

ORDINANCE NO. 7-99

CITY OF CENTERVILLE, OHIO

SPONSORED BY COUNCILPERSON James Reppert ON THE
21st DAY OF June, 1999.

AN ORDINANCE TO DESIGNATE THE HOUSE ADDRESSED AS 595 EAST ALEXANDERSVILLE-BELLBROOK ROAD AND KNOWN BY LOCAL HISTORIANS AS THE PETER SUNDERLAND HOUSE, AS A LANDMARK WITHIN THE CITY OF CENTERVILLE, OHIO, AND AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 8-91, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN HOUSES, BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, AREAS, OR PLACES AS LANDMARKS WITHIN THE CITY OF CENTERVILLE, OHIO, AND TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS TO REGULATE THE RENOVATION, REHABILITATION, REMODELING, ADDITION, ALTERATION, DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION, OR DEMOLITION OF A DESIGNATED LANDMARK.

Whereas, the City of Centerville, recognizes that the building addressed as 595 East Alexandersville-Bellbrook Road and known by local historians as the Peter Sunderland House possesses a character, interest and is valued as a part of the development, heritage, and cultural characteristics of the City of Centerville; and

Whereas, the Centerville Board of Architectural Review has duly considered this nomination, received an affirmative recommendation from the City's Planning Commission and Historic Commission, and held a Public Hearing on this nomination; and

Whereas, the designation of the Peter Sunderland House as a landmark will benefit all citizens of Centerville; and

Whereas, said designation will help preserve the historical, cultural, and social, environment that is reflective of the quality of life that citizens of Centerville have enjoyed since 1796; now therefore,

THE MUNICIPALITY OF CENTERVILLE HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Description of Building

Attached hereto and incorporated herein is Attachment A, a Report prepared the City Planning Department entitled: NOMINATION FOR LANDMARK

STATUS, STAFF REPORT, Case No. LM-98-30, dated April 17, 1998, that provides a description of the Peter Sunderland House.

Section 2. Ordinance Number 8-91 is hereby be amended as follows with all additions shown in *italics*.


Section 21. Table of Designated Landmarks

<u>Ordinance No.</u>	<u>Date Passed</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>7</u> -99	<u>6</u> , <u>21</u> , 1999	<i>Designation of the Peter Sunderland House as described in ordinance <u>7</u> -99 and located at 595 East Alexandersville-Bellbrook Road as a landmark.</i>

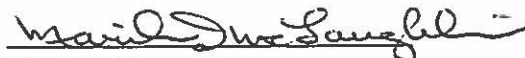
Section 3. Effective Date of Ordinance

This Ordinance shall become effective from and after the earliest date allowed by law.

PASSED THIS 21st DAY OF June, 1999.



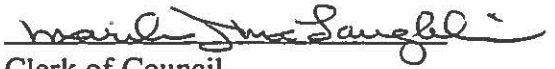
Mayor
City of Centerville, Ohio

ATTEST: 

Clerk of Council
City of Centerville, Ohio

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned, Clerk of Council of the City of Centerville, Ohio, hereby certifies the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of Ordinance No. 7-99, passed by the Council of the City of Centerville, Ohio, on the 21st day of June, 1999.


Clerk of Council

Approved in form and consistency with existing ordinances, the charter, and constitutional provisions.

Department of Law
Robert N. Farquhar
Municipal Attorney

Nomination for Landmark Status

April 1999

Applicant: City of Centerville

Location: 595 E. Alexandersville-Bellbrook Rd.

Zoning: B-PD, Business Planned Development

**Request: Nomination for Landmark Status
(Peter Sunderland House)**

**REVIEW OF A POTENTIAL LANDMARK
STAFF REPORT**

To: Centerville Board of Architectural Review

Date: April 1999

Prepared By: Centerville Planning Department

GENERAL INFORMATION

Property Owner: Michael LeMaster

Location: 595 East Alexandersville-Bellbrook Road

Parcel Size: 13.34 Acres

Existing Zoning: B-PD, Business Planned Development

Existing Uses: RETS Technical School, 2 undeveloped outlots
Peter Sunderland house is currently vacant

Surrounding Land Uses: North: Undeveloped Office Planned Development Zone
East: Residential Planned Development (Chardon Valley)
South: Multi-family residential
West: Interstate Executive Center (offices) and Cross
Pointe Shopping Center

Request: Nomination of the Peter Sunderland House for
Landmark Status

Status: This Review of a Potential Landmark is being initiated by
the City of Centerville. The property owner has been
contacted regarding this review and does not oppose a
Nomination for Landmark Status. This Nomination is for
the house alone, excluding all accessory structures.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Sunderland name is of special interest to Centerville and Washington Township. William Sunderland migrated to America from England, and is thought to be a descendent of the 3rd Earl of Sunderland. As a Revolutionary War veteran, William came to the area and purchased land from John Cleves Symmes around 1798. Several of William's relatives, including his sons Richard and Peter Sunderland, fought in the War of 1812 under the command of General Edmund Munger. Although many of the Sunderlands moved to other townships and counties, Peter remained at his home and farm at 595 East Alexandersville-Bellbrook Road.

