

ELMER STERRY HOME::: SPEAR RD. NORTH. originally on Bertie :west of Thompson.  
no. 1455. site of Race Track barns & traing track.

This two storyhouse was situated on lot 3 con 3. N.R. It was reached by a long lane and situated slightly back from Thompson Rd. and on a line marked by a board fence, It was originally of log construction, later covered by board lumber. This was covered with vinal siding after it became the property of Mr. Sterry. The ground floor consists of a dining room; living room; kitchen and bathroom. The upper floor consisted of three bedrooms. The supporting beams on the ground floor, still have a number covered with the original bark, while others bare the mark of the adz. The corner joints are all hand mortised. The lower floor boards are unfinished on the underside. The door moldings and jams are all three hands in width.

Mr. Sterry worked for the track and occupied the old home after Harold Benner. In 1961 he was given the homestead by the then owner Mr. John C. Montana, with the condition that he move it off the property. He moved it through the back of lot 3 to a spot on the west side of Spear Rd. north. Shortly after the move Elmer added a closed in porch to the front. In the early days it was heated by wood stoves.

The property is marked on the 1876 map of Bertie as belonging to Dr. John Hershey. On Nov. 15, 1935 part of lot 3 con 3 was aquired by tax deed by Charles Madison a Buffalo Banker. He constructed a large 2 story frame home with a completed attic. Christy madison heir of Charles sold this property to John C. Montana , dec. 11, 1944. He was the owner of the Crystal Cab comp, in Buffalo. Mr. Montana and his wife eventually sold their farm to the Fort Erie Jockey Club , Apr. 10th. 1962. It was at this time that the Jockey Club decided to use the property for a training track and horse barns.

The old log house was moved in 1962 as Montana made plans to sell. it was the intention of the Jockey Cub to use his home for race track use, however it had been stripped of many furnishing inside and the cost forced them to demolish the building.

LOG HOMESTEAD: CON.3. Lot 3. north side of Bertie: west of Thompson.

Pat. lot 3 con. 3. May. 10th. 1801. Crown to Benjamin Wintemute. 100acres.  
etc. etc.

B.S. Jan. 29, 1845. Henry Hershey to John B, Hershey.

etc. etc.

Tax Deed; Nov. 15th. 1935. Treasurer of Bertie Township to Charles S. Madison;  
77 1/2 acres. (Buffalo banker)

Offer of Purchase: John C. Montana to Christy S. Madison wife and heir. lot 3.

B.&.S. Dec. 10th. 1944. Christy Madison to John C. Montana.

B.S. Apr. 10th. 1962. John & Esther B. Montana to Fort Erie Jockey Club.

JOHN C. Montana owned The Crystal Cab Company Buffalo.

---

Old log 2 story home stood on lot 3. west from the cr. of Thompson and north of Bertie reached by a long lane running from Bertie. The original builder of home not known as of 1995.

IN the 1940's lived in by Henry Benner and in late 50's by Elmer Sterry. He was given the old homestead by John Montana with the provision that it be moved from the lot, to make way for the Training track to be installed by the new owners of the property:: The Fort Erie Jockey Club. ✓

Mr. Sterry had the house moved through the back of the property to a spot on the north end of Spears Rd. It is now north of the new section of the Queen Elizabeth Way: no. 1455. west side of Spears.

On the ground floor is the kitchen; dining-room, and living room. There are three bedrooms upstairs. The supporting beams for the ground floor are hand hewn beams, many still covered with the original bark. the corners are all mortised and all beams show the marks of the adz. The ground floor boards are unfinished on the underside. Modelling on the door frames are three hands wide. The original, kitchen had plaster on upper section and wainscotting on the lower half., since covered.

When Mr. Sterry aquired the homestead the logs had been covered with wood siding, which he attempted to restore. This was unfeasable so the home was covered with vinal siding. ON it's original site the home had an open veranda across the front, which was removed,

When moved to Spear Rd. Mr. Sterry added a closed veranda across the front.

In the 1940's home was rented by Harold Benner;;; 1950's by Elmer Sterry in the 50's

Also on lot 3 con3 were several old homes at the wetern end that were moved by Mike Storm , three in no. to his farm on the west northerly side of Spear Rd. and one later burned and was replaced by a newer home.