

RIDGE CHAPEL SCHOOLHOUSE #10

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General Information

Name of Structure: Ridge Chapel District #10 SH

Address: 6291 Salmon Creek Rd¹

Parcel ID: (544600) 65117-00-008595 (109.84Ac)

Atlas: 1853: "School"; 1858: "SH № 10"; 1874: "SH"; 1904: "School № 10"

When Built /Mason: Unknown

When Razed: Unknown (shown on 1904 atlas)

Why: Unknown (torn down and replaced with a wooden SH)

Original Owner: Land donated for school purposes by Asa Gibbs

Note: Amasa Gibbs

Original Use: School house into perpetuity

Photographs: One, undated photo provided by Chet Peters²

Description:

Design Details: Simple 1-story, unembellished

Center entrance on gable end which faced Ridge Rd; flanked by one window each side. Wooden shed-like structure covered entrance (obscured structural details). Two windows on long side; tops of windows at cornice. Windows 6-over-6. Appears to be stone lintel over window on front; sills narrow and wooden.

Masonry Details:

4 rows/Q; small rounded stones of uniform color and size on front, larger (probably fieldstones) on side; quoins appear to be carefully cut limestone; chimney at opposite gable end

¹ Per Williamson Town Historian, Chet Peters, at the time of my visit with him 4/5/2012, the schoolhouse was located on the NW corner Salmon Creek and Ridge Rds, just west of the little wooden structure that is there now. He provided the only known photograph.

² Chet Peters Williamson Town Historian: "His life was filled with a love of history and he retired in 2014 as Town of Williamson Historian after 50 years of service." <https://www.youngfuneralhomeny.com/notices/Chester-Peters>

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General Information

References

<http://nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn84031445/1913-08-21/ed-1/seq-8/>

The Wayne County Journal

"The Ridge Chapel school house has been moved back within 12' of the north line of the lot to make room for a play ground away from the car track. The lot at first only had room for building use given by Amasa Gibbs, SR. A cobble stone building stood there over 100 years. Then when a new one was erected, the lot reverted to the owner of the land, Charles Trimble. He gave the district a deed of one-half acre to secure their right to the land forever.

http://sodus.advantage-preservation.com/viewer/?t=27981&i=t&d=01011876-12311976&e=ridge%20chapel,charles%20trimble&m=between&ord=e1,e2&fn=record_usa_new_york_sodus_19130822_english_7&df=1&dt=3 (8/22/1913)

"The Ridge Chapel school houses, mentioned in last week's Record, recalls to a correspondent historical facts of this school district, as follows.

Asa Gibbs, Sr took up 500 acres of land in that locality when it was covered with virgin forest. He gave the use of the land on the corner to the district for school purposes. At that time he was keeping the only inn on the Ridge, a halfway house between Oswego and Rochester. Mail was carried by post horses, whose riders followed blazed trails through the woods.

A cobble stone school house stood on the corner over one hundred years. When the school house was torn down it was provided by Mr. Gibbs that the land was to return to the estate, which was then owned by Charles Trimble. Mr Trimble at this time gave the district a deed of one-half an acre of land on the corner for a school lot, and the present frame structure was built. Mr Gibbs gave to the town the land for the Ridge Chapel cemetery ... One of the early teachers in the old cobble stone school house was the farmer poet, Asa Stoddard. The Ridge Chapel across from the school house, also a cobble stone structure was built in 1826 and was one of the first churches in this vicinity. It was attended by people from far and near, without regard to denominational preferences. At present this building is owned by Josiah Stark and has been converted into an evaporator."

Note: "The Ridge Chapel school houses, mentioned in last week's Record" refers to the 8/15/1913 edition and it simply mentions the current schoolhouse alluding to the fact that it is the second one and it has just been moved back on the lot because of its proximity to the trolley tracks running so nearby.

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<http://www.nyhistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074529/1982-04-15/ed-1/seq-8/> Williamson

Sun and Williamson Sentinel

This article focuses on first-hand accounts of teachers experiences while teaching in these rural schoolhouses. There's no emphasis on the buildings themselves.

There is a photograph of Ridge Chapel Cobblestone school; however, no specific mention is made of it in the article. The caption reads: "Ridge Chapel School when it was cobblestone. Photo: 1880's."

There's a reference to "the old stone school house" in East Williamson along with a newspaper quality photograph without enough detail to make a call on whether may simply be a stone schoolhouse. There does not appear to be any quoins or pilasters. None of my research indicates any cobblestone schoolhouse in East Williamson.

There's a photograph, but no other reference, of "District No. Two School at the end of Maple Ave, Circa 1910" in Williamson. This was not the cobblestone Dist #2 School that was destroyed in the 1876 fire (which was located on the SW corner of Ridge Rd and Locust St).

Ancestry / Biographical

Ridge Chapel Cemetery:

Gibbs, Amasa, d 22 July 1858, age 51 years, 8 days

Trimble, Charles, b 1825. D 1896, husband of Rosetta Chase

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/131005993/amasa-gibbs> (1807-1858)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/131420830/mary-gibbs-trimble> (1827-1866)

Findagrave information about Mary Gibbs Trimble:

Age: 39y-8m-25d

Daughter of John (1782-1831) and Ellinor Williamson (1788-1859) Mason.

First married to Amasa Gibbs.

They were the parents of:

William E. Gibbs (1847-1923)

James Henry Gibbs (1850-1851)

Byron Benton Gibbs (1851-1876)

John Henry Gibbs (1855-Unknown)

Second marriage was to Charles Trimble.

They were the parents of:

Adella Trimble (1862-1918)

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Rochester NY Democrat Chronicle 1896 - 3505.pdf (TU, 12/8/1896)

"Death of Charles Trimble—Charles Trimble, of Williamson, died last Saturday from softening of the brain. He was born in Curly, county of Down, Ireland, March 5, 1825, came to Ontario in 1850, was married December 20th to Mrs Mary Mason Gibbs, and resided on the ridge road west of Williamson village for the past 38 years. His first wife lived only eight years after their marriage. August 19, 1866, he was married to Rosetta Chase, who survives him. He leaves also four children: Mrs Adella Adams of Williamson, by his first wife, and Mrs Ines Barker of Ontario and Ivan and Verne Trimble of Williamson by the second; also 4 brothers and 2 sisters, William, John, and Walter of Ontario; Robert of Rushville; Mrs Jane Spears, of Williamstown MI, and Mrs Margaret Britton, of Pomona CA."