In addition to his agricultural trade, Peter was involved in the Farmers' and Mechanics' Manufacturing Company of Centerville as one of the original stockholders. He married Nancy Robbins, daughter of Benjamin Robbins, and the two reared a family of fourteen children. The marriage was the first to be performed in Washington Township.

Peter is associated with two notable incidents in Centerville and Washington Township history. On November 22, 1803, Peter appeared in the first case to be tried in the Montgomery County Court. He was found guilty of assault and battery on Benjamin Scott. The second incident made Peter a local hero. A runaway slave had made his way to Washington Township and was discovered by Peter's children on their way to school. "Black John," as he was called, became a valuable hand on the Sunderland farm. News of the runaway slave made its way to a party of Kentuckians, who appeared at the farm the next year with the intent of capturing John. Peter commanded them to halt, and grabbed one man by the collar, holding a corn cutter over the man's head. John was allowed to escape into the nearby woods and was never seen or heard from again.

Peter erected the stone portion of the existing house around 1820, aside an existing log house. After the death of Peter and Nancy in 1844 and 1858 respectively, the Sunderland farm passed through a number of owners until it was purchased by Francis O. Haussermann. Mr. Haussermann transformed the stone farmhouse into a country manor, removing the Victorian porch and the log house and adding a two-story garage, a frame addition, and two porch enclosures. He also added a circular driveway and a swimming pool. The house was sold in the early 1950's to the Charles H. Huber family. The Hubers removed the stone between the lower two sets of front windows and replaced them with picture windows. The stone fireplaces were covered with brick. Subsequent owners did not significantly alter the house.

Today, the house sits vacant on the site of the new RETS Technical Center, owned by Michael LeMaster.

STAFF ANALYSIS

In considering the designation of any area, place, building, or structure in the City of Centerville as a landmark, the BAR shall apply the following criteria with respect to such property:

	YES	NO
1. Its character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the City of Centerville, State of Ohio, or the United States;	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
2. Its location as a site of significant historic interest;	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
3. Its identification with a person who significantly contributed to the culture and development of the City;	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
4. Its exemplification of the cultural, economic, social or historic heritage of the City;	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
5. Its portrayal of the environment of a group of people in an era of history characterized by a distinctive architectural style;	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
6. Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen;	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
7. Its identification as the work of an architect or builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the City;	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
8. Its embodiment of elements of architectural design, detail, materials or craftsmanship which represents a significant architectural innovation; and	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
9. Its unique location or singular physical characteristic representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood or the City.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>

The Sunderland family played an important role in the development of Centerville and Washington Township, producing a number of soldiers, farmers, investors, and respected citizens. Despite his infamous assault on Benjamin Scott, Peter Sunderland was held in high regard by the community. His stone house stands as a tribute to his industrious life.

The house is associated with the Underground Railway as it contains a hidden chamber above one of the bedrooms, with an inconspicuous access. The house is thought to have served as a “safe house” for runaway slaves who were escaping to Canada prior to the Civil War. It is apparent from the story about “Black John” that Peter Sunderland had sympathy for slaves.

