

Jennings District #3 Schoolhouse  
HISTORY SHEET - Unconfirmed  
General Information

Name of Structure: Jennings Round Jug School House, Dist. No. 3 (Jennings District)

Address: 8073 Alloway Rd (NW Alloway at Leach Rd) — MS. SHELLEY M SLOANE?

Parcel ID: (542800) 70110-00-918058

Atlas: Dist #3, Lot 15: 1853 "School"; 1858 "SH N° 15"; 1874 "SH";  
1904 "School N° 3"

When Built/Mason: Unknown

When Razed: 1889

Reason: Unknown; in vogue throughout community at that time to update,  
add onto, or replace old schoolhouses

Original Owner: Lyons School Trustees

Subsequent owners: n/a

Original Use: Schoolhouse

Pictures: None known to exist

History of the Property: Schoolhouse on the site per 1853 wall map, site also associated with:  
Samuel Westfall -> son(John) -> Henry Jennings (1868) -> ? -> Clifford Klage 1942.  
Demolished 1889 (tax records indicate present wooden structure was built in 1889)

No information forthcoming from Wayne County HS or local Lyons HS despite several requests.

Description:  
Design and masonry details - See Gertrude Ennis "*Tales of Alloway*" © 1975, 78 pgs <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This is our sole source for any information about this cobblestone structure.

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References:

*Tales of Alloway*, Compiled by Gertrude L Ennis, Lyons Town Historian 1947-1972 ©1975

Pg 28 "... built in South Lyons west of Alloway and was known as the Jennings district. It was built of cobblestone about the same time as the blacksmith shop and was round with a shed attached as an entrance for storage for wood. It had a chimney in the middle of the roof which made it remember a jug—hence the nickname for this and others like it, 'Jug schoolhouses'. Mrs Clara Jennings Milom of Lyons who attended the school gave this description of it. 'There was a gravel walk around the outside leading to the entrance. Just inside the entrance there was a bench with a water pail and wash basin. The interior walls were plastered and whitewashed. There were hooks on the west wall for the girl's coats and on the east side for the boys. The teacher's desk was at the north end of the room facing the center and entrance. Double desks were arranged around in a circle facing the center around the large stove.'

The building was demolished in 1889 in spite of bitter protest, and a new wooden structure replaced it. East of this building, now much changed as the Clifford Klage home, there is still visible the ring of stones which outlines the original school."

*Phelps Citizen*:<sup>2</sup>

**3/2/1889**: "A special meeting will be held Friday evening at the school house in joint district No. 3 at which time **plans for the new school house** will be decided upon."

**3/9/1889**: "Maryland Street and Vicinity ... The inhabitants of joint district No 3 have decided to build a new frame school house 24 x 34', work to commence next week."

**4/18/1889**: "The inhabitants of School District No 3 have not decided upon a plan for the new school house."

**6/20/1889**: "Eugene Bennett, of Phelps, will build the new school-house in joint district No. 3."

**11/21/1889**: "Miss Ella Thomas has commenced proceedings against John H Jennings as Trustee of joint school district No. 3 Lyons and Phelps. The plaintiff alleges that the defendant agreed to employ here for a period of twelve weeks at a stated compensation and that she came home from the Geneseo State Normal school with that understanding. The defendant claims that he hired the plaintiff to teach provided the district voted to have school during the summer. On account of the erection of the new school house there was no school and so the matter stands. State Superintendent Draper has the matter before him and a decision may

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<sup>2</sup> Phelps NY Citizen 1889 Feb-Dec 1890 Grayscale - 0067.pdf ( 3/9/1889)

Phelps NY Citizen 1889 Feb-Dec 1890 Grayscale - 0063.pdf ( 3/2/1889)

Phelps NY Citizen 1889 Feb-Dec 1890 Grayscale - 0053.pdf (4/18/1889)

Phelps NY Citizen 1889 Feb-Dec 1890 Grayscale - 0205.pdf (11/21/1889)

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soon be extended." (<http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074662/1889-11-21/ed-1/seq-4/>)

Phelps NY Citizen 1905 Aug-Sept 1907 Grayscale - 0438.pdf (6/20/1907)

"Henry Jennings departed this life ... age of 86 years... born in Southport, Conn. and came with his parents to the town of Phelps when 12 years of age. After marriage to Mary Humphrey, they bought the lands now owned by George Hopple and after clearing the same erected farm buildings. Upon selling this farm they resided in Lyons one year, when in 1868 they purchased their present home. Mr Jennings was a very industrious, energetic person and a shrewd businessman ... Two sons, John and Burr and 3 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren... Burial at Lyons.

Phelps NY Citizen 1908 Jan-Dec 1909 Grayscale - 0429.pdf ( 11/18/1909)

"Burr Jennings died ...Monday afternoon... after an illness of 3 weeks of typhoid fever which finally developed into spinal meningitis which caused his death.... Born in Phelps in June 1858 and had always resided in this immediate locality. About 2 years ago he was married to Miss Carrie Hopkins... Besides his wife and mother he leaves one brother John H."

Phelps NY Citizen 1912 Apr-Aug 1914 Grayscale - 0203.pdf (2/18/1913)

"Mrs Mary Jennings, widow of Henry Jennings, died... in South Lyons in her 89th year... daughter of the late John Humphrey a pioneer to the town of Phelps. She was married to the late Henry Jennings in 1843 and in 1867 removed from Phelps to Lyons, her husband purchasing the S.D. Westfall farm of 208 acres a year later... One son, John H Jennings of Lyons, survives."

#### WHO WAS GERTRUDE ENNIS?

Gertrude Ennis: Geneva NY Finger Lake Times 1979 Oct 1979 - 0406.pdf (10/12/1979, p-11)  
LYONS — "...Mrs Ennis, former town historian, sketches the people, places, and businesses of Lyons from its earliest days to the present... She wrote the book from old newspaper clippings, personal diaries, other books, and her own memories. Mrs Ennis, 84, is a native of Fulton and has lived in Lyons for 60 years... Her other two books were written on nearby Alloway, where she lives, and on the history of the Lyons Presbyterian Church."

Rochester Democrat & Chronicle, 8/5/1984 — "Gertrude L Ennis, Lyons town historian 25 years, died Friday at age 89. Mrs Ennis of Alloway died... after a short illness... Mrs Ennis served as Lyons historian from 1947 to 1972. She wrote two books in the 1970s: *Lyons the Shire Town* and *Tales of Alloway*... Mrs Ennis also taught at the Lyons Union School and at Rochester schools. She is survived by one son, George Ennis Jr of Yorba Linda, CA and four grandchildren.