

Patrick Molloy House
1099 Molloy Rd
General Information

Name of Structure: Patrick Molloy House

Address: 1099 Molloy Rd, NW corner with TL Rd
Syracuse, NY 13211

Parcel ID: (314889) 065.-01-03.1 (Headquarters 10th Mt U.S. Gov't Air Base)
Atlas: Salina Lot #8: 1852: "P Maloy"; 1860: "M Malloy"; 1874 "P Maloy Res"

When Built/Mason: Likely ~1940; Unknown mason

When Razed: Fire 1954; arson

Original Owner: Patrick Molloy (died 4/1880)

Subsequent owners: son, James P. Molloy (died 1936)

James' daughters Mary and Kathie Molloy

1941 taken by imminent domain for Air Force Base

Original Use: House

Subsequent Use: House while in Molloy ownership;
Used during the war for storage purposes

Pictures: Very poor newsprint fighting the fire

Description:

Design details: Presumed contemporary of nearby Garrett House

Masonry details: If contemporary of Garrett House, likely built by same mason,
on same design plan and similar masonry

In 2016 while researching this I happened upon the website, https://mcgrathsearch.com/mattydale_files/The%20Building%20of%20the%20Legend%2009-06-13.pdf, by Michael McGraw who was doing extensive research on his family tree. He mentioned the name Kathie Malloy, and I subsequently initiated correspondence with him to find other information about the Malloy family and the cobblestone house. Mr. McGraw provided much of the information in this history sheet and has my sincere thanks.

Michael McGraw's website is: <https://mcgrathsearch.com/>

Specific to Molloy family: https://mcgrathsearch.com/Mattydale_Stuff/Settlers/Molloy/Settlers_Molloy.htm

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References:

- Newspaper
- Correspondence with Michael McGraw

Correspondence: Michael McGraw, October 1, 2016

Hello Karen,

Since you've seen my web site you should have noticed, by their absence, that photographs of older structures are one of the hardest things to come by. I have been looking for a picture of the Molloy house for years. This is especially frustrating for me since our family used to go by that old house a half dozen times a month when we would go out East Molloy Road on the way to my grandfather's house on the south side of Syracuse. I had hundreds of opportunities to take a picture but cameras were not as prevalent in those days and were only brought out for special occasions. The closest I can come to pictures of the old house are some old and rather poor quality aerial photos in which it is difficult to discern the difference between a large house and a barn.

James Molloy only had two daughters and they never married so there are no direct descendants to track down. Kathie Molloy was the last surviving member of the family and she was living at 708 First St., in Liverpool, NY, when she passed away in Dec 1970. There might have been some old family photos in her house but I don't know what happened to them.... The Molloy family sometimes spelled their name as Malloy, but the headstone where Mary, Kathie and their parents are buried in Assumption Cemetery on the north side of Syracuse is spelled Molloy. Have you seen the cobblestone house just down the road from the Molloy farm? It belonged to their neighbors the Garrett family. http://mcgrathsearch.com/Mattydale_Stuff/Settlers/Garrett/Early_Settlers_Garrett.htm

A local researcher contacted me about a month ago about this very house. He was doing a paper on the house for the Onondaga County Historical Society and had mistakenly identified the Garrett house as the Molloy house. Apparently the present owner believes that he is living in the old Molloy house. I was able to straighten out the researcher but I don't know if he relayed the disappointing news to the owner. Anyway, he still owns a beautiful old cobblestone house that had belonged to one of the pioneer families in the area.

Correspondence: Michael McGraw, October 4, 2016

Hi Karen,

I've managed to squeeze out a bit more information about the Molloy House. The process is pretty much as you have described it, pulling pieces of information together from where ever they can be found and trying to fill in the remaining gaps. In the land records it shows that the earliest purchase by Patrick Molloy (Mary and Kathie's grandfather) was the 100 acres in the southeast corner of Salina Lot No. 8., purchased in Dec 1840. This is the 100 acres that was later known as James Molloy's farm and was the farm purchased by the U.S. Government in

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1942. Patrick had purchased the land from Latham Avery who probably purchased it from Thomas Richmond who at one time owned all of Lot No. 8. Neither of these two were really settlers, they were more land owners, so it was probably Patrick Molloy who built the cobblestone house and it was built no sooner than 1841, despite Mary Molloy's earlier claim. Jonathan Garrett also purchased his property (117 acres, just west of Molloy) in 1840.

