

# CRANETOWN ACADEMY

## Tyre Dist #1 Schoolhouse WORKSHEET, Page 1 of 3 General Information

Name of Structure: Cranetown Academy, Tyre SH #1  
Address: 2515 County Rte 101A (NE Gravel / Traver Rds)

Atlas: Tyre, Dist 1, Lot 36  
1852, 1859: "School No 1"; 1874: "School"

When Built and Mason: 1850, unknown mason

Extant: Yes, but stuccoed

Disposition: Abandoned 1944 when school consolidation  
1952 trustees deeded the schoolhouse to the Town of Tyre, which in turn, made it available to the newly formed historical society.  
Later that year it was sold for \$1000 and converted into a private residence.<sup>1</sup>

Stuccoed: ≥ 1952

Original Use: Schoolhouse 1850 - 1944

Subsequent Use: Residence

Pictures: E Payson Smith's book: *Smith's of Tyre: Asa Smith, 1758-1841, Jason Smith, 1795-1883, Pulaski E Smith, 1829-1916* © 1979

### Description:

1-story. The gable end, facing the bend in the road as CR 101A curves around, had 2 windows. The entrance was on the (east) long side with 2 windows to its left. Bricks were used instead of quoins and above windows in a flat arch. There was also a gable fanlight framed with a flat arch, its window boarded up from the inside. Small round lake-washed stones of varying colors were set 4 courses to simulated-quin height.

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<sup>1</sup> E Payson Smith is a descendant of the early Smith settlers (8/9/1979): <http://fultonhistory.com/Newspaper%2011/Geneva%20NY%20Finger%20Lake%20Times/Geneva%20NY%20Finger%20Lake%20Times%201979%20Aug%201979/Geneva%20NY%20Finger%20Lake%20Times%201979%20Aug%201979%20-%2000308.pdf>

**ALSO:** E Payson Smith published "Smiths of Tyre: Asa Smith, 1758-1841, Jason Smith, 1795-1883, Pulaski E Smith, 1829-1916", © 121 pages.

# CRANETOWN ACADEMY

## Tyre Dist #1 Schoolhouse WORKSHEET, Page 2 of 3 General Information

### Resources:

<https://fultonhistory.com/Newspaper%2024/Rochester%20NY%20Democrat%20Chronicle%201949-1970/Rochester%20NY%20Democrat%20Chronicle%201952/Rochester%20NY%20Democrat%20Chronicle%201952%20-%209021.pdf>, 8/7/1952

"Seneca County's Oldest School to Be Restored

Tyre — The little 102-year-old cobblestone schoolhouse in this Seneca Country community will be restored as the first project for members of the newly-organized Tyre Historical Society. The society was formed by men and women of the township through the efforts of Mrs E. Eugene Lay, town historian.

The schoolhouse, in which the youngsters of this tiny community began to learn the three R's back in 1850, will be preserved and maintained as an historical building. Located in the Gravel Rd, it is the oldest in Seneca County.

It was abandoned eight years ago when the youngsters of the district began going into nearby Seneca Falls to their classes ... Recently, the Tyre district trustees deeded the schoolhouse to the Town of Tyre, which, in turn, has made it available to the historical society to be used by the new group to house valuable historical records of this township.

Records show that Dr. Magee, a Tyre physician and original owner of the schoolhouse property, designated its use for educational purposes.

The first schoolhouse, a log cabin building, was erected on the property in 1804 and was destroyed by fire several years later. It was replaced by a frame building in 1815 which served the needs of the school children until the cobblestone building was erected in 1850.

In the early days of the schoolhouse, Mrs Lay said, it was an educational center for Seneca County. Records show that teachers of law and surveying were brought here from colleges, including Harvard University, to conduct classes for adults.

With all of Seneca County centralized, the little 'red schoolhouses' have been abandoned and the districts have disposed of the building and contents. Many of the schools throughout the county have been converted into homes.

It is the aim of the Tyre Historical Society to keep Tyre's cobblestone schoolhouse just as it was when youngsters trekked there to classes. The pupils' desks will be undisturbed and even the blackboards and teacher's desk will remain in the building."

Geneva NY Finger Lake Times 1979 Aug 1979 - 0308.pdf (8/9/1979)

"The first school built of logs on the southwest corner of Asa Smith's land was established in 1804 ... Once called the Cranetown Academy, when it burned a few years later a substantial cobblestone building was erected, now a remodeled private residence. Although long unused as a school, it was once proposed for an historical museum, but was ordered sold for \$1,000 in 1952."

CRANETOWN ACADEMY  
Tyre Dist #1 Schoolhouse  
WORKSHEET, Page 3 of 3  
General Information

**NOTE:** Unable to find any references to the schoolhouse being sold.

Email: Aug 5, 2013

From Kathy Jans-Duffy, Tyre Town Historian

"The Cranetown Academy is now a home and has been stuccoed over. It is located right across the street from Traver Cemetery. I think my parents bought desks from this school in the early '50s. They were 25¢ each and we had 2."