

BARNUM HOUSE CURATOR VISITS PARK HOMESTEAD

The John R. Park Homestead on Lake Erie, South of Harrow, received a special honor, Wednesday, August 26, as the curator of the Barnum House Museum, and three of its board members paid the Homestead a visit to view its operation.

The Barnum House, located in Grafton, Ont. was one of the first houses to be opened as a museum. Its people came to the Park Homestead to pick up ideas that could be used at the Barnum House.

Janet Cobban, the Homestead's curator, said she found the visit quite flattering, considering that the Homestead has only been operating for nine years while the Barnum House was opened in the 1940's.

The people from the Barnum House, said Cobban, were interested in a number of different elements at the Homestead.

The year-around operation of the Homestead was one thing that interested the group, since the Barnum House operates only during the summer months, Cobban pointed out.

Another aspect of the museum that was examined was the working kitchen. The Barnum House's kitchen is used only for display. The Barnum people wanted to see how the cooking done in the kitchen is incorporated into the museum's program of events, said Cobban.

The special programs offered for school trips and tour groups, as well as the events scheduled around Christmas, were also looked at by the visitors. This is one area the Barnum House would like to expand into, Cobban explained.

The group also toured other museums in the area, such as the Park House in Amherstburg, said Cobban

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BARNUM HOUSE

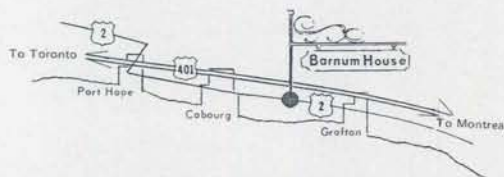


"BARNUM HOUSE & GRAFTON, 1815"

Historic Barnum House



Kitchen Of Barnum House



Built 1813 - 17 entirely of white pine, was restored by the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario in 1940.

Mary Etta MacPherson wrote "Barnum House reaches a degree of architectural perfection unsurpassed by any contemporary building of its size on this continent."

Colonel Eliakim Barnum came to Grafton in the 1790's, married and bought "The Poplars," a pretentious log building which was burned while British soldiers, on the retreat from York in the War of 1812, were billeted with the Barnums. Col. Barnum with patriotic fervour refused any remuneration from the British Government but rebuilt this home on the same site.

Col. Barnum was a pioneer, a genial host, a man of affairs, Commander of the third Northumberland Regiment, Justice of the Peace and owner of some 5000 acres of land.

The house is at present furnished in early Canadiana. It is open to the public by Twp. of Haldimand in the Great Pine Ridge. Admission by request: Phone Grafton 349-2262

Open Sundays 2 - 5 p.m. May, June, Sept. Oct. Daily 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. July and August Adults .50; Groups of 10 or more .25 ea. Children .10 free if accompanied by parents.

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