

Wolcott



This cobblestone house once stood at the corner of Auburn and Oswego streets in the village of Wolcott. It was built in 1833-4 by Levi Smith Sr., an early settler in the area. A small store was located in the west end. It burned on February 2, 1909.

Lake Shore News
Wolcott, N.Y.,
September 6, 1906

Furnace Village School House

A correspondent writing of the Furnace village schoolhouse says no one knows who built it. It was built by Levi Smith, the same man who built the Foster cobblestone house in Wolcott. We have this on the authority of Wesley Hendrick, of Sterling Valley, who lived there when the school house was built.

Syracuse Post-Standard
Tuesday, February 9, 1909

Old Landmark Laid in Ruins

Cobblestone House at Wolcott Succumbs to the Elements

WOLCOTT, Feb. 2. - The recent cold weather has proved too severe for one of the oldest landmarks of Wayne county and the old cobblestone house at the top of Mill hill in Wolcott village has become a heaped mass of stones and mortar. The building has served in turn as a tavern, a store and a dwelling, being finally vacated about five years ago by the late Mrs. Kimplin.

The building was erected by Levi Smith, one of the pioneer settlers of Wolcott, in 1833. Mr. Smith bought the land on which it stood from Johnston Melvin, being a part of a 500-acre tract which was granted to Melvin by the government in 1804. This parcel of land is now the northern part of Wolcott village.

It was built by Smith for a "cold water" tavern. Mr. Smith's enterprise failed and he turned the building into a country variety store, for which purpose it served many years. Later when the mercantile establishments of the village became located on the opposite side of Wolcott creek the building was converted into a dwelling and has since retained that appearance.

The cobblestones with which the wall was faced were carefully selected along the lake shore. They gave the appearance of being almost uniform in size and were laid with extreme regularity.



photo by Richard Palmer



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6583 Route 104A, Red Creek



6583 Route 104A, Red Creek, in 1955