

Johnson - Dwyer House
HISTORY SHEET
General Information

Name of Structure: Walter Johnson - Dennis Dwyer House

Address: ~235 Route 31
43°03'52.4"N 77°22'08.4"W (43.0645553, -77.368993)

Parcel ID: (543000) 61111-00-120791

Atlas: 1853: "Mrs Johnson"; 1858, 1874: "W Johnson"; 1904: "D Dwyer"
District 4, Lot 36

When Built / Mason: 1834¹ (CFS)

When Razed: ~ 1963

Why: To redevelop the site into a trailer park

Original Owner: Walter Johnson
Dennis Dwyer

Original Use: House

Subsequently: Falling into disrepair 1940 (Dorothy Wells Pease (DWP));
Vacant in 1955 (Verlyn Klahn (VK))

Photographs: Yes (inc 2 photos in the CFS Research files at SUNY Geneseo Milne Library)

Description:

Design details

2-story, 5-bay, center entrance w/2 windows each side and 5 windows centered above lower openings. Door was unusual in that it was recessed (not flush with the façade cobblestone wall) and it was framed with "lintels" along both sides of the door in addition to the lintel above the door, center (internal) chimney. A large 1½-story rear wing with another 1-story wing extending to the rear behind it (both wings cobblestone). They were partially covered with ivy, obscuring details. Gable ends were mirror images of each other: 2 windows down w/2 centered above them and a round medallion in the peak.

Masonry details

¹ 1832 Sold by David & Betsey Baker to Walter Johnson for \$6000, 25 acres—Liber 13, Pgs 50-51. CFS states house was torn down early in the 1960s; Newspaper article dated 2/2/1966 states "the house was torn down to make way for a trailer park".

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Limestone Q,L,S and watertable all sides of main block; 4/Q (all elevations, including the wing) and 7 courses below watertable to grade. Multi-colored, sized, shaped fieldstones used throughout; horizontal joints Vd, verticals pyramided. Lintels and sills extended past the edge of the windows 3 cobbles worth.

Overview:

It is unknown exactly when it was torn down or who the owner was at the time. It appears that brothers John and Timothy Dwyer were living in the house in the very early 1940s. John died in 1945, possibly after which it was initially sold. A "Mr Hoffman" came into possession sometime before 1955 and was still in possession of it when CFS was writing his 1966 *Cobblestone Masonry*. He indicated it had been demolished in the early 1960s. By 1960 the 125 acre farm site was owned by a trailer court, per Timothy Dwyer's obituary notice.

References:

DWP (1940-41): "Just over the line in Macedon is the Johnson house built by Walter Johnson in 1834. Limestone quoins, fieldstones 4/Q. House is falling into disrepair. **Mr Dwyer and his brother have lived there for 55 years.**"

Note: John Dwyer died 1945 (75); Timothy (age 72) died 1960—his obit said he was born in the cobblestone house "presently owned by a trailer court".

VK (1955): Variously colored stones; horizontal joints Vd and verticals pyramids; regular, well cut limestone quoins and lintels; note the limestone columns at the entrance. "The quoins were drawn from the stone quarry at Ontario by oxen." VK documented it was owned by a "Mr Hoffman" at the time of his survey.

CFS (1966): "was demolished a few years ago". He references it as Johnson-Hoffman house.

It is unknown who initially developed the trailer court and when—maybe Hoffman; maybe Schiano.

In 1971 Gilbert M Schiano (Schiano Building Corp) sold the trailer court.

Geneva NY Daily Times 1971 Nov-Dec 1971 Grayscale - 0601.pdf (11/24/1971)

Wayne deed transfers — Gilbert M Schiano to Macedon Trailer Court.

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The site is now a large retail center and parking lot (15.77 acres, 2006). Correspondences with Town of Macedon historians helped pinpoint the best guess "footprint" of the cobblestone house; Coordinates: 43°03'52.4"N 77°22'08.4"W

Emails 3/21/2018, 5/1/2018, 5/2/2018, 2/22-23/2019 with Linda Braun (Macedon Historian) and additional research help from Dave Gardner (Macedon Historical Society) to pinpoint the location (footprint) of the house which is now part of the expansive Lowe's Store and parking lot (Macedon Plaza LLC). Aerial photos indicate the house was still standing in 1963 and gone after that. Handwritten note in Town folder "Razed 1963".