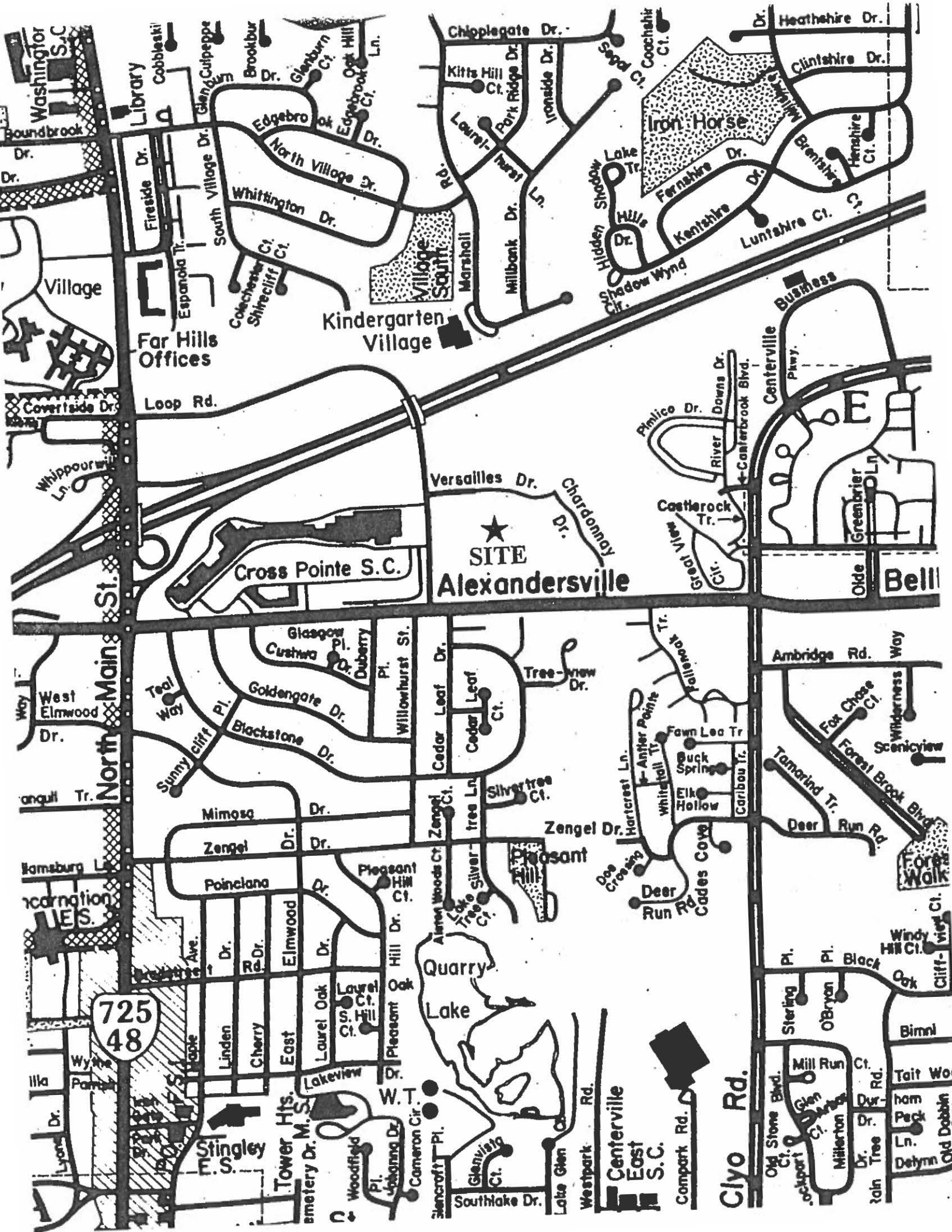
The true historic and architectural value of the house lies solely in the original stone portion. The additions were constructed after the turn of the century and are of inferior craftsmanship. Although it was altered by the Hubers, the stone house still contains the old limestone masonry and the original floor joists and fireplaces.

The conclusions by the Planning Department are as follows:

1. The Sunderland family significantly contributed to the cultural and economic heritage of this community.
2. Peter Sunderland was an important historical figure in the progress and development of this community.
3. The Peter Sunderland House is associated with a particular era of history that was characterized by a distinctive architectural style.
4. The Peter Sunderland House embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen.
5. The Peter Sunderland House is an established and familiar visual feature of Centerville.
6. The Peter Sunderland House is featured in A Sense of Place by Martha Boice et al. A copy of the selection is included in the attachment.
7. The Peter Sunderland House is listed in the Ohio Historic Inventory (see attachment).
8. Designating the Peter Sunderland House as a Landmark will not unreasonably burden the property owners nor will it cause any adverse impact on the neighboring properties.
9. The property owner wishes to remove the two-story garage, connector, and the flat-roof additions and restore the house to its original historic appearance.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

The Planning Department recommends nominating the Peter Sunderland House for Landmark Status. This nomination specifically covers the original stone house plus the rear addition containing a pitched roof. The two-story garage, connector, and the flat-roof additions shall be excluded.



Washington S.C.
Boundbrook Dr.
Village

Library
Firestone Dr.
Cobblestone

Far Hills Offices
Espanola Tr.
South Village Dr.

Whippoorwill Ln.
Loop Rd.

North Main St.

West Elmwood Dr.
Sunnycliff Pl.

Blackstone Dr.
Mimosa Dr.

725 48
Linden Dr.
Cherry Rd.

Stingley S.
Tower Hts. S.
Woodfield Pl.

Brookbur Dr.
Glenburn Ct.
Edgebrook Ln.

Whittington Dr.
North Village Dr.
Edgebrook Ct.

Coacheshire Shirecliff Ct.
Kindergarten Village

Cross Pointe S.C.

Teal Way
Goldengate Dr.

Blackstone Dr.
Zengel Dr.

Poinclana Dr.
Elmwood Dr.

Lakeview Dr.
Laurel Oak Ct.

Stingley S.
Tower Hts. S.
Woodfield Pl.

Chipplegate Dr.
Kitts Hill Ct.
Park Ridge Dr.

Laurelhurst Ln.
Millbank Dr.

Kindergarten Village

Versailles Dr.

Willowhurst St.
Cedar Leaf Dr.

