

Farms and Shoe Polish – A Kreag Road Story (conclusion)

Kreag Road, the sleepy passage from Bushnell's Basin to Ayrault Road, had just a handful of residents in the early 1870s, when Perinton was primarily a farming community. The families on the street were mostly from Germany and Ireland, and included the names Murphy, Desh, Neiss, Maloy, and of course, Kreag.

Starting in 1926, Robert Crump took over the old Kreag pastures, but by the 1960s the picturesque dairy farm was becoming a rarity, as our country town became a suburban residential community. Perinton's population tripled during the years that Crump operated his farm. Developers quickly bought up farm land, and Kreag Road was no exception.



The Kreag-Crump farmhouse in 1960. The property was once known as Shinola Farms.

In 1964 most of what had been the Kreag farm was sold for development. A newspaper article announcing the sale of the farm described the place as follows: *“One of the most photographed farms in this area, the Crump place has been painted yellow, white, oxblood, and finally yellow again. Because of its appealing location, graced by huge silver leaf maples, a still usable well, and a compact, but picture book arrangement of barns, silo, corn crib, and windmill, professional models have been brought to the Crump door to be photographed by*

advertising agencies and modeling services.” Several acres were retained by the Crump family, along with the idyllic farm house. The home was said to have been built in the late 1830s, with elements of both Federal and Greek-Revival architecture. In 1968 most of the remaining land was sold, leaving the farm house on a 1.5 acre parcel. By 1986 the Crump family sold the house, which was almost immediately torn down by the new owner.

Many residents in the community were shocked at the loss of the Kreag-Crump home. Some years earlier, Richardson’s Canal House, a dilapidated old inn at Bushnell’s Basin, came close to the same fate, but was rescued, restored, and ultimately named to the National Register of Historic Places. Another, Loud’s Tavern in Egypt, was also saved from the wrecking ball and relocated to Bushnell’s Basin. Many old houses and buildings weren’t so lucky. Like other communities in the area, Fairport and Perinton have lost many early structures. In some cases, serious issues made rehabilitation impractical. For many others, demolition could have been avoided, and elements of our local history preserved.

The demolition of the Kreag-Crump farmhouse sparked great interest in the creation of a town ordinance for historic preservation. Such provisions are designed to help protect historically designated properties both from demolition and insensitive exterior modifications which might compromise the architectural integrity of the building. The first meeting of the town’s Historic Architecture Commission was held a short time after the demolition of the Kreag-Crump home, and has now served the community for 28 years.

Written by Bill Poray, Perinton Town Historian

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