

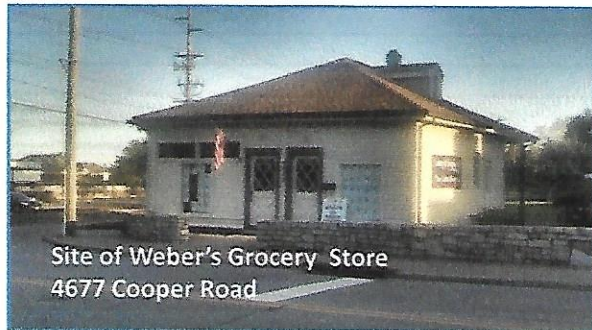
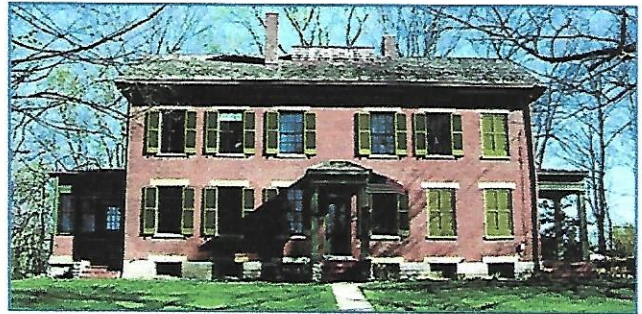


*April
May
June, 2019*

A look back at Blue Ash History...

Most older cities have properties that have been around since their early days, and Blue Ash is no exception. Here are some of the interesting locations in our area.

At the top of the list is our Civil War era house, the Hunt House. Occupied by five generations of Hunts, the house was built in the Federal/Greek revival styles of architecture in 1861. The property was purchased by the City of Blue Ash in 2003, restored to its original condition, and is the “home office” of the Blue Ash Historical Society and History Museum.

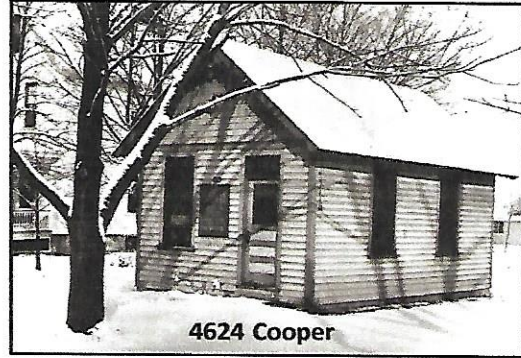


Built in 1900, this building at the corner of Cooper Road and Railroad Avenue was the location of Weber's Grocery Store when the Louis Weber family moved to Blue Ash in 1921. He added room for a post office to the rear of the store adjacent to the railroad tracks. In addition, the first Blue Ash Library was in the store, on one shelf. Books came from the downtown library. Alma Weber, daughter of the owner, earned five cents for each borrowed book. Current occupants are Realtors Roger Leist and Comey and Shephard.

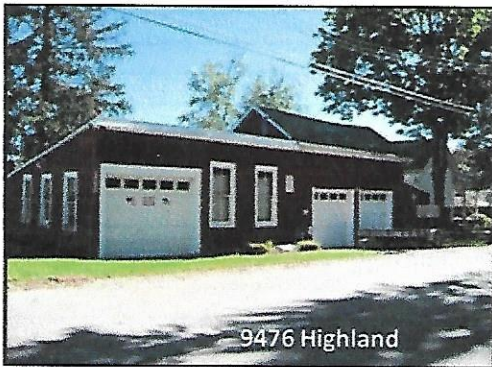
Mission Baptist Church, 9501 Highland, was built in 1912 and was originally the Blue Ash Presbyterian Church. The congregation was founded in 1908 and met in the Blue Ash School until this building was constructed. According to the Miami Purchase Association, its architecture is known as Spanish Mission, a relatively rare type of architecture in this area. The Mission Baptist Church has since made modifications to the building.



The original Blue Ash Building and Loan, founded in 1907, was located at 4624 Cooper Road. Edward Strawser started with the company in 1915 and served as president. He would store receipts from the day's business in a cigar box that he took home at night. This one-room building served the bank from 1925 until 1952 when they moved to their current location at 4811 Cooper Road. It was open only one night a week. In addition to the limited hours of operation, customers were required to have a good reason for withdrawing their money. The building and loan has the honor of being the longest-running business in Blue Ash.



The building is currently occupied by Garrison Insurance.

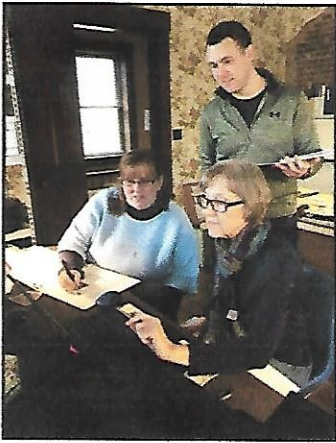


The blacksmith shop was originally located at the corner of Cooper and Kenwood Roads and was owned by John Voorhees. Roxie Snell took over the business and moved it to 9476 Highland Avenue when Harlan Hosbrook opened his motor car business at the original site of the blacksmith shop. Mr. Snell worked on cars, but he always preferred horses. He developed a portable forge that could be used at customer's homes. He also worked on plows and wagons.