Blackstone Dr.
Zengel Dr.

Poinclana Dr.
Elmwood Dr.

Lakeview Dr.
Laurel Oak Ct.

Stingley S.
Tower Hts. S.
Woodfield Pl.

Chipplegate Dr.
Kitts Hill Ct.
Park Ridge Dr.

Laurelhurst Ln.
Millbank Dr.

Kindergarten Village

Versailles Dr.

Willowhurst St.
Cedar Leaf Dr.

Blackstone Dr.
Zengel Dr.

Poinclana Dr.
Elmwood Dr.

Lakeview Dr.
Laurel Oak Ct.

Stingley S.
Tower Hts. S.
Woodfield Pl.

Chipplegate Dr.
Kitts Hill Ct.
Park Ridge Dr.

Laurelhurst Ln.
Millbank Dr.

Kindergarten Village

Versailles Dr.

Willowhurst St.
Cedar Leaf Dr.

Blackstone Dr.
Zengel Dr.

Poinclana Dr.
Elmwood Dr.

Lakeview Dr.
Laurel Oak Ct.

Stingley S.
Tower Hts. S.
Woodfield Pl.

Chipplegate Dr.
Kitts Hill Ct.
Park Ridge Dr.

Laurelhurst Ln.
Millbank Dr.

Kindergarten Village

Versailles Dr.

Willowhurst St.
Cedar Leaf Dr.

Blackstone Dr.
Zengel Dr.

Poinclana Dr.
Elmwood Dr.

Lakeview Dr.
Laurel Oak Ct.

Stingley S.
Tower Hts. S.
Woodfield Pl.

Chipplegate Dr.
Kitts Hill Ct.
Park Ridge Dr.

Laurelhurst Ln.
Millbank Dr.

Kindergarten Village

Versailles Dr.

Willowhurst St.
Cedar Leaf Dr.

Blackstone Dr.
Zengel Dr.

Poinclana Dr.
Elmwood Dr.

Lakeview Dr.
Laurel Oak Ct.

Stingley S.
Tower Hts. S.
Woodfield Pl.

Chipplegate Dr.
Kitts Hill Ct.
Park Ridge Dr.

Laurelhurst Ln.
Millbank Dr.

Kindergarten Village

Versailles Dr.

Willowhurst St.
Cedar Leaf Dr.

Blackstone Dr.
Zengel Dr.

Poinclana Dr.
Elmwood Dr.

Lakeview Dr.
Laurel Oak Ct.

Stingley S.
Tower Hts. S.
Woodfield Pl.

Chipplegate Dr.
Kitts Hill Ct.
Park Ridge Dr.

Laurelhurst Ln.
Millbank Dr.

Kindergarten Village

Versailles Dr.

Willowhurst St.
Cedar Leaf Dr.

Blackstone Dr.
Zengel Dr.

Poinclana Dr.
Elmwood Dr.

Lakeview Dr.
Laurel Oak Ct.

Stingley S.
Tower Hts. S.
Woodfield Pl.

