



**Revisiting Ruth Wolfley
Drinkle**
The Heart & Soul of Heritage
*Featuring 19th century treasures from her book,
“Heritage of Architecture and Arts, Fairfield County, Ohio”*
The Georgian Museum
 105 E. Wheeling St., Lancaster, Ohio
 Open 1-4pm, Tuesday-Sunday, through July 7

Georgian Museum exhibit honors Ruth Drinkle, Heritage’s “heart and soul”

The Georgian Museum has opened a special exhibit honoring Ruth Drinkle, who helped lead the preservation movement in Fairfield County more than 50 years ago and documented the community’s historic treasures in *Heritage of Architecture and Arts, Fairfield County, Ohio*.

Drinkle was one of the seven women who founded the Fairfield Heritage Association in 1963 and its first president. The group was founded to protect buildings that were important to the community’s past and could be a valuable part of its future.

Drinkle led a team of volunteers who surveyed the earliest buildings in Lancaster and all 13 townships. Once the sites were identified, it was important to tell their story. The result was the pictorial history *Architecture and Arts*, which Drinkle wrote and Heritage published in 1978. The first edition sold out. An updated second edition was published in 1994 – a year after Drinkle’s death – and is still available today.

Joyce Harvey, director of the Georgian Museum, said Drinkle’s efforts were credited with saving many Fairfield County treasures. The Georgian itself was a wreck of a building that Heritage bought and restored with the community’s support. The house built in 1833 had been one of the finest homes in the area built for one of the wealthiest men in the state.

The Georgian’s exhibit “Revisiting Ruth Wolfley Drinkle: The Heart & Soul of Heritage” pays tribute to Drinkle’s work. Harvey and Heritage President Marc Taylor produced the exhibit, pulling together many of



This hand-made flag was sewn by an early member of Emanuel Ruffner’s family—Fairfield County’s “Betsy Ross”—circa 1812, since there are eighteen stars. (However, there are only twelve stripes—she had probably used all the available red material.)