

2381 WHITNEY ROAD EAST

Set back from the road in a wonderful intact agricultural setting at 2381 Whitney Road East is a 20 room federal/Greek Revival style farmhouse. The setting includes, in addition to the house, two sheds, and a barn complex with silos. Early Perinton settler Darius Tallman built the original part of the house in 1832. Architectural historian Paul Malo calls this a “very important house, . . . very large and beautifully sited, . . . a beauty.”

The house itself is a mixture of Federal and Greek Revival styles with several Queen Anne details reflecting its 1830's origin and its later additions. The 2 ½ front gable is connected to a two-story gabled east wing. The exterior is sided with 6” clapboards and has regular 6 over 1 double hung windows with louvered wooden shutters and a fieldstone and hand-hewn timber foundation. Federal design is evident in the carved ellipse in the front gable and in the house's symmetry. Greek Revival design is evident in the wide cornices and the gable end returns. The entrance porch has turned spindles and carved brackets reminiscent of Queen Anne styling, and the wonderful two-paneled front door has carved egg and dart details flanked by fluted pilasters and divided sidelights. The front of the house also has an enclosed porch with a stone floor, rounded columns, and decorative moldings and corner blocks.

The Tallman family came to Perinton well before 1830. Darius Tallman first came to visit the Budlongs, who were family friends. He found the area and the land so agreeable that he encouraged his father Isaac to move to the area. According to former Perinton historian Helen Butler, in 1824 Isaac purchased land and built a house at 2396 Whitney Road East for himself, his wife, his mother, and his six children. In 1826 he built a second house at # 2187. Son Darius purchased 113 acres for \$1740 next door to his father and built the house at #2381 for his bride Cynthia. They took up residence there in 1831. In addition to the three houses on Whitney Road, two of Darius' sons, Luther and Isaac, built homes on Wakeman and Budlong Roads, respectively, making a total of five Tallman houses in Perinton.

In addition to being a successful farmer, Darius was an active member of the community. He served as school trustee, election inspector, commissioner of highways, and supervisor in 1842 and 1844. Since his father's house was a documented stop on the Underground Railroad, it might also be assumed that he was active in the abolitionist movement as well.

Darius died in 1878, and in 1882, his widow Cynthia and son Orville sold the property to Frederick Warner. The Warners owned the land until 1902 when it was sold to the Steffen family who ran “Nakoma Farms” until 1928. It was probably during the ownership of the Warner family, during the 1880's, that the house was significantly



changed by the raising of the roof of the east wing to a full two stories. This change incorporated the summer kitchen, outhouse, and woodshed into the east wing. The original frieze windows were also replaced with double-hung windows. Later owners also made some significant changes to the interior. The parlor, parlor bedroom, and back parlor were opened up to create one large living room. A fireplace was rebuilt in the dining room, three baths were added to the second floor, and the old floors on the first floor were replaced with new wide pegged ones. Further, a porch on the main part of the house was replaced with a gabled enclosed entry. Despite the many changes, the house still retains much of the early oak leaf and acorn woodwork around the parlor windows, as well as a newel post with acanthus and pineapple motif carving. Much of the second floor was less elegant, as it served to house extra farmhands during the planting season. That area was separated from the owner's section by a door whose only latch was on the owner's side. The original dairy barn complex burned during the 1930's; however, both the tractor barn and the dairy barn with its two silos, milkhouse and tenant house were rebuilt.

In 1951, after its long history as a farm, Perinton historian Helen Butler and her husband purchased the property. Helen researched the history of the house, and thanks to both Butlers, the integrity of the house and the property was maintained and continues to be under present owners Scott and Laurie Copp, who have owned the property since 1986. Over their years of ownership, they have replaced the basic mechanical systems of the house, restored bathrooms, put in a new kitchen, and done the general maintenance and repairs that an old house requires. In addition, they are restoring the dairy barn, which along with the two silos, the milk house, a summer kitchen and a shed comprise the existing outbuildings. Scott and Laurie note that they expected the house to be a 10 year project, but they currently say that perhaps it will be done in another 10 years. Clearly caring for this wonderful example of Perinton's heritage is an on-going endeavor.

Because of its significant architectural style, its intact agricultural setting, which today comprises approximately nine acres, and its affiliation with one of Perinton's early families, this house was designated as a Perinton landmark in 1991.