★
SITE
Alexandersville

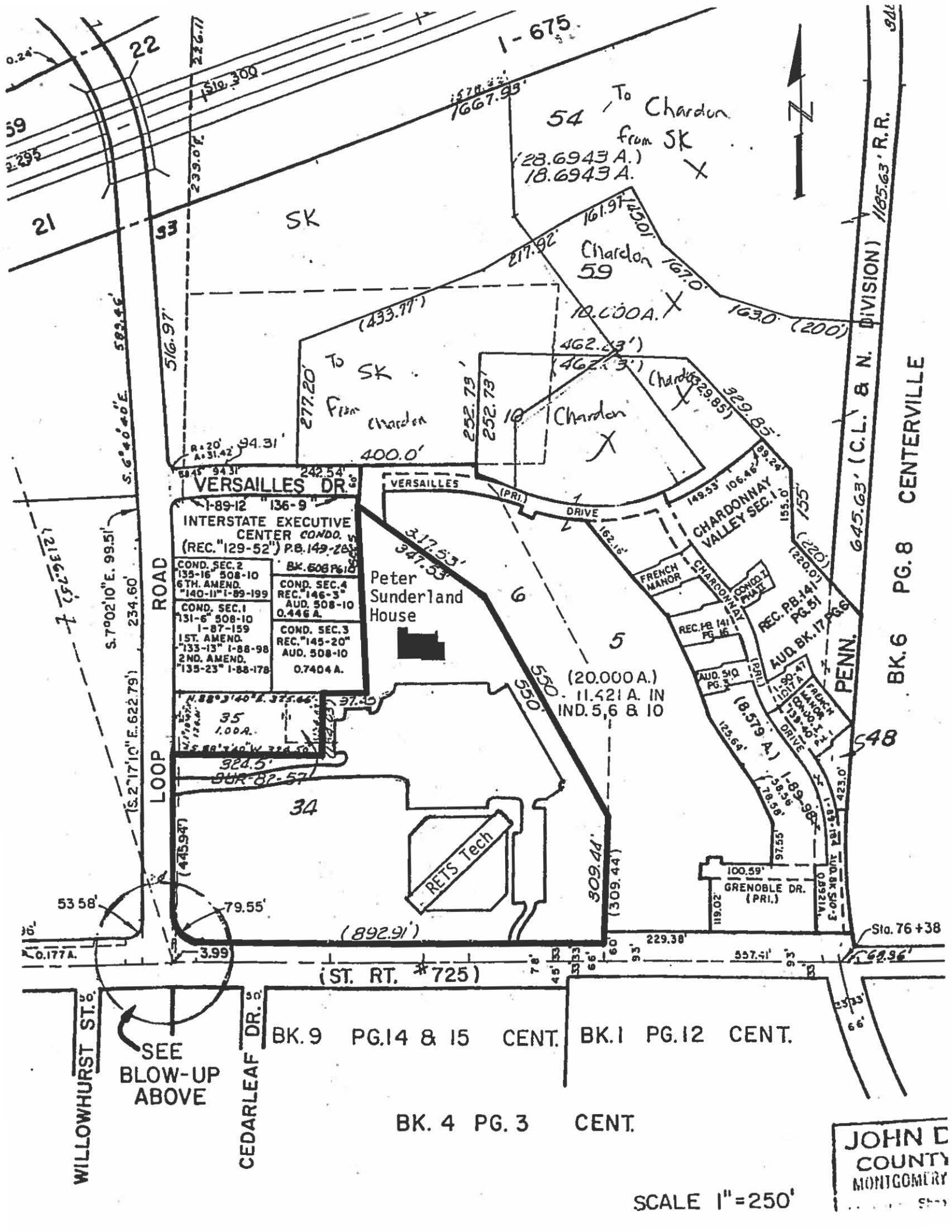
Iron Horse
Farnshire Dr.
Kentshire Dr.
Lunfshire Ct.
Henshire Ct.
Brentshire Ct.

Centerville Business Pkwy.
Pimlico Dr.
River Downs Dr.
Cedarbrook Blvd.
Casterock Tr.
Greenbrier Ln.
Olde Bell

Ambridge Rd.
Fox Chase Ct.
Wilderness Way
Scenicview
Forest Brook Blvd.
Forest Walk

Deer Run Rd.
Cades Cove
Deer Run Rd.
Cades Cove

Centerville East S.C.
Compark Rd.
Clyo Rd.
Old Stone Blvd.
Mill Run Ct.
Millerston Dr.
Rain Tree Ln.
Tait Woodham Park Ln.
Old Dobbin



1-89-12 "136-9"
 INTERSTATE EXECUTIVE
 CENTER CONDO.
 (REC. "129-52") P.B. 149-283

COND. SEC. 2 135-16 508-10 6TH. AMEND. "140-11" 1-89-199	BK. 608 PG. 10
COND. SEC. 4 REC. 146-3 AUD. 508-10 0.446 A.	
COND. SEC. 1 131-6 508-10 1-87-159 1ST. AMEND. "133-13" 1-88-98 2ND. AMEND. "135-23" 1-88-178	COND. SEC. 3 REC. "145-20" AUD. 508-10 0.7404 A.

Peter
 Sunderland
 House

RETS
 Tech

54 To Chardon
 from SK
 (28.6943 A.)
 18.6943 A.

Chardon
 59

Chardon
 10

FRENCH
 MANOR

REC. 141
 PG. 16

REC. 141
 PG. 16

REC. 141
 PG. 16

REC. 141
 PG. 16

REC. 141
 PG. 16

REC. 141
 PG. 16

REC. 141
 PG. 16

LOOP ROAD

VERSAILLES DRIVE

CHARDON VALLEY SEC. 1

COND. 1
 PG. 15

COND. 1
 PG. 15

COND. 1
 PG. 15

COND. 1
 PG. 15

COND. 1
 PG. 15

COND. 1
 PG. 15

COND. 1
 PG. 15

COND. 1
 PG. 15

COND. 1
 PG. 15

COND. 1
 PG. 15

COND. 1
 PG. 15

SEE
 BLOW-UP
 ABOVE

WILLOWHURST ST. 6

CEARLEAF DR. 30

(ST. RT. #725)

GRENABLE DR. (PRI.)

