

P U L A S K I E S M I T H H O U S E (Site)

WORKSHEET

General Information

Name of Structure: Pulaski Erastus Smith House

Address: 1104 E Tyre Rd

Property ID: (453400) 13-1-11

Atlas: Tyre, Dist 9, Lot 48
1852, 1859: "School No 1"; 1874: "School"

When Built/Mason: 1863, unknown mason

Extant: No

Disposition: Fire 3/30/1938

Original Use: Home

Subsequent Use: Home

Pictures: Annotated photograph¹: "Rev Pulaski Smith relaxing with his wife, Frances Amelia, on the porch of their cobblestone house on East Tyre Road. (About 1904)"²

Description:

Structural: Unknown. The only known existing photograph shows Pulaski Smith and wife sitting on the front porch of their cobblestone house; the porch appears to be an extension of a recessed wing. None of the rest of the house is shown. "He built a 2-story cobblestone house on a fir-covered knoll."³

Masonry: The 11 rows of cobbles showing in the picture indicate that large field cobbles of varying sizes, shapes, and colors were used—rectangular shapes predominating. Mortar joints are straight and appear to have been made by a rounded-trowel tool. Pyramid-joints are on the vertical. No quoins are showing but, given that quoins were employed, it is likely stones were set 3 rows to quoin height.

¹ E Payson Smith's book: "Smith's of Tyre: Asa Smith, 1758-1841, Jason Smith, 1795-1883, Pulaski E Smith, 1829-1916" © 1979, 121 pgs

² Picture from Kathy Jans-Duffy, Tyre Town Historian, in email 8/8/2013

³ E Payson Smith's article: "A TYRE TEACHER, FARMER, CHURCH LEADER", Finger Lakes Times, 8/11/1979

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Resources:

Per the 8/11/1979 article written by E Payson Smith, Pulaski Erastus Smith purchased land on lot 48 in 1863 and built a 2-story cobblestone house on the knoll. The house was destroyed in the early 1940s, he continues, and in 1979 the site was occupied by the Leon Lawrence family. The address can be traced back to 1104 E Tyre Rd.

NOTE: The actual date of the fire was 3/29/1938

BURNED IN FIRE — March 29, 1938

Waterloo NY Seneca County News 1937-1939 - 0168.pdf (Fri, 3/31/1938)

<https://fultonhistory.com/Newspaper%2024/Waterloo%20NY%20Seneca%20County%20News/Waterloo%20NY%20Seneca%20County%20News%201937-1939/Waterloo%20NY%20Seneca%20County%20News%201937-1939%20-%200168.pdf>

Old County Landmark in Tyre Destroyed by Fire

One of northern Seneca County's old landmarks, the cobblestone house in Tyre, at one time owned by the late Rev, Pulaski E Smith, was destroyed by fire of undetermined origin at 9AM Tuesday ... The fire quickly enveloped the dilapidated old farmhouse so that efforts to save it on the part of Tyre farmers were futile. Richard Christopher and his father, Daniel Christopher, had recently occupied the 100-year-old house owned by the Waldo G. Morse estate ...

Neighbors reported that he had not been at the house since Monday and had left a wood fire burn in the kitchen. A garage and barn on the large farm, one of the land tracts given soldiers of the Revolutionary War when they returned from the conflict, were not damaged. The house, Charles F. Hammond, attorney for the Morse estate, said it was valued at \$500. Christopher lost several articles of furniture in the blaze.

Geneva NY Daily Times 1937 Dec-May 1938 Grayscale - 0890.pdf (3/30/1938)

<https://fultonhistory.com/Newspaper%2011/Geneva%20NY%20Daily%20Times/Geneva%20NY%20Daily%20Times%201937%20Dec-May%201938%20Grayscale/Geneva%20NY%20Daily%20Times%201937%20Dec-May%201938%20Grayscale%20-%200890.pdf>

"FIRE SWEEPS LANDMARK IN SENECA COUNTY" — "Seneca Falls, Mar 30—Believed to have started from an overheated stove, fire swept through a cobblestone house occupied by Dan Christopher and his son, Richard, located several miles north of this village yesterday. The house was known as the Pulaski E Smith homestead and was a landmark of this section of Seneca County. The fire was discovered by Paul Rotunda, 12-year old son of Mr and Mrs Joseph Rotunda of Tyre, who live near the destroyed home, while they were enroute to school. Lack of water and with the fire gaining headway before being discovered, the building was quickly destroyed. The house was owned by the Waldo G Morse estate. While the loss has not been ascertained, it is understood that there was no insurance.

