

Marengo District #12 Schoolhouse (Site)

HISTORY SHEET - Unverified

General Information

Cannot be confirmed as a cobblestone

Name of Structure: Marengo District #12 Schoolhouse ¹

Address: 345 Clyde-Marengo Rd (best guess based on map position)

Parcel ID: (542489) 73110-00-158226

Dist 12; Lot 94

Atlas: 1853: "School", 1858: "S.H."; 1874: "SH"; 1904: "School N° 12"

When Built / Mason: Very early, unknown mason

When Razed: 1875

Why: Unknown

Original Owner: Trustees of Marengo

Original Use: Always a schoolhouse

Photographs: No known photographs or renderings

Description: Unknown

The existence of this cobblestone schoolhouse is based solely on paper given by Grace Keller, town Historian, on the occasion of the sesquicentennial, 1951. The paper details a comprehensive view of the life and times in Marengo through the years. "Wide windowsills" for dinner pails is exactly how cobblestone schoolhouses were constructed. There are many cobblestone structures in this area and its environs, making it plausible that this was a cobblestone despite the lack of confirming evidence.

<https://fultonhistory.com/Newspaper%202/Lyons%20NY%20Republican/>

[Lyons%20NY%20Republican%201950-1951.pdf/](#)

[Lyons%20NY%20Republican%201950-1951%20-%200853.PDF](#)

Lyons NY Republican 1950-1951 - 0853.PDF (10/25/1951)

HISTORY OF MARENGO TOLD AT SESQUI BY GRACE KELLER

"Today we are gathered here to study the past of Marengo. Among us are descendants and relatives of the pioneer families ... to celebrate and to commemorate its beginning, 150 years ago.

¹ This History Sheet has been written despite being unable to corroborate with other source materials that the schoolhouse was a cobblestone. The purpose of this history sheet is to document what has been found so that it may be useful for future researchers.

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It was in 1800 that the first permanent settler came to Marengo, built a home and began to clear the land of the dense forests which covered it. His name was Loami Beadle. In the next few years several other families settled here, and Marengo became the first village in the Town of Galen. ... Between 1810 and 1815 came several families from near Philadelphia. They belong to the Society of Friends, more commonly called Quakers. They bought large farms around the village, were thrifty and industrious, and brought much to this community. The Watson farm and the Thorn farm are still owned by descendants of these two pioneer families. ... By 1815 enough families had moved in that there was need for a school. The first school was organized in 1816 ... The first schoolhouse was of cobblestone with wide windowsills, where the dinner pails were set. It was erected about 1816 on the lots where the present schoolhouse stands and was used for approximately 60 years. ... About 1875 the old stone schoolhouse was torn down and the present building erected ... From then until 1939 when Marengo centralized with Clyde, the school was the center of all education and civic affairs. ..."

Note: The construction year 1816 and the term cobblestone are mutually exclusive. Cobblestone structures started being constructed in the mid-1820s, so this is a little early. Most early schoolhouses were of logs and many of those in several counties were later replaced with cobblestone schoolhouses.

Note: This is an excellent article about the village of Marengo from initial settlement and the changes as the Erie Canal opened, railroads were built, roads were developed to facilitate traffic between larger cities, and small hamlet's response to those changes. Our focus here is the cobblestone schoolhouse, so just excerpts are cited. The longer article is worth taking a few minutes to read.