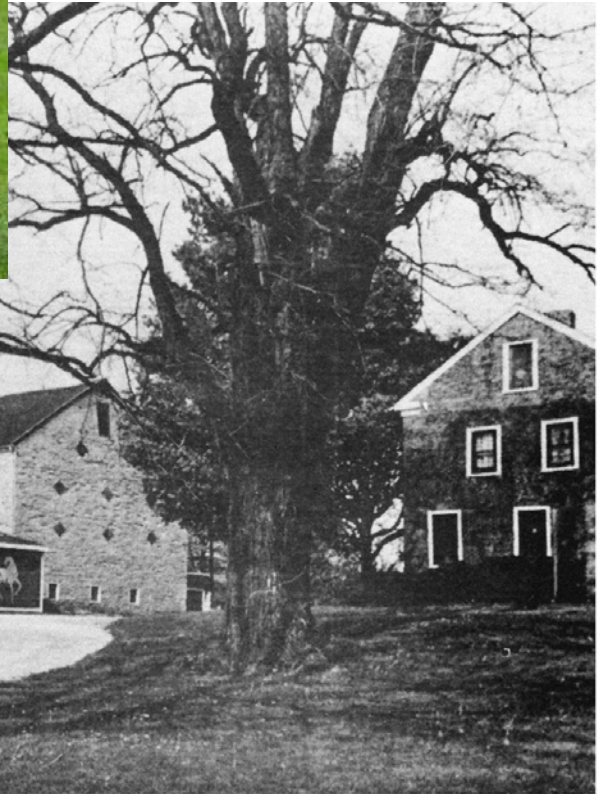




OFFICE
under deck south of the house

2009.08.17



The Delaware County Historical Society, Inc.

157 East William Street, P. O. Box 317
Delaware, Ohio, 43015-0317

FOR RELEASE
September 2, 2009

County Historical Society to Preserve Col. Meeker Historic Home and Farm

The Delaware County Historical Society has joined with Tom and Carolyn Porter, the owners of the Colonel Forrest Meeker historic home and farm, and Skilken Properties, a Columbus area real estate developer, in an effort to preserve the historic farmstead at 2690 Stratford Road. The 7.8 acre property is under contract for sale to development interests.

Current zoning by the City of Delaware allows redevelopment of the property into various office and commercial / retail uses, the construction of which would probably require redevelopment of the entire site.

The Delaware County Historical Society has proposed that Mr. and Mrs. Porter make a charitable contribution of the 5.6 acres of the property that includes the historic house and farm for use as the future home of the Society's offices, museum and library, ensuring its permanent preservation for future generations. This contribution would depend on a change in the current B-4 zoning which would allow the construction of a fueling station/convenience store/car wash, considered a more intensive use, on two (2) acres at the southernmost corner of the property. Upon the sale of the rezoned portion of the property, the remaining 5.6 acres would be donated by the Porters to the Historical Society.

The revision to the current zoning language of the property to allow the more intensive use on the lower corner of the site was seen as the best opportunity to preserve the historic house and farm for the enjoyment of future generations.

Forrest Meeker, born in Vermont in 1769, moved to Delaware from Kentucky, to get away from the institution of slavery. He purchased 625 acres of land along the Olentangy River from John Beard, and built the historic federal style house on Stratford Road in approximately 1812. The barn, with its distinctive massive, coursed rubblestone endwalls, was built in approximately 1820. Colonel Meeker operated a farm and several milling operations nearby along the river, and supplied the U. S. Army with wheat during the War of 1812.

For more information, contact Brent Carson, Delaware County Historical Society President, 740-363-5025

**Help Us Save the Historic
Colonel Forrest Meeker
House & Farm**



**The Delaware County
Historical Society**

Delaware, Ohio

The Mission

To help save the historic Colonel Forrest Meeker House, Barn & Farm, currently occupied by Garths Auctions, Inc., located at 2690 Stratford Road, Delaware, Ohio.

This 1812 historic homestead is currently under sales contract. The present zoning would allow demolition of the historic home and stone end barn.

A current development alternative proposal would allow a gas station and convenience store on the corner of US23 and Stratford Road, but the majority of the site would be donated to the Delaware County Historical Society for future DCHS facilities.

Despite being listed on the National Register of Historic Places, there are no prohibitions or restrictions on the demolition of these historic buildings.

Won't you volunteer your time and expertise and help us assure this acquisition and preserve Delaware's past for future generations?

Please fill out the Volunteer form on the next page.

Historic Significance

The 2690 Stratford Road property is among the oldest homes and farms in Delaware County. The property is on the National Register of Historic Places as the Forrest Meeker House and Farm. Colonel Forrest Meeker, 1769-1849, purchased 625 acres of land along the Olentangy River in 1811 from John Beard. On this site he built his home, farmed, and developed milling operations along the river. His grist mill supplied wheat for the U.S. Army during the War of 1812. The earliest of the surrounding houses in the historic Stratford area were built by Colonel Meeker for his workers.

Volunteer form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Best Way to Contact Me _____

Special Interest(s) _____

The Delaware County Historical Society

157 East William Street

Delaware, Ohio 43015

www.delawareohiohistory.com email: dchshistory@verizon.net



Ways to Participate in Preserving Delaware's History

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

- Single Membership \$10.00
- Household Membership \$15.00
- Patron Membership \$35.00
- Life Membership \$250.00
- Sponsor \$100.00
- Silver Sponsor \$250.00
- Gold Sponsor \$500.00
- Platinum Sponsor \$1,000.00

Special Gift of _____

For: _____

Even a few hours will help protect our local history. Volunteer areas include:

- historic preservation
- historical research & writing
- special programs & projects
- museum docent/school tours
- resource/collection development
- library volunteer
- Return form to DCHS, P.O. Box 317, Delaware, OH 43015-0317

ILLUSTRATIVE CONCEPT PLAN



ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER

Elevation – Looking North From U.S. 23

