

1433 PITTSFORD-VICTOR ROAD

Perinton's early history is primarily agricultural. As a result, a number of the town's designated historic landmarks are farmhouses or homes that are connected with a farm or a farming family. The farmhouse at 1433 Pittsford-Victor Road, designated in 1997, is such a house.

Joseph Ketchum, who came from Rensselaer County like the Van Ness family who built a farmhouse just to the east on LaSalle Parkway, built the Pittsford-Victor Road house. The two families also had an additional connection: one of the Van Ness daughters married a Ketchum son.

Joseph Ketchum was 52 years old in 1829 when he came to Perinton. He bought 332 acres of land from Thomas and Mary Leggett and built two houses, one on the north side and one on the south side of Pittsford-Victor Road, which at the time became known as Ketchum Road. Both houses appear on the 1852, 1858, and 1872 maps. Joseph died in 1856 and the property passed to his son Cornelius, who farmed the property until his death in 1874, when it passed to son Edward. The farm remained in the Ketchum family until the early 20th century when it was sold to the Matthews family.

Although other Ketchum family members built in the area, the house at 1433 Pittsford-Victor Road is the only one still remaining. The house was described by Paul Malo, architectural historian, as "a good, straightforward house complex..." The two-story, center-entranced gable-roofed house has a 1 ½ story wing with a porch set on a cobblestone foundation. Although vernacular in style, it also reflects Italianate influence in the decorative brackets of the front and side porches and the lintels over the second floor windows. The two front doors have four-panels with upper panels of glass, and there are a number of six over six windows. The house is sided with wood clapboards and corner boards, which may be original. There is also a small barn attached to the wing. The house is flanked by mature evergreens and trees, and the property slopes down to the creek. The house is no longer a private residence, but has been successfully adapted for office use.

The Ketchum house, like the Van Ness property to the east, is situated in a heavily traveled, commercial area. Nevertheless it is not only an excellent example of rural architecture reflecting Perinton's agricultural past, but it is also an example of how historic preservation and development can coexist.