Correspondence: Michael McGraw, December 4, 2016

Hi Karen,

This picture arrived yesterday. Richard Palmer found it in the town of Salina folder at the Onondaga County Historical Association. The handwriting on the back, according to Richard, is that of Richard Wright, a long-time director of the OHA.

The inscription on the back identifies it as the Molloy house on "TN SAL Lot Man 8." What this means is Town of Salina Lot Manlius 8. Manlius is a reference to the larger township that was part of the old Military Tract that was laid out in the 1790s for the purpose of awarding lots to soldiers who had served in the Revolutionary War. This reference continues to appear in the legal description of these old farm properties. The towns of Salina and DeWitt were separated from the west side of the Manlius township once their populations grew large enough. The Molloy property (100 acres) is located in the southeastern corner of Lot 8. Some more of the inscription reads "Front door of 2-story xxx section of house was just left of view still standing at left center." This description is in line with my memory of the house and the similar layout in the picture (not Molloy house) that I sent you a while back.

Another part of the inscription is incorrect. "Demolished for air base." As I have previously described, the Molloy property was purchased by the US Government in 1942 but it was not demolished – it was used for storage. In 1946 the property was given to the city and the Molloy house remained unoccupied until it was destroyed by fire in 1954. The Seward Army Reserve Center now occupies that site. The Reserve Center was first occupied in November 1959 and construction had probably begun in 1958. I believe the demolition picture was taken in 1958 when the remains of the Molloy house were most likely torn down to make way for the Reserve Center. My only reservation is that I don't see anything that looks like fire damage.

PATRICK MOLLOY - OBITUARY

<https://fultonhistory.com/highlighter/highlight-for-xml?altUrl=https://fultonhistory.com/Newspapers%203/Syracuse%20NY%20Daily%20Standard%20Grayscale/Syracuse%20NY%20Daily%20Standard%201880%20%20Grayscale.pdf/Syracuse%20NY%20Daily%20Standard%201880%20%20Grayscale%20-%200355.pdf>

The Standard, April 10, 1888

Death of an Old Citizen

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Patrick Molloy, one of the oldest and most respected citizens of this county, died at his residence in the town of Salina yesterday. He has resided in this county nearly fifty years, and has largely engaged in the salt business. He was an active, enterprising business man, bluff in his manners, thoroughly honest in all his doings and respected and implicitly trusted by all who knew him. In all respects he was a good citizen, and goes to his grave full of years and honors. He was the father of Thomas Molloy, the well-known secretary of the salt company in this city.

Also see more extensive obituary: [Syracuse NY Daily Courier 1880 - 0412.PDF](#) (4/10/1880)
Patrick Molloy, the well-known salt manufacturer died at his residence in the town of Salina yesterday morning, aged seventy-six years. ... He was born in the county Wexford, Ireland, in 1804. Emigrating to America when not yet twenty years of age he located in Salina, being attracted hither by the settlement of friends there. He had barely sufficient means to defray his traveling expenses and was entirely alone in the great world. Patrick Cooney, a relative now deceased and himself, were employed in salt boiling by several of the leading manufacturers of that time. ... By dint of economy and industry the two young men were enabled, after several years, to go into business for themselves. They invested their earnings in a salt block, located at the foot of the second lock in the Oswego canal, before that waterway was enlarged in 1856. This partnership lasted upwards of ten years, and both realized sufficient profits to warrant an extension of their business. Year by year Mr. Molloy increased his ownership of salt property, until he became one of the largest salt makers upon the Reservation, a prominence which he has continued to enjoy until his death. He also purchased a farm on the Brewerton plank road, which has divided his attention with salt making. Patrick Molloy, the poor emigrant, dies a man of large means, and no man was more the architect of his own fortune. ...

JAMES MOLLOY - OBITUARY

<https://fultonhistory.com/Newspaper%2017/Syracuse%20NY%20Journal/Syracuse%20NY%20Journal%201936/Syracuse%20NY%20Journal%201936%20-%204796.pdf>

The Syracuse Journal, June 15, 1936

James P. Malloy Dies on Farm

Stricken with a heart attack while inspecting his farm property on Malloy road, town of Salina, James P Malloy, 80, retired farmer, died at 3:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon. He was born in the farmhouse on the property where he died. His father, Patrick Malloy, who built the homestead, was one of the first settlers of the town of Salina and was a prominent salt manufacturer for whom the road was named.

