

IMAGES

... then and now

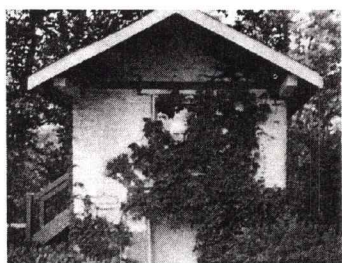
From The Indian Hill Historical Society



**Buckingham Lodge
1861**

A Shawnee Run Springhouse (c. 1799)

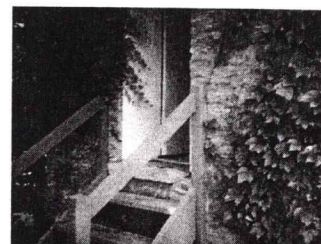
A small gabled outbuilding located at the Carl Berger residence on Shawnee Run Rd. is one of Indian Hill's oldest structures still in its original setting. The Thomas Boone springhouse was constructed circa 1799 by one of the village's early pioneers.



Thomas Boone and his wife Mary emigrated from Pennsylvania in 1785, traveling by flatboat on the Ohio River to present day Maysville, Kentucky. There they lived for five years before moving downriver to Cincinnati. Tom Boone yearned for more wilderness and purchased a tract of land on what is now Shawnee Run Rd. The family moved from the comforts of Cincinnati to the remote hill, where they constructed a house (since razed) and a springhouse. Legend has it that Daniel Boone of Kentucky fame was a frequent visitor to his cousin's home on Indian Hill.

Springhouses and smokehouses were necessary buildings in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. One of many secondary buildings to a house, springhouses protected the source of water and provided for storage of perishables. When early settlers arrived at their newly acquired land, one of their top priorities was locating a spring. Often they enlarged its basin, deepened it, or lined it with rock, allowing a pool to be formed from which water could be dipped by bucket. Frequently these natural springs were located at the base of a slope, where runoff occurred. Building a springhouse kept the water clean and free of leaves, pebbles, and debris - as well as concealed from wild animals.

Springhouses served as refrigerators in bygone days, keeping settlers' food from spoiling. Dairy products required the lower temperatures provided inside a springhouse. However, dried, salted, or smoked meats and canned vegetables and fruits were also preserved there.



The Boone springhouse is quaintly nestled amongst shade trees and shrubs, with ivy growing up its primitive fieldstone exterior. Access is available through a lower level door, or up a few steps to the main entry. The structure is banked into the hillside, and several aspects of the building's design contribute to keeping it cool: wide roof overhang, thick rock walls, and use of only a small window.

The symmetry and simple integrity of the Boone springhouse provide clues to the lifestyle of pioneer families. Lovingly preserved by the Bergers, it serves as a picturesque part of Indian Hill's architectural heritage.