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General Information

Name of Structure: Ashley Beach House (CFS: Eddy - Brusso House)

Address & Parcel ID: 5763 Ridge Chapel Rd @ Beach Rd (NW) - Dist 7, Lot 44
(544600) -64117-00-802053

Atlas: 1853: "R Gibbs"; 1858: "B Gibbs"; 1874, 1904: "A.M. Beach"

When Built /Mason: 1842¹

When Razed: 1964

Why: Desire for a new modern house (Brusso family)²

Original Owner: Unknown (R. Gibbs)

Subsequent: Benjamin Gibbs, Ashley Beach, Isaac Quaars Jr,
and Edward Brusso who razes it and rebuilds frame house

Original Use: Farmhouse

Subsequent Use: Farmhouse

Photographs: Yes

Description:

2-story, 5-window, center entrance federal style house; long side facing road. Entrance flanked on each side by two windows, with same sized windows centered above the lower openings. Three risers to the entrance. Chimney at each gable end.

Lintels and sills of wood, limestone quoins. In the north end gable peak was a circular ornament (maybe on opposite end, too—cannot tell from existing photographs). Multi-colored lakestones (many white ones mixed in), 5/Q on the facade, 4/Q on the gable ends. Gable ends had 4 windows (2 down with the others centered above them). Lintel configuration: the center section of the window and door lintels was raised (except those at the roofline on the facade, the straight lintel tops of which butted against the frieze; including the lintel over the basement window in the sandstone block foundation).

The house was located on a rise of ground, now graded by a couple of stepped retaining walls across the frontage.

¹ From 1955 Hoffman Essay Paper: "Cobblestones of Wayne County", 1955 by Verlyn Klahn

² Per my 2014 interview with Eddy Brusso whose parents owned the house — mother wanted a new, modern house like everyone else had.

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References:

Dorothy Wells Pease, *The Cobblestone Houses of Upstate New York*, Compiled by Dorothy Wells Pease ... 1941

Page 35, Item 11 (5763 Ridge Chapel Rd) "Glen Beach house, 2-story 5-window; lintels & sills wood; limestone quoins. Lakestones 5/Q."

Verlyn Klahn: "LEON BEACH HOUSE — "... The present owner is Mr. Brusall [sic] who says that the house was built in 1842 and that Leon Beach was the second owner of the house. It is said that the limestone for the foundation was cut by the builder himself."

NOTE: There were several farms owned by the Beach brothers clustered in this area.

Benjamin (Minnie) Beach owned a farm adjacent—Leon was their son. According to his obituary, Leon moved off the farm in 1916 and took up permanent residence in East Rochester in 1921. There is no record of Leon Beach having owned this property.

Carl F Schmidt, *Cobblestone Masonry*, © 1966 — He records this house on page 196, "Eddy-Brusso House". Schmidt's description doesn't correspond to the masonry details in the historic photographs. It appears he is describing another house in the area. There are a number of properties with the name "Eddy" in this area of Williamson.

NOTE: There is no record of any Eddy family member having owned or lived in this cobblestone house. Ashley M. Beach married the only child of Benjamin (Florence Josephine) Gibbs and thereby became owner of this "Beach Farm" with the cobblestone house. It passed from him to his son, Glenn, and was sold in 1940 to settle his estate. The only apparent Eddy relationship is two of Ashley's sisters married into the Eddy family. Lavina married Levi Eddy and Lucy married Melville Eddy.

<https://genealogytrails.com/ny/wayne/oldhouses.html>

"Old Houses and Churches of Wayne County, New York State", Mrs. Helen Balmat Gorman, Fort Plain, NY, © 1940

The Glen Beach House

This very large lake stone house is built on a rise of ground on the Cory Corners Road, Marion Twp, Wayne County N.Y. It faces east, has large stone corners and wood sills. Notice the cut of stone over the lower windows and front door. A very imposing structure and the present owners are repairing it for occupancy. They are Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Quaars.

NOTE: Glenn Beach died in 1928. His estate was not settled until 1940. There are no newspaper accounts of whether the wife remained in the house (on the farm); no records of the farm being tenanted out. Perhaps it was abandoned ("present owners are repairing it for occupancy").

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This is very confusing because there are many Beach family farms all right together. We are only interested in the one with the cobblestone house on it—Ashley and Glenn Beach Farm.

FAMILY OWNERSHIP TRACE

GIBBS — > BEACH

Nothing found for "R Gibbs" (1853). Benjamin Gibbs (1858) and wife had one child—Florence Josephine Gibbs (1848-1912). She married Ashley M. Beach.

