

Jury House
Original Building
Lobo Township, c. 1888

Contributed by Kevin Marshall & Shanna Dunlop

The Jury house was built on Lot 12 Concession 2 of Lobo Township and is the childhood home of Wilfrid Jury, the founding curator of Fanshawe Pioneer Village. William Jury Jr., built this home in 1888 for his son Amos on the occasion of his marriage to Charlotte Julia “Jewel” Alder, the daughter of the weaver Thomas Alder. The house was occupied by the Jury family until Amos’ death in 1964. The farmhouse was rented to various tenants before it was sold in 1968 to Murray Manson. When Manson donated the house to Fanshawe Pioneer Village in 1973, the building had to be cut in two with a chain saw and the roof removed in order to transport it.¹

The Jury house is a storey and a half balloon frame structure. Architectural evidence suggests that the house originally had a center hall design which was modified when an addition was built sometime around 1890. At this time, it is thought that the central staircase was moved from the front hall to the rear of the house. The Jury house features many unique architectural details including: pocket doors in the parlour, recessed oak cabinets in the dining room and kitchen, quarter sawn oak trim and chair rails in the kitchen, and, a two toned hardwood kitchen floor of stained cherry and maple.

Much of what we know about the Jury family comes from “Wilf’s” childhood memories. Wilfrid's father, Amos, was a hard-working farmer who, in his spare time, liked to fish, paint, and build plaster models. Many of his models

and paintings have been preserved in the artifact collections at Fanshawe Pioneer Village and the Museum of Ontario Archaeology. Examples of Amos' artistic work can also be seen in the Jury House, including: a mural painted on the wall at the foot of the staircase, stencil work on the kitchen walls, and, an unfinished painting still on an easel in the front parlour.

Wilfred's mother Julia was said to have been an excellent cook, often preparing lavish meals for her family. She cultivated flower beds and a vegetable garden at the house, preserving her own pickles and sauerkraut. Wilfrid was expected to help in the garden, but as he recalls, "mother supervised this job as I was accused of digging up tulip bulbs and some perennial plants."²

Today the Jury house has been restored to its original condition and is furnished with many of the Jury family's belongings. Village volunteers have reestablished the flower and vegetable gardens surrounding the house, and a replica of a typical 1860s drive through barn was also added in 1998.

¹ Fanshawe Pioneer Village, [A Commemorative Look at the Creation of a Village](#) (1999), *Jury House*.

² Robert J. Pearce, *Information sheet*, 2004, Alder's Weaving Shed box, Fanshawe Pioneer Village, London, Ontario.