

Rose Valley District #4 Schoolhouse (Site)
HISTORY SHEET
General Information

Name of Structure: Rose Valley District #4 Schoolhouse

Address: Wolcott St - S side of street, 3rd lot (east) from corner ¹

Parcel ID: (543800) 74114-05-181932

Atlas: 1853: Unlabeled; 1858: "School N^o 4";
1874: "Dr Dickson Est" (cobblestone SH still indicated);
1904: vacant lot labeled "Frank Blake"

When Built / Mason: 1846, Henry Robinson

When Abandoned: 1861

Why: Repairs and upgrades too costly; preferred a new schoolhouse

When Razed: Between Roe's sketched map (~1893) and 1904 atlas

Original Owner: Trustees of school district

Subsequently: Barney Fredendall, J.J.Dickson, Frank Blake

Original Use: Schoolhouse

Subsequently: Residence; unknown other possible uses

Photographs: None known to exist

Description:

Structural Details: 1-story, 2 room schoolhouse with an "entra"; 26' x 36' inside dimensions, 10' high; 16" thick walls. Limestone quoins.

Masonry Details: Lacking photographs or other renderings, these details cannot be ascertained.

Overview

Alfred S Roe's 1893 book, "Rose Neighborhood Sketches, Wayne County NY" is the sole source of information about this cobblestone building. No historical references have been found in newspapers or in the Rose Historical Society archives.

This cobblestone schoolhouse was built in 1846 and used until 1861. Barney Fredendall later used it as a residence, Dr John J Dickson came into possession of it, and later Frank Blake acquired it from the latter's estate. Sometime between 1874 and 1904 the property changed ownership and the cobblestone schoolhouse appears to have been removed. No records have been found documenting when it was removed, by whom, or why.

¹ 1/9/2021 field trip, confirmed site — vacant, grassy village park (Town of Rose)

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Excerpts from
"Rose Neighborhood Sketches, Wayne County NY"
Alfred Seeyle Roe, © 1893

<https://archive.org/details/roseneighborhood00roea/page/n294/mode/1up>

Plan of Rose Village: His hand-sketched map clearly shows "Old Schoolhouse" on what is today Wolcott Rd and its site relationship to the other village buildings.

<https://archive.org/details/roseneighborhood00roea/page/364/mode/2up?q=cobble>

"Ira Mirick and his wife, Martha, executed a deed for the land in September, 1845. The stone edifice was in process of erection, the contract therefor [sic] having been made in March preceding with William Dickinson and Henry Robinson 'to build a good and substantial cobblestone school-house, to be 26 by 36 feet inside in the clear, to be divided into two rooms and an entra.' The rooms were to be ten feet high and the walls sixteen inches thick. 'The corner stones to be as good as those of Wm Benjamin's house.' ... The specifications throughout are very exact, and the structure was to be ready for occupancy the 15th of September following. The cost, complete, was to be \$400. Like all of Henry Robinson's work, this was well done, and the stones laid by his diligent hands are yet in place. This building also had its day, and bills for repair became so frequent that either a new house or very thorough overhauling became imperative. ... for on the 29th of June (1861), this district thus met, and by large majority voted to purchase the unused Presbyterian edifice ... Of course, this was only a tiding over till the people were ready to build a substantial edifice ..."

Note: 'Wm Benjamin house' is located at 11273 Maunder Rd (ROS-3). It has limestone quoins, oval lake cobbles set on slight right bias with alternating 2-row bands of red and white on the façade and multi-colored fieldstones on the sides. All elevations stones are set 4/Q; Vd horizontal joints; pyramid vertical joints. This seems to be Robinson's style on the other cobblestone houses in the surrounds attributed to him.

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<https://archive.org/details/roseneighborhood00roea/page/304/mode/2up?q=barney>

"Barney M (Fredendall) once ran the grist-mill² standing on the site of the old Presbyterian Church, owning also the old stone school house, where he lived."

Note: In 1887 Barney Fredendall removed to Guilderland, Albany County. In 1911 he sold his farm stock and implements (auction 3/15/1911) and moved back to Rose ³.

Roe does not specifically mention how Dr John J Dickson came into ownership of the schoolhouse property. Throughout the book, however, several passages chronicle the names of people who bought houses or property from Dr Dickson. It seems that Dr J J Dickson was quite "land rich". The 1874 atlas shows the schoolhouse building with the notation "Dr Dickson Est".

Rose Cemetery

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/202604393/barney-mathias-fredendall>

(3/15/1843 - 10/17/1917)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/133102688/john-j-dickson> (5/25/1807 - 2/15/1874) includes a nice writeup about him.

² Once upon a time across America, the land was dotted with grist mills. These water-powered mills were situated next to a swift river where the current from that river turned the water wheel, which turned the heavy stones, which ground the corn into cornmeal or the wheat into flour for baking and cooking. (<https://www.old-mill.com/oldmill-blog/what-is-a-grist-mill>)

³ <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn84031264/1887-01-29/ed-1/seq-2/> Knowersville Enterprise: "Henry Fredendall of Rose, Wayne Co NY, is spending a few days here with his mother, while his brother Barney has gone to move his family and effects here. Clyde NY Democratic Herald 1910-1911 - 0708.pdf, (1/25/1911) <https://fultonhistory.com/newspaper%20/Clyde%20NY%20Democratic%20Herald/Clyde%20NY%20Democratic%20Herald%201910-1911.pdf/Clyde%20NY%20Democratic%20Herald%201910-1911%20-%200708.pdf> "The old Sands residence recently purchased by Abram L Wood has been sold by the latter to Barney Fredendall of Guilderland, who will taken possession on the first of April."

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The 1904 atlas shows the schoolhouse lot, now combined as one lot with the Frank Blake residence, but no schoolhouse is on it at this point.⁴ Roe's book was published 1893, suggesting it was extant in that preceding timeframe. In this section he details the families occupying houses on the south side of Wolcott St from west to east and comes to Frank Blake's place.

<https://archive.org/details/roseneighborhood00roea/page/254/mode/2up?q=blake>

"Frank Blake ... succeeded to the business of Brewster Soper and drives an express between Rose and Clyde. The old stone school house follows, but a special chapter will be given to the schools ..."

Note: "old stone school house" — present tense.

Note: Roe devotes a 4-page chapter to the "Valley" School tracing its beginning with the first log school in 1819 through 1865 when a new replacement school was built. Its focus is on the development of the school system over those decades. The cobblestone building itself is mentioned only in as far as the 1845 contract building details are concerned. Its subsequent ownership or use is not part of this chapter.

Note: Frank Blake acquired the carting business of Brewster Soper across the road from his house. He sold his business in 1903.

<http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn85026906/1894-06-21/ed-1/seq-2/> Newark Courier

"Frank Blake, our village cartman, while coming from Clyde last Monday afternoon with a load of merchandise received an injury from one of his horses which will lay him up a few days. June 19, 1894."

[Newark NY Union 1899-1903 - 0017.pdf](#) (3/7/1903) — Dell VanAntwerp having purchased the horses and wagons of Frank Blake is now prepared to do carting between Rose and Clyde.

⁴ Frank Blake's residence abutted on the lot east of the schoolhouse. At some point, 1874 or after, Blake acquired the schoolhouse lot from the Dickson estate. Blake's residence remains on the 1904 atlas, however, the schoolhouse is gone from the adjacent lot.