

The Haman Bordner House, 1880

A Documented History

4522 Seventh Street SW, Canton, Ohio

Perry Township, Stark County

National Register of Historic Places, No. 78002191, listed February 17, 1978

Prepared September 2026 for the sale of the house

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1. About this document

This is a house history, not a sales piece. It collects what the public record, a family-supplied 1892 biography, and the documents preserved in the house itself say about the Haman Bordner House at 4522 Seventh Street SW, and it says plainly where those sources disagree. It was assembled during the 2026 sale so that buyers, neighbors, researchers, and descendants would have one cited account to work from instead of the several partial and sometimes contradictory versions that have circulated since the 1970s.

Five kinds of evidence carry the weight. First, deeds, mortgages, plats, court filings, and probate records at the Stark County Recorder, the Stark County Probate Court, and the Court of Common Pleas, many of them read from digitized images. These settle dates, acreage, prices, and ownership. Second, the biography of Haman Bordner and the engraving of his farm published in *Portrait and Biographical Record of Stark County, Ohio* in 1892, a subscription volume for which the family would have supplied the facts. Third, the documents that have stayed in the house: the original floor plans, the 1978 State Historic Preservation Office letter, the 1984 and 1985 museum materials, family photographs with museum-era captions, a 1974 boundary survey, and twenty newspaper clippings from 1976 to 1985. Fourth, the family’s own genealogy: Howard W. Bordner’s *The Bordner and Burtner Families and Their Bortner Ancestors in America* (1967), a copy inscribed as a 2008 gift from descendants of Franklin Bordner, together with the interview and map notes kept with it; both were supplied to this research by Cary Coates, First Vice President and Historian of the Perry History Club. Alongside these, fifteen nitrate negatives found in the house in 2026 and eleven family album prints supplied the same summer.

Fifth, added in version 1.3, a further body of material loaned by Mr. Coates in September 2026: a three-page handwritten family memoir, *West Manor Reflections*, written on February 8, 2010, by James Douglass Whitacre, great-grandson of Franklin Bordner and a lifelong resident of the former farm; a printed chapter on Reedurban from a Perry Township history; four historic maps of the township (1855, 1870, about 1924, and a compilation of the original federal land entries of 1800 to 1820); and a scanned envelope addressed to the Bordner family in the 1920s. That material resolved two questions the earlier versions left open, supplies the name the family used for the farm, and explained the street names of the neighborhood.⁶³

Newspapers are quoted here as color and corroboration, never as proof against a deed. Family memoir is treated the same way: where the memoir and a recorded instrument disagree, the instrument governs, and the recollection is noted. Where the memoir supplies something no public record would ever hold, it is the best source available and is labeled as family recollection. Section 8 lists every correction.

Confidence is stated in the endnotes using three words. *Proven* means a recorded instrument, court record, or the National Register file was read directly. *Corroborated* means two or more independent secondary sources agree and nothing in the record contradicts them. *Reported* means a single source, usually a newspaper or family recollection, and should be treated as plausible rather than established.

2. The house in brief

A two-and-a-half-story brick residence in the High Victorian Italianate style, built in 1880 for Haman Bordner (1829 to 1903) and his wife Lidia on the farm they had assembled in the southeast quarter of Section 12, Perry Township, beginning in 1865.¹ The exterior carries the standard vocabulary of the style as it reached prosperous Ohio farmers: a low hipped roof with paired brackets at the eaves, semicircular frieze windows, segmental-arched windows under stone hood molds, and over the front entry a sandstone hood carved “Haman & Lidia Bordner, 1880.”²

The family called the place **Hill Crest Farm**, and in Franklin Bordner’s day the mail came addressed to “Hillcrest” on the Massillon Road.⁶⁴ When Franklin subdivided the farm in the 1920s, one of the new streets in the allotment was named Hillcrest Avenue; the covenant agreement recorded for that street is cited in the later deeds in the house’s chain of title. Whether the street was named for the farm is a reasonable inference rather than a documented one.

The interior woodwork is black walnut and chestnut cut and milled on the property, and it has never been painted.³ Around the turn of the century the house received electricity, central heat, and plumbing; rooms on both floors were enlarged and a full bath and two half baths added.⁴ About 1920 the original open wooden veranda was replaced by the brick enclosed porch that stands today.⁵ Original chandeliers, curved radiators, marble mantels, and the breakfast room’s floor-to-ceiling built-in cupboards remain in place.

For about fifty years the brick house was not alone. A frame house stood immediately beside it, built for the second Bordner household about 1890 to 1895 and taken down in 1941, the same year the farm’s windmill came down and city water was brought into the brick house.⁶⁵ Nothing of the frame house stands today.

The house was entered in the National Register of Historic Places on February 17, 1978, under its owner at the time, Jack A. Cady. Its official Register name is simply “Bordner House” (reference 78002191).⁶ It sits today on a 0.6564-acre corner lot at Seventh Street SW and Fairlane Avenue, surveyed out of the original homestead lot in September 1974.⁷ There is no local historic district designation and no restriction on the property beyond the Register listing, which is honorary.

3. Timeline

Date	Event	Basis
Sept. 1732	Balthaser Bortner, the family’s immigrant ancestor, lands at Philadelphia from Rotterdam aboard the <i>Adventure</i>	Bordner genealogy (1967)
1809–1812	Section 12, Perry Township, is entered from the United States by James Latta of Stark County and by John H. Brinton and John Brinton of Philadelphia	Original-entry map (reported; see Section 9)

Date	Event	Basis
c. 1810	Henry Bordner (1761–1845), Haman’s maternal grandfather, among the first Bordners in Ohio, settles in Pike Township	Bordner genealogy
1820s	John P. Bordner (1802–1878), Haman’s father, walks from Dauphin County, Pa., to Stark County as a teenager; settles in Bethlehem Township	Bordner genealogy; 1892 biography
Sept. 8, 1829	Haman Bordner born, Bethlehem Township, Stark County, Ohio	1892 biography
1847	Samuel Lahm buys 500 acres astride the State Road, the holding from which the Bordner farm is later sold	Perry Township history (reported)
Mar. 25, 1854	Haman marries Lidia Kittinger; the couple farms rented land in Pike, Perry, and Canton Townships for about eleven years	1892 biography
1855	County map shows the south half of Section 12, including the future homestead, held by Samuel Lahm	1855 Williams Bros. map
Jan. 24, 1865	Samuel Lahm sells Haman Bordner 80 acres off the east side of the SE quarter of Section 12, Perry Twp., for \$5,000. The family lives in a log cabin on the tract	Deed (proven); 1892 biography
Apr. 5, 1870	Lahm sells Bordner an adjoining 72 acres, seller-financed by nine notes totaling \$7,617	Mortgage (proven)
1877	Four-story barn built; the year was painted on it	Family photo caption; 1985 press; Whitacre memoir (corroborated)
1880	The brick house replaces the log cabin	Date stone; 1892 biography (proven)
c. 1890–95	A frame house is built beside the brick house for the second Bordner household	Building specification; Whitacre memoir
1892	Biography credits Haman with 247 acres at the home farm and 85 acres in Jackson Twp.	1892 biography; 1896 atlas (corroborated)
Apr. 15, 1893	Haman sells a tract to H. U. Reed on credit; in May, Reed plats the village of Reedurban on it, with Bordner Street as its east boundary	1917 mortgage petition citing Deed Vol. 299, p. 320; Perry Township history
1884	Niles Orris Bordner, Franklin’s son, born; the family’s later line runs through him	Bordner genealogy
Oct. 4, 1903	Haman Bordner dies at home. Will probated Oct. 13; the homestead is devised to Lidia, then to son Franklin J. Bordner	Probate (proven)
July 1904	Heirs sell 63.18 acres in the SW quarter of Section 12 to the Sisters of the Holy Humility of Mary, \$28,431 (now Central Catholic High School)	Newspapers; Sisters’ 1918 mortgage notice
1911	Certificate of Transfer vests the 145.12-acre homestead in Franklin	Probate (proven)
May 19, 1914	Franklin quiets title against an unsatisfied 1859 mortgage held by the Massillon Rolling Mill Co.	Common Pleas No. 23774 (proven)
c. 1920	Open veranda replaced by the brick enclosed porch	Cady, 1976 interview; 1974 survey
1920s	Mail reaches the family addressed to “Hillcrest,” Massillon Road	Envelope (proven as to the address)

Date	Event	Basis
c. 1924	County map shows Franklin Bordner holding 143.07 acres in Section 12, undivided, the last portrait of the farm	c. 1924 ownership map
Feb. 1925	Franklin plats West Manor Allotment No. 3, 43.247 acres of the SE quarter	Plat Book 17, p. 94 (proven)
Feb.–Mar. 1926	Franklin sells every lot in the allotment except Lot 209, the house lot, to West Manor, Inc.	Deed Vol. 882, p. 591 (proven)
1927	The 1877 barn is dismantled and moved to the Paris area of eastern Stark County, where it stood about fifty years more	Whitacre memoir (reported); 1985 press gives 1928
1929	The Depression finds Franklin \$100,000 in debt to his contractors; lots sell slowly for the next fifteen years	Whitacre memoir (reported)
July 1935	Franklin J. Bordner dies, still owning Lot 209	Death certificate; estate No. 35042 (proven)
1941	The frame house beside the brick house is torn down; the windmill comes down; city water is brought in; family heirlooms are distributed to Franklin's grandchildren	Whitacre memoir (reported)
June 11, 1945	Certificate of Transfer: Lot 209 to Franklin's three children in thirds	Probate (proven)
1949–1961	Audella Bordner Shellhouse consolidates full title to Lot 209	Deeds (proven)
1963–1964	Audella sells the south 72-foot tier of Lot 209 as three house lots	Deeds (proven)
Feb. 1968	Audella Shellhouse dies; will probated Feb. 28, 1968	Probate (proven)
Feb. 19, 1969	Executor's deed to Carmen S. and Mary L. Sarno	Deed Vol. 3362, p. 235 (proven)
May 17, 1974	Sarno to Donald J. and Carol J. DiRuzza	Deed Vol. 3750, p. 556 (proven)
Sept. 16, 1974	Boundary survey of the 0.6564-acre house parcel, Shisler, Hunsinger & Hoover	Survey plat in the house (proven)
Oct. 2, 1974	DiRuzza to Jack A. and Gloria S. Cady	Deed Vol. 3783, p. 66 (proven)
Feb. 17, 1978	Entered in the National Register of Historic Places	NPS (proven)
Feb. 28, 1978	Ohio SHPO notifies Jack Cady of the listing	Letter in the house (proven)
1984	Jack and Gloria Cady retire	<i>Farm & Dairy</i> , June 1985 (reported)
Dec. 1–23, 1984	“Victorian Christmas '84”: the house opens to the public for the first time	Flyer; four newspapers (proven)
May 1–Nov. 15, 1985	First regular museum season, weekends; fewer than 1,000 visitors	Press (corroborated)
Aug. 4, 1986	Cady to Gene and Shirley J. Barnhart; the museum closes	Deed Vol. 455, p. 935 (proven)
Feb. 8, 2010	James D. Whitacre, Franklin's great-grandson, writes <i>West Manor Reflections</i>	Memoir (proven as to authorship)
2016	Barnhart trust to Gene Barnhart, then to Deborah L. Orians, within the family	Recorded instruments (proven)

