

JONAS MILLER / JAMES DeBRINE HOUSE (Site)
HISTORY SHEET
General Information & References

Name of Structure: Jonas Miller House / James DeBrine House

Address: 72 Maple Ave, Sodus village

Parcel ID: (544201) 69118-18-333148

Atlas: 1858: "J Miller"; 1874: "J DeBryon"; 1904: "Jas DeBrine"

When Built/Mason: sometime between 1835 and 1850, Jonas Miller ¹

When Razed: Fire 1/6/1978; ruins removed 6/1978

Why: Abandoned building, fire, razed 5 months later

Original Owner: between 1836-1850; Jonas Miller (1817-1881)

Subsequent Owner: DeBryon (DeBrine); Monroe Pulver (<1960s)
Nicholas LaChase (June, 1972: Zoning Board, construction of 2 duplex units)

Original Use: House

Subsequent Uses: House

Pictures: 1953/54, Verlyn Klahn's Hoffman Essay

Description:

Structural design: 1-story house, long side facing road; center entrance, flanked by 2 windows

Masonry details: Per CFS & 4th Annual Cobblestone Tour pamphlet descriptions—façade lake-washed red stones, herringbone pattern; horizontal wide-Vd joints; unembellished verticals. In early 1900s quoins were covered with cement piers. End walls similar except varicolored stones—white, gray, red, black. Lintels: wood beams finished with a 1" wide cleat around the edges to form a panel; wood sills.

Note: Only known picture resolution is too low to discern any details.

¹ "... the 1-story house on Maple Ave... built before the middle of the 19th century... the cobblestone house was built by Jonas Miller a few years after 1836."

http://sodus.advantage-preservation.com/viewer/?k=cobblestone&t=27981&i=t&d=01011876-12312018&m=between&ord=k1&fn=record_usa_n ew_york_sodus_19281221_english_2&df=31&dt=40 (12/21/1928) and
... Jonas Miller, the Sodus tailor, built the cobblestone 1-story house on Maple avenue about 1850. http://sodus.advantage-preservation.com/viewer/?k=cobblestone&t=27981&i=t&d=01011876-12312018&m=between&ord=k1&fn=record_usa_n ew_york_sodus_19351226_english_2&df=1&dt=10 (12/26/1935)

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R e f e r e n c e s

Landmarks of Wayne County, George Cowles, © 1895, p 207 (Jonas Miller: 1817-1881)
4th Annual Cobblestone Tour (6/6/1964) DeBrien-Pulver House
Verlyn Klahn 1955 Hoffman Essay
Carl F Schmidt *Cobblestone Masonry* © 1966 (p 183): DeBrien-Pulver House

Newspaper Clippings

http://sodus.advantage-preservation.com/viewer/?t=27981&i=t&d=01011876-12312018&e=cobblestone&m=between&ord=e1&fn=record_usa_new_york_sodus_19321014_english_2&df=111&dt=120 (10/14/1932)
Jonas Miller had a tailor shop... He built the one-story cobblestone house on Maple avenue about the year 1849. Previous to that he lived where J A DePoint now resides. He divided this ground allowing two houses on the lot. W O Bryan

http://sodus.advantage-preservation.com/viewer/?t=27981&i=t&d=01011876-12312018&e=cobblestone&m=between&ord=e1&fn=record_usa_new_york_sodus_19410102_english_2&df=191&dt=200 (1/2/1941)
Until the railroad began operations there was a stage line on the Ridge road from Oswego to Lewiston. The stage with the mail arrived at midnight and the postmaster would sort out the Sodus mail and return the rest to the sack while the stage waited. Jim DeBrine drove to Newark every morning with his red and yellow stage and carried the mail and passengers. When the trains began to run regularly on the Lake Shore and the Northern Central railroads both the Ridge road and the Newark stage lines were discontinued. In addition to working his farm back of his cobblestone dwelling on Maple avenue, Jim drove to the Sodus station four times and to the Northern Central station at Wallington twice each day.

http://sodus.advantage-preservation.com/viewer/?k=cobblestone&t=27981&i=t&d=01011876-12312018&m=between&ord=k1&fn=record_usa_new_york_sodus_19780112_english_1&df=331&dt=340

SODUS RECORD, TH 1/12/1978

"First Fire For 1978: **A late night fire** Friday, Jan 6, caused an estimated \$2000 damage to a vacant house at **72 Maple Ave.** The **cobblestone house** owned by Nicholas LaChase of Rochester was undergoing renovations at the time of the fire. The blaze, which started in a closet, is believed to have been ignited by 'some type of electrical appliance or a cigarette

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butt' said Sodus Fire Chief, Greg Ross. Firemen remained at the scene of their first alarm of 1978 for approximately two and one-half hours."

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Sodus Record, TH 6/15/1978, p6

Burned House Dangerous Eyesore ... delegation of local residents ... letter written to the Sodus Building Inspector... in regard to a burned out cobblestone house on Maple Avenue describing the building as "not only a danger but an eyesore which decreases the value of our property". The cobblestone house, owned by Nicholas LaChase of Rochester was gutted by flames earlier this year and has since remained unrepaired. Broken glass and unboarded windows make this property a safety hazard. Village Attorney assured the delegation that LaChase had received written notice that the structure was in violation of village ordinances and failure to correct these violations would result in legal action..."

Sodus Rural Cemetery — James DeBrine

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/183605345/james-debrine> (12/31/1833 - 8/25/1907)

Born: Cadzand, Sluis Municipality, Zeeland, Netherlands

Birth name: Jakobus Jozias de Bruijne.

<http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074364/1907-08-28/ed-1/seq-5/> Newark Gazette
"James DeBrine died at Sodus Point Sunday, aged 73 years. Before the days of a railroad between Newark and Sodus Bay, Mr DeBrine drove a stage and carried the mail between the two points."