

# Hettinger house painting given to historical group

■ PAINTED BY LAWTON, IS GIFT OF THE LAWTON FOUNDATION

by JESSICA COHEN | REPORTER

Aurora — The local historical society's collection will be one painting richer following the donation of a watercolor by the late Florian Lawton, renowned artist and longtime Aurora resident.

A landscape of former mayor/Councilman George Hettinger's 19th century house on the northwest corner of Bissell Road and East Pioneer Trail will be donated by the Florian K. Lawton Foundation.

The house was built by Samuel Hickox, who served in the Ohio militia in 1838, according to a news release from the AHS.

Lawton, famous worldwide for his watercolors, painted this particular house because of "his interest in history and architecture," said Ken Lawton, the artist's son and managing partner of the foundation.

"After Dad moved here to Aurora [in 1990], homes such as this had historical significance to Portage County and he also got to know George," Ken said.

Lawton was born June 20, 1921, in Cleveland and graduated from Garfield Heights High School. He served in the 7th Army Air Corps intelligence unit during WWII, "creating topographical maps derived from pilot information returning from missions," according to a biography released by the foundation.

He studied at the Cleveland Institute of Art, as well as the John Huntington Polytechnic Institute, and married his wife Lois in 1949.

Lawton taught at the Cleveland Institute and led private workshops throughout the U.S. and

Europe, continuing his teaching until his death on Jan. 11, 2011.

ACCORDING to a news release, Lawton is particularly well known for country landscapes and urban cityscapes in Northeast Ohio, as well as his paintings of the Amish community.

Though the Amish are usually resistant to being the subjects of artwork, through Lawton's "personality as an artist, patience and humility toward their culture," he was able to portray them in numerous compositions, said Ken.

"His reputation in the art world has been built on his rare ability to capture depth and his realistic use of color in his distinct individual style," according to the foundation's biography.

"Lawton sees not only with great clarity, but with a clear sense of national spirit as well."

It is with this clarity that Lawton painted the artwork that is being donated to the AHS, which Ken said are especially meaningful for the education of today's youth.

"Making younger generations aware of the art and cultural history here is important now more than ever," he said.

Tim Holder, past president and member of the AHS trustees, said the board is "looking forward to discussing future opportunities to partner with the foundation and highlight the work of this great local artist."

"We are delighted with the gift and appreciate Ken's enthusiasm," he added. "We hope to have a continuing relationship with him and the foundation."

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## COMMUNITY Historical Society gets house painting

