

Charles Webber House (Canaday House)
Wayne National Forest
Township Road/Sheets Run
Grandview Vicinity
Washington County
Ohio

HABS No. OH-2420

HABS
OHIO
84-GRANDVIEW,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Great Lakes Support Office
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
CHARLES WEBBER HOUSE (CANADAY HOUSE)

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Location:

Wayne National Forest
Township Road/Sheets Run
Grandview Vicinity
Washington County, Ohio
USGS Stafford Quadrangle
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Significance:

The house on the Charles Webber House is a deteriorated example of a 2-story log home that dates to the 1850s and reflects a high-level of craftsmanship. The hewn logs have been finished on the exterior and interior and the ends are carefully tapered to interlock with each other at the corners. The wood siding under the gables is of the hand-split variety and appears to be original to the house. During the late nineteenth century, an I-house addition was added to the original log cabin, creating an extremely unique and rare example of the evolution of turn-of-the-century dwellings in Southern Ohio.

Description:

The Charles Webber House consists of a single log structure located at the end of South Township Road about 2.5 miles west of Grandview. The property is situated in a thickly wooded area with low sloping hills. The ruins of a collapsed barn are located in front of the house across Township Road. The frame barn collapsed within the last decade.

The original Webber House is a two-story log structure with a metal-clad gable roof. The logs have both steeple-notch and half dove-tail connections at the corners. The tapered ends of the steeple notches fit securely at the corners, chinked with mud and using wooden members as fill. The original structure was a square cabin with a corner stairwell and a stone hearth centered in the rear gabled wall. In the late nineteenth century, a frame I-house was added to the front of the original structure and a small shed was added to the rear. The entire house is clad with wood clapboard siding, however it has deteriorated. The intersecting gable roofs are covered with metal and are in poor condition. The front elevation is part of the newer I-House addition. This elevation has three bays, consisting of a front door flanked by two windows with three windows on the second floor. Both doors and windows are missing throughout the house. Horizontal trim pieces at the corners have small capitals appearing to support a large fascia. Second-story windows abut the fascia, which returns on the side gabled ends. A side entrance is located on the north side of the house.

The original cabin is located at the rear of the present house. The structure has a gabled roof with a central stone hearth and a brick chimney on the rear gabled side. The facade of the cabin faces south and is continuous with the gabled end of the front addition. The original log structure had a central entrance flanked by two windows. The windows are symmetrical with the interior, but are slightly off center on the exterior to accommodate the large fireplace within the wall. Two windows are located on the second floor. The second-story window on the right does not align with the three-bay facade. To the right of the original facade there is a door opening into the side of the addition. This opening has been filled and replaced with siding. At one time there was a porch along this side of the house; it has collapsed and is now in ruin.

Additional brick flues are located in the kitchen and the bedroom. A shed addition, adjacent to the original rear portion of the house, continues the pitch of the original roof. A shed-roofed porch has been removed from the side of the house and the exterior kitchen doorway covered with wood siding. The foundation of the house is constructed of stone and mortar. The foundation is deteriorated, exposing two cellar areas accessed by a small opening in the foundation.

The interior of the original cabin is one room, approximately sixteen foot square. Doors are centrally located on three sides and on the west wall there is a large, central, stone fireplace. The fireplace has a stone hearth elevated approximately 6" for the floor and extending 2'-0" from a 2'-0" firebox and is 5'-0" wide. The surround is walnut. To either side of the fireplace a horizontal wood wall encloses a closet. To the far right corner small stairs access the second floor loft.

The front frame addition is one room wide and divided into two rooms. The main room was used as a kitchen and had a small bathroom framed into the rear corner. Currently, the 2x4 frame of the bathroom exists but all wall material has been removed. On the right side of the kitchen a door enters the second room. This room is a small hall with a stair to the second floor, an exterior door, and a door to the rear shed addition. The one-story shed addition is attached to the rear of the original cabin and was used as a bedroom. The second floor is divided into the stair hall and one bedroom. The interior frame walls are finished with plaster and lath.

History:

The property is located within the Marietta Unit of the Wayne National Forest in Washington County, Grandview Township, Ohio. Washington County was the first organized county North of the Ohio River and comprised approximately half the territory now included in the State of Ohio. Established on July 26, 1788, Washington County area lawmakers did not divide the area into townships until 1790. The first organized townships of Marietta, Belpre, and Waterford sat along the river with continued organization of the hinterland through 1861.

In 1788, Washington County became the first county established in Ohio. In 1792, Ohio consisted of three large counties: Washington in the east, Hamilton in the center, and Knox to the west. By 1810, Washington County had shrunk considerably due to the creation of Athens County. Between 1811 and 1824, 31 counties were formed, including Hocking, Lawrence, Monroe, and Perry.

Grandview Township was organized in 1802 from land in Newport Township. This township lies along the hilly shores of the Ohio River and supposedly received its name from the "grand view" from the top of the hills.

The Webber property is located 2.5 miles west of the town of Grandview at the south end of Township Road off Sheets Run. The first settlers in the area were members of the Webber family who had emigrated from England in the 1840s. While a number of Webbers lived in the vicinity, tax records indicate ownership of the house on the site by Charles Webber, beginning in 1853. The site then became the property of Simeon Webber in 1875. By 1889, the site was owned by Henry Webber, and 1892 records indicate the taxation of a building on the site, probably the I-house built in front of the earlier cabin. In 1912, the property passed to Richard E. Webber, who turned it over to Richard F. Webber in 1942. The property remained in the Webber family until 1969, when it was sold to the Gardner family. The property was purchased by the Rice family and then sold by them to Kenneth and Mary Jane Ward, all of this taking place in 1970. In 1975, the property was sold to the Canadays, and was purchased from them by the U.S. Government in 1989.

Sources:

Washington County Tax and Deed Records. 1853-1989.

Historian:

Hardlines: Design and Delineation
Columbus, Ohio
May, 1997