Cemetery Trace (Ridge Chapel Cemetery) and Census and Farm Directory Traces

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/39893510/ashley-beach> (1846-1915)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/39893464/florence-josephine-beach> (1848 -1912)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/39893571/glenn-beach> (1874 - 1928)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/39893542/carrie-alvira-beach> (1872 - 1958)

<http://wayne.nygenweb.net/census/1870williamsoncen12.html> - **1870 Census** Town of Williamson

Note: Number of dwelling house, number of family in order of visitation, name, age, sex, color, occupation, value of real estate, value of personal estate, where born, birthplaces of parents, literacy, citizenship

497/499

BEACH, Ashley M., 22, M, W, farmer, \$12,000, \$3500, New York, male citizen of U.S. over age 21

BEACH, Florence J., 22, F, W, keeping house, ___, ___, New York

BEACH, Mary A., 3, F, W, ___, ___, ___, New York

BEACH, John B., 6/12, M, W, ___, ___, ___, New York, born in November

LANAR (?), Maria, 19, F, W, domestic servant, ___, ___, New York, parents of foreign birth

[Mrs. Florence J. BEACH, farmer, is listed in the 1867 Directory of Williamson.]

<https://wayne.nygenweb.net/williamson/1914williamsondir.html> **1914 Farm Directory**

BEACH, ASHLEY M. (MINNIE) farmer (onions celery & dairy) O 160a rd1 Williamson H36 B T.

Beach, Glenn (Carrie) 3 ch farmer bda A. M. Beach rd1 Williamson H36 B T.

Note: Ashley's son Glenn and Glenn's family boarding with him in the cobblestone house.

NOTE: This is the BENJAMIN Beach Farm (ie Leon Beach), adjacent to Ashley Beach farm
BEACH & SON farmers (onions & celery) O 122a rd1 Williamson H36 B T.

BEACH, B. F. (MINNIE) farmer (Beach & Son) rd1 Williamson H36 B T.

Beach, Leon B. (Margaret M.) 1 ch farmer (Beach & Son) rd1 Williamson H36 B T.

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Florence Josephine Gibbs Beach, Ashley's wife, dies. Glen is 38 at this point with children of his own, living in the family homestead.

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn84031445/1912-01-11/ed-1/seq-8/>

The Wayne County journal. volume, January 11, 1912

Williamson, Jan 8 — Josephine, wife of Ashley Beach, died suddenly Saturday night ... She was born in May, 1848, was the daughter of Mr and Mrs Benjamin Gibbs, and alway resided on the same farm where she was born, two miles southwest of this village ... She leaves, beside her husband, four children, John of Ontario, Mrs Leland Pratt of Newark, Mrs Myron Adams of this village, and Glen Beach who resided with them on the farm; five grandchildren also survive.

Ashley Beach remarries.

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn83031814/1914-03-11/ed-1/seq-1/>

The Palmyra courier. volume, March 11, 1914

Ashley Beach, for a number of years Town Superintendent of Highways of the town of Williamson, was united in marriage to Minnie Rinkler of Rochester on Thursday of last week.

Ashley Beach dies.

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn85026906/1915-11-18/ed-1/seq-5/>

The Newark courier., November 18, 1915

The funeral of Ashley Beach, who died at Council Bluffs, Iowa, while on a list to that city, was held at Williamson on Wednesday. Mr Beach was the father of Mrs Leland Pratt of Arcadia, Mrs Myron Adams and Glenn Beach of Williamson. Mr Beach's ancestors were pioneer residents of Wayne county.

Also: <http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074107/1915-11-19/ed-1/seq-3/>

The Marion enterprise., November 19, 1915

News was received here Saturday of the sudden death of Ashley Beach who died on the cars at Council Bluff. He and wife had been making a tour of the west. Mr Beach was well known here. He was 69 years old.

Glenn appears to take over responsibility for farm operations. He and wife were both active in the Williamson Grange, holding various positions. He occasionally advertised for selling oats, timothy, hay, etc in the local paper as well as wanted ads for a single tenant man, by the year.

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074501/1918-01-26/ed-1/seq-3/>

The Newark-union gazette., January 26, 1918

WILLIAMSON - Jan 21 - Glen Beach, living 3 miles south west of this village met with a serious loss Sunday. The family when waking at 4:30 and found that both the farm barns were so far consumed by fire that they could not be extinguished. All that was saved were three cows. There were 32 heads of cattle and 6 houses lost and several hundred bushels of grain and feed, besides much

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hay, and etc. The buildings were partly insured in the Wayne Co Fire Relief Association and it is estimated that there were over \$8,000.00 loss in all."

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn84031445/1920-03-11/ed-1/seq-8/>

The Wayne County Journal, March 11, 1920

Albert Auyer has returned from Victor and is engaged by Glen Beach for farm work for the summer.

Glenn Beach dies.

