

THE COBBLESTONE SOCIETY

Ridge Road

Albion, New York 14411

PERMANENT FILE OF COBBLESTONE STRUCTURES

1. Exact location and type of building: _____ Home _____ Blacksmith Shop _____
 County Cortland _____ School _____ Barn _____
 Town Cortland _____ # Church _____ Store _____
 Road Church Street _____ Carriage Shop _____ Smoke House _____
 (Please sketch map on back)

2. Present owner and mailing address:

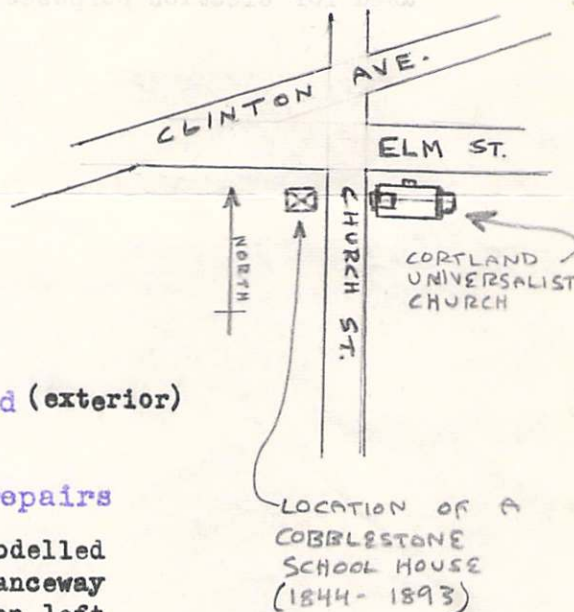
First Universalist Church of Cortland, New York
 3 Church Street, Cortland

3. Present occupant and mailing address:

same

4. Present condition - check appropriate blank:

- A. ☐ Restored to original condition
 B. ☒ In good repair though slightly modified (exterior)
 C. ☒ Greatly changed or modified (interior)
 D. ☐ Needs minor repairs
 E. ☐ Neglected but salvageable with major repairs
 F. ☐ Ruin
 G. ☐ Other (specify) Interior completely remodelled and present wooden entranceway added 1889. Wooden organ loft added 1895. Tower repaired and woodwork simplified 1958.



5. History

- A. Date constructed 1836-37
 B. Cost "about five or six thousand dollars"
 C. Name of mason Benjamin Davis of Clarendon, New York (said to be a builder of stone churches at Clarendon and Middleport)
 D. Original owner same (Universalist Church of Cortland)
 E. Did the original owner have an account book? No church records for this period exist.
 F. Any historic event connected with building? (What?)
 From 1857 to 1862 the church was the scene of frequent lyceum programs, featuring (see over)
 G. List of subsequent owners and dates:
 (no change in ownership)
 H. Any verification of above information? (Written proof if possible)
 See Church historical scrapbooks in the possession of the minister.

6. Photograph (please include negative)

Cortland County Historical Society
 possesses the best photos

7. Signature and address of recorders)

James D. Hunt
 James D. Hunt, minister
 19 Harmon Avenue, Cortland, NY

Aug. 11, 1961

speakers such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Wendell Phillips, William Lloyd Garrison, Rev E H Chapin, Henry Ward Beecher, G W Curtis, and others, generally abolitionists as was the pastor at that time, the Rev. William H. Fish. A Presbyterian elder of Cortland, the Hon. Stephen Brewer, was given a church trial and excommunicated in a famous case (1859 and 1860) for attending Sabbath services at the Universalist Church to hear these speakers, "there being services in his own church at the time".

The Village of Cortlandville contributed \$100 to the building committee with the understanding that the basement of the church could be used as a town hall. It was used for election purposes from 1838 to 1883.

PERMANENT FILE OF COBBLESTONE STRUCTURES

1. Exact location and type of buildings: ☐ Home ☐ Blacksmith Shop
☐ School ☐ Barn
☒ Church ☐ Store
☐ Carriage Shop ☐ Smoke House

Corner of Elm St. + Church St
 Cortland, N.Y.

2. Present owner and mailing address:

3. Present ~~occupant~~ and mailing address:

The Rev. James Hunt
 19 Harman Ave., Cortland, N.Y.

4. Present condition -- check appropriate form:

- ☒ A. Restored to original condition
☐ B. In good repair though slightly modified
☐ C. Greatly changed or modified
☐ D. Needs minor repairs
☐ E. Neglected but salvable with major repairs
☐ F. Ruin
☐ G. Other (specify)

5. History

- A. Date constructed 1837
 B. Cost
 C. Name of mason Benj. Davis
 D. Original owner
 E. Did original owner leave an account book?
 F. Any historic event connected with building? yes
 G. List of subsequent owners and dates:

H. Any verification of above information? (written proof if possible)

Cortland Co. Historical Society

This is the oldest public building in Cortland City.

6. Photograph (please include negative)

There used to be a school house across the street. It was built 1844 or 45 and used until 1893 when it was torn down.

7. Signature and address of recorder:

Mrs. Mary C. Brown
 40 Prime St.

Cortland, N.Y.

The Universalist Church, Cortland, N.Y.
Corner of Elm and Church Sts.

"The First Charitable, Universal, Religious Society of the Town of Hamer" was organized at the Court House Hamer, now Cortlandville, Nov. 16, 1813. Samuel Ingalls & Mead Merrill presided at the meeting. The list of names is like a roster of our early settlers.

A Rev. Mr. Sanderson was the first to preach Universalism 1833. The first Legal Church was effected in 1835 and 101 persons were admitted to church memberships.

In 1889 the church was remodelled and re-dedicated, with one sermon by Rev. Amanda Deyo of Oxford, N.Y.

Temperance, Abolition and other topics of the day were and still are discussed in this church.

Many prominent people have spoken in this church, among those - Henry Ward Beecher, Harriet Beecher Stowe, William Lloyd

Garrison, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Wendell
Philips, Susan B. Anthony and Clara
Barton.

In 1937 this Church observed 100 yrs
and some of the following was taken
from the booklet published at that time.

\$100.00 was given to the Church building
fund when the Church was first built with
the understanding that the basement of the
Church could be used as a town hall.
45 years from 1838-1883 it was used for
election purposes.

Horace Bliss of Truxton built the Church
and the mason work was done by Benjamin
Davis. The hardwood timbers were donated
by Robert Wells and were cut from his
farm near "the brick school house".

Farmers brought loads of stones from
their farms and the right type of stones
is easy to find in Contonnet & vicinity. The
Universalist Church is the oldest public
building still in use in the City of Contonnet.

In 1831 after 18 years of loose organization 101 Village residents, mostly transplanted New Englanders, banded together under the leadership of the Rev. Nelson Doolittle, to form the present church.

The parish voted to build a Cobblestone meeting house on Calvin Bishops lot. The men of the church built the building which still stands as the Universalist Church. The building completed they inscribed over the front door the words, "Holiness to the Lord, Good will to all mankind, Universalist Church erected 1837"

This church has had many prominent people on its platform, among them Ralph Waldo Emerson, Wendell Phillips, William Lloyd Garrison, Thomas Star King, Clara Barton, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Henry Ward Beecher and Susan B. Anthony.

"The Old Cobblestone Church" as it is locally known was modernized in 1889. Earlier in 1885 the church livery stable was torn down to make way for the parsonage. That parsonage is now the church house and the present parsonage is 19 Harmon Ave. & The Rev. James Hunt is pastor.

It is in good repair and is very much
alive to day.

Hope this answers your questions.

Sincerely

Mrs. Mary C. Brown
Asst. Local Historian, Cortland, N.Y.