

STERNWHEELER TO WEST VIRGINIA'S BLENNERHASSETT ISLAND

Wednesday July 18, 2012

\$122

Westlake, Elyria, No. Olmsted, Middleburg Hts, Independence, Beachwood, Boston Hts, Akron N, Akron S, As Applicable

Constructed by Harman and Margaret Blennerhassett, wealthy exiled Irish aristocrats, the Blennerhassett Mansion soon became regarded as the American West's most beautiful home designed in the Palladian style, was completed in 1800. Its elegantly furnished rooms were the scene of a glittering series of dinners, balls, and parties making Blennerhassett Island one of the Ohio Valley's leading social centers.



Due to their involvement in Aaron Burr's "conspiracy", the Blennerhassetts fled downriver. Their home accidentally was burned in a fire in 1811, leaving little visible trace of its graceful, semicircular lines. However, modern archeologists rediscovered its foundations in 1973. Through a continuing program of careful historical and architectural research, the mansion has been recreated. The interior is furnished with some of the original pieces owned by the Blennerhassetts and other furnishings of the era. (Prior to the fire, many of the pieces that had been sold or given to friends were eventually recovered via donation or purchase.) You'll gain an even greater insight as our guide tells us fascinating stories of the Blennerhassetts, their mansion and their island.

Following our luncheon at a historic riverfront hotel, originally the site of the Bellvue Hotel built in 1825, we will be boarding a sternwheeler that will be taking us on a short 20-minute cruise from the mainland to the island where our horse-drawn carriage-wagon will be waiting for us.

