

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Barberton Ohio, was a completely planned community developed in the early 1890's by Akron industrialist Ohio Columbus Barber. Needing land for the industrial expansion of his mostly Akron based industries such as the Stirling Boiler Works, National Sewer Pipe and later the Diamond Match Company. O. C. Barber along with several of his Akron cronies formed the Barberton Land and Improvement Company to develop the new town of Barberton. The town was designed to radiate out from Ways Lake in the center of the original 550 acre parcel in Norton Township. Ways Lake was renamed Lake Anna in honor of O. C. Barber's only daughter, Anna Laura Barber.

To promote the new town, O. C. Barber had hired M. J. Alexander, a promoter of towns who's most recent development of Charleroi Pennsylvania had caught Mr. Barber's attention. M. J. Alexander hired a young Pennsylvania Rail Road surveyor named W. A. Johnston, to survey and lay out the town. W. A. Johnston lived in the Barberton area for the rest of his life. After the new town was laid out by Johnston in the orderly Pennsylvania Block Plan, radiating out from Lake Anna, the Barberton Land and Improvement Company gave to Johnston to build the plans for the beautiful Barberton Inn, a famous Victorian hotel on the south shore of Lake Anna. The greatest event ever held at the Inn was the wedding of O. C. Barber's daughter Anna Laura Barber to Dr. Arthur Dean Bevan of Chicago. The lavish wedding of two powerful American families made the newspapers from Akron to Chicago.

REMEMBERING THE BARBERTON INN & THE BELT LINE

The Barberton Inn will be remembered at the Mum Festival this year with enlarged photos and artifacts to include a model of the Inn on display in the Barberton Public Library. The Library will also showcase personal artifacts belonging to town founder Ohio C. Barber. Many of these items, come from the collections of the Barberton Historical Society, the Barberton Public Library and the Summit County Historical Society.

Sand sculptor, Tom Morrison, will replicate in sand the Barberton Inn, considered to be the finest hotel in Ohio during its day. A train display by the Northern Ohio Garden Railway Society will be incorporated into the sand sculpture, as a direct tie in to Ohio C. Barber's founding and development of the Akron Barberton Belt Railroad. Mr. Barber started the Belt Line, as it is called in Barberton, in 1892 to serve the four trunk line railroads and bring goods and services in and out of the fledgling town of Barberton. Mr. Barber would sell the Belt Line to the these trunk line railroads, at an hilarious meeting at the Barberton Inn in 1902.

If you come to the Anna Dean Farm to visit.

Today there are three buildings either restored or in the process of being restored by the Barberton Historical Society, with much gracious support from the Barberton Community Foundation. You are always welcome to walk around these barns at anytime and if we are there working you are always welcome to come in for a self guided tour and to say hello. Here are our three buildings and their location



The O. C. Barber Colt Barn was the first building acquired by the Society. This, the smallest of the stock barns on the Anna Dean Farm is located at 740 Austin Drive (Formerly Anna Dean Lane). Austin Drive runs off of Fifth Street SE. Turn east on to Austin Drive and we are approximately 1/4 mile on the South (right hand) side of the street. The Colt Barn sits on 1 acre of wooded and open space next to the City of Barberton's thirteen acre Anna Dean Park, a very nice wooded area to walk in.



The Heating House is at 360 Robinson Ave, west of 5th Street SE and east of Third Street SE. This was the boiler building for the Anna Dean Farm Greenhouses and still contains its original double 1910 Stirling Boiler. The Heating House is about to be transformed into a restaurant complex, in 2004 and 2005. This should be a very exciting project for Barberton. The Heating House sits on 1.75 acres of open land.



The Brooder Barn is at 112 Second Street SE. Currently vacant except for a caretaker, the Brooder Barn has been recently restored thanks to the Foundation. We are currently looking for an adaptive reuse for the building. Hopefully this will occur in 2004 or 2005. The Brooder Barn sits on 3 acres of wood land and open space.