

## Travellers Rest Inn

Greenfield was platted in 1700 by Duncan McArthur, who followed the so-called "Philadelphia Plan of Squares," created by his intersecting streets. The original plat contained "190 lots and 92 outlets.: Part B of the plat, containing six acres, was set aside for a school house, meeting house, and a burying ground.

In 1812, Noble Crawford built a stone tavern which was to become an outstanding landmark, first as a tavern, then as the first Post Office, and eventually the oldest building in the town.

Mr. Frank Raymond Harris, superintendent-emeritus of the Greenfield Schools and author of A Greene Countrie Towne in section 13 "Old Inns and Tavern" tells us that Greenfield's position on the College Township Road brought to the new settlement a degree of prosperity which the size of the village scarcely warranted. The road extended from Athens to Oxford by way of Lebanon, with connecting highways to Cincinnati and Wheeling. It was the shortest and best route from the East to the high bottom lands of the two Miami Rivers. Most of Southern Ohio's westward migration passed over it. The inns and taverns along the road were crowded every night.

Because Mr. Harris is so intimately connected with the restoration of Travellers Rest Inn, a brief biography is included. He was born April 10, 1880, the son of David M. and Sarah Shrock Harris. He served the Greenfield Schools as teacher, principal, and superintendent. He was the author of The Chronicle of Greenfield and the County McArthur, Itchin' Feet, A Greene Countrie Towne, and Hometown Chronicles.

Mr. Harris died April 1, 1965. In his will dated November 27, 1964, he left "a bequest of \$20,000.00 to the Greenfield Historical Society, Inc. - to acquire the property known as "Travellers Rest" at 147 Jefferson Street.

October 8, 1965

Buildings on the corner of Jefferson and North Second Streets were sold for the site of a super-service station. Included in this real estate transaction was the Travellers Rest Inn.

October 11, 1965

Several "History Buffs" representing the historical society, city government, and the Rotary Club made their first public move to save Travellers Rest Inn. A delegation went to Cincinnati to confer with the purchasers. As a result, Mr. George M. Waddell made the announcement that the Dominion Land Trust Corp. will donate the Inn building; and the Texaco Oil Company will grant extra ground as needed.

October 18, 1965

Demolition underway. The west wall of Travellers Rest Inn exposed, and the complete dismantling will begin immediately.

The Spring of 1966

Severe spring winds damaged the old First Presbyterian Church which stood in Plat B. By October 1966, it was decided by the City Council that the brick church must be torn down as a "safety Measure." The question was then advanced by Editor Pat Schrock: "How would the rebuilt Travellers Rest Inn appear on that old church site?"

March 20, 1967

The Board of Trustees approved by a vote of 6-0 the proposal that the dismantled Travellers Rest Inn be restored on the site of the old Presbyterian Church.

May 2, 1967

D. A. Langhorst, Lebanon, was engaged as architect, and Norman Ralston, Washington C.H., as the reconstruction contractor.

March 22, 1968

Trustees approved the bid of \$18,078 submitted by Norman Ralston of behalf of his contracting firm, Ralston Homes, Inc., of Lebanon, Ohio.

The two-story stone building will closely match its original. It will be located diagonally facing northwest. It will have a basement and all utilities, including air-conditioning.

August 20, 1968

Basement excavation underway.

May 28, 1970

Corner stone container embedded within the stone wall at the northwest corner.

July 9, 1970

Title Stone placed above front door. Clarence L. Johnson, a Hillsboro master mason, and Robert Bashore of New Vienna are doing the masonry.

October 2, 1970

Roof form work is taking shape.

May 1972

Greenfield Rotary Club dedicated a 35-foot aluminum flagpole and a bronze memorial plaque at the front entrance of the restored Travellers Rest Inn.

The plaque Reads:

"Honoring Rotarian Raymond Harris, 1880 - 1965, whose vision and generosity provided for reconstruction of Travellers Rest Inn, the Rotary Club of Greenfield presents this flagpole on its 50th anniversary May 1972."

December 29, 1974

Formal Open House for the Restored Travellers Rest Inn. Ladies of the Colonial and Greenfield Garden Clubs decorated the rooms for the Yuletide. Members of the History Club served as Hostesses.

The "restored" building was constructed from the original stone and some of the timber and finishing woods which were first used in the 1812 building.

Stepping from the back door of the Inn, one walks on a patio which leads to the Old Burial Grounds, where many of the pioneers sleep. Also saved were stone arches from the Old Presbyterian Church, which hopefully will be used to encircle flower beds.

**Summary of a history credited to Grace A. Blake from a Historical Society program dated 2001-2000.**