

## Who Moved my House?

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When I was a little boy I saw a house slowly rolling down the street in Irondequoit. Crowds of people followed as a crew cleared the way, raising utility wires. Ever since, I've been fascinated that a house might begin its life in one place, and continue its existence in another. Perinton may be unique for the number of houses, buildings, and other structures that have been relocated.



*The center building at left was removed from South Main Street in 1910 to allow for the construction of the Clark building. It was modified for use as a home on Pleasant Street (right).*



*Note the large brackets supporting the awning in the photo above-left. The brackets were repurposed after the building was moved to Pleasant Street in 1910, to support the porch (left).*

Perhaps the earliest known move involved the first of three First Congregational Churches on East Church Street in about 1844. The most recent was also the smallest, a brick outhouse moved from 70 East Church Street to the Potter property at 53 West Church Street. Donated by Arnold and Anne Smeenck, the outhouse was moved by Matthews Building Movers, restored, and placed on Fairport's Potter property at 53 West Church Street in November of 2000.

Several structures were moved from South Main Street to East Church Street, in most cases to make room for commercial buildings constructed from the 1870s to about 1910. The vast majority of building relocations took place from 1872 to 1912, with at least a dozen occurring in the 1870s alone. Almost all of these involved structures on Main or Church Streets, moved to side streets in order to allow for new construction of bigger homes or buildings. More than any other, Filkins Street, and to a lesser degree George Street, were the destination for structures removed from their lots. The man that moved them was the same man the streets were named after, George Filkins. He frequently purchased early village houses when their owners were ready for a larger home, with the understanding that he would remove them from the lot. With a team of horses or oxen pulling, the houses were typically rolled on wheels down Fairport's streets and relocated, rebuilt as needed, and given a second life.



*Used as a chicken coop in 1940 when this photo was taken, this was the early home of Andrew Lincoln at 2358 Baird Road. It was moved back from the street in order to build a new house in about 1860.*

Many of Perinton's early rural roads provide examples of relocated structures. In some cases, early homes appear to have been moved back on a lot and converted to use as a barn, and a new, larger home built to take its place. In another example, the town's first meeting place, a tavern owned by Perinton's first Town Supervisor, Cyrus Packard, was moved a short distance west on Pittsford Palmyra Road in Egypt. The original location was approximately where the entrance to the Mason Valley subdivision exists today.