



BICENTENNIAL BULLETIN No. 21 ***—Sheffield Celebrates 200th Birthday***

The Sheffield Bicentennial Commission will issue a *Bicentennial Bulletin* each Monday throughout 2015 that illustrates the rich heritage of our communities. ***View them at — www.sheffieldbicentennial.org or sheffieldvillage.com***

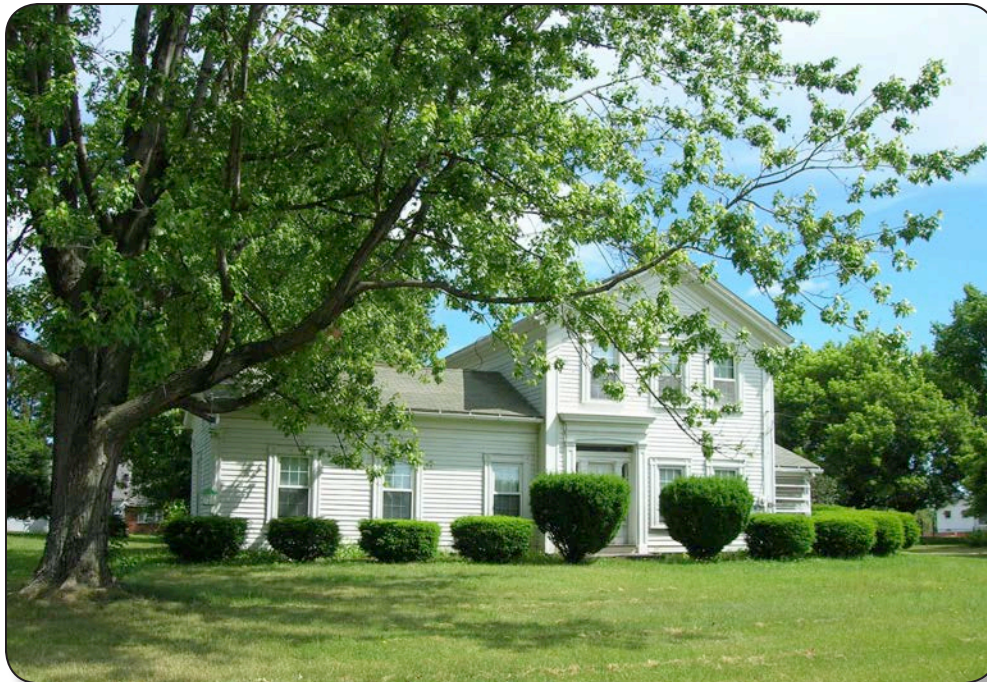
HALSEY GARFIELD HOUSE (built in 1854—Greek Revival-style home) 4789 Detroit Road, Sheffield Village, Ohio

*T*his elegant Greek Revival-style house was built by Douglass Smith for Halsey Garfield and his wife, Harriet [Root] Garfield, in 1854. The house is distinguished by the raked capitals on the corner pilasters of the main section, which demonstrates the transition from Greek Revival-style to Italianate-style homes that was occurring here in the mid-19th century. This treatment, where the pilasters meet the entablatures, symbolizes this transition. In the Italianate-style, partial returns at the gables [typical of the Greek Revival-style] are not used. The main entrance is impressive and exquisitely detailed. Halsey Garfield, a successful merchant in the French Creek area of Avon and a prosperous farmer, was the son of Milton Garfield and Tempe [Williams] Garfield, original settlers of Sheffield and Avon, respectively.

Halsey Garfield (1823-1906)



*Italianate-style door trim on the
Halsey Garfield House*



As with many of the early farmhouses in Sheffield, a gas well was drilled several hundred feet into the Ohio Shale Formation [Devonian Age]. The black shale was originally deposited 350 million years ago as an algal-rich mud in a saltwater sea. As the algae decayed natural gas was formed and trapped in the beds that had been compressed into shale bedrock. Natural gas from this well is still used to heat this home.

In the late 1930s, Michael and Hazel Rath acquired the Halsey Garfield House from the Garfield family. Realizing that the original house was too large for their small family, they decided to split the house into two dwellings. They removed the original east wing and moved it a few hundred feet to the east [now 4811 Detroit Road]. The accompanying photographs demonstrate this process.

Halsey Garfield House in the process of being split into two dwellings on the late 1930s



Along with the Milton Garfield and Douglass Smith Houses, this well-preserved dwelling is a key pre-Civil War building along North Ridge in Sheffield Village and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Halsey Garfield House has been recognized as a Century Home by the Lorain County Historical Society and is listed on the Ohio Inventory of Historic Structures.

Halsey Garfield House in autumn 2009



East wing of Halsey Garfield House remodeled as a Colonial Revival-style home at 4811 Detroit Road (2009)

