

ORCHARD GLEN

On the Perinton-Penfield border, on Lincoln Mills Road, a street that lies between Irondequoit Creek and a driving range, is a 5 acre parcel of land upon which stands a charming 1830's Greek Revival house called "Orchard Glen."

This area along Irondequoit Creek was a thriving area of the town by the 1830's, with settlers taking advantage of the available water power to build mills. A one-mile area of the

deep and fast creek supported 25 water-powered industries, including saw and grist mills, foundries, tanneries, and forges. Stephen and John Carpenter owned and operated a carding and fulling mill on the creek just south of the town line. The mills initially carded wool fibers into straight lines that could be easily spun into thread that would be woven into cloth at home. The woven material could then be "fulled" or washed with fuller's soap, beaten, and dried. The resulting fabric was smaller and thicker after the process, which made it warmer than before.

In 1835, Stephen brought his bride, Ambeline Aldrich Carpenter, home to the house that he had built above the creek and his mill several years earlier. The original 2-story part of the house was built in the Greek Revival style with a front gable and side wing that was typical of the times. It includes pilasters, gable-end cornice returns, 6 over 6 double-hung windows, louvered wooden shutters, and frieze band windows. The two additions, a one-story north wing and a one-story shed-roofed ell, date from the early to middle 20th century. The property includes a tennis court, historic plantings, and is surrounded by a white board fence. The land across the street leading down to Irondequoit Creek is protected by the Genesee Valley Land Trust.

Stephen Carpenter and his wife Ambeline had seven children. The 1836 tax rolls show the Carpenters owning 5 acres of land in Lot 55 with a fulling and carding mill and one other acre in lot 55. The 1840 census lists Stephen, Ambeline and four children: Charles, Helen, Adelia, and Cassius. The 1852, 1858, and 1872 maps all show S.C. Carpenter as owner of the same property in Lot 55. A quote from *Penfield's Past* describes the site of the Carpenter home: "Mott's Lane was a wagon road leading down to the west bank of Irondequoit Creek from the road above, now called Lincoln Mills Road. It was said to ford the creek there and go up the hills on the opposite side to Five Mile Line Road. At the base of this land, beside the creek, stood the slaughter house and carding mill operated by S.C. Carpenter in 1863." The 1878 county directory listed Stephen Carpenter as a butcher. Stephen had obviously added other activities to his milling business. In fact, after the mid-19th century, carding and fulling mills had mostly disappeared. Stephen and Ambeline died in 1886 and 1889 respectively. By 1902, the map shows C.Carpenter, probably Stephen and Ambeline's son Charles, as owner of the property. According to family records, Charles' youngest sister Alice and her husband Edward Hawkins regularly spent summers at the house.

The property continued to remain with the family. Stephen and Ambeline's granddaughter Doris and her husband Schuyler Baldwin eventually took over the house and



raised their three children there. Doris's early memories of the house include finding spear heads, a grain grinder, and half of an iron ox shoe on the road, which was a former Seneca trail. She also remembered American chestnut trees before they were wiped out by blight. Her love of the orchards, woods, and fields on the family property and her desire to preserve the integrity of her ancestral land led her to seek protection for a portion of the property from the Genesee Land Trust, which was done.

The Carpenter family through its Baldwin descendants retained ownership of the property for over 165 years, until 2000 when the house was sold. The new owner feels a strong affinity for her new home. A music teacher, while doing renovations, she found a picture of a Baldwin ancestor, Adelaide Fosdick Baldwin, also a music teacher, along with some of her music books. She has had the opportunity as well to talk about the property and its history with Beryl Punt, Doris and Schuyler's daughter.

Schuyler and Doris Baldwin were delighted when their home was designated a Perinton landmark in 1991. The location, the architecture, the history of the house, and its links to Perinton's past clearly made "Orchard Glen" a very strong candidate for designation.