Date	Event	Basis
Mar. 6, 2026	The house is conveyed to the present owner; kitchen and breakfast room rebuilt	Recorded instrument (proven)
Summer 2026	Fifteen nitrate negatives found in the house; eleven family album prints supplied; framed collage captions transcribed	See Section 6
Sept. 2026	Cary Coates of the Perry History Club loans the Whitacre memoir, a Perry Township history, and four historic maps	See Section 6

4. The history

The ground before the Bordners

Section 12 of Perry Township passed out of federal hands early. A compiled map of the original entries, annotated by its maker as drawn from Steubenville Land Office records of 1800 to 1820, shows the section, 639.7 acres, taken up in three entries between 1809 and 1812: by James Latta of Stark County on April 19, 1809, and by John H. Brinton and John Brinton, both of Philadelphia, on July 14, 1812. Section 1 immediately north went to John Bowman of Stark County on July 2, 1812. Which of the three entrymen took the southeast quarter, where this house stands, cannot be read with confidence from the copy consulted. The map's own attribution to the Steubenville office is also doubtful for entries of these years: a separate federal land office for this district opened at Canton in 1807 and moved to Wooster in 1811, so entries of 1809 and 1812 would normally have passed through those offices rather than Steubenville. Both points are carried in Section 9 as open questions.⁶⁶

By the middle of the century the quarter had been assembled by one man. Samuel Lahm bought 500 acres astride the State Road in 1847; he still held 320 acres in 1870 and 254 in 1875, the year before his death, having spent thirty years selling the rest off in farm-sized pieces.⁶⁷ The 1855 county map shows the south half of Section 12, which contains the southeast quarter, as Lahm's, with the Kogle and Grovemiller families in the north half.⁶⁸ Haman Bordner's purchase in 1865 was one of those pieces.

The Bordners before the farm

The Bordners were Pennsylvania Germans. The family genealogy traces them to Balthaser Bortner, who landed at Philadelphia in September 1732 aboard the *Adventure* out of Rotterdam and signed the oath of allegiance there.⁵³ The first of the family in Ohio was Henry Bordner (1761 to 1845), who brought his household from Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, to Pike Township, Stark County, about 1810. Henry's daughter Sarah (1805 to 1876) married John P. Bordner (1802 to 1878), a second cousin from the Lykens Valley of Dauphin County, and these were Haman's parents.⁵⁴

Haman Bordner was born on September 8, 1829, in Bethlehem Township, Stark County, one of thirteen children of John P. and Sarah.⁸ John P. was a farmer and carpenter in Bethlehem and Pike Townships; after Sarah's death he remarried and had two more sons. Two of Haman's brothers, John Washington and Levi, farmed in Bethlehem and Perry Townships and are the other Bordner households a researcher will meet in the same records.⁵⁴

For fifty years the origin story attached to the house had Haman himself walking to Ohio from Pennsylvania (or, in two 1980s clippings, from Boston) with a gun and a dog.⁹ The 1892 biography, prepared from facts the family supplied while Haman was living, places his birth in this county, and the family genealogy settles where the story belongs. Its account of the 1820s migration reads: the first of Peter Bordner's sons to go west was young John P., then in his teens, who went the whole way on foot carrying his rifle and a bundle of clothes, accompanied by his dog.⁵⁵ The legend is true. It is Haman's father's.

Haman married Lidia Kittinger, daughter of Jacob and Mary Kittinger, on March 25, 1854. Lidia was the Pennsylvanian in the household. Her widowed mother lived with the couple into the 1890s and appears in the family portrait that hangs in the house.¹⁰ Two children were born to the marriage: Samantha, later Mrs. Hiram S. Clay of North Canton, and Franklin James Bordner, born January 24, 1858.¹¹

For roughly eleven years after his marriage Haman farmed land he did not own: two years in Pike Township from the spring of 1854, then a period in Perry Township, then about ten years in Canton Township.⁸ No earlier account of the house records this. It matters because it replaces the picture of a young man arriving and claiming ground with one of a tenant farmer working toward a purchase for over a decade.

The land, 1865 to 1870

On January 24, 1865, Samuel Lahm of Canton conveyed to Haman Bordner eighty acres off the east side of the southeast quarter of Section 12, Perry Township, for \$5,000, the tract “to be struck off by a line running from the north line of said quarter to the south line thereof, so as to include the road.” Henrietta Lahm released dower; the deed was recorded January 30.¹² Four days after the purchase Bordner mortgaged the same eighty acres back to Lahm for \$3,000, the balance to be paid in installments, which is the seller-financing pattern that recurs in the next transaction.¹³

Samuel Lahm (1812 to 1876) was a Canton lawyer who had served in the Ohio Senate and, from 1847 to 1849, in the United States House of Representatives. His son Frank Samuel Lahm (1846 to 1931) became a businessman in Paris and a pioneer balloonist, and his grandson, Brigadier General Frank Purdy Lahm, was the first officer of the United States Army to fly in an airplane, as Orville Wright’s passenger at Fort Myer in September 1908.¹⁴ He was parceling out the southeast quarter: on the same day in 1870 that he sold Bordner a second tract, the neighbor Mathias Grovemiller mortgaged an adjoining 15.16 acres to him, bounded by “Haman Bordner land.”¹⁵ How Lahm himself came to hold the quarter section between his 1847 purchase and the original entries of 1809 to 1812 has not been traced.

The 1870 sale added 72 acres on the west, secured by a purchase-money mortgage of \$7,617 in nine notes running to 1878.¹⁶ The 1870 Beers atlas of Perry Township draws the arrangement exactly as the deeds describe it: a north–south strip against the township’s east line lettered “H. Bordner, 80 A.,” with a 70-acre parcel and Grovemiller’s 15 acres immediately west and north, the Canton–Massillon road cutting across, and Lahm’s remaining 160 acres beyond. The same plate carries a separate 80-acre parcel in the section marked “Bachtel & Bordner.”¹⁷ The family lived on the tract in a log cabin, according to the 1892 biography, until the brick house was built.

One ghost remained in the title. A mortgage on the southeast quarter given to the Massillon Rolling Mill Company in December 1859, before Bordner owned any of it, was never released of record. Franklin Bordner discovered it in 1914 and obtained a default decree quieting his title that May.¹⁸

The farm

A four-story barn was raised in 1877; the date was painted on the structure and the whole family posed before it in the portrait now hanging in the house.¹⁹ Two of the nitrate negatives found in the house in 2026 show the barn’s gable end in later years, lettered “F. J. BORDNER” beneath a round painted emblem, with three cupolas along the ridge and a taller louvered cupola at the gable; the lettering postdates Franklin’s inheritance of the farm.⁵⁸ The barn was dismantled and moved to the Paris area of eastern Stark County, where by the family’s account it was used for about fifty years more. A 1985 newspaper account dates the move to 1928; Franklin’s great-grandson, writing in 2010, dates it to 1927 and frames the Bordner farming years as the fifty from 1877 to 1927. Whether the barn still stands has not been determined.²⁰

The 1892 biography describes a diversified operation: Shorthorn, Jersey, and Guernsey cattle, with Guernseys as Haman's specialty, and Poland-China hogs.⁸ Museum-era accounts add an orchard and describe him first as a hog farmer.²¹ Haman was a Democrat and an elder in the English Reformed Church.

The size of the farm at its height is the point on which the sources most clearly diverge. Family recollection, repeated to reporters consistently from 1976 through 1985, put it at about 640 acres, bounded north by the old Lincoln Highway, east by Raff Road, south by 13th Street SW, and west by Perry Road.²² The record supports a smaller figure. The 1892 biography credits Haman with 247 acres at the home farm and a separate 85 acres in Jackson Township. The 1896 Kauffman atlas shows 213.33 acres in Section 12 and, in Jackson Township, two contiguous Haman Bordner parcels of 35.21 and 50.25 acres straddling the Section 21/22 line, immediately south of a parcel owned by his son-in-law Hiram S. Clay.²³ A 1904 newspaper reports the heirs declining \$90,000 "for the 300 acres."²⁴ The homestead tract devised to Franklin in 1911 was 145.12 acres, which is likely the "150 acres" Jack Cady described to a reporter in 1976.²⁵ A county ownership map of about 1924, the last to show the farm whole, labels the block "Franklin Bordner, 143.07," with the Grovemiller family still on the north line as they had been in 1855.⁶⁹ The family's own written recollection, in 2010, gives 163 acres "from Whipple Road to Bordner Ave., Lincoln Highway to 13th St. S.W."⁷⁰

Two explanations are plausible and neither has been tested: that the Bordners farmed adjoining land under lease beyond what they held in fee, or that "the Bordner farm" in family telling came to include land held by Haman's father and brothers in other townships. This document presents the figures side by side and leaves the gap open.

