.

This Greek Revival house has a 1 ½ story front gabled block and two one story wings to either side. The gabled block features an open porch with columns, corner pilasters, original six over six double-hung windows, a wide frieze board with eyebrow windows, and cornice returns. The foundation at the front of the house is cobblestone, a unique construction technique indigenous to Western New York. In addition, there are hand-hewn beams visible in the basement. The side wings were not added until the 1960's; however, the design and detailing was in keeping with the original part of the house. The Gordons have delighted in the adaptability of the house, noting that there have been many conversions over the years and that the rooms have been used for a variety of purposes during the life of the house. At one point they used one of the front parlors as a bedroom, and a dining room has since become their library.

The house sits on a rise of land between two tributaries of Irondequoit Creek and while it is sheltered from surrounding structures and roads by a fence and many mature trees, it is still an established and familiar part of the neighborhood. The one acre lot and the post and beam front gabled barn add to the integrity of the setting. As architect Paul Malo stated in his evaluation, "Everything is here."

This landmark home is a fitting contributor to historic Ayrault Road.