PENN. DIVISION

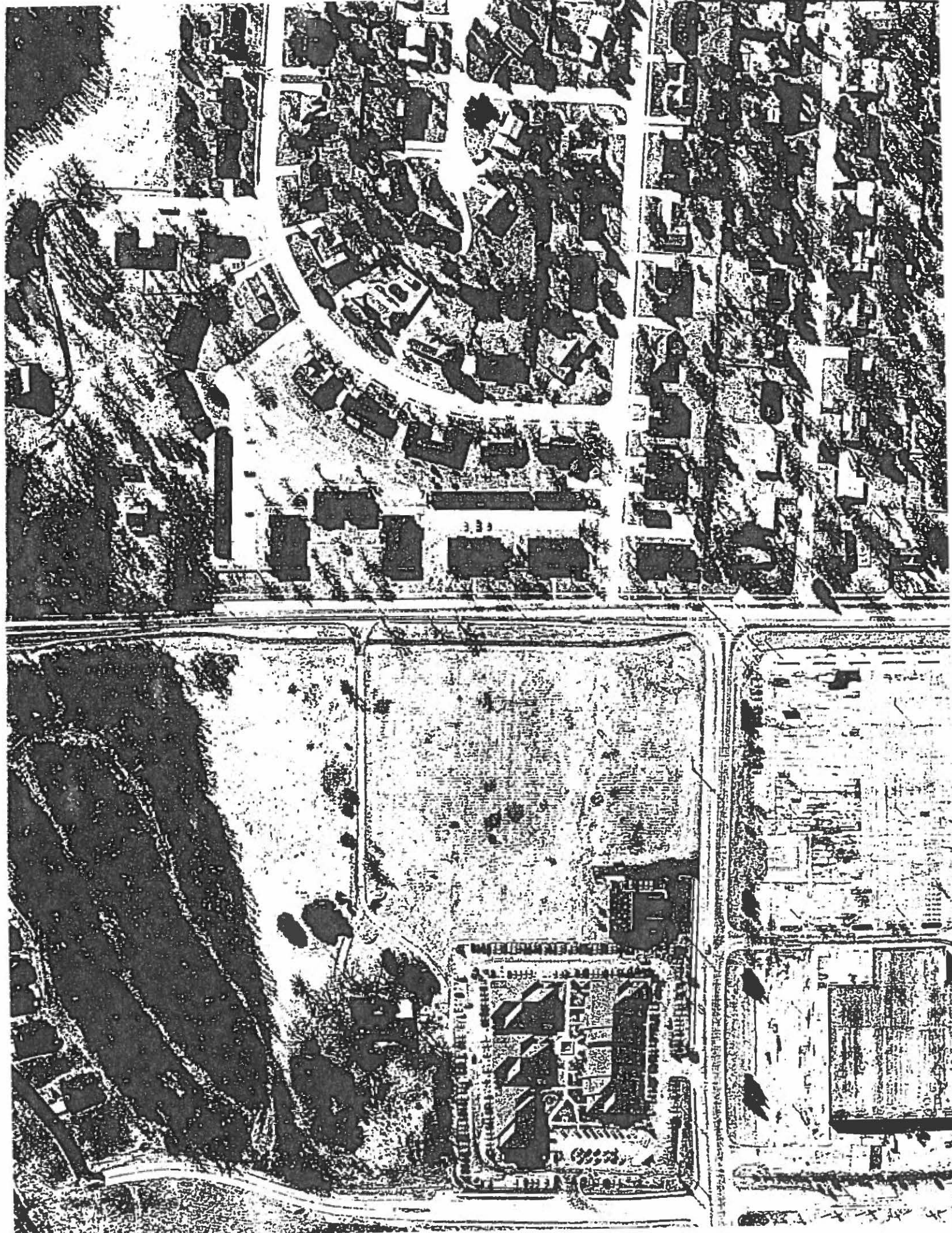
Sta. 76 + 38

BK. 9 PG. 14 & 15 CENT. BK. 1 PG. 12 CENT.

BK. 4 PG. 3 CENT.

JOHN C
 COUNTY
 MONTGOMERY

SCALE 1" = 250'



Bradford, Cynthia Newcom, and the five children of his deceased son, Amos T. It was Angeline Irvin, Amos' wife, who cared for Mr. Irvin during his final illness. He died February 16, 1861, and the following year the house and sixty acres became the home of Abner and Susan Prugh.

The Prugh family, in turn, sold the farm in 1868 to Jonathan and Mary Catherine Whip, the owners of three farms along what became known as Whipp Road. Mr. Whip, by his will, transferred his home farm at the southeast corner of Far Hills Avenue and Whipp Road to his wife, while the 60-acre farm at Whipp and Marshall Roads was left to one of his sons, Franklin. Franklin continued the Whip ownership until John Henger became the owner of the Irvin farm in 1897.

Mrs. Dorothy Henger Hanes, the granddaughter of John Henger, lived in the house in post World War I days and recalls what the house was like then: "A white picket fence lined the lane which came from Marshall Road and a large stepping stone helped buggy and carriage passengers descend to the ground. A stone walk led to the house which faced the lane rather than Marshall Road.