The house, 1880

In 1880, in the biography's words, the log cabin "gave way to a handsome brick residence."⁸ The date stone over the entry carries both names and the year.² The original floor plans, a "Ground Plan" and a "Chamber Plan" drawn to scale with room names in a period hand (Kitchen, Pantry, Sitting Room, Parlor, Hall with the curved stair, Piazza; Chambers and closets above), are framed in the front hall. A signature at lower right has not been read with confidence.²⁶

Every period account of the interior agrees on black walnut and chestnut, grown on the farm and milled there, for the woodwork and the winding staircase.³ One outlier, a December 1984 *Akron Beacon Journal* feature, calls the staircase rosewood; it is treated here as a reporter's error. A second, more recent claim is harder to dismiss. The owner from 2016 to 2026 described the staircase in a 2026 handwritten note to her successor as mahogany, unstained.²⁷ The two cannot both be correct. Pending an expert identification of the wood, this document reports the historical consensus (black walnut) and notes the competing claim. The general woodwork of the house is not in dispute.

Turn-of-the-century improvements added electricity, central heat, and plumbing, enlarged rooms on both floors, and inserted a full bath and two half baths, work the 1985 museum brochure described as "so skillfully executed that without the original floor plan to refer to they would seem to be original."⁴ Around 1920 the open veranda was removed and the present brick enclosed porch built.⁵ The 1974 survey draws the house as a "2 1/2 Story Brick" structure with a stepped footprint and labels the "Enclosed Porch."⁷

The second house, about 1890 to 1941

Among the family papers is an eleven-sheet handwritten builder's specification headed "Specifications of a dwelling house to be built for Mr. Hayman Bordner." It describes a *frame* house: white pine drop siding, a half-pitch roof with three gables, Bangor slate, and a Queen Anne interior in yellow pine. Its materials, among them Buckeye Portland cement, Acme cement plaster, and wire nails for lath with cut nails for flooring, date it to about 1890 to 1895, a full stylistic generation after the brick house. "Hayman" is Haman; no son of that name existed.

Earlier versions of this document could place the building only by inference, and offered the 63-acre tract sold in 1904 and the ground later platted as West Manor as candidate sites.⁵²

The family memoir settles it. Writing in 2010, Franklin's great-grandson records that in 1941 "they tore down the wood frame home which was right beside the brick home."⁶⁵ The second Bordner dwelling therefore stood on the homestead itself, in the yard of the brick house, and lasted about half a century. That matches the documentary picture of the 1890s and 1900s, in which two Bordner households are recorded on the farm on the Massillon road: Haman and Lidia in one house, their son Franklin with his wife Emma and their three children in the other. It also explains why the 1974 survey draws only one building: the frame house had been gone thirty-three years by then.

The final sheet of the specification, which would carry the date, the price, and the signatures, is missing. No photograph of the frame house has been identified, though aerial photography of the period before 1941 has not yet been searched and would be expected to show it.

The family after Haman

Haman Bordner died at home on October 4, 1903. His will, probated October 13, left the property, which he called "Homestead Farm," to Lidia, with the homestead to pass to Franklin; Lidia elected under the will on April 1, 1904, and the estate closed March 3, 1906.²⁸ The heirs sold 63.18 acres in the southwest quarter to the Sisters of the Holy Humility of Mary in July 1904 for \$28,431; the purchase was made for the order by Monsignor James O'Leary. That land became Mount Marie Academy, which opened in 1905 and was merged into Central Catholic High School in 1946; the campus is Central Catholic's today.²⁹ A 1911 order and certificate of transfer vested the 145.12-acre homestead in Franklin.²⁵

Franklin married Emma C. Ream, daughter of Henry Ream and Anna Oberlin, and farmed the home place.³⁰ Their three children were Niles Orris (1884 to 1940), Verna, and Audella. Niles became a lumber-company foreman near Canton and married Bessie Jolly (1884 to 1945); their children were Russell Denver Bordner and Zelda Kathern, later Mrs. Stanley Whitacre, the same two heirs who conveyed Niles's third of the house lot in 1949.⁵⁶ It was through Zelda's line that the family's own record of itself came back to this research: the genealogy is inscribed as given in 2008 by the family of James D. Whitacre, great-grandson of Franklin and Emma, and it is the same James D. Whitacre, Zelda's son, who wrote the 2010 memoir drawn on throughout this version.⁵⁷ Niles and Verna appear as children in an 1890s photograph in the house; Audella later owned it. Two Farmers Bank of Canton deposit receipts, \$20 each, dated August 31 and November 4, 1899, and signed Frank J. Bordner, are framed in the hall.³¹ An undated clipping, probably from the 1910s, records the theft and recovery of Franklin's \$3,200 automobile from a swamp near Schroyer Avenue.³² Samantha Bordner Clay's family, including her first home on North Main Street in North Canton, is documented in a third framed collage.

The neighbors and the village, 1893

The tract Haman sold H. U. Reed in April 1893 did not stay farmland. Three weeks later Reed advertised in the *Canton Repository* for a name for the "interurban town" he meant to build on it, offering one of his \$200 lots to the winner; Charles Bayliss of the electric light plant submitted "Reedurban," and Reed recorded the plat of 231 lots on May 23. Its eastern boundary street was named Bordner Street, and the chapter that records all this describes the land beyond it simply as "Harman Bordner's farm."⁷¹ Reedurban is still on the map, immediately west of the house.

From farm to neighborhood, 1925 to 1935

In February 1925 Franklin J. Bordner, by then a widower, had 43.247 acres of the southeast quarter surveyed into lots and recorded the plat as West Manor Allotment No. 3.³³ Early the next year he conveyed every lot in the allotment (Lots 136 to 208 and 210 to 274) to West Manor, Incorporated, his development company, subject to

restrictive covenants, and reserved Lot 209, the lot on which the house stood; the deed provides that “buildings now on lot No. 209 shall not be affected.”³⁴ Streets and sidewalks followed, and so did the amenities a developer of the 1920s was expected to provide: a miniature golf course and tennis courts on the ground between Seventh Street and Tuscarawas, both built by Franklin.⁷²

He named the streets after his own household. Delverne Avenue is his two daughters, Audella and Verna, run together; Miles Avenue is his son Niles, softened by a letter; Fairlane Avenue, the street this house fronts on the west, is Franklin himself; Manor Avenue marks roughly the center of the project and Western Avenue its last street west. Hillcrest Avenue repeats the name of the farm.⁷³ When Franklin’s two daughters signed as executrices of his estate in 1941 they gave their address as 715 Delverne Avenue SW, the street named for them.

Lots sold slowly. The memoir records that when the Depression arrived in 1929 Franklin stood \$100,000 in debt to the contracting families who had built the allotment out.⁷⁴ The bulk of the lots did not sell until soldiers came home after the Second World War.

Franklin died in July 1935, still owning Lot 209.³⁵ A 1945 certificate of transfer passed the lot in thirds to his children Verna B. Whitney, Audella B. Shellhouse, and the heirs of Niles O. Bordner.³⁶ Through a 1949 deed from Niles’s heirs and 1960 and 1961 quitclaims from Verna’s line, Audella and her husband Walter consolidated title, and a 1961 gift deed from Walter made Audella sole owner.³⁷ In 1963 and 1964 she sold the south 72-foot tier of the lot as three house lots, which is why later deeds describe the parcel as Lot 209 “excepting the south 144 feet.”³⁸

1941

One year in the middle of the century did more to change the look of the place than any other. The frame house beside the brick one came down. The windmill that appears in the 1892 engraving and in the family photographs came down with it, and city water was run into the house in its place. And the movable relics of the farm were divided among Franklin’s grandchildren: the grandfather clock and the cuckoo clock from the Bordner home, the farm dinner bell, and the barn lantern went to Russell Denver Bordner and Zelda Bordner Whitacre.⁶⁵ Whether any of the four survives is not known.

What was left of the farm outside the allotment went last: six acres running from Western Avenue to Central Catholic, part of which James D. Whitacre built his own house on, the rest sold to a builder named Harry Geltz.⁷⁵ By the 1950s the descendants were putting in the infrastructure themselves; the memoir’s author records cutting 13th Street SW through from Western to Beltzer and running the water and sewer down from Western Avenue in 1956.⁷⁵

The quiet years, 1968 to 1974

Audella Bordner Shellhouse died in February 1968, ending 103 years of Bordner ownership.³⁹ Her executor sold the lot to Carmen S. and Mary L. Sarno in February 1969; the Sarnos sold to Donald J. and Carol J. DiRuzza in May 1974.⁴⁰ Neither family lived in the house, which matches the 1976 newspaper description of two owners who “took ownership but never lived inside the structure.”⁴¹

The Cady years, 1974 to 1986

On October 2, 1974, the DiRuzzas conveyed to Jack A. and Gloria S. Cady the north 107.84 feet of the west side of Lot 209, a 0.6564-acre parcel running 173.90 feet along Seventh Street SW, surveyed that September by Shisler, Hunsinger & Hoover of Canton. The conveyance fee of \$23.50 implies a price of about \$23,000.⁷ Five newspaper accounts between 1976 and 1984 place the purchase in the fall of 1974; a single 1985 quotation giving “1973” and “auction” is treated as a misrecollection.⁴²

The Cadys restored the house over the following decade. Reported work includes the roof, the stone wall, plaster and floors, and 550 yards of carpet; they furnished it with about 150 period pieces, among them a late-1830s New Orleans tester bed, a walnut Renaissance Revival bed with a nine-and-a-half-foot headboard, a rosewood square grand piano of about 1870, a nine-and-a-half-foot china closet, red velvet drapes the press described as salvaged from “the former Loew’s Theatre” downtown, and an 1870s-style gasolier with three gas and three electric arms. By October 1985 they put their spending at \$80,000 to \$90,000 beyond the purchase price.⁴³

The house was entered in the National Register of Historic Places on February 17, 1978. Thomas H. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer, wrote to Mr. Jack A. Cady at the property on February 28 to confirm it; the letter is framed in the hall.⁶ The August 1978 *Repository* headline, “Old Eyesore Becomes Pride,” records the local view of the transformation.⁴⁴

In 1984 both Cadys retired.⁴⁵ That December the house opened to the public for the first time as “Victorian Christmas ’84,” ten decorated rooms, December 1 through 23, \$5 in advance or \$6 at the door, tickets sold through area churches, the Humane Society, and local businesses, proceeds designated for roof and stone-wall repair, under the newly organized Haman and Lidia Bordner Historical Society and Museum, founded by the Cadys with neighbors Mike and Arlene Hill.⁴⁶ The flyer’s tagline read “Only 10 minutes and a century away.” The society’s nonprofit charter has not been confirmed against Secretary of State records.

