

Christian Church of Honeoye Falls (Site)

HISTORY SHEET General Information

Name of Structure: Christian Church of Honeoye Falls, aka "The Old Stone Church"

Address: 12 Monroe St (Village of Honeoye Falls)

Parcel ID: (263601) 228.43-1-11

Atlas: 1858: "Christⁿ Ch"; 1872: "CH"

When Built/ Mason: 1840, Unknown

When Razed: Early September 1888

Why: Fire

Original Owner: Trustees of Christian Church

Subsequently: Various

Original Use: Church

Subsequently: Undertaking parlor, millinery shop, select school, furniture shop

Photographs: Photocopy from: *Yesteryears Quarterly Magazine* for the appreciation of New York State History, Vol. 23, No. 89 Fall 1979.

Description:

Design Details:

2-story, gable faced road; Long side 5 windows up; 5 down; gable of wood; appears to have pilasters on front and maybe a center entrance flanked by one window each side with 3 centered above lower openings. Looks like stone quoins were used on back elevation; probably wooden lintels and sills (possibly stone lintels on lower windows along side).

Mortar Details:

None available.

Overview

This cobblestone church was abandoned as a church in 1877 because membership had fallen to 75 people. Afterwards it had various uses.

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References

<https://mcnygenealogy.com/book/honeoye-falls-beginning.pdf>

Honeoye Falls N.Y., by David K Maloney, Village Historian, published 1/1/1963
p. 15

"In January of 1817 a Rev. Joseph Badger, a traveler from New Hampshire, preached in Henrietta and at Norton's Mills. An invitation was extended for him to preach again during the summer ... These invitations continued twice a month and in October of that year Rev. Badger remained to continue his work on a permanent basis. ... A stone edifice was completed in January of 1840 at a cost of \$4000."

Note: Norton's Mills is the original name of the village of Honeoye Falls.

<https://mcnygenealogy.com/book/mendon-sesquicentennial.pdf>

"Opposite the library stood an important church of the past century, the Christian Church built of cobblestone and completed in 1840 at a cost of \$4,000. Elder Badger was the first pastor. The chapel was described in early records as 'new and commodious,' the 'best in town.' On April 20, 1841, 29 persons were baptized in Honeoye Creek. The Rev. Oliver Barr succeeded 'Elder' Badger as pastor. 'Elder' W.J. Helps was the last pastor in 1877, and the membership was then 75. The Christian Church was organized in 1817, and as records state, a meeting house built a 'little north' of the white schoolhouse after 1826. Its congregation split over doctrinal issues, and the old stone church building, as it was known, became the site of undertaking parlors, a millinery shop, and a select school. It burned in 1887, and the stone walls were taken down."

Email 7/20/2012 from Diane Ham, Mendon Town Historian.

"Opposite the library (in Honeoye Falls on Monroe St.) stood an important church of the past century, the Christian Church built of cobblestone and completed in 1840 at a cost of \$4,000. Elder Badger was the first pastor. The chapel was described in early records as "new and commodious," the "best in town." On April 20, 1841, 29 persons were baptized in Honeoye Creek. The Rev. Oliver Barr succeeded "Elder" Badger as pastor. "Elder" W. J. Hepps was the last pastor in 1877, and the membership was then 75.

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Email 7/26/2012 from Diane Ham included copy of a page from unnamed book:

"The Christian Church had some earlier history but built a large stone building on Monroe Street around 1840. Like the Baptist congregation did not flourish and the building was sold to a furniture company that also doubled as an undertaking establishment. The building burned in the 1880's and the Christian Church became another casualty."

Livonia NY Gazette 1887-1889 - 0233.pdf (9/7/1888)

"Honeoye Falls had a \$6,000 fire the other day. The old stone church, owned and occupied by Brayton & Co, furniture dealers, was burned, together with most of the stock it contained. Mr Brayton lived in one part of the building and very little of his household furniture was saved."

Rochester Democrat & Chronicle (8/15/1935)

"Mrs. Martha Smalley of Honeoye Falls will celebrate her 91st birthday tomorrow... they went to Honeoye Falls. Distinct impressions remain with her of Western New York as an overgrown wilderness and the stories about Indians told the young people of her day kept them from wandering far from the village. She is one of the few persons here who remembers the old church known as the Christian Church of Honeoye Falls, built in 1840 and the "select school" conducted in the basement. This church was the leading church in the community 75 years ago. It was razed by fire in 1888."