PULASKI E SMITH HOUSE (Site)

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ABOUT P. E. SMITH

Traver Cemetery

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/75163939/pulaski-erastus-smith> (8/8/1829 - 9/18/1916)

From Smith's of Tyre, edited by E Payson Smith(Pulaski's grandson):..& laid to rest almost 3 generations of Tyre's citizens...including himself & his wife, there are 17 of his family buried in the old Traver Cemetery.

Who was he?

<https://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-%200401.pdf>

A TYRE TEACHER, FARMER, CHURCH LEADER, Finger Lakes Times, 8/11/1979, article by E. Payson Smith, a descendent of the Smith family.

"... He was born in Tyre in 1829 while his grandfather, Asa, was still alive, in the frame house that had replaced the original log cabin on military lot no 36, at the end of Gravel Road.

Pulaski was educated in the 1st schoolhouse, built on his family's property, sometimes referred to as the Cranetown Academy. He worked as a boy on the farm.

At age 15 Pulaski determined to be a school teacher. He applied himself studiously, attending school winters and working on the farm summers. At the early age of 18 he was given a school to teach. It wasn't until age 22 that he entered the academy at Seneca Falls, at an age when many today have finished college.

After graduating four years later he was accepted at the University of Rochester, established only three years previously. He was graduated in the class of 1859 at age 30 with a classical degree, the equivalent of a bachelor of arts degree today. A few years later he was awarded an M.A. or masters of arts.

Following graduation he took charge as principal of Pulaski Academy in Oswego County, where he served three years. He also taught at Red Creek, where he met his future wife, a student named Frances Amelia Gould, who was a preceptress at Macedon Academy.

Having been baptized at the Magee Baptist Church, he was licensed by the church to preach and was called to supply as pastor at Sandy Creek for a year.

In 1863 he received the call to the Magee Baptist Church, where he served continuously until his retirement in 1911.

Two years earlier, in 1861, he married Frances A. Gould, whom he had met at Red Creek. ... The couple had three children ... Pulaski could not have relied solely on his salary from the church, so he continued farming, first on 50 acres bought from his father, later on land purchased from Stephen Crane (the younger) on East Tyre Road.

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A directory of Seneca County residents published 1894-95, together with a map of Tyre, shows his property on military lot no 48. His holdings consisted of "5 horses, 4 cows (1 Jersey), an apiary with several hives, 30 acres of apples, many varieties, and 4 acres of pears." He built a two-story cobblestone house on a fir-covered knoll. This house was destroyed during the early 1940s, and the site is now occupied by the Leon Lawrence family. ...

During Pulaski's lengthy service the church prospered, but since Tyre and Junius never enjoyed large young populations, congregations were never large. An 1895 directory lists 86 adult members, with about 100 attending the Sunday school. ... The Rev. Pulaski E Smith retired in 1911 to a home still located at 65 Clinton St, Seneca Falls. His wife died in 1912, and he died in 1916 at the age of 87."

Obituary Notices — each teasing out a new little piece of information

Seneca County Courier

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn90066080/1916-09-21/ed-1/seq-1/>

DEATH OF WELL-KNOWN PASTOR — Seneca County lost one of its most prominent and highly respected citizens early Monday morning, in the death of Rev Pulaski E Smith, following an illness of a few day's duration.

Mr Smith was born in the town of Tyre on August 8th, 1829, his father Jason Smith being a pioneer settler of that township and naming the place. His paternal grandfather was a Revolutionary soldier, while his great grandfather Joshua Smith, and his great grandmother Mary Snow, both descended from passengers on the Mayflower.