Mr. Malloy leaves two daughters, Miss Mary B. Malloy and Miss Kathie V. Malloy, a teacher in Roosevelt High School. Funeral services will take place at 9 o'clock Tuesday morning in St. Margaret's Church, Mattydale. Burial will be in Assumption cemetery.

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U.S. ENGINEERS SCOUT OUT SITE FOR PROPOSED AIR BASE

Syracuse NY Journal 1941 - 3856.pdf (October 26, 1941)

3 Engineers Will Gather Data on Sites — Homes, Roads, and Valuable Properties Are Included
United States Army engineers ... continuing their survey of the proposed \$10,000,000 air base
site ... The site being studied by the engineers, which the country has volunteered to buy and
lease to the Government for \$1 a year, lies one and a half miles north of Syracuse in the towns
of Salina, Dewitt, and Cicero. It is bounded on the east by Thompson Road, on the south by
Molloy Road and the New York Central Railroad, on the west by farmlands lying east of the
Syracuse-Cicero Road, and on the north by North Syracuse-Bridgeport Road. It is irregular in
shape. ... In the site are several valuable farms and homes, including the Alexis N. Muench
estate. The Muench estate is on Thompson Road and if taken over by the Government, the
house might be razed, although possibly it would be used for administration purposes ... The
resolution passed by the Board of Supervisors Friday, offering to buy the site, made no mention
of the cost of the land. Individual supervisors made what they candidly admitted to be
guesses, and said the purchase price might average \$150 an acre for a total of \$315,000 for the
site. ...

MOLLOY DAUGHTER MAKES PLEA TO NOT TAKE HER HOME BY IMMINENT DOMAIN

<http://fultonhistory.com/Newspaper%2015/Syracuse%20NY%20Journal/Syracuse%20NY%20Journal%201941/Syracuse%20NY%20Journal%201941%20-%203992.pdf>

Syracuse Herald, 10/30/1941: "Air Base Protested" (letter from Mary B Malloy)

To the Herald-Journal:

I would like to ask, through your paper, the Hon. Mayor Marvin a question: Mayor Marvin, are you sure that Onondaga County has been definitely selected for an air base, or is this a campaign issue?

I am making this request, not only for myself, but for all the residents within the proposed air base area (as published inner daily papers), and the residents adjacent thereto.

In the paper of Oct. 26, 1941, it was stated that Alexis Muench was the only one seriously affected. How about us whose forefathers were born here more than 100 years ago, and some of us who represent the fourth generation who have worked all our lives to pay for our farms? Mr. Muench is not a farmer, didn't pay for his farm from the income derived from it, and does not depend upon it for his living. He has several other sources of income.

Our farm, comprising 100 acres and a beautiful cobblestone home of 22 rooms, has been in our possession for 125 years, is very valuable farming land and faces on two roads.

To the east and north of us lie 863 acres of the most valuable garden and dairy farms in Onondaga County. These farms are owned by: Gilbert Mautz, Williams Brothers, Thomas Purdy, John Hazelmeyer, Valentine Root, William Koppel, Carl Amos, Frank Koshering, Albert Purdy, Mrs. William Miller, and Reuben Temple.

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The Onondaga County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution providing \$315,000 for the purchase of the proposed air base, this money to be raised by bond issue.

What can you buy in this section for \$315,000?

The Gilbert Mautz farm alone, comprising 500 acres, with beautiful buildings and a young orchard of 500 trees, is worth at the very least \$500 per acre, or \$250,000, which is less than one-fourth of the proposed site and more than two-thirds of the appropriation.

If the Board of Supervisors wants such an air base in Onondaga County, we farmers can show it hundreds of acres of unproductive farm land with a topography suitable for this purpose and within the price appropriated.

We are all truly American and believe in defense, but when one has passed his life on such farms as I have described, it seems to me that one should be given some consideration, and at least know the truth. Thank you.

(Miss) Mary B. Malloy

MOLLOY HOUSE SITE IS SELECTED FOR AIR BASE

Syracuse NY Journal 1941 a - 2967.pdf (Wednesday, December 10, 1941)

<https://fultonhistory.com/highlighter/highlight-for-xml?altUrl=https://fultonhistory.com/Newspaper%202015/Syracuse%20NY%20Journal/Syracuse%20NY%20Journal%201941/Syracuse%20NY%20Journal%201941%20a%20-%202967.pdf>

\$12,000,000 Plant to Be Built by Army — Starts at Once — Site Offered by County Believed to Be One Selected

Final selection of the area recently surveyed by Army engineers was made known to the Congressmen who were advised also that approximately 3,000 will be employed in constructing the Syracuse base and that upwards of 5,000 men will be stationed at the base, according to tentative plans.

