

Ohio Historic Preservation Office  
 1585 Velma Avenue  
 Columbus, Ohio 43211  
 614-466-1500



# OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

1. <b>ERI-1635</b>		4. <b>Present Name(s)</b> Governor Richard F. Celeste House	
2. <b>County</b> ERIE		5. <b>Other Name(s)</b> William Becker / John Bauman / L.Starkweather Hse.	
3. <b>Location of Negatives</b> O.H.S.			
6. <b>Specific Location</b> On lake front at east end of lane running E off Monagan, 900' S of Ward Rd.		16. <b>Thematic Category</b> Ethnic, agricult., manufact.	
7. <b>City or Town</b> If Rural, Township & Vicinity Kelleys Island, Ohio		17. <b>Date(s) or Period</b> 1893	
8. <b>Site Plan with North Arrow</b> Lincoln Monagan Rd. Airport Lake Erie		18. <b>Style or Design</b> Queen Anne	
9. <b>U.T.M. Reference</b> 17 3 59 9 8 0 4 6 0 6 9 3 0		19. <b>Architect or Engineer</b> -	
10. <b>Site</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Structure</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Building</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Object</b> <input type="checkbox"/>		20. <b>Contractor or Builder</b> -	
11. <b>On National Register?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		21. <b>Original Use, if apparent</b> Residence	
12. <b>Is it Eligible?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		22. <b>Present Use</b> Residence	
13. <b>Part of Estab. Hist. Dist.?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		23. <b>Ownership</b> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
14. <b>District Potent'?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		24. <b>Owner's Name &amp; Address, if known</b> The Hon. Richard F. Celeste The State House Columbus, Ohio	
15. <b>Name of Established District</b> N/A		25. <b>Open to Public?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
16. <b>Further Description of Important Features</b> (Continue on reverse if necessary) This house has a combination mansard roof with lower cross gables. The central mansard roof originally had a wrought iron "captain's walk" that has since been dismantled and stored in the attic. It has two brick chimneys; a plain central chimney and a corbelled chimney located on a side gable slope. Gable ends are detailed with verge boards. Windows are 1/1 throughout		26. <b>Local Contact Person or Organization</b> Kevin Pape; KI Hist.Survey	
17. <b>History and Significance</b> This house reflects the prominent status of its builder. It was erected by wine maker, William Becker, at the height of his prosperity in 1893, when he lived with his large family as an honored and respected resident of the island and a pillar of the German Reform Church. Born in 1833, Mr. Becker had emigrated to Kelleys Island from Nassau, Germany, in 1852, set-		27. <b>Other Surveys in Which Included</b> N/A	
18. <b>Description of Environment and Outbuildings</b> The house sits among mature cedar trees on the east shore of the island. It reached by a private drive traversing the village airport runway from the west. The large, modern barn lies to the west in a level, open field. The		28. <b>No. of Stories</b> 2 1/2	
19. <b>Sources of Information</b> Census Records p.216 Erie Co. Grand Lists:1870; Deeds: Vol.19, p.85, V.34, 1865 Nunan Map; 1874 Atlas and Map, Erie Co. Hamilton Collection, Hayes Residential Center Johannsen,		29. <b>Basement?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
		30. <b>Foundation Material</b> Cut bl l.s with mortar jts	
		31. <b>Wall Construction</b> wood frame	
		32. <b>Roof Type &amp; Material</b> Man- sar/gable/asph shin	
		33. <b>No. of Bays</b> Front 3 Side 2	
		34. <b>Wall Treatment</b> milled bev bds/end boards	
		35. <b>Plan Shape</b> irregular	
		36. <b>Changes</b> Addition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Explain in #42) Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	
		37. <b>Condition</b> Interior Exc Exterior Exc	
		38. <b>Preservation Underway?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
		39. <b>Endangered? By What?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		40. <b>Visible from Public Road?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		41. <b>Distance from and Frontage on Road</b> 2500'	
		42. <b>Prepared by</b> Kevin Pape	
		43. <b>Organization</b> KI Planning Commis	
		44. <b>Date</b> 4/19/98	
		45. <b>Revision Date(s)</b>	

GVL-1003  
 ERIE  
 GOVERNOR RICHARD F. CELESTE HSE.  
 Wm. Becker / J Bauman / L. Starkweather Hse.



