

PALMYRA DISTRICT #1 SCHOOLHOUSE (Site)  
HISTORY SHEET  
General Information

Name of Structure: Palmyra District #1 Schoolhouse

Address: 160 Cuyler St<sup>1</sup> (NE corner E Jackson and Cuyler Sts)

Tax ID: (543601) 64111-11-714613

Atlas: 1853: "McLane"; 1858 unmarked bldg; 1874 "McLean";  
1904 unlabeled narrow empty lot abutting east C McLouth

When Built / Mason: c.1835; unknown mason (one of 3 cobblestone SH built in Palmyra in 1835)

When Razed: 1901

Why: Torn down to build a new house

NOTE: Used as SH until: 1847; Union SH subsequently used & SH converted into a dwelling (as were the other 2 cobblestone SH)

Original Owner: Palmyra's "board of education"

Subsequent : Henry Gardner (until death), Julius McLean (until death)  
Judge C McClouth (razed it)

Original Use: Schoolhouse

Subsequent: Private home

Pictures : Yes - one

Description: Center entrance, no windows on street-facing gable end; multi-everything fieldstones, primarily rectangular shapes; no quoins—bricks on corners and bricks set on edge along the sides and across top of door. Photograph too grainy to discern mortar details.

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<sup>1</sup> Site description: 1874 atlas shows the Osborne lot as a corner rectangular lot with the long narrow SH lot abutting it to the east fronting E Jackson St. That lot was absorbed into the Osborne lot, thus making it irregular in shape. This new shape is indicated on the 1904 map, by that time owned by Charles McClouth.

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Resources:

"Palmyra and Vicinity", by Thomas L Cook © 1930, pp 268-270. Reprints of some sections were also printed in the Wayne County Sentinel in 1957-1958 in installments.

[https://fultonhistory.com/Newspaper%202/  
Palmyra%20NY%20Wayne%20County%20Journal/  
Palmyra%20NY%20Wayne%20County%20Journal%201928-1929.pdf/  
Palmyra%20NY%20Wayne%20County%20Journal%201928-1929%20-%201301.pdf](https://fultonhistory.com/Newspaper%202/Palmyra%20NY%20Wayne%20County%20Journal/Palmyra%20NY%20Wayne%20County%20Journal%201928-1929.pdf/Palmyra%20NY%20Wayne%20County%20Journal%201928-1929%20-%201301.pdf)  
Palmyra NY Wayne County Journal 1928-1929 - 1301.pdf (5/16/1929)

"Away back in 1835, across the way where a little cottage now stands, was erected a stone schoolhouse which was used for a district school until the Union School house was built. For many years after it had served its purpose as a school house, it was occupied by Henry Gardner as a dwelling house. Later owned and occupied by Julius M McLain [sic]. After his death, Judge Charles McLouth bought the property, tore down the old stone house, and built a neat little cottage on the same site..."

Echoes Of The Past, 19th Installment ... taken from Thomas L Cook's scrapbook - Palmyra NY Wayne County Sentinel 1957-1958 - 0571.pdf (12/12/1957) Installment 19 or

[https://fultonhistory.com/Newspaper%202/  
Palmyra%20NY%20Wayne%20County%20Sentinel/  
Palmyra%20NY%20Wayne%20County%20Sentinel%20%201957-1958.pdf/  
Palmyra%20NY%20Wayne%20County%20Sentinel%20%201957-1958%20-%200571.pdf](https://fultonhistory.com/Newspaper%202/Palmyra%20NY%20Wayne%20County%20Sentinel/Palmyra%20NY%20Wayne%20County%20Sentinel%20%201957-1958.pdf/Palmyra%20NY%20Wayne%20County%20Sentinel%20%201957-1958%20-%200571.pdf)

In 1835 the village was divided into 3 school districts and they built three new stone schoolhouses—one on the corner of Main and Carroll, one on East Jackson Street just east of the McLouth residence, and one on Troop Street. In 1846 or 47 the three school districts were consolidated into one district.

Palmyra NY Wayne County Sentinel 1957-1958 - 0632.pdf (1/23/1958) Installment 23  
[https://fultonhistory.com/Newspaper%202/  
Palmyra%20NY%20Wayne%20County%20Sentinel/  
Palmyra%20NY%20Wayne%20County%20Sentinel%20%201957-1958.pdf/  
Palmyra%20NY%20Wayne%20County%20Sentinel%20%201957-1958%20-%200632.pdf](https://fultonhistory.com/Newspaper%202/Palmyra%20NY%20Wayne%20County%20Sentinel/Palmyra%20NY%20Wayne%20County%20Sentinel%20%201957-1958.pdf/Palmyra%20NY%20Wayne%20County%20Sentinel%20%201957-1958%20-%200632.pdf)

Across the street and a litter nearer Fayette Street, we find a modern home built by Judge McLouth. It is located near the site of one of the three old district schools of the village. For many years, after the building ceased to be used as a school house, Julius McLean, buying the place in March 1864, made his home here. Mr McLouth, who

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owned the property to the west, purchased the old build and lot, tore down the old cobblestone house and built the present structure.

In the book, "Palmyra and Vicinity" Cook wrote (p 267):

"When the school districts were consolidated into one district, No 1 was converted into a dwelling house and was sold to Henry Gardner. After his death John McLain [sic] purchased the property, and at this death late Judge Charles McLouth bought the old school house, tore it down and erected a cottage on the same site ..."

