

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



Buckingham Lodge
1861

The Elliot House

The oldest home constructed in Indian Hill is still a residence today. The Elliott House was completed in 1802 by John Elliott, who emigrated from Ireland to the United States at age 22. He married Mary Miller in Pennsylvania in 1786, and like many of their contemporaries, the young couple moved west in search of inexpensive land. After living briefly in Kentucky and Columbia (near today's Lunken Airport), in 1800 they purchased 112 acres for \$450 at "a millsite on the Little Miami River at the mouth of Sycamore Creek".

The Elliott's first home on the site was an 11 foot diameter hollow decayed sycamore tree. By 1802 they completed a two story house, using stone from Sycamore Creek. They cleared the land, installed a garden, and raised 6 children there. (Three other children of the couple died young.) In 1810, Elliott, already a Columbia Township Trustee, went into the milling business. He and his partners built a flour mill, a saw mill, a wool carding mill, and a distillery. It has been said that current day Spooky Hollow Road was once known as the "road to Elliott's Mills". John Elliott died in 1843, aged 81, and he and his wife's graves are in Miamiville's Evergreen Cemetery.



The house on Given Road changed hands about nine times before it was sold in 1898 to Will & Eva Sterrett, who lived there until 1920. They remodeled the abode, enclosing the back stairway and covering the exterior stonework with stucco, a treatment fashionable at that time. The Sterrett descendants sold the house and farm to Henry Livingston, who in 1921 deeded it to the United Jewish Social Agency. It became a summer camp for children until the mid-1960s. The Elliott house was the main lodge, and frame additions to it served as the kitchen and dining

areas. In 1967 the property was purchased by the Village of Indian Hill. The Elliott House was headquarters for the Outdoor Education Center, where schoolchildren learned about the local pioneer family.

The Elliott House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. A Restoration Committee raised over \$30,000 permitting archeological studies and an architectural evaluation. An addition was removed and the entire house was stripped down to its shell. Some repairs were made, but in 1985 when fundraising efforts did not permit a complete restoration, the Village sold the building and leased the land to the Richard McFarland family. They reconstructed the house, preserving the hand cut limestone walls and adding amenities while maintaining the historic flavor of the homestead.

In 1999, the Paul Hackett family purchased the house from the McFarlands. In 2003 they completed an addition on the footprint of an old addition which burned down in the mid-1800s. This created a master bedroom and kitchen/living area with views of the Little Miami River. More recently they cleared the land of invasive honeysuckle and created pastures for grazing animals. A three stall barn was constructed for horses. The property now is a small farm, and the residence is a stunning edifice, a monument to the nineteenth century pioneer who built it and a testament to the 21st century family that lives there and treasures it. Last July the Hacketts welcomed Elliott descendants to their home for a reunion. The Elliott House at 9400 Given Road is a notable landmark of the Village.