"The whole first floor of the house had thick stone walls. When Grandfather Henger purchased the house, only the part toward Marshall Road had a frame second story. The front door entered a parlor with a second parlor to the east. The fireplace in the east parlor, closed off when wood stoves became popular, was flanked on either side by tall cupboards.

Just a loft was over this part of the house until our family added a frame second story to the house in 1914. The addition made two bedrooms over this part of the house. A front porch was built at the same time which covers a stone marker indicating when the house was built.

"A kitchen and dining area were located in a wing of the house to the west, closer to Marshall Road. A large fireplace in the kitchen was also closed off and a wood-burning stove flued into the chimney. Steep winding stairways going upstairs and to the cellar were located between the kitchen and dining room.

"There was a side porch off the kitchen, and nearby, stone steps led from the outside to the stone cellar underneath this part of the house. Above the kitchen and dining room were two bedrooms, divided by a vertical board wall. A doorway cut into the center of this wall allowed access to both rooms from the steep stairway."

Fondly remembered by Mrs. Hanes was a stone water trough near the pump on the back porch. It had the date, 1871, carved into it, as well as a small shelf chipped out of a corner about 6 or 7 inches from the top. This held a corn cob which served as a plug when necessary. Beyond the back porch there were a smokehouse as well as an old butcher house with a brick furnace and two iron kettles in it. A barn also remains at the end of the lane.

Two generations of the Henger family owned the farm until 1957, when George R. Steller, the present owner, purchased it.

The Peter Sunderland House

In the earliest days of Washington Township, the Sunderland family was well represented. William Sunderland, born in England and thought to be a descendant of the 3rd Earl of Sunderland, had been a soldier in the Revolutionary War from Pennsylvania. He purchased the south half of Section 20 from John Cleves Symmes by 1798, when he and his son, Richard, appear on the earliest tax list for Montgomery County. The spelling of their name was recorded then as "Sunderlin."

By the tabulation of the 1804 tax list, Peter and Richard Sunderland, two of William's sons, and John Sunderland, either his brother or nephew, each paid taxes on 160 acres in this same section.

Although Richard continued to pay taxes on his land until 1806, he suffered a sequence of discouraging experiences. The log cabin which he had built for his family on his Washington Township land burned down. When he replaced it with a second log cabin, it, too, burned down the first night his family occupied it. With this second disaster, Richard Sunderland left the township and moved north to

Butler Township. John Sunderland moved south to Butler County, while William probably continued to live somewhere in the area. He is buried in the Old Centerville Cemetery, where his gravestone is marked: "William Sunderland, Died October 9, 1828. Age 98 Years."

It was Peter Sunderland who remained to leave his mark on the community. At 595 E. Alexandersville-Bellbrook Road, his sturdy stone home is still standing, a tribute to the big robust Sunderland clan. Although it was his father who had originally entered this land through the Cincinnati Land Office, it was Daniel Wilson, a neighbor down the road, who finished securing the patent and sold the quarter section to Peter in 1815 for the Land Office price of \$2 an acre. In addition to cooperatively purchasing this land, the two families were also to share eleven grandchildren, for Daniel Wilson, Jr., married Sarah Sunderland in 1821.

All the Sunderlands earned a reputation for courage and forthrightness. In Peter's case, it led to his being found guilty of assault and battery on



The Peter Sunderland House

Benjamin Scott in the first case to be tried in Montgomery County Court on November 22, 1803. Despite the fracas, Peter was considered a respectable member of the community. He served in the War of 1812. When the opportunity arose, he became one of the original stockholders in the Farmers' and Mechanics' Manufacturing Company of Centerville.

In 1826, Peter Sunderland became a hero in the only case of its kind in Washington Township. A runaway slave had found his way into the area and was hiding in the woods near Centerville. As some of Peter's children were going to school one morning, they came across the fugitive in his secret place and ran home to tell their father of the discovery.

Peter sent some of his men to the place where they found the man roasting a duck, and wearing only a sack he had found on the road and in which he had ripped armholes. "Black John," as he was called, was brought to the Sunderland farm where he soon became a respected and valuable hand.

Some time later, a suitor of one of Peter's daughters, who was from Kentucky, reported the presence of the runaway slave to some of his Kentucky friends. One year after John first appeared at the Sunderlands, a party of Kentuckians made their way north to Peter's farm. Word reached the Sunderland house about their coming and he sent one of his boys to stand watch at the end of the lane. The youngster started eating cherries which were beginning to ripen, and in his preoccupation allowed

the strangers to by-pass him and make their way to the house.

There, the brawny Peter Sunderland with a drawn corncutter commanded a halt. He grabbed one man by the collar, and holding the corncutter over the man's head, he shouted for John to run. John made his way into the nearby woods and was never heard from again. When the whole story came out, the treacherous suitor was ordered to stay away from the Sunderland home.

