

Early History of the Preserved Harris Farm in Mentor

Early history of the Preserved Harris Farm on a homesite now known as 8900 Johnnycake Ridge Road in Mentor Ohio has been of interest to Harris Family historians over the years. Efforts were unsuccessful in finding the records of purchases made by Preserved after arriving in 1831. Randy Harris, current President of the Harris Family Organization used the latest AI enhanced search tools and found the County Records of the 75 acres parcel purchased by Preserved Harris on 7 October 1831 for \$425.

The recorded deed shows the seller Timothy Chittenden was from Salisbury, Connecticut. The Chittenden's had acquired this land around 1800 as compensation in the grand Connecticut State program known as the Firelands. The 75 acre location was identified as Tract 2 - Lot 3 in the Ohio Tax Records, 1800-1887, beginning in 1832.

Preserved and wife Nancy brought his parents Nathan and Rhoda from Palmyra, New York in 1831 and cared for them at their home. In fact, Joseph Smith preached a sermon at the funeral for Nathan in 1835 at this Mentor home. Rhoda passed away 14 years later.

The home was built facing the old Chillicothe Road which had been a indigenous peoples' trail for centuries prior to the arrival of the settlers. The old town of Kirtland was just 3 miles south on Chillicothe Road. Johnnycake Ridge Road was not built until the late 1800s.



The Harris house rendered as it would have appeared in the 1830s was located on the highest ground of the 75 acre farm and set back from the Chillicothe Road.

Measuring 24' wide and 40' long it had an upper story for bedrooms and cellar/basement below ground level.

The original fireplace was located in the center of the structure with a chimney climbing up through the second story.



The original wood beams and floor boards are still visible in the basement. Stones and mortar were used to build the walls. The original floor was likely dirt.