50. House Type No.

Code No. Name

51. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies

Barn Type(s)

Code No. Type

Corn Crib or Shed  Smoke House  Privy   
 Silo  Spring House  Carriage House   
 Summer Kitchen  or Ice House

Other \_\_\_\_\_

53. Farmstead Plan



52. Archaeological Site on Property?

Yes   
 No

Basis for Information

Owner Collection   
 Above Ground Earthworks or Mound   
 Cultural Materials Noted  OAI No. \_\_\_\_\_



54. Photo	12	18-21
Roll No.	11	2-10
	24	33-35

42. (Cont'd.)  
 except for single and paired, single sash windows in the gables. Windows have louvred shutters and are all framed with simple entablatures. A single large window in a gable end of the southern or main entrance facade is surrounded by trabeated transom lights and double sash, 1/1 side lights. It is protected with a shed roof supported by milled brackets. The entranceway is a focus of decorative detailing. A coursed limestone stoop is covered by a gable roof that rests upon turned spindle columns. Milled lattice work fills the gable and is featured in hanging frieze panels that are supported by milled corner brackets. The double front doors are glazed and paneled, and feature elaborate iron grill work that covers interior hinged shutters. A side, shed-roofed porch rests on chamfered columns trimmed with simple brackets. There is a rear, shed-roofed, board and batten addition covering a coursed limestone wine cellar with a ramped, sub-ground entrance. Interior features include: a butler's pantry with dumbwaiter, wainscoting in the dining room, two parlors with pocket doors, fluted enframements capped with rosettes, original marble fireplaces replaced with local limestone material, louvred transom lights above bedroom doors.

43. (Cont'd.)

tling in Lot 12 of the island's east end. By 1860 he had married, was following his trade of blacksmithing, and had acquired property (valued at \$1300). About the same time he and Henry Olemacher each purchased a 13 1/6 acre tract with contiguous southern borders, and on the same day, from Sylvester S. Dwelle. Each erected a house, side by side near the shore, as shown in the 1865 Nunan Map. Nine years later, William bought out Olemacher. He may then have used the Olemacher house which was south of his own for a winery, as the 1874 Atlas of Erie Co. cites William Becker as a wine maker before he had acquired what became known as the "Becker Winery", Ward Road,

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43. (Cont'd.)

from Titus Hamilton (1882). Further, the 1874 Atlas map shows two structures still in place on this combined lot. Over the years he enlarged and improved his home and acquired additional lands. Mr. Becker took an active part in community affairs as well, helping to organize the Kelley Island Wine Cooperative in 1866, and serving as its first director. He also served his new country as a "100 Day Man" in the Civil War. In 1882 he acquired the Titus Hamilton Winery (ERI-1678), erecting a house on the land to the southwest for his son, William, Jr. (ERI-1677), in 1885. With his winery and vineyards thriving, he built this new house on his east shore property, close to the site of his first home. A previous owner reports that foundations of a stone cellar were once visible approximately 50 ft. north of the present house. However, with the death of his wife and the onset of blight to his vineyards, Becker gave up his new home and moved to the house on Ward Road.

C. 1900 Jared Dwelle rented the house until he could remodel the old east side school house (ERI-1660) for his dwelling.

John Bauman was the next to own the house, but the property had now dwindled to Becker's original 13 1/6 acres. Born on Kelleys Island, John was the son of Samuel and Bridget Bauman, grape growers of Long Point (ERI-1662). John continued the tending of the vineyards, but several years of poor harvests brought hard times. After the onset of prohibition he converted his vineyards to row crops. He and his family lived here for 32 years.

After the Baumans left the house stood vacant for some time, and one source suggests that fishermen used the top floors for drying their nets. c.1940's Paul Beltz bought the house and farm, restoring it, installing a Delco electric system, and adding the present barn in which he raised white leghorn chickens. Cleo and Leonard Starkweather then purchased the house for a vacation home, later settling here after retirement.

The house has been occupied by two of the island's mayors, Paul Beltz (1948-1956) and Leonard Starkweather (1966-1974), and now the Governor of Ohio, Richard F. Celeste, its current owner.

44. (Cont'd.)

The expanse of airport runway combined with the open fields add to the seclusion of this undeveloped section of the island. A windmill once stood at the northwest corner of the house.

45. (Cont'd.)

Sandusky Register: 9/27/05

Oral Hist: Fr. Richard Bauman (Side J, #390)

Lydia Bechtel

Cleo Starkweather