

Munn District Schoolhouse #9 (Site)

HISTORY SHEET

General Information

Name of Structure: Munn District Schoolhouse #9

Address: SE Sterns at Middle Sodus Rd

Parcel ID: (542889) 70114-00-684230

Atlas: 1853: "School"; 1858: "SH N° 9"; 1874: "SH"; 1904: "School N° 9"

When Built / Mason: Unknown; <1853

When Razed: Not razed, allowed to erode away to the ground

Original Owner: Lyons Board of Education

Original Use: Schoolhouse

Subsequently: No indication it was used after consolidation of district schools

Pictures: Several

Description:

Design details:

Long side faced Middle Sodus Rd which had 3 evenly spaced windows. The end facing Sterns Rd was hidden behind a wooden woodshed-type addition which presumably covered the entrance—no details for that gable end. Opposite gable end was solid cobblestones. Patchwork reveals there were initially two windows which were later cobbled over with a reasonably good match of stone sizes, shapes, and colors and likewise a good match of mortar color and masonry style. Details about when or why are unknown.

Masonry details:

Façade multicolored, sized, shaped lakestones; both horizontal & vertical joints V's; fine brown mortar w/many lime lumps; irregular & untooled sandstone quoins, wooden lintels. Larger stones on non-roadside long side. On facade, 4/Q (generally); on gable end rows/quoins varied with quoin size, ranging from between 5/Q and 2/Q (at rear corner due to variable quoin size). No pictures of other two sides. The foundation was rough-hewn sandstone blocks.

Field Trip Notes:

I examined the site with fellow cobblestone enthusiast, Ross Marshall, on 5/5/2012. At some point the structure was bulldozed for safety reasons and a big pile of rocks remain. Some material from the exterior walls lay in crumbled chunks of various sizes on the site—many with stones still encased in their mortar matrix. The walls were ~12" thick—a matrix of large rubble stones. Some apparent water rounded small cobbles were actually oblong shapes most of

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whose length was embedded into the mortar matrix, giving support to the wall structure. CFS describes "roughly squared brown sandstone quoins"—none of those were found on the site.

Historic Context:

After rural schools were closed children attended the centralized school district. There is no record whether or not this schoolhouse, like so many others, was sold and converted into a residence (or another purpose) or simply abandoned at that time. The Van Orden survey would suggest it was abandoned and left to the element in 1936.¹

Multiple un-responded to requests for information from Lyons Town Historian about old school records for early district schools to learn something about this schoolhouse.

"J Munn" appears on 1853 and 1858 wall maps. The school district was commonly known as the "Munn School District". John Munn owned much of the property in the adjacent area in the mid-1800s. I could not find any relevant information about him. Cemetery records reveal what is available.

He is buried in Lyons Rural Cemetery

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/45109600/john-munn> (12/11/1802 - 9/17/1867)

From cemetery records: "John was the son of James and Elizabeth (Kingsnorth). He was born in England. He immigrated [sic] to the US on the ship *Hudson* arriving in NY on April 5, 1826. He married Sarah Filkins in Whitestown, NY in 1829. They had 9 children. In the early 1830's the family moved to Lyons. Sarah died in 1847. John then married Fannie Noonlan, a widow. John and Fannie had 4 children together. John was a farmer and remained in Lyons for the rest of his life."

John Munn's son, George F, was a prosperous Lyons farmer.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/34496254/george-freeman-munn> (1854-1911)

[Syracuse NY Post Standard 1911 - 2475.PDF](#) (6/10/1911)

Newspaper headline read: "Brooding Over Reverses, Farmer Commits Suicide—George F Munn Hangs Himself in Barn at North Lyons" "June 3, 1911—Despondent over financial reverses, George F Munn, 57 years old, a well-known farmer of North Lyons committed suicide this morning.... He had lost money in financing a patent apple picker..."

¹ Robert & Alice Van Orden Cobblestone Survey, photograph of roofless schoolhouse with caption: "Middle Sodus Road, Lyons 3 — Schoolhouse for Mum [sic] District, terrible condition, abandoned in 1936. There are cobble up windows on one side. No roof." No dates available for when Van Orden's conducted their survey.

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Syracuse NY Herald 1911 - 2358.pdf (6/9/1911)

"Lyons, June 9—This village was startled this morning to hear of the suicide of George Munn, a prominent and well-to-do North Lyons farmer... had been town assessor for the last ten years..."