

FIRST M.E. SOCIETY CHURCH of ROSE (Site)  
HISTORY SHEET  
General Information

Name of Structure: First M.E. Church of Rose

Address: NW Main St at Wayne Center-Rose Rd

Parcel ID: (543800) 74114-05-133953

Atlas:  
1853: "Meth Ch"; 1858: "Meth Ch";  
1874: unlabeled vacant lot abutting "Presb Parsonage";  
1904: "Mrs Allen"

When Built / Mason: 1835-1836; John Layton

When Razed: 4/18/1859 - deliberately set fire to destroy it

Why: Structural integrity fears

Original Owner: Land donated by Thaddeus and Chauncey Collins,  
funded by subscription

Subsequently: n/a

Original Use: Church

Subsequently: n/a

Pictures: None

Description: Design and masonry details are unknown; described simply as 32 x 45' with two entrance doors (one for men, one for women) with entrance facing Rt 414 (ie Main St).

## Historic Context

Alfred Roe documents an early history of the 1st M.E. Church in Rose<sup>1</sup>. In its very early days, services were conducted by circuit preachers who visited towns in their conference on a periodic schedule. At the 7/29/1812 session of the Genesee Conference in Lyons Jesse Lee arranged for the circuit to include Rose Valley, subsequently prayers meetings were held in his own home, school house, or for large quarterly meetings in his barn. The first permanent Methodist in Rose was Alfred Lee (originally from VT). In the late 18-teens prayer meetings were conducted in a log schoolhouse by Caleb Mills, a local preacher. In 1824 Charles

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<sup>1</sup> 1st M.E. Church history: <https://archive.org/details/roseneighborhood00roea/page/326/mode/2up?q=cobble>

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Thomas, and wife Polly, settled here (from Onondaga Co). "He and his active, vigorous wife were trophies of the preaching in that section." Others followed them to Rose and in 1924 "the founders proceeded to organize a class" with Alfred Lee as leader and Charles and Polly Thomas concerned with the business and spiritual aspects. By year's end they counted 30 members. In 1832 the Rose circuit had a membership of 531 and they were still meeting in the school-house (by then replaced with a frame structure). It was time for a new church building.

Note: See Alfred Roe, pp 327-332

### References

<https://archive.org/details/roseneighborhood00roea/page/332/mode/2up?q=cobble>  
"Rose Neighborhood Sketches, Wayne County NY", Alfred Seelye Roe, © 1893; p332  
"In 1832 our people were still worshiping in school houses ... With the new circuit, a movement was made for the building of an edifice, and hereafter are copied verbatim the first written records of our Rose organization: ... September 8th, 1832 at an adjourned meeting, Brothers Miller, Chester, and Ellis Ellinwood, Mirick and Andrews were appointed a committee to agree on a site for a church and to circulate a subscription. The 19th of October, it was resolved that the site of said house be on the hill north of Mr Bassett's shop. It was further resolved that Thaddeus Collins, Joel N Lee, and Chester Ellinwood be a committee to build said house, and further that it be 32 x 45 feet. ... proper measures were at once taken to build the church, whose site, given by Thaddeus and Chauncey Collins, was where the house of Mrs Augusta Allen now stands, at the corner of the street leading to Wayne Centre. ... John Hannahs was the carpenter ... the masonry was done by John Layton. The most liberal contributor to the "chapel" was Polly Clark ... who gave \$100; Thaddeus Collins gave \$65, and other sums were given, ranging down to those of one figure only ... fifty-five givers recorded ... In this way, \$743.15 was subscribed, but, as the building cost over \$1,200 there was quite a debt to begin with. ... The building was roofed in and seated temporarily before it was dedicated ... July 13th, 1836 ... receipt of payment in full, viz., \$375, on which day the pews, forty-eight in number, were advertised to be sold. ... This church long maintained the exceedingly quaint custom of separating families, the males sitting on one side and the feminine portion demurely occupying the other part of the room. ... The pulpit was an old-fashioned, high-perched, box-like affair, between the two main entrance doors on the east end. There were galleries on the other three sides. ... This building was for nearly twenty-five years ... Built, however, of cobble stones, and not, perhaps, supported as dwelling houses are, it was deemed insecure, and people grew afraid of it. There was one unsuccessful attempt to burn it, but in 1859 it was again fired, this time to its destruction, and the edifice which had occasioned so many prayers, so much anxiety and work ... was only a smoldering heap of stones."

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<https://archive.org/details/cu31924028835143/page/415/mode/2up?q=Alfred+Lee>

"Landmarks of Wayne County, New York", George Washington Cowles, © 1895

"The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Rose Valley was organized September 21, 1827. .... February 26, 1836, the church was reorganized with three trustees instead of nine, viz. : Ellis Ellinwood, Joel N. Lee, and George W. Mirick. Thaddeus and Chauncey Collins donated the site and a cobblestone church was erected in 1835-6 on the site of Mrs Augusta Allen's house. It cost \$1,200, had a high box pulpit and galleries on three sides, and was burned April 18, 1859."

[http://www.libraryweb.org/~digitized/books/History\\_of\\_Wayne\\_County\\_1877.pdf](http://www.libraryweb.org/~digitized/books/History_of_Wayne_County_1877.pdf)

"1789 History of Wayne County New York with Illustrations 1877", Professor W.H. McIntosh, © 1877

p158: "The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Rose was organized in 1825 at Rose Valley, with six members, vis. : Charles Thomas, Polly Thomas, Alfred Lee, William Watkins, Abigail Bunce, and Zenira Bishop. The church services were held in school-houses, and sometimes in private houses, until the erection of the first church edifice in 1833. It was a substantial stone structure, used for worship until it was destroyed by fire in 1858. A new site was then purchased a short distance east of Main street in Rose Valley and another building erected, which was completed in 1860."