A full regular season followed: open May 1, 1985, Fridays through Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m., through November 15, admission \$3 for adults and \$2 for students, with a second Christmas tour that November. Jack Cady reported fewer than 1,000 visitors in the first season.⁴⁷ Coverage ran in the *Repository*, the *Akron Beacon Journal*, the *Perry Post*, and *Farm & Dairy* of Salem, Ohio.

The Cadys sold to Gene and Shirley J. Barnhart on August 4, 1986.⁴⁸ The recorded deed states nominal consideration only. A figure of \$90,000 sometimes given as the sale price appears to conflate the sale with the restoration spending reported a year earlier and is not repeated here. An undated *Free Press* clipping, “Local History Up for Sale,” offering antique furniture “purchased with the home,” is very likely the marketing for this sale.⁴⁹

Since 1986

The Barnharts held the house for thirty years. In 2016 it passed by trustee’s deed from the Shirley J. Barnhart Revocable Trust to Gene Barnhart and then, in December 2016, within the family again.⁵⁰ That decade’s work, described in a 2026 handwritten note from the departing owner to her successor, included a new boiler, professional repair of the stone wall, fencing and an electric gate, a year of hand-stripping paint from the breakfast room woodwork, refinishing of the floors, and the hand-dug perennial gardens with their own irrigation. Leftover rolls of the wallpapers used in the house were retained.²⁷

The house was conveyed to the present owner on March 6, 2026.⁵¹ That year the kitchen and breakfast room were taken to the walls and rebuilt by licensed trades, with the original brick exposed and repointed, the kitchen’s antique chandelier rewired and rehung, and the breakfast room’s original built-in cabinetry, plate rail, and window seat retained.

The photographs

Three groups of images survive. The first is the set of framed collages with typed museum-era captions that hang in the house. Read directly in September 2026, the caption under the barn photograph states: “The Bordner family posed for this picture shortly after 1880. Notice date on barn in background 1877. This photograph shows Haman Bordner, his wife Lidia, Lidia’s mother, son Franklin, daughter Samantha, Franklin’s wife Emma Bordner (Nee Ream). Other people in photo are presumed to be hired help.” The seated white-bearded man at the center, two

dogs at his feet, is therefore Haman Bordner, the only identified likeness of him known to this research.⁵⁹ A second caption on the same frame, torn at the mat edge, identifies a group under bare trees as Haman with Franklin and Franklin’s children Niles and Verna, about 1895.⁵⁹

The second group is eleven album prints supplied in 2026, several of which are the source prints behind the framed collages. Identifications supplied with the prints, and not otherwise documented, name Franklin holding a horse in the yard with the windmill behind him; Franklin and Emma’s three children, Niles, Verna, and Audella, in a studio portrait; Niles as a young man, on a mount from Whitla’s studio at Market and Tenth in Canton; Zelda Bordner at age three, Courtney Studio; and Bessie (Jolly) Bordner with her mother Caroline Jolly in a 1920s group with an infant. Two prints, an oval couple portrait and the woman holding the infant, remain unidentified. The two-story brick house visible in several of these prints matches the subject house in its window hoods, brackets, and roofline but has not been proven to be it.⁶⁰

The third group is fifteen nitrate negatives found in the house and scanned in 2026, undated, roughly 1900 to 1925 by dress. Besides the barn, they show the front entrance under ivy with its arched fanlight and iron rail; the fieldstone gateposts, one faced with a stone medallion; an elderly bearded man seated in a wicker chair before the house with two dogs and a crow on the chair back; a man on horseback before the barn; a child on a sled beside an open garage door with a touring car inside; and a decorated Christmas tree in the hall. None of the negatives carries a caption. The bearded man in the wicker chair resembles the confirmed Haman in the barn photograph but is not the same exposure and is not confirmed.⁶¹

A fourth image is worth recording although it is not a photograph. The envelope loaned in September 2026 carries a two-cent Washington stamp and a machine cancel from Beverly Hills, California, and is addressed in a confident hand to “Frank Bordner and Family, Massillon Road, ‘Hillcrest,’ Canton, Ohio, R.F.D.” The stamp and the domestic rate place it between about 1923 and 1932. It is the only artifact so far found in which the family’s own name for the place is used as a postal address, and it establishes that the name was known outside Stark County. Only the front survives; the letter has not been located.⁶⁴

5. Chain of title

Recorded instruments at the Stark County Recorder unless otherwise noted. The parcel is Lot 209 of West Manor Allotment No. 3 from 1925 forward, and the 0.6564-acre northwest portion of that lot from 1974 forward. The two rows before 1865 are included for context and rest on secondary sources, not on instruments read for this document.

Date	From / To	Instrument	Notes
1809–1812	United States to James Latta; John H. Brinton; John Brinton	Original federal entries, per a compiled map	Section 12 entire, 639.7 ac.; quarter assignments and land office unconfirmed
1847	to Samuel Lahm	Not traced	500 ac. astride the State Road
Jan. 24, 1865	Samuel Lahm to Haman Bordner	Deed, recorded Jan. 30, 1865	80 ac., east side SE 1/4 Sec. 12, \$5,000
Apr. 5, 1870	Samuel Lahm to Haman Bordner	Purchase-money mortgage, Vol. 109	72 ac., \$7,617
1903–1911	Haman Bordner (d.) to Franklin J. Bordner	Will, probated Oct. 13, 1903; Certificate of Transfer, 1911	145.12 ac. homestead
May 19, 1914	Quiet-title decree	Common Pleas No. 23774	Releases 1859 Massillon Rolling Mill mortgage

Date	From / To	Instrument	Notes
Feb. 1925	Franklin J. Bordner, plat	Plat Book 17, p. 94	West Manor Allotment No. 3, 43.247 ac.
Feb.–Mar. 1926	Franklin J. Bordner to West Manor, Inc.	Deed, Vol. 882, p. 591	All lots except Lot 209
June 11, 1945	Estate of Franklin J. Bordner to Verna B. Whitney, Audella B. Shellhouse, Niles O. Bordner (dec.)	Certificate of Transfer	One third each; Will Record 83, p. 274
Dec. 23, 1949	Heirs of Niles O. Bordner to Walter A. and Audella B. Shellhouse	Deed, Vol. 1887, p. 369	Undivided one third
1960–1961	Larry H. Lape and Marjorie E. Lape to Walter A. and Audella B. Shellhouse	Quitclaims, Vol. 2755, p. 171; Vol. 2789, p. 283	Verna Whitney's line
Aug. 22, 1961	Walter A. Shellhouse to Audella B. Shellhouse	Deed, Vol. 2825, p. 610	Gift; Audella sole owner
1963–1964	Audella B. Shellhouse to Holmes, Murphy, Miller	Vol. 2947/178; 2966/543; 2970/624; 3004/635	South 72-ft tier sold as three lots
Feb. 19, 1969	Estate of Audella B. Shellhouse to Carmen S. and Mary L. Sarno	Executor's deed, Vol. 3362, p. 235	Lot 209 less south 144 ft
May 17, 1974	Sarno to Donald J. and Carol J. DiRuzza	Deed, Vol. 3750, p. 556	
Oct. 2, 1974	DiRuzza to Jack A. and Gloria S. Cady	Deed, Vol. 3783, p. 66	0.6564 ac.; conveyance fee \$23.50
Aug. 4, 1986	Cady to Gene and Shirley J. Barnhart	Deed, Vol. 455, p. 935	Nominal consideration stated; recital cites 3786/66 in error for 3783/66
Oct. 13, 2016	Shirley J. Barnhart Rev. Trust to Gene Barnhart	Trustee's deed, inst. 2016011669	
Dec. 15, 2016	Gene Barnhart to Deborah L. Orians	Deed, inst. 2016014309	Family transfer
Mar. 6, 2026	Deborah L. Orians to present owner	Deed, inst. 202602415	\$335,000

6. Documents preserved in the house

The following items were photographed in the house in August and September 2026. They are the property of the owner. Reproduction here and elsewhere is by permission.

