

William E Henion Blacksmith Shop (Site)

HISTORY SHEET General Information

Name of Structure: William E Henion BSS

Address: 3736 S Main St (formerly named Palmyra Rd)
northernmost edge of the Seneca Foods Corp property¹

Parcel ID: (543200) 65114-12-809512

Atlas: 1853: unlabeled; 1858: "BS", 1874: "B S Sh", 1904: "W.E.Henion"

When Built/Mason: Unknown

When Razed: Unknown, after Klahn picture 1953/54

Why: Unknown

Original Owner: Unknown (early maps only indicate a blacksmith shop)

Subsequently: William Edwin Henion / wife Jennie Henion (as BSS)

Unknown other(s)

Original Use: Blacksmith Shop

Subsequently: Blacksmith Shop

Photographs: 3 historic (Marion Historian Carolyn Adriaansen)

Verlyn Klahn (1953/54) - refers to it as "Marion Canning Co"²

Description:

Design Details:

Gable end faced Palmyra Rd. Double wide door on right, two windows to left. On long side, a door from roofline to ground level on each end, with one window between them, placed right of center towards the front of the building.

Masonry Details:

Klahn: Stones mostly lake-polished (2-4" x 3-8"); none protrude much—definitely early period work. Both horizontal and vertical joints V'd. Mortar is medium coarseness & hardness. Irregularly cut sandstone quoins (19" x 9" x 6" TO 13" x 11½" x 7½").

Lintels are either brick or regular rows of cobblestones (brick lintels set vertically). No

¹ Per tax records, the present building on the site was erected in 1950. This property is the combination of several former adjacent sites, including the cobblestone BSS site which now serves as a parking lot for Seneca Foods Corp.

² Klahn: "This building is used as part of the Marion Canning Company." pp 139, 140, 1955 Hoffman Essay "Cobblestone structures of Wayne County". Klahn's photograph shows an apple processing chute in front of the building.

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lintel over front door—just cobblestone courses to the wood frame. Generally set 3 courses/quoin. Windows on front: 9-over-9 sashes .

NOTE: Neither DWP nor CFS recorded it. It did exist in 1940 when DWP did her survey.

Overview:

James Harvey Curtis built another cobblestone blacksmith shop in 1834 that stood at 3757 Mill St until it was demolished, and the Second Reformed Church was built on the site. He and his sons, James S and Brainerd T, ran a successful carriage and wagon making business there until 1903 when James B. Malcolm bought it and converted the Curtis BSS into a cooperage to support his growing business. James Harvey Curtis' daughter, Harriet, married Oliver Henion (who was captured during the war and died in prison). **William E Henion**, our subject, was their son. He was James Harvey Curtis' grandson and nephew to James S and Brainerd T Curtis. In 1881 William E Henion, aka W.E. Henion, married Jennie Malcolm—sister of James B Malcolm, owner of the J.B. Malcolm evaporated fruits, beans, and farm produce business.

William Henion learned the blacksmith's trade from his uncle Brainerd Curtis and later purchased (~1877) the cobblestone blacksmith shop just north of his brother-in-law's business. He conducted a large business there for 38 years. After his death, his widow Jennie, attempted to keep the business going for a couple more years. Little is known about the shop beyond this other than what Verlyn Klahn documented in his 1955 Hoffman Essay, *Cobblestone Structures of Wayne County*.

References:

Marion Cemetery

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/21198147/william-henion> (1856-Nov,1915; 58)

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074107/1915-11-19/ed-1/seq-3/> Marion Enterprise
William Edwin Henion — Certainly Marion is losing some of her most substantial citizens and those who will be seriously missed in her business circle. It was a blow to the whole town to learn that Tuesday night at 6 o'clock, William E Henion passed ... was born ... July 21st, 1856. His father, Oliver P Henion being killed at the battle of Pleasant Hill, April 9, '64, William, as a young lad, was left to help support a widowed mother and family. He was a student at M.C.I.; learning the blacksmith's trade of his uncle, Brainerd T Curtis. After spending a year in Rochester shops, he returned and purchased the shop which he has since occupied and in which he has done a large business for 38 years ... The funeral services will be in charge of the Masonic order ..."

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<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074107/1915-11-26/ed-1/seq-3/> Marion Enterprise
The funeral of William E Henion was one of the largest held in town for some time. The business places were closed during the service. 50 automobiles were counted along the street.

NOTE: The obit notice reports he ran a successful business there for 38 years. Doing the math, if he died in 1915 that would suggest he purchased the shop in 1877.

NOTE: Several newspaper accounts for a few years after his death suggest that his widow, Jennie, attempted to keep the cobblestone shop going. She hired blacksmiths to run it in the years immediately following her husband's death until 1919. No mention of it again in newspapers until 1927 when she again leased it to a blacksmith for some unspecified amount of time—unknown if it was open continuously or not during this apparent inactive interval. There was no subsequent mention of the Henion Blacksmith Shop in newspapers after 1927. Jennie Henion died 1/24/1932 at age 80.

