

American Indian Gallery

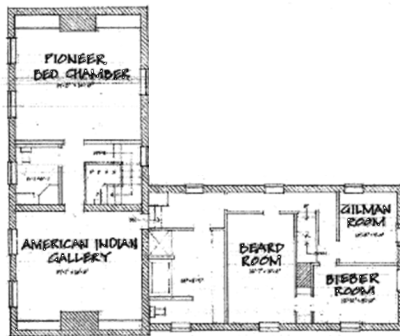


This model of Pluggy's Town was created by Hayes High School students. Pluggy's Town was located up the hill from where Mingo Park is today in the City of Delaware. (Named for the Iroquois-speaking American Indians, Mingo is considered a derogatory term.)

The American Indian exhibit features a timeline covering 13,000 years. There are displays about the various woodland tribes that inhabited Delaware County.

The exhibit includes a mortar and pestle made from a large tree trunk used for grinding corn; also called a hominy grinder.

This was one of two bedrooms in the original 1823 Meeker home.



SECOND FLOOR

West Wing

Exhibits are gradually being developed in the upstairs three rooms of the back wing which we usually call the 1830s addition. Refer to separate handouts for information about the current exhibit(s). In the back hallway, take a peek inside the door to the attic, referred to in pioneer days as the garret. Note the onion on one of the steps. When we give tours about the Underground Railroad, we mention that fugitives would rub onion juice on the bottom of their feet so that dogs would not detect the smell of humans who were hiding in the attic. The back stairway from the second floor to the first floor is not available for use.

Gilman Room

Named for Nicholas Gilman, who in 1800, was awarded 4,000 acres, including this property, for military service, by President John Adams. Currently this room has an exhibit on wool and flax and how it is grown and used.

Beard Room

John Beard purchased 624 acres from Benjamin Gilman in 1807 and sold them to Forrest Meeker in 1811.

Bieber Room

George Bieber bought approximately 500 acres from Forrest Meeker in 1845. The property was gradually subdivided. Various members of the Bieber family lived on Stratford Road into the 1940s.

This room showcases the Delaware Chair Company (1870 – 1940), which was originally located on East Winter Street by the Olentangy River. Founded by chair maker John G. Strain, the company was noted for producing school and institutional furniture, particularly chairs with double-cane and splint seats. In its heyday in the mid-1870s, the company was producing over 40,000 chairs annually. Delaware chairs were even used in the White House.

2019-06-29

Meeker Homestead Museum

Help us continue to improve the Meeker Homestead Museum. Although we do not require an admission fee, we suggest a \$5 donation to help us support our museum furnishings and exhibits. Over time we hope to find donors to sponsor individual rooms or provide the funding to install temperature control for the upstairs portion of the 1830s addition.

Hours of operation: Sundays 2-5 pm during the spring, summer and fall.



Cryder Historical Research Center
157 E. William St.
Delaware, OH



The Meeker Homestead
U.S. 23 & Stratford Rd.
Delaware, OH



Welcome to the Delaware County Historical Society

MEEKER HOMESTEAD MUSEUM

The Meeker Homestead Museum, named for the builder of this house - Forrest Meeker, is a "museum in a house" with various permanent and rotating exhibits. We invite you to enjoy the exhibits as well as learn about one of the very oldest pioneer homesteads in the county, the Stratford mill town, and the families who lived on this site since 1811.

Built in 1823 and considered a Federal I-style house, this home originally had 2 rooms upstairs and 2 rooms downstairs.



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FIRST FLOOR

Whetstone Room

This entrance room is part of the 1830 addition. This room is used for educational programs, meetings, scheduled events, and exhibits. Refer to separate documentation for information about current exhibits.

Families who lived here used this room as a dining room and likely other functions. During the Oberlander years, Garth received visitors here. The reproduction wallpaper was put up in the 1940s and once covered all the walls of this room.

Today's visitors register at the stand-up desk used in the early 1800s by Moses Byxbe, founder of the City of Delaware and early county treasurer, for collecting taxes.

Delaware Gallery

This gallery room features rotating exhibits. Refer to separate documentation for information about the current exhibit. Since there were only two rooms downstairs in 1823, this room would have served multiple functions.

Porter Hall

Standing inside the front hall, you are in the oldest portion of the house, which was constructed in 1823. The house initially included only two rooms downstairs on either side of you, the basement below, and two upstairs bedrooms and hall. The hall and stairway of this federal style home show that the Meeker family was well-to-do. Look through the windows and imagine the Meeker property going all the way to the river where there was a grist mill that later became a woolen mill, then a paper mill. At one time there were as many as seven mills in a 10-mile stretch of the Olentangy River, known until 1833 as the Whetstone River.

