



The Christian Waldschmidt House - 1804

7567 GLENDALE MILFORD ROAD, CAMP DENNISON, OHIO

Eighteen Miles Northeast of Cincinnati
 Two Miles North of Milford, Ohio
 On State Route 126 and U. S. Bypass 50

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WALDSCHMIDT HOUSE

In 1794, the year in which General Mad Anthony Wayne won a decisive victory at Fallen Timbers, Christian Waldschmidt left his Lancaster County Pennsylvania home. Like many another veteran of the American Revolution, he was headed for the Ohio Country now made safe by Wayne's Legion from Indian attack.

With several companions, he crossed the rugged Alleghenies and then came by flat boat down the beautiful Ohio River to Judge John Cleves Symmes vast holdings between the two Miami rivers. In the rich bottom lands of the Little Miami, some 12 miles from its mouth, the group found the site for their new home. Waldschmidt purchased 1,140 acres at the price of one Spanish dollar per acre.

Leaving several of the men to clear the land and build cabin homes, Waldschmidt and the others made the long return trip to Pennsylvania for their families and their belongings. A new and a good way of life awaited Catherine Waldschmidt and her seven children in their new home.

By 1798, twenty families were living in the small village which the settlers had named New Germany. Two years later, the village boasted, in addition to a church, a general store and a school, a number of mills and shops. By damming the nearby river and using the water power to turn great wooden wheels, the villagers began the manufacture of linen, wool, and flour.

There were also a saw mill, a blacksmith shop, a distillery and a paper mill. The paper mill is believed to be the first in Ohio and was located directly across the road from the house.

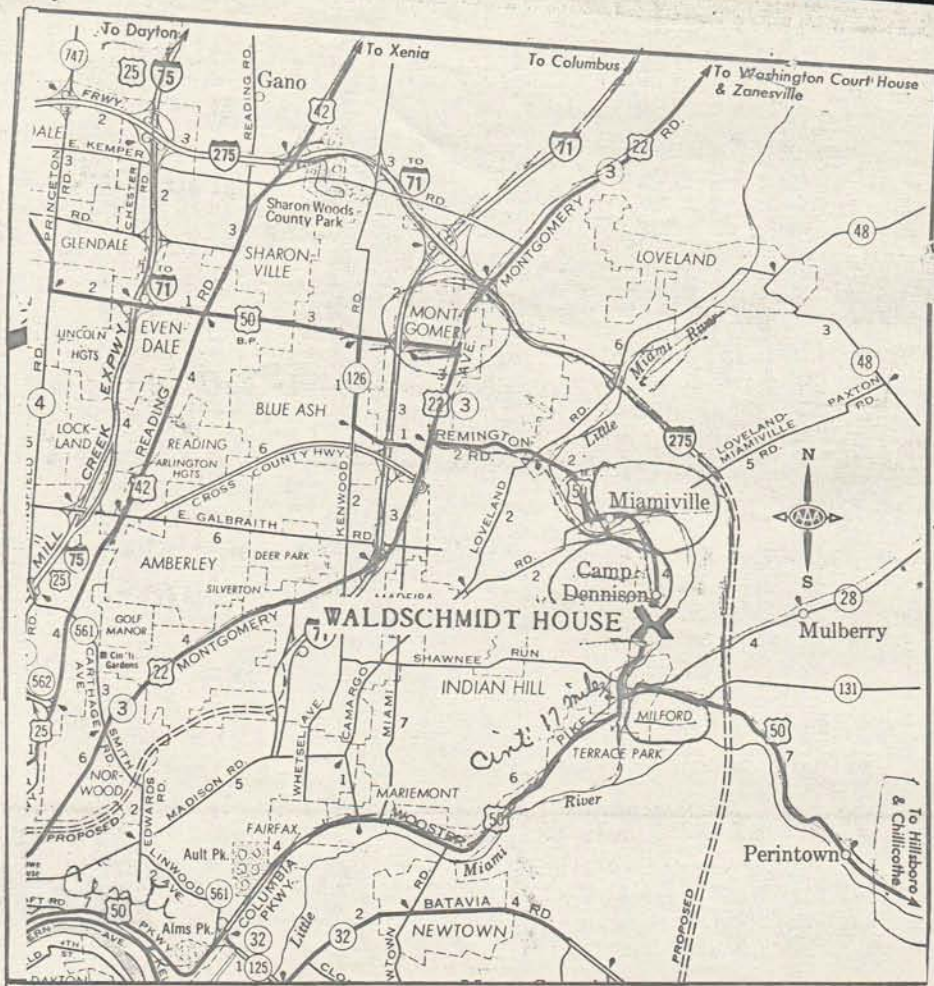
These operations required many people and more than lived in the village. Ads were placed in Cincinnati and Lebanon papers encouraging families to come to New Germany. An inducement was the promise of schooling for children. A teacher had been hired to teach English and other subjects, but Christian Waldschmidt himself taught German.



As the fortunes of the villagers flourished, Waldschmidt decided to build a large home in the style of the Pennsylvania countryside from which he had come. Using native field stone, held together with characteristic white mortar, and heavy oak timbers, he completed his home in 1804.

In 1814, Christian Waldschmidt died, having lived well in Ohio. He lies buried in the small cemetery near his home.

During the period of the Civil War, New Germany and vicinity became a training and induction center for Union troops. The center was named Camp Dennison in honor of the governor of Ohio. General Joshua Bates, commandant of the center used Christian Waldschmidt's former home for his headquarters. There was much excitement in the area in 1863 when General John



Morgan and his Confederate raiders crossed the Little Miami River not far away, overturned an approaching engine and train and burned a park of Government wagons.

In 1941, the Christian Waldschmidt Home became a public memorial. Through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Kroger of Cincinnati, the house was given to the Ohio Society of The Daughters of the American Revolution. The Ohio Society appointed Mrs. Ramona Kaiser Bradley (Mrs. Judson) as chairman of the restoration committee. Restoring the structure, furnishing and operating it have been accomplished by the D.A.R.

The house is open to the public without charge although donations are gratefully accepted. Arrangements for group meetings and tours can be arranged with the trustees.