No.	Item	Description
1	County atlas engraving, framed	"Residence of Haman Bordner, Sec. 12, Perry Tp., Stark Co., Ohio." Plate between pp. 198 and 201 of <i>Portrait and Biographical Record of Stark County, Ohio</i> (Chapman Bros., Chicago, 1892)
2	Floor plans, framed	"Ground Plan" and "Chamber Plan," 1880, drawn to scale, period hand; unread signature lower right
3	Bank receipts, framed	Farmers Bank of Canton, \$20 each, Aug. 31 and Nov. 4, 1899, signed Frank J. Bordner
4	Flyer, framed	"Victorian Christmas '84," Haman and Lidia Bordner Historical Society and Museum

No.	Item	Description
5	Letter, framed	Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Thomas H. Smith, SHPO, to Jack A. Cady, Feb. 28, 1978
6	Brochure	The Haman & Lidia Bordner Historical Society and Museum of Victorian Furniture, April 1985, both sides
7	Exhibit placard and photograph	Museum era; “Builder: Haman Bordner, 1880 ... High Victorian Italianate”
8	Family photograph collages, three frames	The family at the 1877 barn, c. 1880–85; Franklin’s children Niles and Verna, c. 1895; the Clay family of North Canton. Typed museum-era captions
9	Route 30 collage, framed	c. 1920: the house and Summer House from the unpaved highway, the Bordner lane, Canton trolley car No. 69 with crew
10	Boundary survey, unframed	Shisler, Hunsinger & Hoover, Sept. 16, 1974, certified by Howard Paul Shisler, R.S. No. 4721
11	Newspaper clippings, 20 items	1976 to 1985 plus one undated; full transcriptions on file with the listing agent
12	Building specification, 11 sheets	“Specifications of a dwelling house to be built for Mr. Hayman Bordner,” c. 1890–95, for the frame house that stood beside the brick house until 1941 (see Section 4)
13	Nitrate negatives, 15	Found in the house, scanned 2026; c. 1900–1925; barn with F. J. BORDNER lettering, front entrance, gateposts, family scenes, Christmas interior. Uncaptioned
14	Family album prints, 11	Supplied 2026; source prints for two of the framed collages; identifications as noted in Section 4, “The photographs”

The following were loaned by Cary Coates, First Vice President and Historian of the Perry History Club, and are not the property of the house. Items 15 to 19 are the basis for most of what is new in versions 1.1 and 1.3.

No.	Item	Description
15	Bordner genealogy, photocopied excerpts, 20 pp.	Howard W. Bordner, <i>The Bordner and Burtner Families and Their Bortner Ancestors in America</i> (1967, repr. 1971), inscribed as given in 2008 by the James D. Whitacre family; with Mr. Coates’s handwritten “Bordner Interview” and historic-map notes, pre-2014
16	Family memoir, 3 pp. manuscript	“West Manor Reflections,” Feb. 8, 2010, by James D. Whitacre, great-grandson of Franklin James Bordner, born 1932 and resident of the former farm for 78 years
17	Envelope, scanned	Addressed to “Frank Bordner and Family, Massillon Road, ‘Hillcrest,’ Canton, Ohio, R.F.D.”; 2¢ Washington stamp, Beverly Hills, Calif. cancel, c. 1923–1932. Front only
18	Township history, 1 printed page	“Reedurban,” by Carolyn Totten, p. 105 of a Perry Township history, c. 1976
19	Maps, four sheets	Williams Bros., Perry Township, Stark County, Ohio, 1855 (two photographs); Beers, <i>Atlas of Stark County</i> , Perry Township, p. 23, 1870; county ownership map, Perry R.9, c. 1924; compiled map of original entries, T.X. R.IX Perry, from Steubenville Land Office records, 1800–1820

7. Where the sources disagree

Two questions are left open in this document because the evidence does not settle them.

The size of the farm. Family recollection to reporters, 1976 to 1985: about 640 acres. Family recollection in writing, 2010: 163 acres. Record: roughly 250 to 300 acres in fee at the peak, 213.33 acres on the 1896 atlas, 143.07 acres on the map of about 1924, and 145.12 acres descending as the homestead. See Section 4, “The farm.”

The staircase wood. Five period sources between 1976 and 1985: black walnut, milled on the farm. The 2016–2026 owner’s 2026 note: mahogany, unstained. A physical identification would resolve this and this document will be revised when one is obtained.

A third and smaller disagreement is noted rather than left open. The memoir dates the laying out of the allotment to 1927 and the barn’s removal to the same year; the recorded plat is February 1925 and the sale to West Manor, Inc. early 1926. The instruments govern the dates of the plat and the sale. 1927 is most naturally read as the year the farm visibly stopped being a farm, which is also the year the memoir gives for the barn.

8. Corrections to earlier published accounts

Earlier claim	Corrected	Basis
Haman Bordner came from Pennsylvania (or Boston) “with a gun and a dog”	Born Bethlehem Twp., Stark County, 1829. The walk was his father’s: John P. Bordner, in his teens in the 1820s, on foot with rifle, bundle, and dog	1892 biography; Bordner genealogy (1967)
Haman paid \$3,500 for the farm, sight unseen	\$5,000 for 80 acres, Jan. 24, 1865	Recorded deed
Haman died in 1902	Oct. 4, 1903	Probate; obituary
National Register listing in 1976, or Feb. 28, 1978	Feb. 17, 1978; Feb. 28 is the SHPO notification letter	NPS; letter
The Cadys bought “at auction in 1973”	Deed dated Oct. 2, 1974	Recorded deed; five press accounts
Staircase is rosewood (1984); mahogany (later listing material)	Historical consensus: black walnut; competing 2026 claim noted	Five period sources; see Section 7
1986 sale price \$90,000	Recorded consideration nominal; \$90,000 is the reported restoration spending	Deed Vol. 455/935; Oct. 1985 press
Farm platted as 145 acres in 1925	43.247 acres platted as West Manor No. 3; 145.12 was the devised homestead	Plat Book 17/94; 1911 certificate
“Schellhouse”	Shellhouse, per deed record	Recorded deeds
The 1890s building specification describes a lost house on an unknown site, possibly the tract sold in 1904 (versions 1.0–1.2 of this document)	The frame house stood immediately beside the brick house and was torn down in 1941	Whitacre memoir, 2010
The barn was moved in 1928	1927, per the family; it stood about fifty years more	Whitacre memoir, 2010, against <i>The Post</i> , Nov. 26, 1985
Franklin J. Bordner (middle initial only)	Franklin James Bordner	Whitacre memoir, 2010
Henry Bordner settled in Canton Township about 1810 (versions 1.0–1.3 of this document)	Pike Township, Stark County	Bordner genealogy (1967), p. 142
Frank Purdy Lahm, the aviator, was Samuel Lahm’s son (version 1.3, following Totten)	Grandson. Samuel’s son was Frank Samuel Lahm, the balloonist	Congressional and Air Force biographies

Earlier claim	Corrected	Basis
The parlor drapes came from the Canton Palace Theatre, “the former Loew’s” (versions 1.0–1.3)	The Palace opened in 1926 under its own name and was never a Loew’s. The theatre the 1985 press meant is unidentified	Palace Theatre history; see Section 9
Franklin Bordner laid the cornerstone of Mount Marie Academy (version 1.3)	Withdrawn. The memoir’s sentence is ambiguous and more naturally reads as the church laying it	Whitacre memoir, 2010

9. Open questions and leads

The largest question the earlier versions carried, the site of the 1890s frame house, is answered in Section 4 and is closed. What remains:

The original entry for the southeast quarter. The compiled entry map gives Section 12 to James Latta (1809) and to John H. Brinton and John Brinton (both 1812), but the internal quarter lines are not legible on the copy consulted. A clean scan of the original sheet, or a Bureau of Land Management search now that there are names to match, would fix which of the three took the ground this house stands on. Samuel Lahm’s own acquisition, between those entries and his 500-acre purchase of 1847, is likewise untraced.

Aerial photography before 1941. The Ohio flights of 1938 and 1939, and later county imagery, predate the demolition of the frame house and should show it standing beside the brick one. No such image has yet been pulled. This is the most promising remaining lead in the whole file and it is inexpensive to chase.

The 1941 heirlooms. The grandfather clock, the cuckoo clock, the farm dinner bell, and the barn lantern went to Russell Denver Bordner and Zelda Bordner Whitacre. Whether any of the four survives is not known, and the question is worth putting to the family directly, because the family is still here. James D. Whitacre, Zelda’s son and the author of the 2010 memoir this version draws on, came back to the house with relatives during the 2026 open house, at the age of ninety-three, and stood in the rooms his great-grandfather built.⁷⁹

The Perry Township history. Only one page of it, the chapter on Reedurban, has been seen. Its title, editor, and date are not recorded here, and the rest of the volume very likely carries material on West Manor, the Lincoln Highway, and the township’s farms.

The “Hillcrest” letter. Only the front of the envelope survives. Who was writing to the Bordners from Beverly Hills in the 1920s, and what the letter said, are unknown. The postmark year is illegible on the copy.

The land office. The compiled entry map is annotated as drawn from Steubenville Land Office records of 1800 to 1820. The Steubenville office ran from 1801 to 1840, but a separate office for the tract containing Stark County opened at Canton in 1807 and moved to Wooster in 1811, so entries dated 1809 and 1812 would not ordinarily have been made at Steubenville. Either the compiler drew on a Steubenville-held copy of records made elsewhere, or the annotation is loose. The original tract books would settle it.

The parlor drapes. One period source names a theatre. The *Akron Beacon Journal* of December 1, 1984 says the drapes “were fashioned from curtains that once hung in Loew’s Theatre downtown.” A *Farm & Dairy* photo caption of June 1985 says only that they “came from a theater in downtown Canton.” The attribution to the Palace Theatre appears first in listing material for the house in 2025 and again in the 2026 owner’s note, forty years after the fact and with no period source behind it; versions 1.0 to 1.3 of this document repeated it. Two things are worth noting for anyone who takes this up. First, the drapes were made *from* theatre curtains rather than hung as they came, so they are Cady-era work using salvaged material, not original to the house. Second, the Palace closed in 1976 and stood dark until 1980 while some four million dollars of restoration went into it, which is exactly the

window in which its old curtains would have come out and exactly when the Cadys were furnishing the house from salvage. That is a better mechanism for a Palace connection than anything in the 1984 article, but it requires the 1984 account to have named the wrong house. It may well have: the same article is also the sole source of the “rosewood” staircase error. No theatre called Loew’s has been found in downtown Canton, though that search was not exhaustive.

