

## THE DELAND HOMES OF NORTH MAIN STREET

During the latter decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the DeLand family acquired a good deal of property on North Main Street in Fairport. All of the land on the west side of North Main Street from Parce Avenue to Whitney Road was DeLand property, as was the house at 176 North Main Street.

The house at 137 North Main Street near the corner of Parce Avenue was built in 1856 by William Newman, who ran Newman & Son, a baking powder company. The structure might well have incorporated part of an earlier house that had been built on the site in 1810 by pioneer Peter Ripley and was purportedly the first house built in the village. Joseph Parce, brother-in-law of Daniel DeLand, purchased the house in 1872 when he came to Fairport to help the DeLands run the DeLand Chemical Company. The house is an example of Queen Anne architecture. At one time it had decorative bracketing and bargeboard trim, a porch all across the front, and decorative wrought iron on the tower roof. The property extended down to what would become Parce Avenue and was surrounded, according to the 1872 map, by the Parce and Solly Nursery. Walter Parce, who owned the house by 1902, also raised his family there. His children Donald, Yale, Lucille, and Harold grew up in the house. The house was subsequently owned by the Prinzivalli family. It is now a commercial establishment.

Just north of the Parce home, at #149 stood a smaller home, more in the Greek revival style, that Daniel DeLand had built for his daughter Leora. She married Walter Hubbell and lived there until 1890. A number of other families owned the house, with its front gable and side ell, until it burned in 1968. A modern office building currently stands on the site.

In 1856, Daniel and Minerva Parce DeLand built their two and one-half story Carpenter's Gothic home at the southwest corner of North Main Street and Whitney Road on a large piece of land that extended from Whitney Road south through DeLand Park A and B. The entrance faced south toward the "front yard," a fine park with great numbers of rare trees, shrubs, and flowers planted in groves. The gardens also contained a windmill, gazebo, and summerhouses. It was from this house that Daniel and Minerva ran the saleratus (baking soda) business, known as the DeLand Chemical Company, that occupied the factory site on the northeast side of the canal between Main and Parker Streets and helped put Fairport on the industrial map during the last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The DeLands raised their five children in the house. In 1907, after the death of Minerva, the house was sold to the Cary family. The park area was offered to the village as a public park, but fearing the expense of upkeep, the offer was rejected. As a result, the land was sold for development and became DeLand Park A and B. Today the house continues as a private residence and, together with the large barn, is a well-maintained reminder of one of Fairport's "first families."

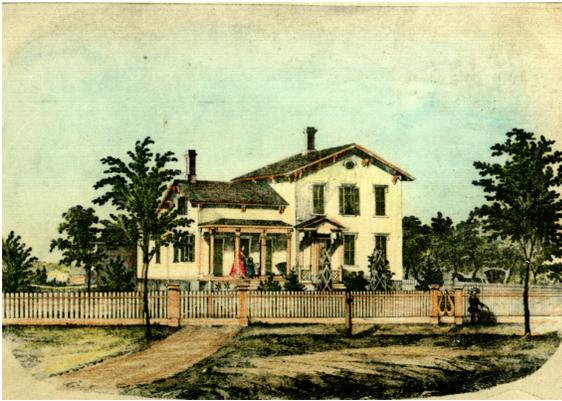
Levi DeLand and his family lived for a time at 176 North Main Street. According to the record, Levi's mother Minerva sold him the house for \$1 and "love and affection." The house was built in 1872 possibly around an older structure. When it was built, it had a full front porch and a port-cochere on the north side. There was a brick oven in the basement and a hand-dug well in the yard. The interior had beamed ceilings, leaded glass, a number of built in cabinets, and an English ironstone and brick fireplace in the living room. After the DeLands left, the house had a number of owners including James

and Frannie Harris and Clarence and May Newcomb. It was extensively remodeled in 1912 and currently houses several apartments.

Having outgrown the house at 176 North Main Street, in 1888 Levi DeLand purchased the Whitney farm on the northeast corner of Whitney Road and Nine Mile Point Road, moved the farmhouse, and built a large brick and shingle mansion on the site. Following his father's lead, he surrounded his impressive house with 600 acres of fruit and nut trees. After Levi's death, the house was purchased by the Baptist Church and became the first Fairport Baptist Home. The structure was demolished in 1971 as the Baptist Home expanded.

The DeLand part of North Main Street was also the first area in town to have electric street lights. Using power from the DeLand Company plant generator, Levi DeLand installed electric street lights up North Main Street, past the homes of his relatives, to his house at 4646 Nine Mile Point Road.

Despite the commercial development and the other changes that have taken place over the last century, the homes built by the DeLand family are a reminder of the strong and positive contribution the family made to the Fairport community.



*185 North Main Street*



*137 North Main Street*



*4646 Nine Mile Point Road (Levi DeLand mansion)*