

Butler



photo by Richard Palmer



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Built in the 1820s, the Roe school house in the town of Butler is believed to be the oldest existing cobblestone school house in North America. Now a museum, it is located at 12397 Van Vleck Road at the intersection of Route 89. It was built by Daniel Roe, an early pioneer. It was often referred to as the Watson Schoolhouse. It is believed to be one of the very oldest cobblestone buildings in the area. Rather than using the smooth-washed lake stones characteristic of later cobblestone buildings, it is constructed of rough field stones that were taken from the property on which it rests. Some of the stones were split in half because of their larger size.



Roe school house in the early 1900s. It ceased to function as a school in 1932 and for years was a private residence. is now operated as a schoolhouse museum by the Butler Preservation Society, which also operates the Butler Church Museum. Both museums are open on the first Saturday of the month from May through October, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For appointment to see it call Dorothy Wiggins at 315-594-2332 or Lori Howland at 315-594-1844. It has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 2009.