Mr Smith received his early schooling at Mynderse Academy, interspersed with work on his father's farm, later teaching school, and graduating from the University of Rochester in the class of 1859. He was principal of Pulaski Academy for three years, and in 1861 was united in marriage to Miss Frances A Gould, preceptress of Macedon Academy. While at Pulaski, Mr Smith felt called to the ministry and supplied the Baptist church at Sandy Creek for nearly a year. He then returned to Seneca County settling in Tyre on a farm purchased of his father, and in 1864 was ordained and installed pastor of the Baptist church of Tyre and Junius. Here he preached for 48 years, ministering to the wants of his people in an efficient and praiseworthy manner, giving up his active pastorate some years ago ...

Syracuse NY Daily Journal 1916 - 3770.PDF (9/18/1916)

OBIT: "SENECA FALLS, Sept 18—The Rev Pulaski E Smith A.M., the oldest member of the Ontario Baptist Association, died today at his home in Clinton st. He was born in the town of Tyre Aug 8, 1829. He graduated from the University of Rochester in 1854 and entered the Baptist ministry. He preached his first sermon on the first Sunday of July, 1862, the day the memorial Gettysburg battle was fought. After 48 years in the ministry he retired in July, 1911."

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Waterloo Ny Christen Herald 1820-1821 - 1351.pdf (Book: 1896)

<https://archive.org/details/cu31924051624629/page/222/mode/2up?q=Pulaski+E+Smith>

"All Manual of the churches of Seneca County : with sketches of their pastors, 1895-96", © 1896, page 222

Rev. Pulaski E. Smith, pastor of the Baptist Church of Junius and Tyre, is of mingled Puritan and German blood. His paternal great-grandfather, Joshua Smith, and great-grandmother, Mary Snow, both descended from passengers on the Mayflower. Their son, Asa, a Revolutionary soldier, while living in Vermont, married Margaret, the daughter of Nicholas Traver, a German immigrant, and became a pioneer of Seneca county. Their son, Jason Smith, became a prominent citizen of the locality, occupying official positions, and having the honor of selecting the name for the town of Tyre. He married Sarah Wells, whose parents, also pioneers here, afterwards moved to the western part of the State. Pulaski E., was born August 8, 1829. He worked on the farm, attended Seneca Falls Academy, taught school, and graduated from Rochester University in the class of 1859. He was principal of Pulaski Academy for three years, and in 1861 married Miss Frances A. Gould, preceptress of Macedon Academy. They have two children, a daughter who is a graduate of Vassar and the Albany Normal school, and is now teaching at Cook Academy, and a son who is a graduate of Mynderse Academy and Rochester University, and is teaching at Mexico, Oswego county. While at Pulaski, Mr. Smith felt called to the ministry, and for a year supplied a Baptist church at Sandy Creek. He then came to a farm purchased of his father, and in 1864 was ordained and installed pastor of the church whose origin dated to the Christian home of his grand-parents. A few years ago his Alma Mater, Rochester University, conferred upon him the title of Master of Arts. Under his charge the church has thriven and prospered.

Syracuse NY Herald 1909 - 4128.pdf (8/8/1909)

Seneca Falls Paster is Eighty Years Old, Seneca Falls, Aug 7 — ... pastor of the Magee Baptist church ... He can trace his ancestry back in an unbroken line to the landing of the Mayflower. His grandfather, Asa Smith, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and at the close of hostilities settled with his family in the town of Tyre, where his son, Jason Smith, the father of Pulaski E Smith, became a prominent member of the community. Mr Smith obtained his early education by working on the farm and attending the Seneca Falls academy, and later teaching. In 1859 he was graduated from Rochester university and was principal of Pulaski academy for three years. While there he felt called upon to preach, and for a year supplied the Baptist church at Sandy Creek. He then came to a farm purchased of his father in the town of Tyre, and in 1864 was ordained and installed pastor of the church whose origin dated to the Christian home of his grandparents, where he has since served. He is still in the enjoyment of good health and continues his pastoral duties as of old.