The site is only a mile and a half northeast of the city limit. It is located in the towns of Salina, Dewitt, and Cicero. It is bounded on the east by Thompson road, on the south by Molloy Road, and the New York Central Railroad, on the west by farmlands lying adjacent to the Syracuse-Cicero Road, and on the north by the Syracuse-Bridgeport Road. ...

It has been estimated unofficially by the city and county officials that the cost of the properties would reach a total between \$500,000 and \$700,000. The site includes numerous farms and homes, including a large estate owned by Alexis N. Muench, chairman of the Defense Council of Syracuse and Onondaga County. ...

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MOLLOY HOUSE IS NOT RAZED AFTER ACQUISITION

The Post Standard, Syracuse NY, Tuesday, May 20, 1952 (not available online)

Air Force Plans To Extend Runway At Hancock Field

Plans for relocating one and a half miles of Thompson rd. and extension of the east-west runway at Hancock field by about 2,500 feet were revealed yesterday by Edwin M. Ballard, county superintendent of highways, and Col. Michael Maloney of U.S. Air Force.

Relocating of Thompson road and extending the runway by 2,000 feet on the east end and 500 feet on the west end is necessary, they explained, to give the jet planes to be used by the National Guard more takeoff and landing space.

U.S. FINANCED

The project to be financed by the federal government, will include the razing or moving of three one-family dwellings, all owned by the government. Two of the houses are frame structures which may be moved to a new location. The third dwelling is of cobblestone construction and a landmark in the area and may be taken down, Col. Maloney said. ...

MOLLOY HOUSE BURNS IN ARSON FIRE ON JULY 25, 1954

<https://newspaperarchive.com/syracuse-herald-journal-jul-26-1954-p-8/> (subscription required)

The Herald-Journal, Syracuse NY, Monday, July 26, 1954

U.S. Starts Arson Probe At Airbase

A joint probe by federal authorities, state police and the sheriff's department was launched today into the origin of three fires that caused an estimated \$25,000 damage to four barns and a house and threatened government warehouses and a fuel dump on the Mattydale air base yesterday afternoon. ...

The largest fire was at the abandoned Molloy house. A cobblestone structure, the Molloy house had been used by Army engineers constructing the air base during the war. It had not been occupied since that time. ... The four barns all were burned to the ground before firemen arrived. Mattydale Fire Chief Hubert Baker said the wind-whipped flames ate rapidly through the barns, spread to dry grass then leaped to the Molloy house. ...

Accompanying photos with captions:

"Through dense smoke firemen can be seen pouring water into the smoldering Kathy Molloy house on the Mattydale airbase."

"AIRBASE BLAZE Four barns were destroyed and the Kathy Molloy house, a local landmark, was badly damaged when three fires broke out on the government airbase property near Mattydale yesterday afternoon. City firemen and volunteers from Mattydale, North Syracuse and Hinsdale fought the blazes for several hours."

"Firemen break through roof of Molloy house to attack blaze in attic. Building was badly damaged."

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ARSON SUSPECTED IN 3 BLAZES NEAR AIRPORT

(Similar article with accompanying photo) <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-post-standard/112175350/> and

[The Post Standard, Syracuse NY, Monday, July 26, 1952](#)

4 Barns, Vacant House Destroyed, 1 Fireman Felled

Three fires, believed set, destroyed four barns and the historic Kathy Molloy house in Mattydale and threatened nearby fuel tanks and explosives warehouses yesterday afternoon ... Damage was not estimated because the buildings, believed to be on government property, were abandoned. ... The largest fire was on what is believed to be government property. Four barns and the picturesque Kathy Molloy cobblestone house were destroyed. The four barns were leveled before firemen arrived. The Molloy house, long abandoned by the government, which used it during the war for storage, was badly damaged. ...

Photo caption: "FIRE PERILS GAS TANKS — Firemen from several companies of Onondaga County mutual aid fight a blaze at E. Molloy and Town Line rds. yesterday, only a few yards from aviation fuel tanks. Several abandoned buildings were razed and acres of grass were burned. In the background firemen climb to the second story of the stone building. This was one of three fires in the same area around Hancock Field.