

Headquarters of The Herb Society of America, Inc.

***9019 Kirtland Chardon Road
Kirtland, Ohio 44094***

Henry Earl, a Lake County farmer, built the simple rectangular portion of the house in 1841 of local stone. The site he chose is across the road from Pierson's Knob, the second highest point in Lake County. Earl's "pioneer Greek revival" house is the oldest stone house in Lake County.

The most significant architectural detail is the front doorway's bold Doric columns, lintel and cornice. To make the columns, Earl took the trouble to find single slabs of stone measuring six feet in length.

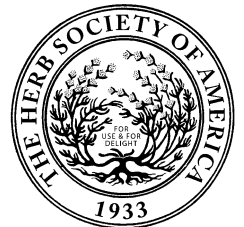
In the early 1900s, the house was purchased by Benjamin Hubbell, Sr., designer of the Cleveland Museum of Art and other important Cleveland buildings. Thirty acres of grapes were planted and the house was renamed Vineyard House. A stable, no longer extant, quartered Hubbell's prize-winning racehorses.

Hubbell's embellishments include a master bedroom (now the library) with a barrel-vaulted ceiling, and a back porch. Hubbell, who was also the architect of the West Side Market, used two carved stone pieces from the market at the upper corners of the porch fireplace. The carvings depict market items -- a lobster and a cornucopia of vegetables.

By 1962, the house had become a residence for the director of Red Oak Camp, a nearby boy's camp.

In 1988, The Herb Society of America, Inc. located in Boston, purchased the house from the Holden Arboretum for use as its new headquarters. The roof was replaced, the floors straightened and other features carefully restored.

In 2010, the building was remodeled with the library enlarged and an addition was completed on the south end of the building. The interior of the building was reconfigured, the roof replaced, the electrical and heating and cooling systems were upgraded.



*Source: The Herb Society of America Archives
James Shelley, Professional Archivist, May 1996
Katrinka Morgan, Executive Director, June 2010*