

Hermet Barn (Site)
HISTORY SHEET
General Information

Name of Structure: Alfred Hermet Barn

Address: no #; abutting west of 7492 Sodus Center Rd (43.204362, -77.027378)
south side Sodus Center Rd, west of Main St

Parcel ID: (544289) 70116-00-170709 (22.92 ac, Fowler Land Mgmt)

Atlas: 1858: unlabelled structure; 1904: "C.T. Bennett" (house or barn?)
1853, 1874 nothing, no structures indicated

When Built/ Mason: Unknown

When Razed: Unknown; after Martin Wolfish's pictures¹

Why: Deteriorating condition; compromised structural integrity

Original Owner: Unknown

Subsequently: Alfred Hermet (fruit farming)
2021: Donald Naeye² (zoned: fruit farming — not orchard)

Original Use: Barn

Subsequently: Barn

Photographs: 1953/54, Verlyn Klahn (1); RR (5); Wolfish (2); Vanorden (2)
Vanorden photo is the only view of the opposite gable end
Info-DB Reference: Sod-8, Hermet, [Next to 7480]
~7482 Sodus Center Rd ³

Description:

Design & Mortar Details: 2½ -story barn; long side faced road with gaping center entrance and another smaller, but still large, entrance closer to right corner. All openings had wooden structural frames, no sills or lintels. To the left of the center door

¹ Unfortunately people at the Walworth Historical Society do not know when this structure was torn down. In fact, they were surprised to learn that it wasn't there anymore when I visited WHS to do research on 3/7/2012. It had been there until "fairly recently".

² <https://wayne.sdgny.com/saleshist/property.aspx?id=44890> Alfred Hermet Jr transferred on 2/1/1999, 22.92 acres (Book/Page: 902/635); It was transferred again to Donald Naeye on 5/1/2008, 22.92 acres (Book/Page: 961/477); FieldMap#: 00018839,00023865, Great Lot 8, south side; Coordinate Locator: 701680-1166976 / 000

³ Info-DB: <http://www.cobblestonemuseum.org/CobblestoneStructuresCatalog/Sod-8%20Hermet.htm>

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was a square "window" about the size to bit a hay bale through (this type of "window" was also on the other elevations). This cobbles for this elevation were selected for uniform size, color, and shape and were in very neat rows. Some of the lower courses have horizontal Vd joints. Roudabush's closeup shots show horizontal and vertical V-joints with multi-colored rounded cobbles (pretty) and also the rough-cut quoins. (They also show deteriorated "foundation-level" quoin structure and vertical crack at quoin line on the east gable end. Other photos show the stone colors and differences in masonry between the front and sides.)

On the east gable end, the "foundation"—actually the entire first story—random large stones of no special shape or size were fitted as best possible in rows with very wavy joints. Whatever rocks could be picked up to serve as quoins were used. (This ultimately proved to be the weak link as Wolfish's photographs clearly show they had completely been dislodged.) Three small square "windows" spaced evenly across the with of this foundation level were set just below where the cobblestones for the upper 1½ stories of the building started. Smaller rounded variously colored cobbles laid in neat rows from there to the top—flat mortar (no attempt at jointing), irregularly cut quoins; generally 3 courses/quoin. A couple hairline fractures top to bottom and/or around window corners are apparent in Roudabush's photos. On 2nd-story level one square "window" was centered in the middle of the space. Above it in the gable was a smaller rectangular window. On the "middle level" between the gable and lower story were two rows of small square holes where beams were placed when constructing the barn—5 equally spaced 3 courses above the interface between the lower and middle level and 3 courses below the top of the square window were two scaffold holes on each side of the window.

There are no photographs of the rear long side.

VanOrden photographed the west gable end—much different than the opposite end. A very poor photocopy is in a binder at the Walworth Historical Society. It appears that cobblestones were laid all the way down to ground level. These field cobbles were larger and coarser but were set in neat rows and had no mortar embellishment between them. Only opening on this side in the cobblestone area was a square opening the top of which was about even with the top quoin. This end appears to have been altered to accommodate a gambrel roof, the entire modified area replacing part of the previously upper story and gable cobbles with wood. A large double barn-doored opening was high in the gable. To its left was a round peephole-shaped opening.

