



## James & Sophia Clemens Farmstead

467 Stingley Road  
Greenville, Ohio 45331  
8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

The Clemens Farmstead is one of the few remaining structures of Longtown also known as the Greenville Negro Settlement. Mr. Clemens (1781-1870) founded the settlement, officially bought the land there in 1818, and lived in the settlement until his death. It is estimated that the house was built between 1822 and 1857. According to Wilbur H. Siebert in his manuscript *The Underground Railroad*, Longtown was a stop in the Underground Railroad. In Siebert's interview with Colonel David Putnam of Palestine August 13, 1898, Mr. Putnam states, "At the Greenville Negro settlement was another station. The Clemens and the Alexander's were the leaders in the movement there. These were Negro families." The Clemens are listed as Darke County operators in Appendix E (Directory of the Names of Underground Railroad Operators) in Wilbur H. Siebert's *The Underground Railroad from Slavery to Freedom*. Also in the manuscript is a letter from Jno. Reily Knox dated on August 7, 1884, to Professor Siebert. Mr. Knox that states, "The hunters visited Greenville, and after consultation with a certain law firm, they went in the night to the colored settlement and searched several cabins." In a letter from the early 1980s from Mrs. Kenton Dye of Winchester Indiana to Mrs. Toni Seller the Director of the Garest Museum, Mrs. Kenton writes that she talked to Maze Clemens a descendant of James Clemens. He stated to her that, "His grandfather escorted runaway slaves from Newport (now Fountain City, Indiana) to Longtown where they were hidden all day before being transported to Paulding, Ohio, where it was assumed they were safe."



Photograph from the National Register collection

### **\$25,000 NTF Grant—**

### **Greenville, Ohio: James & Sophia Clemens Farmstead Restoration Project/James & Sophia Clemens Farmstead**

- Grant to fund stabilization of the Clemens farm house until further restoration may be undertaken.
- Work will address general masonry and carpentry requirements to arrest or reverse structural deterioration due to years of neglect, and provide for thermal and moisture protection.
- Grantee recently raised the non-federal matching share and work is scheduled to begin in FY 2006.

