

"THE DECORATIVE ARTS CENTER OF OHIO"

145 East Main Street  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
(740) 681-1423

FADE IN:

## INTRODUCTION

Insert a montage of current photos of the rooms, classrooms and exhibitions at the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio.

### NARRATOR

What is the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio? It is a statewide organization that fosters knowledge, enjoyment, and appreciation of the decorative arts and celebrates the architecture and heritage of the Reese-Peters House. The Center provides exhibitions, public programs, art classes and workshops for all ages, and a focus for research and communication about the decorative arts of Ohio.

## HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

### NARRATOR

The early development of the region surrounding Lancaster and the Hocking Valley region can be traced back to Ebenezer Zane who petitioned the US Congress to grant him a contract to blaze a trail through Ohio, from West Virginia, to Kentucky.

Display a map showing the path of Zane's Trace, and then zooms in to focus on the area of Lancaster.

### NARRATOR

Zane was awarded square-mile tracts of land at the points where his trace crossed the Hocking, Muskingum, and Scioto rivers as part of the deal. This area was known as Zane's Trace and the trail to Kentucky was completed by 1797. Shortly thereafter, in 1800, Lancaster was established, three years before Ohio became the 17th state.

Show photos of or illustrations of this time period, perhaps even showing some photos of the Lancaster Lateral or the city of Lancaster of this time period.

### NARRATOR

Fairfield County, as one of the first counties formed in the Northwest Territory, and Lancaster, as one of the largest frontier towns in the new territory, quickly grew. In 1834, the

Lancaster Lateral, a lateral canal of the Ohio-Erie Canal, was completed bringing increased wealth and prosperity to the region.

## LANCASTER COMMUNITY

### NARRATOR

In 1835, William Reese, an attorney from Philadelphia, had the house constructed for himself and Mary Elizabeth Sherman, the sister of General William Tecumseh Sherman and Senator John Sherman.

Show pictures of William Reese and Mary Elizabeth Sherman.

### NARRATOR

The Panic of 1837 caused land values to plummet. Sadly, Reese was not immune from the down turn, caused by this Panic and left the house in 1842 as a result of the financial hardship brought on by these difficulties that impacted Reese along with thousands of other Americans.

Show pictures of Darius Tallmadge or any of the Ohio Stagecoach Company, if available.

### NARRATOR

The house changed hands a number of times over the next 30 years, being held at one point by Darius Tallmadge, the owner of the Ohio Stagecoach Company. In 1872, Tallmadge sold the house to Philip and Caroline Rising.

Show pictures of Philip and Caroline Rising, the early days of the Fairfield National Bank, or the house when the Risings first arrived.

### NARRATOR

Philip Rising, the founder of the Fairfield National Bank, discovered the house in dire need of renovation and over the next two decades updated the house to have all of the modern conveniences of the period, such as gas fire inserts, hot water radiators and indoor plumbing.

Show pictures of examples within the house of the Eastlake style.

### NARRATOR

The house was decorated in the latest style, the Eastlake Style.

Show pictures of the George Rising, Henry Beck Peters and Ida Rising Peters.

NARRATOR

In 1909, Philip Rising died and the house was passed on to his son, George Rising, his daughter, Ida Rising Peters and son-in-law, Henry Beck Peters. Philip Rising and Henry Beck-Peters also took over the family business, the Fairfield National Bank.

LIVING IN THE HOUSE

NARRATOR

This house was not just a showplace. It was a living, breathing place. Where people ate meals, kids ran up stairs and slid down banisters.

Insert interview video footage about dinnertime with Henry Beck Peters and George Rising (TCR 5:57:55 to 5:58:24).

Next insert interview video footage about playing games in the house (TCR 6:03:10 to 6:03:48).

NARRATOR

George Rising and Henry Beck Peters were also instrumental in bringing the streetcar to Lancaster, to help accommodate the new prosperity brought on by its new industry: glass.

Show pictures and/or footage of the Fairfield National Bank and the street car.

Insert footage talking about the streetcar (TCR 6:34:28 to 6:35:50).

Insert footage of Philip talking about their Grandmother sending them to get oysters, getting shoes shined, and seeing a movie (TCR 6:05:00 to 6:06:15).

NARRATOR

The house was not only a social focal point of the community, featuring lavish parties, including wedding receptions, but was a sanctuary where children were loved, learned about manners, and enjoyed summertime fun.

Insert footage of the women discussing their wedding receptions at the house (TCR 6:24:44 to 6:26:10 and TCR 6:27:11 to 6:27:43). Insert footage about making peach ice cream (TCR 6:33:47 to 6:34:28).

## DONATING THE HOUSE

### NARRATOR

But in 1941, Henry Beck Peters passed away, and this ended full-time residency of the house. And once again the house lay dormant for many years.

Insert footage of arriving at the house after childbirth (TCR 6:20:00 to 6:21:20), and the difficulty living in the house with small children (TCR 6:21:47 to 6:23:09).

### NARRATOR

But then in 1990's, a group of Lancaster citizens began working with the Peters family to begin developing the property as an arts center.

Insert interview footage of the discussion of their mother wanting see the house used as an arts facility (TCR 6:42:18 to 6:43:12 and 6:44:10 to 6:45:41).

Insert photos or footage of before, after, or during the renovation process.

### NARRATOR

In 1995 the house was given to the Fairfield County Commissioners, and the Ohio State Legislature allocated \$1.2 million dollars from the Capital Improvement Fund to support the renovation of the house as the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio.

Insert footage or photos of some of the exhibits that have been hosted by the Decorative Arts Center.

### NARRATOR

On September 23, 2000, the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio at the Reese-Peters House opened to the public. Today it hosts exhibitions of decorative arts from world-famous artists, provides art education for students of all ages, and serves as an example of a house museum with its architecture, furnishings and atmosphere.

Cut to footage or photos of art classes, and then cut to footage or photos of the more fantastic features and rooms within the house.

### NARRATOR

The Decorative Arts Center of Ohio exists on the generosity of donors and members to carry on its mission: to

foster knowledge, enjoyment and  
appreciation of the decorative arts and  
to celebrate the architecture and  
heritage of the Reese-Peters House.

Insert footage of "Grandfather would be very proud of what  
became of the house..." (TCR-6:52:10 to 6:53:56).

FADE OUT:

THE END