Verlyn Klahn Notes: "This barn in Sodus Center is still in use. In one corner all the quoins have fallen in a heap." He makes note of the large lakestones in front are 3-5" by 3-3 ½"; large fieldstones were used are at the sides, with 1" high horizontal joints

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and V'd vertical joints. He also records "the mortar is fine; the lintels are wooden" and "the quoins are fairly irregular tooled sandstone."

Note: 1955 Hoffman Essay "*Cobblestone Structures in Wayne County*"

Robert Roudabush Notes: "A large barn can be found at 7480 Sodus Center Rd. The front, toward the road, has vines over much of the wall, but on the northwest corner, the quoins can be seen. They are gray limestone of various sizes and shapes. The west side has three or four rows of stones per quoin. The bottom (about 7 feet) has irregularly laid large stones, not in the cobblestone fashion. The west side has 9 scaffold holes, sometimes built in high walls. In the front, next to the door, the stones are smooth, but of irregular shape, size and color. Narrow pyramids of mortar occur between the stones."

Note: "*Cobblestone Buildings in NYS, A Survey by Robert L. Roudabush, 1976-1980*"

Neither Carl Schmidt nor Dorothy Wells Pease documents this structure in their writings.

In the News

http://sodus.advantage-preservation.com/viewer/?k=alfred%20hermetet&i=f&d=01011970-12311999&m=between&ord=k1&fn=record_usa_new_york_sodus_19830203_english_1&df=1&dt=10 (2/3/1983)

"Alfred Hermet Jr of Buerman Rd, Sodus was presented the Robert Meacham Memorial Award for 1982. This award is presented annually in recognition of an individual's 'outstanding service in the fruit industry.' He started farming with his father and then started on his own in 1971."

Also in "The Record", 6/23/1977: "Mrs Alfred Hermet Jr of Buerman Rd"

Note: Alfred J Hermet Sr died February 15, 1978.

Deed Transfers

Geneva NY Finger Lake Times 1985 Aug 1985 - 0956.pdf (8/26/1985)

Alfred Hermet Jr to Alfred Hermet & Sons Inc, Sodus

Geneva NY Finger Lake Times 1986 Jul 1986 - 0820.pdf (7/25/1986)

Deed Transfers:

"Estate of Alfred J Hermet to Hermet & Son Inc, Sodus

Estate of A. Hermet & Son Inc to Alfred J Jr & Sherry Hermet, Sodus

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Hermet & Son Inc. to Alfred Hermet Jr, Sodus
Alfred Hermet & Son Inc to Alfred J Hermet Jr, Sodus"

Geneva NY Daily Times 1962 Jul-Sep 1962 Grayscale - 0379.pdf (8/2/1962)
Alfred J and Leona G Hermet to Alfred J Hermet Jr and Sherry Hermet, Sodus

SDG Records:

2/1/1999	22.92 acres	Hermet, Alfred J to Naeye, Donald P & Barbara	802/635
5/1/2008	22.92 acres	Naeye, Donald P to Fowler Land Mgmt LLC	961/477

Interesting to Note: The **Naeye family** acquired the Marion Canning Company (later Seneca Foods) after the failure of the J.P Malcolm company—the one that owned the repurposed cobblestone blacksmith shop. This Naeye family appears to have sold the property with the cobblestone Hermet barn to Fowler Land Mgmt LLC, those who currently own the old Swales Fruit Farm with the cobblestone cherry picking building and the (now stuccoed) Swales manor house.

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/obituaries/rdc139109>

Marion, NY - Donald "Don" P. Naeye, 86, died Monday, February 24, 2020. He lived in Marion all of his life. Don graduated from Marion Central in 1952 and Alfred State in 1954. After graduation from Alfred, he started working at the **Marion Canning Company, which his father, Peter, founded**. Don took over the Management of Marion Canning until it merged in 1970 with Seneca Foods. He worked for many years in management positions at Seneca Foods. Don bought an Apple farm to work on in his spare time, and B & D Farms was started. Upon leaving Seneca Foods, he became a full time Apple farmer. He served in many organizations and held several leadership roles including the Marion Central School District Board, the Marion Town Board, the Newark-Wayne Community Hospital Board, Young President's Organization and the local Rotary club. He was a member of the United Church of Marion. Don was the son of the late Peter and Gertrude Naeye, and is survived by his wife and sweetheart of 65 years, Barbara Naeye; his daughters, Jacqueline Dawson, Jean Brooks, Joan (David) Fisher, Judy (Jay) Bonnet. He was "papa" to 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren He was predeceased by his brother, Dr. Richard Naeye.