Peter Sunderland, married to Nancy Robbins, Benjamin's daughter, had a family that grew to include fourteen children. Probably the first home they had was a log house dating to the earliest days of the township. It was located adjacent to the two-story stone section of the house on the west side. It served as part of the house until the 1930's when that side of the house was remodeled.

The handsome stone house was probably erected around 1820. The two-story section has a centered front door with keystone arches highlighting the lower windows. The house has a center hall dividing the downstairs into two parlors and the upstairs into two bedrooms. When the house was built, each of these rooms was heated by a fireplace on the gable ends of the house. Hand-hewn joists, visible in the basement, support the first floor.

A one-story stone section to the rear may have been used as a kitchen for the house. This room is one step lower than the rest of the house.

A spring was located behind the house; and for nearly a century, the springhouse offered the only refrigeration for the owners.

Peter Sunderland enjoyed the view of his cornfields and the enterprise of the agricultural life until he died October 2, 1844, at the age of 67. Leaving sums of money to his children and grandchildren, Mr. Sunderland left "to my beloved wife in lieu of her dower, the farm on which we now reside, about 180 acres." When she, too, died in 1858, the farm was sold to Abner and Elizabeth Stephens.

The farm then saw a procession of owners over the years, including a Sheriff's sale before the turn of the century. In this century, Abraham Prugh and Henry E. Harris owned it as a comfortable farmhouse.

It was Francis O. Haussermann, a wealthy investor, who saw it from the air as an inviting stone house set amidst a patchwork of farms, and negotiated with Mr. Harris to purchase 88 acres in 1941. He purchased the farm to the north as well, owning altogether about 200 acres between Alexandersville-Bellbrook Road and Whipp Road.

Mr. Hausserman set about transforming the stone farmhouse into a gracious country manor. He removed a decorative Victorian porch from the front of the house as well as the original log house. On the west side of the building, he created an enclosed porch and a two-story garage, using the area above

the garage as living quarters for his help. A frame addition to the rear was made over the one-story stone part of the house. The back porch was enclosed for a kitchen.

Remodeling didn't stop with interior work. The Haussermanns put in a circular driveway in front. A swimming pool replaced the spring-fed pond where cattle had drunk and children had splashed near the springhouse. The tobacco barn was remodeled as a stable for the Haussermanns' thoroughbred horses. Known as the "Gold King" because of gold mines he owned in Japan, Mr. Haussermann transformed the century old house into a showplace.

Early in the 1950's, the Charles H. Huber family became the owners of this home and put their own individual stamp on the house. Wishing to enjoy the view of the long drive and the ancient hackberry tree in the front yard, they installed picture windows on the first floor and opened up the front hallway to the adjoining rooms. To set the mood for contemporary furniture, new bricks were installed to cover the old stone fireplaces.

Each family has left its mark on Peter Sunderland's home, but the native limestone walls remain as the Sunderland family erected them more than a century and half ago. The property is owned now by the Richard Beekman family.

The Aaron Sunderland House

The Sunderlands are also represented by the presence of a house near the northeast corner of the Far Hills Avenue and Alexandersville-Bellbrook Road intersection. Peter Sunderland entered this quarter section (southeast quarter of Section 26) at the Cincinnati Land Office in 1804, and received his patent for it in 1809.

This property played an important part in the early history of the township. It was the location for a blockhouse that was built by the settlers in 1799 in preparation for an anticipated Indian attack. Arrangements were made to care for a dozen or more families to be shielded within the stockade which was built around a spring. Later, scouts reported that the Indians were not making preparations for war against the settlers; and it is probable that the stockade was never used.

In May 1838, Peter and Nancy Sunderland sold 130 acres in this quarter section to their son, Aaron. The price was \$4,550, representing quite an investment for a 21-year old bridegroom to make at that time. Aaron had married Minerva Irvin, daughter of Samuel, in April 1837.

A brick cottage, probably built by the time that Aaron and Minerva Sunderland purchased the land,

is now the dining room in the rambling house at 7616 Far Hills Avenue. It is located at the rear of the house and has a large fireplace at the east end, with doors and windows opposite each other on the side walls.

By 1842, the house was enlarged with a two-story, brick addition which then faced Alexandersville-Bellbrook Road. Two rooms were added to the first floor, while three rooms and a gallery porch were added to the upper floor. A stairway was constructed at this time which could be entered from the new addition to the house as well as the original one-room cottage.

The woodwork in this part of the house is rather austere Greek Revival. The doorways are plain wide boards with square-headed nails used in their construction. Fireplace mantels are tall, but with little ornamentation.

Outside, the windows are six-over-six, double-hung sash with stone lintels and sills. Irregular common bond brickwork is used, and the gable end chimneys have corbelled mouldings.

Shortly after the Civil War, the house was remodeled to face Far Hills Avenue. A parlor with shaped lintels over the windows, was added to the north side of the house and the roofline was changed to accommodate this room. A pedimented entrance