The Palace’s own curtain, and where to see it. A color rendering of the Palace auditorium published in *Motion Picture News* on December 30, 1927, a year after the house opened, shows the main curtain clearly. It is a full-stage pleated drape hung under a scalloped valance, cream and gold in the high folds and shading to rust and a deep red at the hem, with a red drape at the organ screen on the stage-right side. The Palace therefore did have a red-and-gold house curtain. That is consistent with the drapes in this house but it does not settle anything, because red and gold was the standard palette of nearly every atmospheric picture palace built in the 1920s and a Canton Loew’s would have looked much the same.⁷⁷

Three sources would move this further and none has been exhausted. The *Canton Daily News* of November 21, 1926 ran a nine-page supplement for the opening, digitized from the Stark County District Library’s copy; its fourth page is headed “Unusual Views of New Palace Theater Which Will Open Monday Evening” and carries both an architect’s conception of the stage and a stage photograph by the paper’s own photographer, Paul Pfout. That photograph is the likeliest surviving picture of the original curtain. The Palace’s National Register nomination, reference 79001949, listed April 26, 1979, is not digitized; a nomination photographed in 1978 or 1979 would show the auditorium essentially as it stood when the doors were locked in 1976, curtain included, and it is held by the same Ohio State Historic Preservation Office that holds this house’s own nomination file. And the *Repository*’s files for 1976 to 1980 would record any sale or dispersal of the Palace’s fittings during the dark years.⁷⁸

Mount Marie or Mount Maria. The academy on the former Bordner tract is called Mount Marie in the Canton press and in this document. Some accounts of the sisters’ motherhouse on the same land give the name as Mount Maria. The two have not been reconciled, and no source consulted names the order that actually operated the academy, as against the order that bought the land.

Other leads not yet pursued: the fate of the 1877 barn in the Paris area, now datable to about 1927 to 1977; the Historical Society’s 1985 charter at the Ohio Secretary of State; the National Register nomination file, obtainable from the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office; the actual 1986 consideration, obtainable from the conveyance fee on Deed Vol. 455, p. 935; the 1925 West Manor plat, which the 2016–2026 owner reported to be in a chest in the house; and the builder Harry Geltz, who bought the last six acres of the farm.

On the photographs: the oval couple portrait and the woman holding the infant in the 1920s group are unidentified; the identifications supplied with the album prints rest on family notes rather than captions and would benefit from a second family source; a line of faded cursive across the top of the barn print has not been read; and the torn words in the 1895 collage caption should be confirmed against the frame. The Perry History Club’s map notes kept with the genealogy record a separate 100-acre P. J. Bordner farm near Summerdale and a 167-acre C. E. Bordner farm in Section 36; both belong to other branches of the family and should not be conflated with this farm.⁶²

On the family: the 2010 memoir gives Verna Bordner Whitney one daughter, Roberta, while the recorded deeds show Larry Harlan Lape and Marjorie E. Lape releasing Verna’s line’s interest in 1960 and 1961 and name Larry as Audella’s executor. The likeliest reading is that Roberta married a Lape and that Larry and Marjorie are her children, but this has not been established.⁷⁶

Corrections, additions, and family information are welcome and will be credited in later versions. Contact information is on the last page.

10. Notes

1. Deed, Samuel Lahm to Haman Bordner, Jan. 24, 1865 (proven); *Portrait and Biographical Record of Stark County, Ohio* (Chicago: Chapman Bros., 1892), pp. 200–201 (hereafter “1892 biography”).
2. Sandstone date block over the front entry, observed 2026; National Register listing, reference 78002191.
3. Bordner Museum brochure, April 1985; museum exhibit placard; *Perry Post*, July 20, 1976; *The Repository*, Oct. 6, 1985; *The Post*, Nov. 26, 1985. Corroborated across five sources. The Dec. 1, 1984 *Akron Beacon Journal* “rosewood” is the single outlier.
4. Bordner Museum brochure, April 1985 (reported; consistent with physical evidence).
5. Jack Cady, quoted in *Perry Post*, July 20, 1976 (“around 1920”); exhibit placard (“early 1900s”); 1974 survey labeling “Enclosed Porch.” The 1976 first-person date is preferred.
6. National Park Service, NPGallery / NRIS 78002191, listed Feb. 17, 1978 (proven); letter, Thomas H. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer, to Jack A. Cady, Feb. 28, 1978, framed in the house.
7. Deed, DiRuzza to Cady, Oct. 2, 1974, rec. Oct. 4, Stark Deed Vol. 3783, pp. 66–67, conveyance fee \$23.50 (proven); survey, Shisler, Hunsinger & Hoover, Sept. 16, 1974, in the house.
8. 1892 biography, pp. 200–201.
9. *Farm & Dairy* (Salem, Ohio), June 6, 1985; Bordner Museum brochure, 1985; two undated 1980s clippings giving “Boston.” All reported; contradicted by the 1892 biography.
10. 1892 biography; family portrait caption, museum era, in the house.
11. 1892 biography; Franklin J. Bordner, Ohio death certificate file 45513 (birth Jan. 24, 1858); middle name “James” from the Whitacre memoir, 2010.
12. Stark County deed volume, pp. 394–395, digitized at FamilySearch (image group 008331265, image 224), witnessed George W. Roff, recorded Jan. 30, 1865 (proven).
13. Mortgage, Haman Bordner to Samuel Lahm, Jan. 28, 1865, \$3,000 (proven).
14. *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*, s.v. Lahm, Samuel (b. Apr. 22, 1812; d. June 16, 1876); Ohio Senate 1842–44; U.S. House, Ohio’s 18th district, 1847–49. Totten, “Reedurban,” p. 105, calls Samuel Lahm “the father of Frank P. Lahm”; that is one generation off. Samuel’s son was Frank Samuel Lahm (1846–1931); the aviator Frank Purdy Lahm (1877–1963) was Samuel’s grandson. Lahm is commonly called the Army’s first military aviator, but he received the formal Military Aviator rating only in 1913 and was the fourteenth so rated; the precise and defensible claim is that he was the first Army officer to fly in an airplane, in September 1908 (corroborated).
15. Mortgage, Mathias Grovemiller to Samuel Lahm, Apr. 5, 1870, Stark Mortgage Vol. 109 (proven).
16. Mortgage, Haman Bordner to Samuel Lahm, Apr. 5, 1870, Stark Mortgage Vol. 109, FamilySearch image group 008331276, image 375 (proven).
17. *Atlas of Stark County, Ohio* (Beers, 1870), Perry Township, p. 23, read from a photograph of the plate, Sept. 2026. Parcels in Section 12: S. Lahm 160 A.; 15 A.; 70 A.; H. Bordner 80 A.; and, north of the section line, M. Grofmiller 160 A., J. Miller 80, and Bachtel & Bordner 80 A.
18. *Bordner v. The Massillon Rolling Mill Co.*, Stark County Common Pleas No. 23774, decree May 19, 1914, Judge H. F. Ake; mortgage of Dec. 23, 1859, Mortgage Vol. Y, p. 67 (proven).
19. Family portrait caption, in the house (“barn dated 1877”); *The Post*, Nov. 26, 1985; Whitacre memoir, 2010.
20. *The Post*, Nov. 26, 1985 (1928); Whitacre memoir, 2010 (1927, “used for 50 more years”). Both reported; the family account is preferred for the year and is the only source for the barn’s later life.
21. Bordner Museum brochure, 1985; *Farm & Dairy*, June 6, 1985.
22. Bordner Museum brochure, 1985; *Farm & Dairy*, June 6, 1985; exhibit placard. Consistent family recollection, 1976–1985; not supported by the deed record.
23. 1892 biography (247 and 85 acres); *Atlas of Stark County, Ohio* (Kauffman, 1896), Perry Township (213.33 ac.) and Jackson Township, T11N R9, Sections 21–22 (35.21 and 50.25 ac.).
24. *Canton Morning News*, June 11 and July 9 and 11, 1904 (reported).
25. Certificate of Transfer, Estate of Haman Bordner, 1911, 145.12 acres (proven); Jack Cady in *Perry Post*, July 20, 1976 (“150 acres”).
26. Framed floor plans, in the house; observed 2026.
27. Handwritten note, the 2016–2026 owner to the 2026 purchaser, 2026, in the house (reported; first-person, present-day). Quoted here in substance rather than by name: it is private correspondence between two owners, not a published source.
28. Stark County Probate, Estate of Haman Bordner, No. 6896: will probated Oct. 13, 1903; widow’s election Apr. 1, 1904; final account Mar. 3, 1906 (proven). Obituary, Oct. 1903. Name “Homestead Farm” in the will; also *The Post*, Nov. 26, 1985.

