

Stone Arabia School
~8470 Whiting Rd, Cicero 13039
General Information

Name of Structure: Stone Arabia School

Address: NE corner of Whiting Rd and Rt 31
Today: 8470 Whiting Rd (Farm, Truck Crops)

Parcel ID: (312289) 080.-02-29.0

Atlas: Lot #44; 1852: "School" 1859 is gone
Nothing in the spot, but... a new 'School #6' west of Whiting Rd along Rt 31 is where there wasn't one before. (It exists today at 6453 NY-31 and is the same Stone Arabia School (c.1854), home to the Cicero Historical Society.)

When Built/Mason: Likely Nathan Whiting who built the Stone Arabia Mausoleum nearby of on south side of Rt 31

When Razed: Sometime between 1852 and 1859 wall maps
Assumed torn down due to integrity issues (given that it did actually exist)

Original Owner: School trustees

Subsequent owners: n/a — torn down early

Original Use: Schoolhouse (presumably)

Subsequent Use: n/a — torn down early

Pictures: None known

Description: Unavailable; maybe have been similar to Stone Arabia Cemetery

Design details: n/a

Masonry details: n/a

Mausoleum: Access between house numbers 6602 and 6576 Rt 31; appears to be in the backyard of #6602.

This was listed on Glenn Hinchey's "list of all cobblestone buildings in Onondaga County", 1993—"#29 Stone Arabia School, Route 31, Cicero Center, Demolished."

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My email to Tom Mafrici, 10/29/2017 at 8:48 PM

... I stumbled upon an interesting reference to a "Stone Arabia cobblestone school" in Cicero Center on Whiting Rd. I realize that the real "Stone Arabia School", circa 1854, houses the museum at 6453 Route 31, and it is not a cobblestone building. Before it was built, however, there was another school to its east. The latter is the focus of my present inquiry.

I am attempting to verify whether or not the "School" shown on the 1852 wall map on the NE corner of Whiting Rd and Rt 31 was a cobblestone school or not. By the time the 1859 wall map was produced this building appears to be gone—perhaps replaced by the nearby "School No 6".

The Whiting family owned several hundred acres in the vicinity of the "School" on the 1852 map, they owned a stone quarry north of said school, and the inscription "Nathan Whiting 1859" is on the cobblestone mausoleum in Cicero Center Cemetery. It wasn't uncommon for a wealthy landowner to donate a plot of land on which to build a school, nor was the building of cobblestone schools in the 1830's and 1840's uncommon. However, lacking something to substantiate the claim that it was a cobblestone school—a picture or access to school ledgers kept back in those days or something—I'm finding it difficult to verify that this structure was indeed of cobblestone. I'm hoping you can help me with this.

I am also interested in knowing when it was erected and confirming that it was actually torn down sometime between 1852 and 1859 and the reason for its demise. I am attaching snapshots of the relevant parts of the 1852 and 1859 wall maps so you can see the parcels I'm referencing on Lot 44.

Tom Mafrici's reply email dated 10/29/2017 at 9:24 PM

The only cobblestone school that I know of in Cicero was located on the corner of East Pine Grove Road and Thompson Road. This is the first time I have ever been made aware of this school site on Whiting road. The quarry you referred to is right across of the street from that location. It is still there. It's true that Whiting did build things out of cobblestones so it is certainly possible that this schoolhouse was made out of cobblestones.

I emailed Glenn Hinchey, dated October 29, 2017 asking what information he had about this entry on his list of cobblestones.

Email reply from Glenn dated Oct 30, 2017 at 12:22

... I found the sole document that said there was a cobblestone school at Stone Arabia. This is what lead me to put it on the cobblestone list years ago.

It is a handwritten note, part of many pages of research in the cobblestone file at OHA.¹ It may be Richard Wright's handwriting from 40 years ago. It is difficult to read, but this is what it says:

¹ OHA: Onondaga Historical Association

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*Cicero Lot 44
Rt. 31 – N. side – W. of Whiting
Stone Arabia School*

*Cobblestone Building Replaced By Present
Structure – 1854 – L. Flynn*

The original is attached. If we can figure out who L. Flynn is, then we can establish a source.

Email from me to Glenn, dated October 30, 2017 at 2:54

Subject: Cobblestone Cicero # SH

Hi Glenn.

I'm glad you found this—thanks. It IS encouraging. I've looked around and think I may have found "L.Flynn". Looks like Lona Flynn was the Cicero Town Historian back in the timeframe when you were compiling your list.²

Email from me to Glenn, dated September 29, 2017 at 3:52

Subject: Cobblestone Cicero # SH

I am sending some info Tom Mafrici shared with me for the Stone Arabia School in Cicero—the one built in 1854. Records show the balance all school expenditures and votes cast and rescinded over about 50 years. Nowhere, unfortunately, is there mention of a cobblestone school. As such it cannot be deduced when it ceased to be used as such, if and when it was torn down, or any details whatsoever about its demise (given that it ever existed at all).

And the trail has grown cold...

² <https://obits.syracuse.com/us/obituaries/syracuse/name/lona-flynn-obituary?id=25193961>

Lona Flynn Obituary August 29, 2012

Lona Flynn, 96, of Cicero, passed away at home on Wednesday. Lona will be best remembered for her 40 years of service at the Historian for the Town of Cicero. She was active in the Cicero Historical Society and the Cicero Cemetery Association and served as the church historian for CUMC for many years. Lona received numerous community service wards including Star News Woman of the Year and induction into the NSCSD Wall of Distinction. A 31-year cancer survivor, Lona promoted health and activity at the Cicero Senior Center and won several medals in Senior Olympics at the state national levels. Lona was an author, lecturer, quilter, collector and an avid traveler who visited every capital of every state in the U.S. and many countries throughout the world.

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Provided by GH, 10-30-2017

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Cobblestone School

Cobblestone School - 1854