



Camargo Road's Older Locations

by Carol (Klenk) Heck

Continuing with the Miami Purchase Association for Historic Preservation list of 1989, this month I am writing about the five Camargo Road items. This first home, which was at 7885 Camargo, was unfortunately taken down around 2015 for the expansion of Madeira Health Care Center. John D. Moore first bought the land in 1867 and presumably built his house shortly after. This lot passed to Abby C. Beech 9 years later, then James Dones, then through the Teal Family and finally acquired by the Deerwester family. It was a 2-1/2 story hip roof American 4-square house with a 1-story porch. A hip dormer on the 3rd floor had double windows. All the lintels and sills were stone. It represents the village of Madeira in its “phase of growth” after the building of the railroad in 1866.

Immediately next door, at 7881 Camargo, we have a house that was built somewhere between 1886-1903; its date is very uncertain. In an 1869 map and again on an 1884 map we can see a 50-acre parcel in this area south of Camargo and east of Miami. During 1886-1903, ownership of this land passed back and forth between J. D. Moore, James Dones, J. B. Mann, Walter Riggs, and Mr. Klettner. This particular lot was created in 1903. No records or deeds ever mention when the house was built. (As a matter of note; J. D. Moore never lived on this parcel.) The house is a 2-story L-shaped frame home with a stone foundation. It features a 1-story porch across the wing façade. The authentically turned spindles and jig-saw frieze still adorn this front porch. It has 3 bedrooms and sits on 1.18 acre. You can still walk past, or drive by this house and get a feel for the early 1900's style.



In 1940, it was owned by Buford Watts, an African American. He and Egbert Watts, could have been a brother or a son, were on the deed in 1941 and in 1947, Morris Watts owned the house. Morris was a son of Buford and served in WWI. He also worked as a porter at Cincinnati Union Terminal. Morris was the last of the Watts to own the house which he sold in 1978.



Going westward on the tour of Camargo, you will see a home that was built as a one-room schoolhouse in Allendale. It was moved to Madeira to lot 5 of the John Dones estate and turned into a home. The address is 7842 Camargo. Herbert and Mary Case used to own this house and property, but it hasn't been in that family for 49 years or so. Currently the house is in need of some tender loving care. It has also

sometimes been described as the oldest house in Madeira. However, that is very hard to track and may not be accurate.

There was a commercial building on the northwest corner of Camargo and Miami. The Ohio Historic Inventory, done in 1989, shows that it was built c.1930. It was a Tudor style L-shaped building made of stucco and half-timbers with some brick and stone. The rear of the property was lower than the front allowing for more businesses in the rear. There were also some apartments on the second floor. It was known as the Fleischmann Building because Julius Fleischman, an Indian Hill entrepreneur, had it built to accommodate several important businesses for the folks of Madeira; (Indian Hill residents shopped the stores as well). Parking at the Fleischmann Building was whatever you could find on the street. The electric interurban C. & C. traction railway passed to the rear of this business block. The complex was torn down c.1998. The addresses used to be 7768-7790. Now, it's a Walgreens with a large parking lot. The address is 7670 Camargo.



The last house from my investigation was at 7301 Camargo, which coincides with the address reference on this Miami Purchase Association list. The house still exists and it is gorgeous. It is no longer associated with that Camargo address. And the funny thing is, it wasn't even moved; it just has a new street access on Burman Meadows Drive. This symmetrical 2-story Italian Block features double bracketed cornices, fluted doric columns and double arched center windows on the 2nd floor. It

was built c.1870. The 36-acre land was owned by Thomas Burman. It was considered to be built in an upper income area.

By bringing these homes back into the light, I am pointing out that Madeira still has historical homes within its boundaries. Families maintain these homes and live within these structures of old Madeira. Some people don't want the brand-new homes and they seek out the ones with charm and a story behind the walls. Without the historic Madeira from which we have come, there is little hope for the history to be preserved.

Look for more of these stories about other homes to come. And, please share your information with the Madeira Historical Society; madeirahistoricalsociety@gmail.com, www.madeirahistoricalsociety.org.

Photos courtesy of Madeira Historical Society and Hamilton County Auditors website

References: *Miami Purchase Association for Historic Preservation*, Mar, 1989,

The Ohio Historic Inventory, by The Ohio Historical Society.

Warren Joy, Madeira Historical Society historian's subsequent research done in conjunction with these documents, 1990.

Hamilton County Auditor's website.

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