Ownership

Walter Johnson

<https://books.google.com/books?id=E5jOAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA31&lpg=PA31&dq=walter+johnson+macedon+NY+died+1884&source=bl&ots=JpevAytCGx&sig=ACfU3U3dPGE0JthGPnGh22Gu7tIFZ3mRog&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwil0s75vlz5AhVIKkQIHYg2CGEQ6AF6BAgtEAM#v=onepage&q=walter%20johnson%20macedon%20NY%20died%201884&f=false>

"The History of Macedon Academy: 1841-1891", © 1892, by the Alumni Committee, Macedon Academy, Macedon Centre NY Alumni, p 31

WALTER JOHNSON—Born 12/29/1796 in New Jersey; came to Macedon with his parents at the age of 12; learned the trade of blacksmith at Geneva; made considerable of the iron work for Auburn prison; was in the U.S. Army 1817 to 1821; married 9/23/1821 to Lydia Peters; followed blacksmithing for many years on the place now owned by Mrs David Brockway, Wayneport, the ring of his anvil sometimes heard all night, doing work for contractors on the Erie Canal; about 1829 bought the farm since known by his name; in 1860 rented the farm; bought the place of his old shop again, and lived there until 1878; then returned to his farm, where he died 1/15/1884. Among his papers is a lease of two pews in the Baptist church of Macedon for 99 years. During the Civil War he was intensely interested, and made it "red-hot" for any one who spoke against the government or the soldiers. When a committee traveled through Macedon for blankets for David P Richardson's troops in New York harbor, Walter Johnson bought new material, hired help to work all night, and the next day at noon gave to the committee four large, new, double padded comforters."

NOTE: A similar look at his life can be found at archive.org/details/pioneersofmacedo00mace "Pioneers of Macedon and Other Papers of the Macedon Center Historical Society", © 1912, by the Macedon Center Historical Society, p 63. Unable to find where Walter Johnson (or wife

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Lydia) was laid to rest—he's not shown in any of the town's cemeteries. On p 139, in the section, "The Burial Grounds of Macedon", it states that there was a subscription to raise money to fence and improve the ground of the "Wayne Port Union Burying Ground" to which he made a large contribution.

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074547/1897-12-16/ed-1/seq-12/> Monroe County Mail (Fairport NY)

"MACEDON ACADEMY: This old institution of learning was founded in 1842 by Thomas C Hance, Thomas Barnes, Philander Packard, Ira Odell, William C Johnston, Evert Bogardus, Henry Tillou, John Johnston, James Cunningham, Israel Woolsey, Joshua Delong, John C Marshall, John VanVliet, Walter Johnson and Caleb VanDuzer. ..."

Palmyra NY Courier 1870-1885 - 0766.pdf (1/18/1884)

JOHNSON — In Macedon, January 15, 1884, Mr Walter Johnson aged 80 years.

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074547/1887-01-20/ed-1/seq-2/> Monroe County Mail (Fairport NY)

REFEREE'S SALE: T.W. Collins Jr, referee, will sell at public sale on Saturday, Feb 26, at 11 o'clock AM the farm of 133 acres belonging to the late Walter Johnson, situated in the towns of Macedon and Perinton, ~1 mile southwest of Wayneport station. Terms 10% down, balance in 30 days."

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074547/1885-05-14/ed-1/seq-4/> Monroe County Mail (Fairport NY)

"Thomas Evans Jr, of Delaware OH, editor of the Delaware Signal, is in town for a few days on business connected with the settling up of the Johnson estate of Wayneport."

NOTE: He was administrator of the estate.

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074547/1887-03-03/ed-1/seq-2/> Monroe County Mail (Fairport NY)

"The Johnson estate sale took place last Saturday. The property was purchased by Mr Dennis Dwyer who will soon take possession".