W.E. Henion grandson of James Harvey Curtis

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074107/1896-11-14/ed-1/seq-3/> Marion Enterprise
Mrs Harriet J Henion died quite suddenly at her home in Marion on Saturday afternoon last of apoplexy. ... Mrs Henion was the daughter of James Harvey and Maria Curtis and was the eldest of six children of whom James S and Brainerd T Curtis alone are living. She was born Oct 6, 1822 and married Oliver P Henion Oct 14, 1847. Her husband enlisted in the army and was wounded at the battle of Pleasant Hill, and died in prison in Louisiana. ...surviving her are ... and William E Henion...."

Wife, Jennie Henion, keeps the blacksmith shop going

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074501/1918-03-09/ed-1/seq-3/> Newark-Union Gazette

Raymond Ebert and family have moved ... has been employed for some time by Mrs Jennie Henion in her blacksmith shop. She has secured another man who will move here from Rochester...

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074107/1918-08-09/ed-1/seq-3/> Marion Enterprise
"Charles Brusse is doing a lively business at the Henion BSS."

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn84031445/1919-05-22/ed-1/seq-8/> Wayne County Journal

Mrs Jennie Henion has secured as blacksmith Mr Thompson of Palmyra. F. J. Bruzee who formerly worked for her, has opened a small shop in his barn.

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074501/1919-09-06/ed-1/seq-8/> Newark Union Gazette

"Mrs Jennie Henion has reopened her blacksmithing shop with a competent man in charge."

BSS — 1927, operating as BSS

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<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn84031445/1919-11-06/ed-1/seq-8/> Wayne County Journal

Henry Lybert, who recently received his discharge from the Navy, has rented Mrs Jennie Henion's blacksmith shop and will resume his former occupation as a blacksmith.

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn84031445/1927-03-10/ed-1/seq-2/> Wayne County Journal

"Frank Leroy of Williamson has leased the blacksmith shop owned by Mrs William Henion and will open for business next week. Mr Leroy has been recently employed by his brother Jacob Leroy at Williamson and formerly ran a blacksmith shop in Marion."

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074529/1927-03-17/ed-1/seq-5/> Williamson Sun and The Williamson Sentinel

Frank LeRoy of Williamson, formerly of Marion, has reopened the Henion Blacksmith shop in Marion.

Jennie dies at 80 yrs old (1/24/1932)

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn85026906/1932-01-28/ed-1/seq-8/> Newark Courier
Mrs Jennie Henion, aged 80 years, died at her home on Palmyra Street, Marion, Sunday morning, January 24th, after an illness of one week. She was born in Scotland, the daughter of George and Jane Malcolm, and came to America about 1870. She was married to William Henion 51 years ago. Mr Henion has been dead 16 years. She is survived by one son, George, of Farmington."

Through the years

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074107/1881-10-29/ed-1/seq-3/> Marion Enterprise
"Wm Henion has been repairing his blacksmith shop."

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074107/1883-10-13/ed-1/seq-3/> Marion Enterprise
"WM HENION General Blacksmith, Horseshoeing & repairing a specialty."

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074107/1894-09-22/ed-1/seq-3/> Marion Enterprise
"Wm Henion BSS; tools were taken & the safe was badly broken."

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074454/1894-10-24/ed-1/seq-7/> Arcadian Weekly
"Mr Phillips will work with William Henion in the BSS."

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<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074107/1897-11-13/ed-1/seq-3/> Marion Enterprise
"George Malcolm is employed in Wm Henion's BSS."

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn85026906/1902-08-14/ed-1/seq-3/> Newark Courier
"burglers... post office... also horse blankets and tools also stolen from Henion BSS"

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074107/1903-10-23/ed-1/seq-3/> Marion Enterprise
"Wm E Henion has improved his BSS w/large windows."

<https://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074107/1909-09-24/ed-1/seq-3/> Marion Enterprise
"J.B. Malcolm & Co have commenced the construction of a building just north of Henion & Son's blacksmith shop on Palmyra street. The building will be about 24x60' with two floors above the basement. With the company's extensive business this is just what is needed."

What became of the Cobblestone BSS?

Although the answer is unknown, it was reported that there was a fire on the site in November, 1955. The cobblestone is not specifically mentioned. The fire would, however, have been after the last known photograph of the cobblestone BSS was taken.

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn84035938/1955-10-27/ed-1/seq-1/> Palmyra Courier-Journal

"Fire destroys Marion Building Tuesday Night — A fire at 8:00 o'clock Tuesday night destroyed a warehouse owned by the Marion Canning Co. The warehouse was owned by Peter Naeye, president of the canning company. His son, Donald, who is manager of the company, stated the loss at about \$6,000. It is believed that an oil stove in the living quarters exploded, starting the fire."

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn84035938/1955-11-03/ed-1/seq-2/> Palmyra Courier-Journal

"Miss Dora Westfall gave a short sketch of the Hall family ... The meeting was interrupted by a fire alarm and the burning of the store house on the adding property of the Marion Canning Co, but later was continued ..."

Note: The term "store house" connotes a smaller building than a warehouse.