

Clues to the Long-Gone Houses of Perinton

By Bill Poray, Perinton Town Historian

I have been studying Bushnell's Basin, in preparation for a history hike I will lead for the Crescent Trail Association on April 9th. There is a lot to learn, from canal folklore to the folks that lived and worked in the Basin. People will tell you that the hamlet's history includes an interesting cast of characters, and I'll be telling some of those stories soon.

Another aspect of Bushnell's Basin history is shared with other areas of Perinton, and concerns the large number of early structures which no longer exist. In Fairport, the impact of Urban Renewal on South Main Street and West Avenue in the village is the most obvious example. Less understood is that throughout Perinton are sites where once stood homes built by early pioneers and settlers that are long gone, either by fire or demolition.



This early Greek Revival home once stood at the south end of Kreag Road. It was owned by Bushnell's Basin grocer Isaac Hastings. His name first appears in town records in 1830.

Using Bushnell's Basin as an example, the collection of properties which includes Richardson's Canal House, the former Loud's Tavern, and several smaller structures near the

canal have been lovingly restored. Many others in the area were torn down in the name of progress. Some were probably in rough shape, while others were sacrificed for new construction, parking, or other reasons. The irony is that some of the houses torn down in the Basin in the last fifty years or so, had they survived, would have added to the charm that attracts people to the area today.



There is no evidence of these homes at the corner of Hamilton Road and Whitney Road, where they stood. Evidence of both are found on a Perinton map from 1852.

Another example is an intersection in northeast Perinton, which provides no clues as to what was once a thriving little community. Where the north end of Hamilton Road terminates at Whitney Road, there is no visual evidence of several early homes once located there, all torn down within the last several decades. A Perinton map from 1852 confirms their existence at that time, and lists the names Plumb, Hall, Wakeman, and Noyes. A few hundred feet to the east was a cheese factory, for which this part of Whitney Road was once named.

We might have lost even more of our early structures, had it not been for enterprising folks who chose to move houses and buildings rather than tear them down. Thus far my research has identified an incredible 79 relocated structures in the town of Perinton.

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