29. *Canton Morning News*, July 9 and 11, 1904; tract description in the Sisters' 1918 mortgage notice; Diocese of Youngstown parcels 4380023 and 4380368 (corroborated). Monsignor James O'Leary as purchaser, and the date July 8, 1904: Totten, "Reedurban," p. 105 (reported; the recorded transfer is July 9). Mount Marie Academy opened 1905 and merged with St. John High School to form Central Catholic in 1946. Two cautions on names: the period Canton press and the 1918 mortgage notice call the order the Sisters of the Holy Humility of Mary, which is the older form; the congregation today is the Sisters of the Humility of Mary. And the sisters' own motherhouse on this land appears in some accounts as "Mount Maria" rather than "Mount Marie"; the two have not been reconciled here. The Whitacre memoir's run-on sentence has been read by this document as saying the church laid the cornerstone, not Franklin Bordner; the earlier reading is withdrawn (see Section 9).
30. *Portrait and Biographical Record* (1892) and Danner, *Old Landmarks of Canton and Stark County* (1904), p. 977, on Emma C. Ream.
31. Framed receipts, in the house.
32. Undated clipping, unidentified Canton daily, "Stolen Car Discovered," in the house (reported).
33. Stark County Plat Book 17, p. 94, West Manor Allotment No. 3, surveyor's certificate, Feb. 1925 (proven).
34. Deed, Franklin J. Bordner to West Manor, Incorporated, Stark Deed Vol. 882, p. 591, rec. c. Mar. 1926 (proven).
35. Ohio death certificate file 45513 (July 5, 1935); Certificate of Transfer 1945 recites July 15, 1935; Stark Probate estate No. 35042 (proven; date discrepancy noted).
36. Certificate of Transfer, June 11, 1945, rec. July 25, 1945; Will Record 83, p. 274 (proven).
37. Stark Deed Vols. 1887/369 (Dec. 23, 1949); 2755/171 (Oct. 31, 1960); 2789/283 (May 5, 1961); 2825/610 (Aug. 22, 1961) (proven).
38. Stark Deed Vols. 2947/178; 2966/543; 2970/624; 3004/635 (1963–64) (proven).
39. Will of Audella B. Shellhouse, filed Feb. 27, 1968, probated Feb. 28, 1968; executor Larry H. Lape appointed Mar. 4, 1968 (proven). Newspapers of 1985 spell the name "Schellhouse"; the deed record governs.
40. Executor's deed, Stark Deed Vol. 3362, pp. 235–236, Feb. 19, 1969; deed, Vol. 3750, pp. 556–557, May 17, 1974 (proven).
41. *Perry Post*, July 20, 1976.
42. *Perry Post*, July 20, 1976; *The Repository*, Aug. 13, 1978; *The Repository*, Nov. 30, 1984; *Akron Beacon Journal*, Dec. 1, 1984; *The Journal*, Dec. 18, 1984 (fall 1974). *The Repository*, Oct. 6, 1985 ("1973," "auction").
43. *The Repository*, Nov. 30, 1984; *Akron Beacon Journal*, Dec. 1, 1984; *The Journal*, Dec. 18, 1984; *The Repository*, Oct. 6, 1985; *The Post*, Nov. 26, 1985 (corroborated as to the furnishings). The 1985 press names the theatre "the former Loew's." Earlier versions of this document identified that with the Canton Palace Theatre; that identification is withdrawn. The Palace opened on Nov. 22, 1926 as the Palace, built by Harry H. Ink to John Eberson's design, and was not a Loew's house. Which downtown Canton theatre the drapes came from is unresolved (see Section 9).
44. Rosemary Kubera, "Old Eyesore Becomes Pride," *The Repository*, Aug. 13, 1978.
45. Cathie McCullough, *Farm & Dairy*, June 6, 1985 (reported).
46. "Victorian Christmas '84" flyer, in the house; *The Repository*, Nov. 30, 1984; *Akron Beacon Journal*, Dec. 1, 1984; *The Journal*, Dec. 18, 1984; undated Dec. 1984 clipping (proven as to event; details corroborated).
47. *Farm & Dairy*, June 6, 1985 (opening date, hours, admission); *The Repository*, Oct. 6, 1985 (attendance); *The Post*, Nov. 26, 1985 (Christmas tour).
48. Deed, Cady to Barnhart, Aug. 4, 1986, Stark Deed Vol. 455, p. 935 (proven).
49. *Free Press*, undated (mid-1980s), p. B2, "Local History Up for Sale" (reported).
50. Trustee's deed, inst. 2016011669, Oct. 13, 2016; deed, inst. 2016014309, Dec. 15, 2016 (proven).
51. Deed, inst. 202602415, Mar. 6, 2026; Stark County Auditor transfer record (proven).
52. Specification document, 11 sheets, in the house; dating by materials: Buckeye Portland Cement Co. (founded 1887), Acme Cement Plaster (c. 1890), wire-nail lath with cut-nail flooring (c. 1890–95).
53. Howard W. Bordner, *The Bordner and Bortner Families and Their Bortner Ancestors in America* (Washington, D.C., 1967; repr. 1971), p. 3, citing Strassburger and Hinke, *Pennsylvania German Pioneers*, vol. 2, p. 74 (corroborated). The *Adventure*, Capt. Robert Curson, out of Rotterdam by way of Cowes, reached Philadelphia on Sept. 23, 1732 and the passengers took the oath the same day. The signed form of the name on the list is "Balser Bortner"; "Balthaser" is the genealogy's normalization.
54. Bordner (1967), pp. 17, 142, 160: register entries for Henry Bordner (1761–1845), John P. Bordner (1802–1878), and Sarah Bordner (1805–1876). Henry's entry gives his Ohio residence as Pike Twp., Stark County (versions 1.0 to 1.3 of this document said Canton Township, in error), and his Pennsylvania residence before the move as Lower Mahanoy Twp., Northumberland County. Children of John P. listed as Jessias, Anna Eliza, John Washington, Haman, Harriet, Elias, Catharine, Levi, Aaron, Daniel, William, Maria, Joseph Franklin, and by the second marriage Wilson W. and Fremont W. The 1892 biography's "thirteen children, ten living" matches (corroborated). The Whitacre memoir, 2010, gives "15 children plus 1 adopted"; 15 is the total across both marriages, and the register does record an adopted child in the household, James Monroe, son of John P.'s daughter Harriet (Alexander).

55. Bordner (1967), p. 17, “Westward to Ohio.” The book attributes the account to family tradition (“according to a story told by his descendants”); it is reported, but it is the family’s own and it predates the 1970s newspaper versions.
56. Bordner (1967), p. 174, register entry for Niles Orris Bordner (1884–1940), m. Bessie Jolly (1884–1945); children Russell Denver and Zelda (Whitacre). Matches Stark Deed Vol. 1887, p. 369 (proven as to the heirs). Zelda’s middle name and her marriage to Stanley Whitacre: Whitacre memoir, 2010.
57. Inscription on the title page of the copy consulted: “Yr. 2008, Given by James D. Whitacre Family, Great Grand Son of Franklin and Emma Bordner.” The copy reached this research through Cary Coates, First Vice President and Historian, Perry History Club.
58. Nitrate negatives 1–4 (barn, two compositions, each twice), found in the house, scanned Sept. 2026. The “F. J.” initials place the lettering after 1903 (proven as to the image; dating inferred).
59. Typed captions on the framed collage (item 8), read from photographs taken Aug. 25, 2026. The 1895 caption is torn at the mat; bracketed readings in the project transcription are best readings, not certain (proven as to the 1880s caption; the 1895 caption partly reconstructed).
60. Album prints 1–11, supplied Sept. 2026; identifications supplied with the prints Sept. 11–12, 2026 (reported). Studio stamps: Whitla’s, Market and 10th St., Canton; Courtney Studio.
61. Nitrate negatives 5–15, found in the house, scanned Sept. 2026; dating by dress (reported).
62. Cary Coates, handwritten “Bordner Interview” and historic-map notes kept with the genealogy, undated, referencing a Perry Township history “by 2014”; entries for 1870, 1896 (“213 acres”), 1924, and 1950s maps (reported). On P. J. Bordner: Bordner (1967), p. 119.
63. Material loaned September 2026 by Cary Coates, First Vice President and Historian, Perry History Club, Perry Township, Stark County, Ohio (perryhistoryclub.org); itemized in Section 6, items 15 to 19.
64. Envelope, front only, addressed to “Frank Bordner and Family, Massillon Road, ‘Hillcrest,’ Canton, Ohio, R.F.D.”; 2¢ Washington definitive, machine cancel “Beverly Hills, Calif.,” day and month legible, year not. Dated by the stamp issue and the 2¢ first-class rate to c. 1923–1932 (proven as to the address; the date is inferred). “Hill Crest Farm” as the family’s name for the place: Whitacre memoir, 2010, opening line.
65. Whitacre memoir, 2010: “also 1941 was when they tore down the wood frame home which was right beside the brick home,” and, in the same passage, the windmill, the city water, and the distribution of the clocks, dinner bell, and barn lantern (reported; single source, first-hand family recollection).
66. Compiled map, “T.X. R.IX Perry, 19,665.73 acres,” annotated “Recorded on this map from Steubenville Land Office 1800–1820,” loaned Sept. 2026; Section 12 total 639.7 acres (reported). Three cautions: the compilation has not been checked against the land-office record itself; the internal quarter lines are illegible on the copy consulted; and the Steubenville attribution is doubtful for entries of 1809 and 1812, since the Steubenville office operated 1801 to 1840 but a separate office for the Congress Lands North of Old Seven Ranges, the tract containing Stark County, was created at Canton in 1807 and moved to Wooster in 1811.
67. Carolyn Totten, “Reedurban,” Perry Township history, p. 105 (reported).
68. *New Map of Stark County, Ohio* (Williams Bros., 1855), Perry Township. Section 12: V. & B. Kogle and M. Grovemiller in the north half; S. Lahm in the south half.
69. County ownership map, Perry R.9, undated, showing Mt. Marie College, Westland Park, Brookside Country Club, and Indianola Estates, with Franklin Bordner’s land still undivided; the Perry History Club’s notes reference a 1924 Perry Township map and this is very likely it (reported).
70. Whitacre memoir, 2010 (reported).
71. Totten, “Reedurban,” p. 105, quoting the *Canton Repository* advertisement of May 6, 1893, and recording the plat of May 23, 1893, its 231 lots, and its boundary streets (reported).
72. Whitacre memoir, 2010 (reported).
73. Whitacre memoir, 2010 (reported). The street-name derivations are the author’s own; the Delverne Avenue address of the two daughters is from the Certificate of Transfer of June 11, 1945 (proven).
74. Whitacre memoir, 2010 (reported). The memoir names two contracting families; the spellings are the author’s and have not been verified.
75. Whitacre memoir, 2010 (reported).
76. Whitacre memoir, 2010, against Stark Deed Vols. 2755/171 and 2789/283 and the Shellhouse probate record.
77. Color rendering of the Palace Theatre auditorium, *Motion Picture News*, Dec. 30, 1927, reproduced at historictheatrephotos.com (proven as to the image; the description of the colors is this writer’s reading of the rendering, and a rendering is not a photograph). The Palace, 605 Market Ave. N, Canton, opened Nov. 22, 1926, closed on its fiftieth anniversary in 1976, and reopened restored in 1980; every interior photograph of it now online postdates that restoration. Dated pre-closure images located: under construction, *Moving Picture World*, Sept. 19, 1925; exterior, *Boxoffice*, July 21, 1945; a street view at North Market and Fifth St. NW, August 1975, Bill Haldi Collection, the nearest dated image to the closing; and “Saving the Palace,” *Boxoffice*, Feb. 19, 1979. All are indexed at cinematreaasures.org/theaters/354.

