

ASA TOWN HOUSE (Site)
HISTORY SHEET
General Information

Name of Structure: Asa Town House

Address: 3833 Shepard Rd ¹
43.145450, -76.842790 ² (~520' south to intersection w/Meehan Rd)

Parcel ID: (543800) 75114-00-245654

Atlas: 1853: "Mrs Town"; 1858, 1874, 1904: "W Desmond"

When Built / Mason: <1848, probably Henry Robinson

When Razed: 1990s

Why: Deteriorated

Original Owner: Asa Town, died 1848

Subsequently: William Desmond; last owner Albert J Webber

Original Use: House

Subsequently: House

Photographs: Robert Roudabush (RR), Martin Wolfish (MW)

Description: ³

Design details:

2-story, gable faced road. Entrance door on right, two windows to left, two windows centered between the three lower openings. Side elevation: two windows.

¹ 1/9/2021 field trip: Confirmed site; no trace of cobblestone remains. The site on the west side of Shepard Rd was abandoned after the house was torn down and has been completely reclaimed by nature. There are no remnants on site to indicate that anything was ever there.

² Most likely footprint is opposite the utility pole just north of the existing barn on the corner. There is a small clearing there per Google street view-2013 (Asa Town's house) and adjacent just north of it another small clearing (Silas Town's house)—both within Lot 213 and corresponding to 1874 atlas. — confirmed via field trip (1/9/2021) — ~500' from corner.

³ Condition in RR (late 1970s) and MW photos (1985-1999): RR photos show cracks particularly along quoin lines on front corners with attempt to patch with black tar on the left corner and with white mortar on the right corner. Both cracks from roof to ground. Also patched crack from roof to upper right corner of one window on the side. MW photos show further deterioration on the front façade. All the cobblestone veneer had fallen off between the two windows exposing the stone and mortar matrix of the supporting 12" wall. More patching had been done with black tar in various places.

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Masonry details:

Small oval lake-washed stones set on slight right bias in alternating bands of red stones, then white stones, 4/Q. Side elevation: multi-everything small field cobbles, 4/Q, and set on slight bias when possible. Horizontal joints V'd, some verticals pyramided (on both side and façade). Quoins along front elevation, hammered and neat. Wooden lintels and sills.

NOTE: Design and masonry is nearly identical with the Ellinwood - Lee cobblestone house on Wolcott Rd, built by Henry Robinson in 1842. It is likely Henry Robinson built this house simultaneously with the nearby Wolcott Rd house (proximity & similarity).

Ownership

Roudabush indicates Albert Webber as the owner in the late 1970s. On 6/13/1985 Albert Webber published a notice in *The Finger Lakes Times* ([Geneva NY Finger Lake Times 1985 Jun 1985 - 0508.pdf](#)): "DEBTS Notice is hereby given that I will not be responsible for any debts contracted for by anyone other than myself. ALBERT J WEBBER 3833 Shepard Rd Clyde NY 14433". So we have an address and date.

The property was sold in 1997. It is unknown if structure was there at that time.

Real Estate DB: <http://stargazette.nydatabases.com/database/real-estate-database> ⁴
3833 Shepard Rd, 14433 was sold for \$7200 on 7/31/1997 by Rachel Webber Wood to Cornelius and Linda Mattice.

http://www.co.wayne.ny.us/departments/ctyclerk/ctyclerk_indexes.html ⁵

[Albert Webber, Deed R8004848, 6/16/1982, B: 760 P: 268]

[Helen Rotach / Delbert Webber > Rachel M Webber, R8006562, 12/14/1982, B:764, P:517]

Wayne County tax records indicate this site is now a part of a 364-acre parcel which incorporates more area than only Lot 213. On the tax map for this parcel is a small rectangular piecel 375' long (road frontage) by 140 (deep) in the area about opposite Meehan Rd and slightly north—exactly the area where the house existed according to the atlas accounts.

<https://wayne.sdgny.com/quickstream.aspx?file=PDFMAPS/543800/0751140000.pdf>

⁴ Update: 8/7/2022 — This website now requires a subscription to view and only presents transactions going back to 2004.

⁵ This website, too, is now defunct, and this information is no longer available online.

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Here's a view of the site:

Google Street View 2013: <https://www.google.com/maps/@43.1453049,-76.8427321,3a,75y,271.08h,90.15t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sK3qVyJ6wW9GZPyIt9dJxSQ!2e0!7i13312!8i6656>

Aerial: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/43°08'43.6%22N+76°50'34.0%22W/@43.1454444,-76.8427778,709m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x30f0ed877fcabd67!8m2!3d43.14545!4d-76.84279>

Asa Town

<https://archive.org/details/roseneighborhood00roea/page/n25/mode/2up?q=settlements>

Rose Neighborhood Sketches, Wayne County NY, Alfred Seelye Roe, © 1893

"Settlements—Exactly when the first settler came, or who he was will never be clearly known ... The very earliest data at hand are those furnished by the late Hiram Church, from his father's book. Osgood Church's record gives 117 contracts ... Asa and Silas Town, lots 212 and 213, 150 acres, at \$4.00, Nov. 11, 1811; Desmond and Town".

<https://archive.org/details/roseneighborhood00roea/page/38/mode/2up?q=cobble>

"Asa and Silas Town came to this section from Paris, Oneida County ... The brothers, Asa and Silas, took up their land, one hundred and fifty acres ... and cleared away the forest ... Asa Town built the next house, using cobble stones as his material ... Mr Town's wife was Hannah Stacey ...

In time, the first houses disappeared, and then came Asa's stone house and Silas's framed structure, which he placed further north than the old one. ... Asa died in 1848 and lies ... in the Collins burial ground ...

"Aunt Hannah," Asa's wife, went from the neighborhood years since to dwell in the west with her sons ... After the decease of Asa Town, his widow managed the farm for a time, and then sold to William Desmond."⁶

Note: "Asa Town built the next house" refers to the next house after 'Deady' heading from north to south on the west side of Shepard Rd (clearly shown on 1853, 1858, and 1874 maps).

⁶ William Desmond also acquires the cobblestone house, ROS- 3: 11273 Maunder Rd, extant as of this writing.

<https://archive.org/details/roseneighborhood00roea/page/42/mode/2up?q=desmond>

"... The place passed into his hands at the death of his father. He sold to Manly Benjamin, and finally it came into the possession of William Desmond. ... After several changes, between Major Snyder and Manly B, the place passed to the ownership of William Desmond, who now holds a monopoly on cobblestone houses in this district."