

SECOND FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR *West Wing*

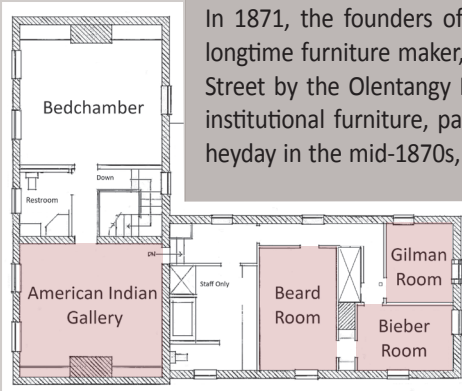


American Indian Gallery This was one of two bedrooms in the 1823 Meeker home.

The American Indian exhibit features a timeline covering 13,000 years and honors Delaware County's indigenous peoples. There are displays of relics and artifacts that represent various periods in history. **This exhibit also includes:**

Pluggy's Town model – created by art students from Delaware Hayes High School. Pluggy's Town was named for its first resident, a fierce warrior of Mohawk descent who was named "Pluggy" because most Europeans could not pronounce his given name of "Plukkemehnotee." This Indian village, which was settled in 1772, had at least 300 residents at one time and was located up the hill from where Mingo Park is today.

Mortar and pestle or "hominy grinder" – made from a large tree trunk and used for grinding corn.



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.

Meeker Homestead Museum

Please 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. Please let us know if you are interested in becoming a donor!



<https://www.delawareohiohistory.org>

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.



Historic Jail & Sheriff's Residence
20 W. Central Ave. • Delaware, OH



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



The Meeker Homestead Museum
The Barn at Stratford
2690 Stratford Rd.
Delaware, OH



The Mill Worker's Cottage
2571 Stratford Rd.
Delaware, OH

2023-03

Welcome to the Delaware County Historical Society Meeker Homestead Museum



The Meeker Homestead Museum, named for Forrest Meeker, who built this house, is a "museum in a house" with various permanent, period, and rotating exhibits. We invite you to enjoy the exhibits as well as learn about one of the oldest pioneer homesteads in the county, the Stratford mill town, and the families who have lived on this site since 1811. It has been on the National Historic Register since 1991.



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Our History, Our Heritage

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FIRST FLOOR

Porter 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 (1935 – 2011) and his wife, Carolyn Bemiller Porter (1933 – 2019), lived here and ran Garth's Auctions, Inc., from 1968 – 2000. They donated the six-acre Meeker historic property to the Delaware County Historical Society in 2010.

Meeker Drawing Room This "period" room would have been used as the drawing room. Guests would have been shown to this room upon arrival, and as such, it was known as the "best room" for its fine display of possessions. This is the room where ladies would "withdraw" after dinner, while the men would remain in the dining room possibly to enjoy cigars and talk. It was used for weddings, christenings, and funerals, as well as what would today be called a family room. The drawing room is where families would gather to read, do sewing, play piano, and enjoy cards or other games. *Some of the artifacts in the Meeker Drawing Room:*

Portrait of Hosea Williams, donated by Louise Warner, Williams' great-granddaughter, founder of the Stratford Ecological Center. Williams and his partner, Caleb Howard, purchased the portion of Meeker land between Stratford Road and the Olentangy River, where the mills were located.

Baby's Cradle – (ca 1800) which belonged to the Carson family.



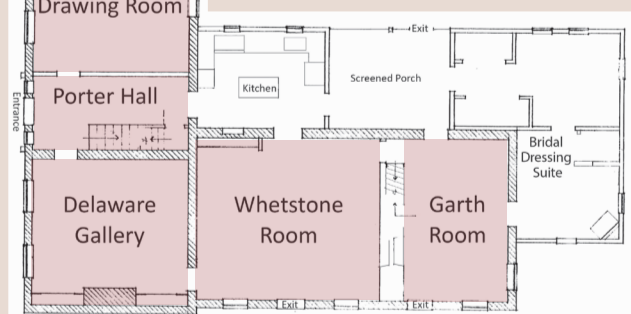
Rosewood Square Grand piano – (ca 1848) which was made in Boston.

Mahogany Tall Case Clock – (ca 1758) built by Augustine Neisse, Germantown, PA, Germantown, PA, and transported here by wagon

Cherry candle stand – (ca 1810) made by Roswell Caulkins, Berlin Township 1809 – 1823

Delaware Gallery This room may have been the Meeker dining room when this portion of the house was built, but since there were only two rooms downstairs in the 1823 portion, this room would have served multiple functions. The Delaware Gallery now features rotating exhibits. *Please refer to our separate insert for information on our current exhibit.*

Whetstone Room This space, located in what is believed to be the original part of the house, ca 1817, would have contained a large cooking fireplace at one time and used as the kitchen.



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 County 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.



SECOND FLOOR

Upstairs Hallway The upstairs landing may have been previously used for family activities such as a sewing room, storage room, or an enclosed nursery. In the 1970s, the Porter family added a bathroom. The restroom is available for public use.

The Bedchamber

This "period" room is evolving as we acquire additional artifacts from the early 1800s. The Bedchamber depicts how families slept, bathed, and attended to their personal needs during this era. Rope beds were in use until Heinrich Westphal invented the first innerspring mattress in 1871. Low trundle beds stored under the regular beds would have provided additional sleeping space for children, although families often slept together to stay warm because the interior rooms mimicked the outside temperature upon waking. Bathing was usually a "sponge bath" done in a tub that needed to be filled with water that was heated and carried upstairs, or from a washstand that held a pitcher and bowl. *Some of the artifacts include:*



Two four-poster rope beds – (ca 1830-1850) They are two-person beds, considered ¾ size, since they are not full-size beds as we use today. A lower mattress was filled with either corn husk or chopped straw. The upper mattress, bolster, and pillows were filled with goose down.

Jacquard coverlet– (1840) woven by S. Stimmel of Delaware. **Chamber pot** – a bathroom alternative for liquid waste prior to running water.

Blanket chest – (ca 1810) used to store blankets in the summer; made by Roswell Caulkins who lived in Berlin Township between 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 – 19th centuries; used to transport belongings and merchandise.

