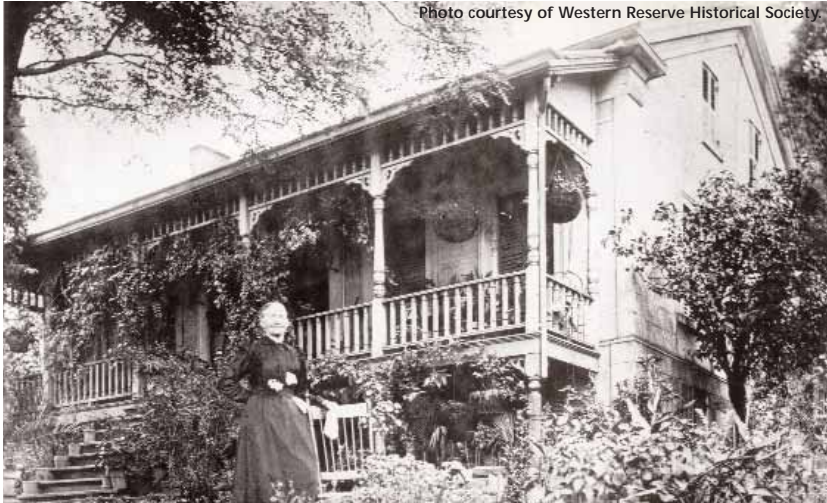




## Gleeson House Rehabilitation Project

### Preserving a Rural Landscape



The Edmund Gleeson House stands as a reminder of the farms of the past which dotted the Cuyahoga Valley landscape. Built circa 1854 with a premier location along the bustling Ohio & Erie Canal, the Gleeson Farm was positioned to have easy access to move crops to market. More than a century has passed since the heyday of the canal, and over time this home has deteriorated with age. Today, the National Park Service hopes to breathe new life into the Gleeson House as part of its Countryside Initiative.

The National Park Service's Countryside Initiative strives to preserve the rural character of the valley while promoting sustainable practices in modern farming. The Gleeson House, a sandstone relic of times gone by, will soon serve as a home to a new generation of farmers as an example of how people can live with the land rather than merely on the land.

Throughout 2005 and 2006, this house will be undergoing a major rehabilitation project to prepare for its rebirth as a family home and centerpiece of a working farmstead. Principles of preservation, compatible design, and adaptive use will be a mainstay in adding Gleeson to the growing list of small family farms which once again dot the Cuyahoga Valley and preserve the rural landscape for future generations.

#### Architecture

The Gleeson House is a New England One and a Half type house built in the Greek Revival style from locally quarried sandstone. This style was popular from approximately 1830 to 1865. It is common in the Cuyahoga Valley and typical of areas settled by New Englanders such as northeast Ohio.

Greek Revival architecture was an attempt to copy the simple lines and beauty of the ancient Greek temples through the use of bold, classical details. Short horizontal moldings on the ends of the house, called cornice returns, create a visual end to the heavy moldings which outline the roof. A grand recessed entrance includes partial columns, decorative paneling, and sidelights to convey style and a feeling of importance to this modest house. Decorative stonework surrounds the windows on the façade, again creating a feeling of significance.

For these reasons, the Gleeson House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a fine example of Greek Revival architecture.



Greek Revival heavy moldings and cornice return. NPS Photo.



Grand entrance of the modest Gleeson House. NPS Photo.



Decorative stonework surrounds the windows. NPS Photo.

## Agricultural History

The house remained in the Gleeson family for more than 125 years and served as the center of the family farm. In 1880 the Gleesons raised a variety of livestock and poultry as well as grew

Indian corn, oats, and wheat on their more than 200 acres of land. Even through the late 1960s, descendants of Edmund Gleeson kept livestock in the barn along Tinkers Creek Road.

## Rehabilitation: Status and Highlights

Three elements will be balanced in the rehabilitation of the Gleeson House: historic preservation, health and safety for the occupants, and principles of adaptive use. Architecturally, stone and woodwork will be restored or replaced to ensure that the Greek Revival style is maintained. A new foundation, rebuilt front wall, and new supporting roof beams are necessary to stabilize the building. Lead paint

throughout the house will be removed. A new addition, designed to fit well with the landscape and historic design, will be added to the back of the house to provide the additional space necessary for a modern family. In total, this project will make the Gleeson House a safe, functional, family home and maintain its historic appearance on the Cuyahoga Valley landscape for future generations.



Workers begin to set up scaffolding at the front of the house to begin dismantling the front porch in early June 2005. NPS Photo.



Front porch removed from the front of the house. June, 2005. NPS Photo.



The back of the Gleeson home and carport addition, before rehabilitation. Spring 2001. NPS Photo.



The carport addition was removed in early June, 2005. NPS Photo.



Extensive water damage to two large roof beams on top of the front wall. June 2005. NPS Photo.



Demolition work has started in the basement. June 2005. NPS Photo.

## Updates

Please visit [www.nps.gov/cuva/whatsnew.htm](http://www.nps.gov/cuva/whatsnew.htm) to follow the progress of the Gleeson House Rehabilitation Project. New images and infor-

mation will be added periodically as changes to the house occur.