### About Henry Gardner and Julius McLean

#### Palmyra Cemetery

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/109520284/henry-gardner> (5/28/1806-1/1/1886)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/109522535/julius-mclean> (1819-8/17/1901)

findagrave posting: Rochester Democrat and Chronicle 8/19/1901

"Julius McLean, an old and well-known resident of Palmyra, died at his home on Jackson street in the village Saturday morning, aged 83 years. Deceased was born in Kingston, this state, and had been a resident of Palmyra for the past sixty years. He was a painter by trade but had not been actively engaged in business for the past few years. He was familiar with all the early history of Palmyra and western Wayne country and was well-known all over that locality. He is survived by one daughter, Mrs William Pratt, of Palmyra."

#### Town of Palmyra website references:

<https://wayne.nygenweb.net>

1867 Directory of the Town of Palmyra (1867-1868)

McLean, Julius, house and sign painter

McLouth, Chas, lawyer and insurance agent

<https://wayne.nygenweb.net/vitals/obits.html>

*Rochester Democrat & Chronicle*, Saturday, January 2, 1886, page 3

**Henry Gardner**, an old and respected citizen of Palmyra, died at his son's residence in Syracuse on Friday morning where he had been visiting. His death was caused by paralysis. He will be interred at the Palmyra cemetery on Saturday, the **Rev. W. H. Landon** officiating.

Palmyra Village Cemetery

Gardner, Henry, Dec. 31, 1886, 80y

Gardner, Barbara, wife of Henry, Feb. 23, 1884, 73y

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Newspaper Reports

**Henry Gardner**

Clyde NY Eagle 1844-1847 - 0344.pdf (7/11/1846)

Mr Henry Gardner of Palmyra was robbed of his pocketbook one day last week, containing \$188 in cash, besides some valuable papers, while engaged in buying some wool in front of his store. The pocketbook has been found, containing only the papers."

Rochester NY Daily Democrat 1846 - 0622.pdf (7/10/1846)

ROBBERY — Mr Henry Gardner, of this village, was robbed of his pocket-book and its contents by some pick-pocket one afternoon last week, while engaged in buying wool from farmers' wagons in front of his store. The pocket-book was found the next morning in a neighboring door-yard, where it had evidently been thrown by the robber in passing, with some valuable papers of the owner, but minus cash \$188, chiefly 1, 2, 3, and 5 dollar bills of Sexton's Palmyra Bank. *Palmyra Sentinel*

Rochester NY Democrat Chronicle 1885 - 2901.PDF (12/30/1885) Mr Henry Gardner, an old citizen of Palmyra went to Syracuse to spend Christmas. On Monday a dispatch was received saying that he had suffered an attack of paralysis. His son left immediately for Syracuse.

From the *Rochester Democrat & Chronicle*, Saturday, January 2, 1886, page 3

Henry Gardner, an old and respected citizen of Palmyra, died at his son's residence in Syracuse on Friday morning where he had been visiting. His death was caused by paralysis. He will be interred at the Palmyra cemetery on Saturday, the Rev. W. H. Landon officiating.

Sampling of weekly Ad that ran for years:

Palmyra NY Wayne County Sentinel 1836-1841 - 0769.pdf (3/27/1840)

"Leather! Leather!! Henry Gardner At his Tannery on the north side of the Canal, near the Collector's Office, keeps constantly on hand a general assortment of all kinds of LEATHER manufactured in the best manner, and finished by experienced workmen—such as: Harness and Bridle Leather; Sole and Upper do.; Top and Dash do.; Collar and Kip do.; Grian Upper and Horse do.; Skirting; Russet Coach Linings, Russet Tanned Sheep Skins; Seating; Calf Skins (not surpassed in western New York); Goat and Sheep Skin, Morocco, (dressed and undressed); Coach Roans (various colors); Shoe bindings; Hat linings (all colors); Boot & Shoe Linings (fair and fancy); and in fact almost every article in his line that can be mentioned; and all manufactured and finished under his immediate supervision. Orders from a distance promptly executed. N.B. CASH paid for Hides, Calf and Sheep Skins. Palmyra, April 1838."

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Palmyra NY Wayne County Sentinel 1836-1841 - 0648.pdf (10/25/1839)

Cash for Wool — The subscriber will pay CASH and the highest market price for any quantity of well washed and handsomely done up WOOL delivered at his Tannery on the north side of the Canal near the Collector's Office. Also—CASH paid for SHEEP SKINS with the wool on.  
HENRY GARDNER, Palmyra, June 1, 1839."

Palmyra NY Wayne County Sentinel 1836-1841 - 0384.pdf (7/11/1838)

WANTED — An Apprentice to the Tanning business, aged from 16 to 19 years. One who is desirous of learning the trade will receive good encouragement. H. GARDNER Palmyra, 4/17, 1838

**Julius McLean**

Palmyra NY Courier 1870-1885 - 0234.pdf (6/9/1871)

The Presbyterian society have been rejuvenating their parsonage for the last 3 or 4 months at an expense of about \$1500. Keener of Newark did the carpenter work, and Risley and McLean of Palmyra, with their assistance, the plastering and painting."

Palmyra NY Democrat 1890-1890 - 0688.pdf (4/12/1872)

We must notice that our enterprising painter, Mr Julius McLean has recently put up a new and very tasty sign for G. M. Elion, Photographer, which is in proper keeping with the excellent skill display by the gentleman in decorating our business fronts with these necessary appendages."

Rochester NY Democrat Chronicle 1891 - 0386.PDF (2/25/1891)

"At the Prohibition caucus at Palmyra the following candidates were nominated: ...constables, Warren D Smith, Elmer A Jones, Julius McLean, Jacob Johnson ..."

Newark NY Arcadian Weekly Gazette 1899-1902 - 0793.pdf (8/21/1901)

"Julius McLean, an old citizen of Palmyra, died Saturday."