Beard Room  This room is named for John Beard who purchased 624.25 acres from Benjamin Gilman in 1807. He then sold the property to Forrest Meeker in 1811. This space is the location for our Spinning Exhibit. The large Spinning Exhibit explores the importance of flax fiber and wool during the 1800s. Exhibit displays and artifacts explain the processes that were used for both flax and wool production. In the hallway outside this room is a large mural displaying early Delaware County School Houses.

Gilman Room  This room is named for Nicholas Gilman who, in 1800, was awarded 4,000 acres for his military service, by President Thomas Jefferson. This property includes what is now, the Meeker Homestead. The Stratford Mill Town Exhibit as well as the Interurban & Dinkey Exhibits occupy this space. Information on the history of the Stratford area and its milling industry is detailed from its beginnings in 1804 to its final days in 1896. The east wall of the Gilman Room celebrates the story of the Delaware Street Railway Company and the Columbus, Delaware, & Marion Interurban. Please note the bygone photos on display, and the railway chair artifact from the interurban railway.

Bieber Room  This room is named for George Bieber who bought approximately 500 acres from Forrest Meeker in 1845, including the house and outbuildings. Bieber built the present stone-end bank barn in 1848. We now use this historic structure as an event venue known as The Barn at Stratford. The Bieber property was gradually subdivided. Various members of the Bieber family lived on this property until 1880. This space is now being used for our Delaware Chair Company Exhibit (1870-1940). In 1871, the founders of the Delaware Chair Company invited John G. Strain, a longtime furniture maker, to join the firm. It was originally located on East Winter Street by the Olentangy River. 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, and won many awards for their outstanding products. It was said that Rutherford B. Hayes requested a Delaware Chair for the White House when he became president.

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Hours of operation: The first Sunday of the month, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., from April through November, and by appointment for groups tours Monday – Friday during the hours of 10 to 4 pm.
Peer Hall The 1823 portion of this house includes a central hall with two rooms downstairs, a basement below, and two bedrooms upstairs. The hall and stairway of this federal-style home show that the Meeker family was well-to-do. Imagine looking through the windows east toward the river. There you would have seen a grist mill, a sawmill, a carding mill, and a fulling mill. Later, Hosea Williams and his partner Caleb Howard purchased this land by the river and constructed a paper mill in the area. At one time there were as many as ten mills operating along the expanse of the Olentangy River, known until 1833 as the Whetstone River. This hallway space is named for the Porter family. Tom Porter (1933 – 2019), 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 Jeff and Amelia Jeffers. Ownership of Garth’s Auctions, Inc., passed from the Porter’s to Jeff and Amelia Jeffers. Carolyn Bemiller Porter is also on display. Carolyn and her husband, Tom Porter, acquired the business from Garth in 1971 and lived here. The Porters donated the six-acre Meeker property to the Delaware County Historical Society in 2010. Some of the artifacts in the Meeker property include:
- Some of the artifacts from the 1800s. During the Garth Oberlander years, Garth Oberlander received visitors here. The reproduction wallpaper was added in the 1940s and once covered all the walls of this room. Garth Room This adjacent room was used as the “newer” kitchen for over 100 years once the large cooking fireplace was removed from the Whetstone Room location, and cookstoves became popular. Later in the 1990s, it was used as a bedroom. This area is named for Garth Oberlander (1914-1973), who bought the property in 1941 from the A.C. Miller Company. Garth began selling antiques from the barn in the early to mid-1940s, but the antique auction business known as Garth’s Antiques began in 1954. A portion of this room showcases the history of Garth Auctioneers & Appraisers, which became a nationally acclaimed auction house. A large painting of Carolyn Bemiller Porter is also on display. Carolyn and her husband, Tom Porter, acquired the business from Garth in 1971 and lived here. The Porters donated the six-acre Meeker property with its historic home and barn to the Delaware, Garth Oberland Historical Society in 2010. Ownership of Garth’s Auctions, Inc., passed from the Porters to Jeff and Amelia Jeffers. The Garth Room also features a newer exhibit that covers the Archeology Camp which took place in August of 2019. Displays include the tools that archaeologists use, some of the 12,000 artifacts that were found, and information on soil stratification. There is also a large replica of one of the test pits. We now use this space for educational programs, meetings, special events, and to provide space for our early 19th Century barn loom, textile exhibits, dower chest, and other artifacts from the 1800s. During the Oberlander years, Garth Oberlander received visitors here. The reproduction wallpaper was added in the 1940s and once covered all the walls of this room. Garth Room This adjacent room was used as the “newer” kitchen for over 100 years once the large cooking fireplace was removed from the Whetstone Room location, and cookstoves became popular. Later in the 1990s, it was used as a bedroom. This area is named for Garth Oberlander (1914-1973), who bought the property in 1941 from the A.C. Miller Company. Garth began selling antiques from the barn in the early to mid-1940s, but the antique auction business known as Garth’s Antiques began in 1954. A portion of this room showcases the history of Garth Auctioneers & Appraisers, which became a nationally acclaimed auction house. A large painting of Carolyn Bemiller Porter is also on display. Carolyn and her husband, Tom Porter, acquired the business from Garth in 1971 and lived here. The Porters donated the six-acre Meeker property with its historic home and barn to the Delaware, Garth Oberland Historical Society in 2010. Ownership of Garth’s Auctions, Inc., passed from the Porters to Jeff and Amelia Jeffers. The Garth Room also features a newer exhibit that covers the Archeology Camp which took place in August of 2019. Displays include the tools that archaeologists use, some of the 12,000 artifacts that were found, and information on soil stratification. There is also a large replica of one of the test pits. We now use this space for educational programs, meetings, special events, and to provide space for our early 19th Century barn loom, textile exhibits, dower chest, and other artifacts from the 1800s. During the Oberlander years, Garth Oberlander received visitors here. The reproduction wallpaper was added in the 1940s and once covered all the walls of this room.