



Sketch by LAWRENCE McINTYRE

North Ridge United Methodist Church

North Ridge United Methodist Church, North Ridge Road, Cambria, is one of the few cobblestone churches in Niagara County. It was built by Irish immigrants after they helped build the Erie Canal. Construction was completed in 1848, two years after it began. Church records reveal that the building was in use even before it was

completed, with the Rev. Elijah Wood standing on "a pile of lumber" to preach the first sermon in 1847.

The only major changes in the building have been the addition of Sunday School rooms in 1981 and replacement of clear windows with stained glass in 1919. The church steeple was rebuilt in 1978 and the building's

interior was remodeled in 1976.

The congregation was founded in 1816 by Olivia Beach. It was incorporated in 1824 and was served by circuit-riding preachers. The Rev. William Cooley became the congregation's first assigned preacher in 1848. The congregation, with about 165 members, is led by the Rev. Ronald Sellers.