

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



**Buckingham Lodge
1861**

Peterloon: A Village Treasure

Located on Hopewell Road, Peterloon was originally one of the largest estates in the Village with its magnificent house and handsome outbuildings on 1200 acres. It was constructed from 1928-1930 for John J. “Jack” Emery and his wife Irene “Babs”.

Mr. & Mrs. Emery commissioned their architect friend William Delano of Delano & Aldrich in New York to design their Georgian mansion. Though the Emerys were raised on the East Coast, they returned to Cincinnati so Mr. Emery could manage the family businesses in manufacturing and real estate.



In the early 20th century, wealthy Americans incorporated period rooms from European houses in their own abodes. Using a manse near Brussels, Belgium as his model, Delano created a formal yet livable masterpiece. The stunning U-shaped home is approached via a long driveway ending in a graceful courtyard flanked by the east and west wings of the dwelling. The enormous living room (Charles II period), Queen Anne dining room, and two story library all have 400 year old parquet flooring from France. Wooden paneling was from an English manor. There are 37 rooms, including 18 bedrooms, 21 bathrooms, and 19 fireplaces. The home was comfortable for their family but grand

enough to accommodate frequent guests and host grand scale celebrations. The Emerys lived on the two floors in the central portion of the house. The west wing provided living space for out-of-town guests; the east wing was the servants’ quarters. A staff of 18 cared for the owners, the house, the farm, and the grounds.

Certain design elements of Peterloon were notable. The red brick façade had sculptures of dolphins, snails, shells, farm animals, and even a basket of puppies as ornamentation. The house contained architectural features that were modern and luxurious for that era. There were heated towel racks in the bathrooms, and an exquisite spiral staircase in the marbled foyer. Upstairs there was a gun room, and a schoolroom where the children studied their lessons. The library had a hidden door, and the kitchen was a multi-room complex.

Peterloon was an operating farm when the Emerys resided there. Livestock included cattle, chickens and horses, and an extensive vegetable garden and fruit orchard were maintained by a full time farm manager. On the grounds were resplendent gardens with terraces and brick walkways. A circular swimming pool and badminton court provided leisure activity in warmer months, and there was sledding on hillsides and ice skating on the 7 acre lake in the winter. Landscape architect Albert Taylor of Cleveland designed the elegant exterior spaces of the estate.

“Jack” and “Babs” Emery lived at Peterloon until Babs died in 1973. In 1975 the widower remarried longtime friend Adele Olyphant. After Jack died in 1976, Adele moved to New Jersey. The mansion and 71 acres were placed in the Peterloon Foundation in 1979. It was administered by a Board of Trustees that included the four Emery children. The remaining acreage was given to the Emery heirs, and some of it has subsequently been developed. The origin of the name “Peterloon” remains a family secret. The Foundation carries on the charitable work of the Emerys, and it maintains the place for the benefit of the Cincinnati community.

A family home for more than 40 years, Peterloon has hosted many events over the decades, including the Concours d’Elegance, Boy Scout Camporees, an Opera Festival, the Camargo Hunt Ball, and many enchanting wedding receptions. This outstanding estate continues to be a special place in Indian Hill.



The Emery Family Legacy will be presented on 9/17 at the Little Red Schoolhouse.

Phone 891-1873 or visit www.indianhill.org for more information.