Dennis Dwyer

St Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/188284103/dennis-dwyer> (1842-1926; 83-84) - father

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/188275179/dennis-b-dwyer> (1877-1966; 88-89) - son

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<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/177374933/francis-m-dwyer> (1889-1917; 27)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/188284070/john-dwyer> (1867-1943; 75-76)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/188289440/timothy-dwyer> (1881-1960; 78-79)

Single named headstone: Francis, John, and Timothy

1940 Census

<https://www.archives.com/1940-census/timothy-dwyer-ny-66640262>

Timothy Dwyer

Age: 58

Est Birth year: 1882

Enumeration District: 59-28

Residence: Macedon, NY

Other People in Household: John Dwyer 71 yrs

<https://www.archives.com/1940-census/john-dwyer-ny-66640263>

John Dwyer

Age: 71

Est Birth Year: 1869

Enumeration District: 59-28

Residence: Macedon, NY

Relationship to Head of Household: Brother

Other People in Household: Timothy Dwyer 58 yr

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn85026408/1917-04-11/ed-1/seq-10/> The Fairport

Herald

"The death of Francis Dwyer, aged 27 years, occurred at his home early Saturday morning after a lingering illness of tuberculosis. Although he had been ill for some time, he was not confined to his bed, and his death came suddenly. Last summer was spent by him in the Adirondacks in an effort to regain his health. Mr Dwyer had lived his entire life in this community ... He is survived by his parents, Mr and Mrs Dennis Dwyer, four brothers John, Dennis, and Timothy of Macedon, Edmund of Canandaigua; five sisters ... The funeral will be held Tuesday morning at the Catholic church in Macedon, and interment at Fairport."

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074724/1926-04-08/ed-1/seq-5/> The Fairport

Herald

"Dennis Dwyer Sr, almost a lifelong resident of this vicinity and a respected man, passed on Friday morning at his home after a three weeks illness. Mr Dwyer leaves to mourn his loss, his wife Mary; four sons, John, Dennis Jr, and Timothy, of this town, and Edward of Pittsford; five daughters ... The funeral was held this morning from St Patrick's church in Macedon ... Interment was in Fairport cemetery.

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Fairport NY Monroe County Mail 1944 - 1945 Grayscale - 0450.pdf (1/11/1945)

"Death Takes John Dwyer Long-time Resident — John Dwyer, an old resident of this town, passed away early last Sunday morning. For many years he has live in the stone house, an old landmark on route 31. He was a good neighbor, friendly, and kind to all. He leaves two brothers."

Fairport NY Monroe County Mail 1956 - 1957 Grayscale - 0419.pdf (11/29/1956)

"The 55th wedding anniversary of Mr and Mrs Dennis Dwyer, of Macedon, was celebrated by a family dinner at Green Lantern Inn ..."

Fairport NY Monroe County Mail 1960 - 1961 Grayscale - 0428.pdf (8/17/1960)

"Timothy Dwyer, 72, Requiem Mass Sung — Timothy Dwyer, aged 72 years, of Palmyra Rd, Macedon, passed away 8/8/1960 in Thompson Memorial Hospital, Canandaigua, after a short illness. Mr Dwyer was born and raised in the family cobblestone homestead on the Palmyra Rd. It is presently owned by a trailer court ... He is survived by one sister, Mary Knoakes, of Rochester, one brother, Dennis of Macedon ... Burial was in St Patrick's cemetery."

Fairport NY Monroe County Mail 1964 - 1966 Grayscale - 1294.pdf (2/2/1966)

<https://fultonhistory.com/Newspaper%205/Fairport%20NY%20Monroe%20County%20Mail/Fairport%20NY%20Monroe%20County%20Mail%201964%20-%201966%20Grayscale.pdf/Fairport%20NY%20Monroe%20County%20Mail%201964%20-%201966%20Grayscale%20-%201294.pdf>

"Dwyer. The Dwyers were really a Macedon, Wayne Co family, but the younger generation came to the Fairport schools, as their home was just over the line of the east boundary of Perinton. The house was a cobblestone on the left going east on Palmyra Road. The house was torn down to make way for a trailer park. This is a third generation family here. Dennis Dwyer Sr, had son Dennis Jr, who was born and lived here. Dennis Jr married Elizabeth Carney, daughter of John and Margaret Biracree Carney."