

WILLIAMSON DIST #2 SCHOOLHOUSE (Site)
HISTORY SHEET
General Information & References

Name of Structure: Williamson District #2 SH (in village)

Address & Parcel ID: SW corner Ridge Rd & Locust St (4232 Ridge Rd)

TaxID: (544600) 66117-09-122556

Atlas: 1853: "School"; 1858: "SH № 2"; 1874: "SH"; 1904: gone

When Built /Mason: Unknown

When Razed: ~1876

Why: Larger school needed

Original Use: Schoolhouse

Subsequent Use: Presumed razed after the fire

Pictures: No known pictures

Description: Unknown structural design or masonry details.

References

Rochester NY Democrat Chronicle 1952 - 0231.pdf (1/6/1952)

All Around The Town —

"An ancient scrap book recently brought to light from a crowded store room at the Williamson Central School told the story of three village school houses which were used prior to the 1870s. ...

141 years ago a log school house was built on The Ridge just a very short distance from the present four corners in Williamson village. The record states that the first teacher in that school was one John Lambert.

After a few years (the record does not say how many), 'a small red colored building' was erected for a school just east of the village on The Ridge. The years past [sic] and this second school house was soon too small to accommodate the children, so another one was built.

This one was a cobblestone structure and was located on the southwest corner of the junction of The Ridge and Locust Street, on the spot where the J.B. Brasser apartment house now stands. The stone school was equipped with pine benches and a wood burning stove. A.B. Bennett, one of Williamson's older residents, says he recalls the cold stormy night the building was gutted by fire, although he cannot recall the year.

But before the building burned the taxpayers of the district had been engaged in a heated fight over the building of a new and larger school building. There were three factors, so the scrap book relates. There were the 'stand patters' who opposed any improvements; the

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'middle-of-the-roaders' who advocated spending \$1,200 for a new wooden building, and the 'progressives' who were reckless enough to want to spend \$2,700 for a new brick building.

The progressives won and the building was finally built in 1876 in a new section of the village, which the opposition called 'a God forsaken place for a school' and a road was surveyed and laid out to the new school site. Today that new road is Maple Avenue in Williamson. ...

Then for the fourth time in the history of the Williamson village schools, the enrollment grew too large for the current building and in 1929 the new centralization was voted and the new Central School building was dedicated in September of 1931 and has been in use ever since."