

1 GREEN RIDGE ROAD

Ayrault Road was the site of Perinton's earliest settlements. The Old Northfield highway records note an Ayrault Road as early as 1800. Glover and Johanna Perrin settled just west of the intersection with Moseley Road in the 1790's, and were soon followed by other Perrin family members who settled nearby. In the first decades of the 19th century, the Arnold, Slocum, and Benedict families settled in the vicinity of Ayrault and Turk Hill Roads. The land for Perinton Center Cemetery, Perinton's oldest burying ground, across from Martha Brown School, was deeded by Lyman Barker to the cemetery trustees in 1813.



The entire road was not always called by its present name, as the 1902 map identifies the part west of Turk Hill Road as Wapping Bridge Road. The Ayrault family, after whom the road is currently named, were farmers who owned extensive property on the eastern end of the road in the vicinity of Fairport High School.

Three of Perinton's landmark homes can be found along this road. The first of those homes to be designated, 1 Green Ridge Road, which also fronts on Ayrault Road, is a house built in a unique manner probably sometime between 1821 and 1835.

The Green Ridge Road house was built by Ezra Whittlesey, who had moved to Perinton in 1820 with his parents, his three brothers, and two sisters. The original portion of the house was a 1 ½ story structure built of rammed earth or grout. The technique was popular in the Lyon-Grenoble area of France and it is possible that Ezra's builders were from there. Roy Alvord, a descendent of former owners of the house, described the process. A 24" rock basement was laid, topped by 18" wooden forms into which was poured 12" of mud, rock, straw, and "portland" (an artificially produced cement). Boards were put in where the windows or doors were to be. A donkey was then driven up onto the form and walked around the house, packing the mud mixture down to a 6" depth. After allowing the mud to dry, the process was repeated until the proper height for the first floor was reached, about 8 ½ to 9'. The form width was reduced from 18" to 7" for the second floor and the tamping was done by humans, not donkeys. The 11" difference in width allowed for the support of the second story floor joists. The finished structure was painted with "lighthouse paint", a mixture of horse hoof glue and white lead. Robert and Jane Stevens, owners of the house since 1949, learned much about its unique construction process from an old gentleman who stopped by their house to tell them that he remembered the house because his grandfather had helped to build it.

Significant architectural features of the house include full-length six over six windows, a front door with sidelights, eyebrow windows in the second floor, and outstanding wooden scalloped trim on the eaves, front porch, and window cornices. The latter was most likely added in the 1850's and is often referred to as Gothic or Eastlake in design.

The kitchen wing, an original part of the house, was replaced in 1952. It incorporated original beams, used the original pine floor design, and is the same size as the old wing.

Over the years, the Stevens have lavished care not only on the house but also on the plantings that frame the house. It is, as Paul Malo, architectural historian, noted, "... a little jewel." The house was designated as a Perinton landmark on June 6, 1991.

