

4394 CARTER ROAD

Carter Road, in Perinton's northeast corner, was first settled in the 1820's. It is named for Miles Carter, who moved there in the early 1830's after purchasing 63 acres from a gentleman by the name of Park Brown. After the coming of the canal, Carter Road, along with Fellows and Fairport-Webster Roads, became main routes for farmers bringing their produce to market. With settlement came a schoolhouse and a cemetery. This rural area also featured at various times a clay brick-making business, tobacco crops, and several distilleries. Today, Carter Road maintains a rural character and is the site of two homes and a cemetery that have been designated as historic landmarks under Perinton's Historic Preservation Ordinance.



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The former "Pleasant View Farm" or "Esten-Wahl Farm," the second of Carter Road's designated landmarks, is located to the north of 4692 Carter Road. Today, this distinctive and imposing farmhouse is both a private residence and a bed and breakfast. Probably the second structure on the property, the house first appears on the 1858 Perinton map and is a clapboard vernacular farmhouse with some Italianate detailing. It has a two-storied front gable and side wing, with a smaller rear gable. The front porch is in the Italianate style with square posts and a spindled wood railing. The side porch, while of a similar style, was most likely built later. The property includes a large gambrel barn with a corn crib that was used as an apartment and is now "Pleasant View Cottage," one of the bed and breakfast accommodations. A 20th century garage, a pool, and tennis courts complete the site.

The land was farmed by the Esten family for three generations. The 1858 Perinton map notes that the property is that of G.W. Esten. Subsequent maps of 1872 and 1902 also show George Esten as owner. John Wahl purchased the property in 1908, hence the name "Esten-Wahl." Reminiscences of George Whitfield Esten, son of the first owner, include the following anecdotes. "The squirrels were so thick in the woods at the rear of the farm that the boys of the family were given warming pans to bang with a stick and they marched up and down frightening away the squirrels." Just north of the Esten property, Carter Road curves to the east, and Esten notes, ". . . Thus was formed a triangular piece on which were two distilleries . . . Byron Woolsey's grandfather helped erect the distillery. Men met, chose sides to see which side would be raised first. The last log was just being placed when it caught Mr. Woolsey on the head and he was instantly killed. Forty years later when the building was torn down, his grandson found the blood stains still on the log." Byron Woolsey's father, Richard, would build the brick farmhouse that is today "Toad Hill."

Former owners, Alvani and Carol Santos, found shards of china and glassware outside what used to be the pantry. The story is that one of the Wahl women got tired of taking care of it all and simply threw dishes and glassware out of the window.

This farmhouse was designated a Perinton landmark on April 11, 1995.