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074529/1928-04-05/ed-1/seq-1/>

The Williamson Sun and The Williamson Sentinel, April 5, 1928

Williamson was shocked and last week Wednesday morning to hear of the death of Glen Beach ... Mr Beach was 54 years old and is survived by his wife, Carrie Meeker Beach, three sons, Ivan of Lakeside, Norman of Syracuse University and John at home, one daughter Barbara, a student at Brockport Normal. The funeral was held from the family home on the Beach road.

The estate is not settled until 1940. There is no information relative to how (if) the farm was being run after Glenn dies.

The Ashley Beach farm is put up for auction 4/23/1940.

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074529/1940-06-06/ed-1/seq-6/>

The Williamson sun and The Williamson sentinel., June 06, 1940

Carrie A. Beach individually and as executrix of the Last Will and Testament of Glenn Beach deceased ... In Pursuance of a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, duly granted said Clerk's Office. in the above entitled action, and 'entered in Wayne County Clerk's Office on the twenty-third day of April, 1940 ... will sell at public auction at the front steps of the State Bank of Williamson in the village of Williamson ... on the seventh day of June 1940 at two o'clock P.M. the premises described in said Judgment as follows viz.

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, situate on the road running southerly from the Ridge Chapel Cemetery in the Town of Williamson, County of Wayne and State of New York, and being the premises owned and occupied by Florence J. Beach at the time of her death, and bounded as follows ... containing between one hundred eight (108) and one hundred nine (109) acres of land, be the same more or less. Reference being had to a deed dated March 10, 1840. and recorded in Wayne County Clerk's Office February 17, 1857. in Liber 68 of Deeds at page 4; and to a deed dated August 1, 1854, recorded in said Clerk's Office February 3, 1855, in Liber 63 of Deeds at page 37; also to a deed dated January 11, 1853 and recorded in said Clerk's Office February 12, 1853 in Liber 56 of Deeds at page 37. Also the will of Florence J Beach probated

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February March 13, 1916 in Liber 239 of Deeds at page --- in said Clerk's office. Dated at the Village of Palmyra, NY, this 23rd day of April, 1940. J. Francis Lines, Referee

QUAARS

ISAAC QUAARS Jr, (1941)

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074529/1940-11-14/ed-1/seq-2/>

The Williamson Sun and The Williamson Sentinel, November 14, 1940

It is reported that Isaac Quaars has purchased the former Glenn Beach farm.

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074529/1946-01-10/ed-1/seq-8/>

The Williamson Sun and The Williamson Sentinel, January 10, 1946

ISAAC QUAARS' FARM, RIDGE CHAPEL ROAD, 100 acres, dairy barns, milk market, silo, cobblestone house, tenant house, woods, apples, pears, cherries, real good farm. Price reduced. Alvin La Rue, Palmyra.

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074529/1948-02-05/ed-1/seq-2/>

The Williamson Sun and The Williamson Sentinel, February 05, 1948

Isaac Quaars has sold his farm to Mr Marvin of Macedon. Mr Quaars reserves a few acres of muck land.

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074529/1975-04-24/ed-1/seq-5/>

The Williamson Sun and The Williamson Sentinel, April 24, 1975, Page 5

Quaars Re-Celebrate January 28 Anniversary

"Mr and Mrs Isaac Quaars ...will observe their 50th wedding anniversary ... Mrs and Mrs Quaars have lived most of their married life in the Williamson area. They owned and operated a dairy farm on the Ridge Chapel Road until 1945, at which time they moved into the town of Williamson."

BRUSSO

Nothing was found about "Mr Marvin", the next owner of this property. Regardless, he doesn't appear to have held it for very long, before the Edward Brusso family acquired it.

In the 1960s the newspapers started using actual street addresses. The address here was 451 Ridge Chapel Rd, Williamson. Since that time the street numbers have been changed.

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The first newspaper reference to the Edward Brusso family living at this address is in 1952.

<https://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn82007246/1952-03-06/ed-1/seq-7.pdf>

The Webster Herald., March 06, 1952

"The second child of Mr & Mrs Edward Brusso, Ridge Chapel Rd, Williamson, born at Highland Hospital on Feb 29. ... Edward John is the new son of the Edward Brusso and weighted at birth 6#, 4oz. The other child is a daughter. Mrs Brusso is the former Carolyn Hoffman, daughter of Mr & Mrs Peter Hoffman, Ridge Rd W, this vicinity."

There are no references to the Brusso family here with regard to the farm or the cobblestone house. There are many newspaper references of the children—births, schools, marriages.

I interviewed this second child of Mr & Mrs Edward Brusso, Edward John, in 2014. He lived there as a child and remembers the family demolishing it in 1964 in favor of a new, modern house.

— END OF STORY —

Note: Glenn and Glen spellings are both used throughout the many references cited. They are printed here as they were in the newspaper accounts.