The space is named for the Porter family. Tom Porter (1935-2011) and Carolyn Bemiller Porter lived here and ran Garth's Auctions, Inc., from 1968-2000. They donated the six acre Meeker property with its historic home and barn to the Delaware County Historical Society in 2010.



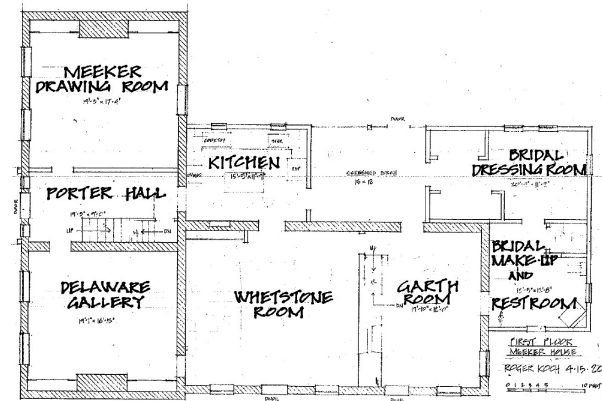
Meeker Drawing Room

In the early years the "green room" would have had many uses, such as a drawing room for guests or what would be called today a family room. During the days of the Underground Railroad, Patience Meeker may have spent time here at a spinning wheel, providing plenty of noise to camouflage the sound of fugitive slaves hiding elsewhere in the house.

Forrest Meeker (1769-1849) and Patience Hurlburt Meeker (1771-1843) came to Delaware in 1811 with their children aged 3 to 23. After they left Vermont, they lived in Chillicothe and then moved to Bourbon County, Kentucky but moved north because Kentucky was a slave state. Forrest Meeker was considered the founding father of Stratford. He purchased 624 acres with a grist mill on the Olentangy River, then known as the Whetstone River, from John Beard. He contracted with the army to supply grain for troops during the War of 1812. A woolen mill was added in 1829.

Some of the artifacts in the Meeker Drawing Room:

- * Portrait of Hosea Williams, who purchased the part of Forrest Meeker's land that Hosea's great-granddaughter, the founder of Stratford Ecological Center, donated this portrait to the Society.
- * Rocking Chair (ca 1800-1810) - belonged to the family of General Sherman
- * Baby's Cradle (ca 1800) - belonged to the Carson family
- * Spinning Wheel (ca 1850) - this is a Great Wheel or Walking Wheel from the collection of Pauline Nash
- * Table Top Fire Screen - used to shield a person's face from the direct heat of the fire in the fireplace



Garth Room

This room is named for Garth Oberlander (1914-1973), who bought the property in 1941 from A.C. Miller Company. Garth began his antique auction business in 1941. This "yellow room", part of the 1830s addition, was used as the kitchen for over 100 years. In the 1990s it was used as a bedroom.

The Garth Room features an early 1900s dentist's office with equipment used from 1896, as well as rotating exhibits. Refer to separate documentation for information about the current exhibit.

1990s Addition

The 1990s addition is not typically on the museum tour. This space once accommodated one-floor living. It is currently used as a bridal party dressing room. Wedding parties who reserve The Barn at Stratford may optionally reserve this space.

Restroom facilities are available when the space has not been booked by a wedding party.

Basement

The basement is not open for tours and is where our business office is located. If you have business with the Society, please return during business hours and use the office entrance on the south side of the building. Access is via the Turkey Hill parking lot.

SECOND FLOOR

Upstairs Hallway

The upstairs landing has a small room which may have been previously used for family activities such as an open play area, a sewing room or an enclosed nursery. In the 1970s the Porter family added a bathroom. The restroom is available for public use.

Pioneer Bed Chamber

This gallery is evolving as we receive additional period donations that belonged to original settlers of the county. Low trundle beds stored under the regular beds would have provided sleeping arrangements for children.

Some of the artifacts include:

- * Two four poster rope beds (ca 1830-1850). They are two-person beds, considered 3/4 size. A lower mattress was filled with corn husks or straw. The upper mattress, bolster and pillows were filled with goose down
- * Jacquard coverlet (1840) - woven by S. Stimmel of Delaware
- * Cherry candle stand (ca 1810) - made by Roswell Caulkins
- * Chamber pot—a bathroom alternative prior to running water
- * Blanket Chest (ca 1810) - used to store blankets in the summer; made by Roswell Caulkins who lived in Berlin Township 1809-1823. His daughter married James Eaton, a well-known surveyor in the early years of Delaware County
- * Conestoga wagon box – considered the "Mac truck" of the 18th and 19th century; used to transport belongings and merchandise