78. *The Canton Daily News*, Nov. 21, 1926, section four, nine pages, digitized from the Stark County District Library copy at historictheatrephotos.com; the stage photograph is credited to staff photographer Paul Pfout. National Register nomination for the Palace Theatre, reference 79001949, listed Apr. 26, 1979; NPGallery holds the record but reports the document not digitized, so the nomination photographs exist on paper only, at the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office.
79. James D. Whitacre's visit to the house, Sept. 2026, observed by the writer (proven). He was born in 1932 and wrote *West Manor Reflections* in 2010; he is the great-grandson of Franklin James Bordner and the grandson of Niles Orris Bordner.

11. Sources and references

Public records

Stark County Recorder, Canton, Ohio. Deed and mortgage volumes cited in the notes; plat book 17; recorded instruments 2016011669, 2016014309, 202602415. Pre-1982 volumes were read from digitized images at FamilySearch (Stark County, Ohio, deed and mortgage records) and from copies supplied by the Recorder's office in September 2026.

Stark County Probate Court. Estate of Haman Bordner, No. 6896 (1903–1906); Estate of Franklin J. Bordner, No. 35042 (1941–1945); Will of Audella B. Shellhouse (1968).

Stark County Court of Common Pleas. *Bordner v. The Massillon Rolling Mill Co.*, No. 23774 (1914).

Ohio Department of Health, death certificate file 45513, Franklin J. Bordner (1935).

Stark County Auditor, parcel and transfer records (CAMA), 2026.

National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places, NRIS 78002191, "Bordner House," listed Feb. 17, 1978.

Maps

New Map of Stark County, Ohio. Williams Bros., 1855. Perry Township.

Atlas of Stark County, Ohio. Beers, 1870. Perry Township, p. 23.

Kauffman, *Atlas of Stark County, Ohio*. 1896. Perry Township and Jackson Township plats.

County ownership map, Perry Township, Range 9, c. 1924.

Compiled map of original land entries, Township X, Range IX (Perry), from Steubenville Land Office records, 1800–1820. Compiler and date unknown. All four maps above were loaned by Cary Coates, Perry History Club, September 2026.

Published sources

Portrait and Biographical Record of Stark County, Ohio. Chicago: Chapman Bros., 1892. Biography of Haman Bordner, pp. 200–201; plate "Residence of Haman Bordner," between pp. 198 and 201. Digitized at [archive.org](http://archive.org/portraitbiograph00chabro) (portraitbiograph00chabro).

Danner, John. *Old Landmarks of Canton and Stark County, Ohio*. Logansport, Ind.: B. F. Bowen, 1904. p. 977.

Architecture in Canton, 1805–1976. Canton, 1976. Cited in *The Post*, c. 1977.

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, entry for Samuel Lahm.

Bordner, Howard W. *The Bordner and Bortner Families and Their Bortner Ancestors in America*. Washington, D.C., 1967; reprinted 1971. Pp. 3, 17–19, 119, 142, 160, 174. Photocopied excerpts supplied by Cary Coates, Perry History Club.

Strassburger, Ralph B., and William J. Hinke. *Pennsylvania German Pioneers*. Norristown, Pa.: Pennsylvania German Society, 1934. Vol. 2, p. 74 (cited in Bordner, 1967).

Totten, Carolyn. "Reedurban." Perry Township history, p. 105. c. 1976. Title and editor of the volume not recorded; see Section 9. Loaned by Cary Coates, Perry History Club.

Unpublished family sources

Whitacre, James D. "West Manor Reflections." Manuscript, 3 pp., February 8, 2010. Loaned by Cary Coates, Perry History Club, September 2026.

Coates, Cary. "Bordner Interview" and historic-map notes. Manuscript, undated (pre-2014). Perry History Club.

Handwritten note, the 2016–2026 owner to the 2026 purchaser. 2026. In the house. Name withheld; see note 27.

Envelope addressed to "Frank Bordner and Family, Massillon Road, 'Hillcrest,' Canton, Ohio, R.F.D." c. 1923–1932. Front only; loaned by Cary Coates, Perry History Club, September 2026.

Theatre imagery consulted for the parlor-drape question

The Canton Daily News, Nov. 21, 1926, section four (Palace Theatre opening supplement, nine pages). Digitized from the Stark County District Library copy; hosted at historictheatrephotos.com.

Auditorium rendering, Palace Theatre, Canton. *Motion Picture News*, Dec. 30, 1927. Hosted at historictheatrephotos.com.

Cinema Treasures, Palace Theatre (Canton) photograph index, cinematreasures.org/theaters/354, for the 1925, 1945, 1975 and 1979 images cited in note 77.

National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places, NRIS 79001949, Palace Theatre, Canton, listed Apr. 26, 1979. Record only; document not digitized.

Organizations

Perry History Club, Perry Township, Stark County, Ohio. perryhistoryclub.org. Cary Coates, First Vice President and Historian. Source of the Bordner genealogy, the Whitacre memoir, the Reedurban chapter, the “Hillcrest” envelope, and the 1855, 1870, c. 1924, and original-entry maps of Perry Township.

Newspapers (clippings preserved in the house)

Unidentified Canton daily, undated (c. 1910s). “Stolen Car Discovered.”

Canton Morning News, June 11, July 9, July 11, 1904 (sale to the Sisters of the Holy Humility of Mary; consulted separately).

Uliveto, Angela. “Bordner-Cady House Is a Landmark.” *Perry Post*, July 20, 1976.

“Monument to the Past.” *The Post*, c. 1976–77.

“The House that Jack Re-Built (and Restored).” Unidentified, c. 1974–77.

Kubera, Rosemary. “Old Eyesore Becomes Pride.” *The Repository*, Aug. 13, 1978.

“1880s Farmhouse Restored / Historic Home Is Opened.” *The Repository*, Nov. 30, 1984, p. 20.

Chancellor, Carl C. “Victorian Grace and Elegance.” *Akron Beacon Journal*, Dec. 1, 1984.

Schwinn, Elaine. “Township Home a Victorian Showcase, Opened as Museum.” *The Journal*, Dec. 18, 1984.

“Open Through Christmas as Museum / Tours Slated Daily.” Unidentified, c. Dec. 1984.

McCullough, Cathie. *Farm & Dairy* (Salem, Ohio), June 6, 1985.

“Historical Bordner Home Now Is Open as Museum.” *The Repository*, Oct. 6, 1985.

Dottavio, Peg. Untitled, c. 1985.

Horner, Virginia. “Bordner-Cady House Museum Conducting Weekend Tours Through Christmas Past.” *The Post*, Nov. 26, 1985, pp. 1, 5.

“Local History Up for Sale.” *Free Press*, undated (mid-1980s), p. B2.

Documents and artifacts in the house

See Section 6. Full transcriptions of the newspaper clippings, the museum brochure, the 1974 survey, the 2026 owner’s note, the 1890s building specification, the genealogy excerpts, and the 2010 memoir, together with scans of the negatives, the prints, and the loaned maps and a file-by-file key to the framed items, are held by the listing agent and available to researchers on request.

12. Credits and contact

Research and text prepared for the 2026 sale of the house by Joe “Joey” Marino III, REALTOR®, Whipple Auction & Realty, Inc., 1145 Whipple Ave NW, Canton, Ohio 44708. (330) 412-2221. joey@whipple realestate.com. Ohio real estate license 2007004044.

Deed and probate research drew on digitized Stark County records at FamilySearch and on copies supplied by the Stark County Recorder. The 1892 biography and plate were located on archive.org. Thanks are due to the owners of the house for access to the documents on its walls and for permission to reproduce them; to the Whitacre family, whose 2008 gift of the Bordner genealogy supplied the family’s origins and whose 2010 memoir supplied much of what is new in this version; and above all to **Cary Coates, First Vice President and Historian of the Perry History Club**, Perry Township, Stark County, Ohio, who located and loaned the Bordner family genealogy, the Whitacre memoir, the Reedurban chapter, the “Hillcrest” envelope, and the four historic maps of the township, and whose own interview and map notes are cited throughout. The club preserves and publishes the history of Perry Township and welcomes inquiries and material at perryhistoryclub.org.

This is version 1.4, dated September 15, 2026. Version 1.1 added the Bordner family genealogy, the identified family photographs, and the nitrate negatives found in the house. Version 1.3 adds the Whitacre memoir, the Reedurban chapter, and four historic maps; it establishes the farm’s name, locates the second Bordner house and

dates its demolition, records the origin of the street names, and carries the chain of title back to the original federal entries. Version 1.4 is a fact-checking pass, with later additions on the parlor drapes and on the Whitacre family's 2026 return to the house: it corrects Henry Bordner's Ohio township, the relationship between Samuel Lahm and the aviator Frank Purdy Lahm, the identification of the theatre the parlor drapes came from, and the description of the National Register listing, and it withdraws two readings that went beyond their sources. Every change is listed in Section 8 or Section 9. The document will be revised as open questions in Section 9 are settled. Anyone with family papers, photographs, or corrections relating to the Bordner, Clay, Shellhouse, or Cady families, or to the house, is invited to get in touch.