Built in 1926, the house at Ridgeway and Cooper Roads was called the Airport Inn, popular in the 1930s with its outdoor beer garden and small concrete dance floor. The Airport Inn supposedly had somewhat of a "honky-tonk" atmosphere, which was probably why it was so popular. They featured live entertainment with orchestras performing regularly on Saturday nights.



Throughout the year we'll feature some of the other interesting properties in Blue Ash, including several homes built in the mid to late 1800s that are still occupied today and have been designated "Historic Homes in Blue Ash" by the Blue Ash Historical Society.

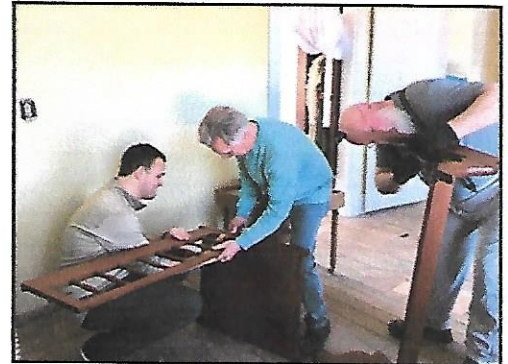


Archivists at Work!

BAHS member Eric Baumann instructs Phyllis Dwyer and Marlene Morris in a new program he created to digitize documents, photos and other records of the history of Blue Ash. Digitizing our collections will make everything you see on Hunt House tours and much more available for the public to access. Eric is a graduate student studying to be a museum curator, so his input and expertise are most welcome as we take on this onerous task. We look forward to announcing when that information will be available, so stay tuned for further updates.

Archivists at Work II

It's not just records that we work on when we archive. BAHS members Eric Baumann, Dave Davis and Tom Dwyer are hard at work assembling a beautiful hand-carved crib in a second-floor room that we are setting up as a nursery. Even though visitors are not currently permitted on the second floor of the Hunt house, we are eager to stage every room in authentic scenarios.



Speaking of Records...

Our archives run the gamut from Sycamore High School yearbooks from 1926 to 1980, Mayor's Court records from 1928 to 1960, Sycamore Senior Center photo albums, DVDs, newsletters, and two time capsules scheduled to be opened in 2100. We have membership and treasury records of the Women's Auxiliary to the Blue Ash Civic League, Blue Ash Women's Club newsletters, 16 Mile Stand Horse Rangers logs, Carpenter's Run Cemetery index of burials, City of Blue Ash government documents, and newspaper clippings and photographs too numerous to mention. We also have census records dating to the mid 1800s, church directories, marriage licenses for several members of the Hunt family, and plat maps showing the area when it was all considered Sycamore Township. Needless to say, our digitizing project will go on for some time!



Thank you!!

We happily accepted a donation of two mahogany chairs and a settee that belonged to Felix and Josephine Schwartz, who were married in 1889 and lived in Madisonville. In the 1920s they built a home on Kennedy Ave. in Kennedy Heights. Their daughter, Florence Josephine Schwarz, inherited their home and furnishings. Upon her passing, our donor's (Diane Noppenberger Lemen) mother, Kathleen Schwartz Noppenberger, used them in her upstairs bedroom. Be sure to check them out on your next visit!



BAHS members Dave Davis and Tom Dwyer with donor Diane Noppenberger Lemen



We also received a grant in the amount of \$500 from the Blue Ash Civic League which will be dedicated to providing speakers and other enhancements to our open houses. For instance, our July 13 open house will feature Mr. Bernie O'Bryan, board member of the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum, Ft. Wright, KY, writer of historical biographies, and actor. He will portray General Lew Wallace, who saved Cincinnati and Washington, D.C. from confederate attacks. More information to come!

Our October 12 open house will cover the importance of the Blue Ash Airport (originally Watson Airport) to the development of Blue Ash (speaker to be named later).

This grant will help BAHS fulfill one of its mission statements - education by offering exhibits, events, presentations, open houses and publications, and we thank the Blue Ash Civic League for their consideration.

The owner of a Class A office building in Blue Ash recently requested our help in choosing several historical photographs from our files to decorate their hallways. BAHS member Phyllis Dwyer met with a member of his staff and gave several options for them to choose from. After making their selections, they had them enlarged and they are now displayed in the 4600 McAuley Place building. Once again, our archives to the rescue!



Join us on Saturday April 13
from 1:00-4:00 at the
Hunt House
4364 Hunt Road as we

Think Spring

Guests will receive a flower ready for
planting, and can enter our drawing to
win a beautiful hanging basket

Plus

At 1:30, join BAHS President Tom Bell, former resident of the
Hunt House, as he walks the grounds and discusses the
landscaping as it was when he lived there with his family,
Elizabeth Hunt Bell and George Bell. He'll talk about the
original barn that was on the property, and show you the 25-foot
tall holly tree in the front yard that was planted by his mother
and is still used in our Christmas decorations.

Hope to see you there!

