

4692 CARTER ROAD

Carter Road, in Perinton's northeast corner, was first settled in the 1820's. It is named for Miles Carter, who moved there in the early 1830's after purchasing 63 acres from a gentleman by the name of Park Brown. After the coming of the canal, Carter Road, along with Fellows and Fairport-Webster Roads, became main routes for farmers bringing their produce to market. With settlement came a schoolhouse and a cemetery. This rural area also featured at various times a clay brick-making business, tobacco crops, and several distilleries. Today, Carter Road maintains a rural character and is the site of two homes and a cemetery that have been designated as historic landmarks under Perinton's Historic Preservation Ordinance.



In 1875, in a show of wealth and prosperity, Richard Woolsey built a large brick farmhouse at 4692 Carter Road that stands on a knoll and overlooks the surrounding countryside. It was the second house to be built on the site. The property includes wonderful mature maple trees, a large gable barn with a gambrel wing, a concrete block silo, a carriage house, and a stone smokehouse.

The main house is a striking, mostly Italianate, brick structure. Its arched double doors with their stained-glass panels led neighbors to nickname the house "Woolsey's church." The sixteen-room house is constructed in a cross-gable style, with peaks or gables on all four sides and windows of Italianate style. High in each gable end are small round-arched windows with stone lintels and keystones. The larger main windows repeat the same details. Sometime around 1900, porches were added to the north, west, and south sides of the house. Their styling is Greek Revival, as they all have Ionic columns with cast concrete pedestals. At about the same time, an east wing was added that was used as a cottage cheese factory. It included a coal room and an indoor privy. Today that wing serves as an entryway. The well and the cistern are still accessible from inside the house, and were a worry for then owners Richard and Priscilla Minster when they moved in with small children.

The interior of the house has been lovingly and beautifully cared for. The main doors open onto a hallway with a sweeping staircase. The room to the left has elegant glass-fronted built-in bookcases. All the rooms have a spaciousness enhanced by the high ceilings and long windows. No longer referred to as "Woolsey's Church," the Minsters named it "Toad Hill" after the hundreds of toads that they found on the property when they moved in.

Carter Road's designated landmarks preserve distinctive 19th century architecture in intact rural settings, well representing Perinton's early agricultural heritage.

