

DAISY FLOUR MILL

1880 Blossom Road

A notable structure, this mill was built in 1848 by Samuel Rich and continued in use until a few years ago. Samuel Rich had settled around 1800 in Penfield and built a number of mills along Irondequoit Creek just over the line from Penfield in Perinton. After the death of his wife he sold his mill holdings and bought the land here in 1845. First he and his son Giles built a saw mill and then from lumber sawed on the property they built the grist mill. Altho many alterations have been made some of the original two foot wide boards can still be seen in the mill. The mill has been owned by a number of different people and been known by ~~many~~ different names but most recently it was the Daisy Flour Mill. It produced an unbleached flour low in gluten content that was used mostly for pastry baking. On June 26, 1972 the mill and six acres of land on which it is located were entered on the National Register of Historic Places. The three old ^{mill buildings} ~~houses~~ on the property are also included in this Historic District.

SILAS HIGBIE HOUSE

1689 Scribner Road

This beautiful Greek Revival farm house was built around 1835 by Silas Higbie. It has been owned by a number of families but is quite unspoiled by modernization. The present owners, Betsy and Clarence Hall are both artists and the small building at the rear of the house is a studio. Mr. Hall did the murals in the Penfield Town Hall. There is a good description of the house and a sketch of the front door in Carl Schmidt's book Beautiful Doorways in the

Town of Penfield.

SAMUEL RICH HOUSE

2204 Five Mile Line Road

This is a well documented house, built in 1816 by Samuel Rich who is said to have walked to Penfield from Massachusetts when he was 14 years old to visit his two sisters who had married and settled in the Genesee Region. When he returned home he persuaded his father to help him buy land along the Irondequoit Creek which had impressed him with its potential for development. With his father's financial assistance he bought a great many acres of land and built a saw mill, fulling mill, tannery and large stone grist mill on Irondequoit Creek over the line from Penfield into Perinton. Samuel Rich married the daughter of the Pastor of the Baptist Society Mary Polly Case and as their family grew they built this large house overlooking his mills on the creek. The original house was added onto at the urging of his children until it reached its present proportion. Calvin Owen records finishing the work in 1833. After the untimely death of his wife he sold his mills to Andrew Lincoln and relocated farther down the creek at what is now Blossom Road. There he built a grist mill which stands today and is known as the Daisy Flour Mill.

LUTHER CLARK HOUSE

1684 Scribner Road

This lovely brick Greek Revival house was built around 1852 by Luther Clark on land that was bought on contract from Daniel Penfield by Calvin Clark. The moldings and 22 inch stone foundations are characteristic of the period. The slightly recessed front door is pictured in Carl Schmidt's Beautiful Doorways in the Town of Penfield. The house has been remodeled with careful attention to historic detail. Very possibly the stone building was an earlier home of the Clarks.

PETER SILLIMAN HOUSE

1996 Penfield Road

This early farmhouse was built around 1832. Much of the interior plaster is original as are most of the random board floors. A wing at the rear of the house is cobblestone. Occupied at one time by Donald Brown, a nurseryman, it is beautifully landscaped with many fine trees. To local residents it was long known as the Ranney place.

LAWRENCE JOHNSTON HOUSE

1620 Qualtrough Road

This house is of adobe construction. The walls are covered by siding which has protected them from deterioration. It was built around 1832 in a manner similar to that used in building the "Mud House" on Whalen Road. Clay was mixed with straw and poured into forms to build the walls. An old kitchen fireplace and bake oven are still in the basement. Much of the plaster is original and was applied directly to the mud exterior walls.

MANN-OWN HOUSE

2129 Five Mile Line Road

This lovely old brick house was built in 1828 for Ira Mann. An early builder, Calvin Wooster Owen, did the interior work and later bought the house in 1852. Mr. Owen maintained a library in the frame addition on the north side of the house. He kept a very complete diary that provides us with much information about Penfield and the work that he did on the various buildings. The house has been very little changed over the years and is a beautiful example of early New York State brick architecture. It is one of very few fine houses in the Four Corners area. The house was in the Owen family until purchased by the present owner in 1978.

THE HENRY FELLOWS, SR. HOUSE

1880 Penfield Road

This lovely post-colonial house was built around 1816 for Henry Fellows, brother in law of Daniel Penfield. Henry Fellows practiced law before moving to Penfield and was Penfield Town Supervisor and Justice of the Peace. His chief occupation however was buying and selling grain and operating his 200 acre farm.

The house was substantially remodeled in 1897. The original chimney which was removed during the time of remodeling had complete cooking facilities at its base in the basement, fireplaces facing both north and south were on the first floor and similar fireplaces on the second floor. The basement fireplace had a large dutch oven and in the first years all cooking took place there. Mrs. Ellen F. Bown, daughter of Henry Fellows, Jr, lived in the homestead for a longer time than any other person, from the age of three until she was past eighty. She died in 1947.

JOHN WEAVER HOUSE

1884 Penfield Road

Built in 1832, as the Weaver family grew and needed more room the original house was split and the ends moved apart for a full two story section to be built between them. Calvin Owen did some of the work on the house according to his diary. In 1873 this house was bought by the Baptist Society for use as a parsonage. The west wing was later removed, leaving the house as it appears today. It is no longer a parsonage but privately owned.

GEORGE SOUTHWORTH HOUSE

1883 Penfield Road

This exceptionally beautiful house is called "Hill and Hollow" - so named by former owners Mr. and Mrs. J. Erwin Porter. Mr. Porter is a well known artist whose pictures of Penfield homes may be seen at the Penfield Town Hall. He is also well known for his scenes of the Erie Canal. The house was built by George and Catherine Southworth. It took four years to build and was completed in 1878. It was designed by Mrs. Southworth and is said to have been patterned after a house in Rochester on East Avenue. All of the stonework, the moldings, sculptured ceilings and elaborate woodwork, including the twisted stair rail were made by hand on the job. The white marble fireplace was imported from Italy. These beautiful interior features have been carefully preserved by the several owners and only necessary modernization has been done.

George Southworth specialized in horticulture and grew a variety of small fruits on his village farm, especially strawberries and grapes. Perfect specimens of grapes were shipped in wooden crates under his label which read "Choice Grapes from the Vineyards of G. D. Southworth Penfield, Monroe County, New York".

NELSON FULLAM HOUSE

1895 Penfield Road

The west section of this early house was built first and the wing to the east added later. The house is painted over brick, apparently because there were two colors of brick used in its structure. The house is dated 1835 for designation purposes but a long time resident and neighbor, Mrs. Catherine Ryan, is believed to have had a map showing a house at this location in 1816. Early records mention a private school kept by a Miss Hill in this house. The father of the present owner purchased the property in 1892, and it has remained in the family since then.

HARVEY WHALEN HOUSE

1140 Whalen Road

This Victorian style brick house is well built with interior and exterior walls made of a double thickness of brick. The property was cleared for farmland in 1806 by Daniel Wilson, a Captain in the Revolutionary War who settled here after the war. It continued in the family thru inheritance for over a hundred years. The house was built in 1875 by Harvey Whalen whose family had inherited the house. He was a prosperous farmer and two of his sons were town supervisors. The road that runs past the place was named for this family. On the 1902 Atlas map the property is known as Maple Hill.

THE MUD HOUSE

1000 Whalen Road

unique
This adobe house was built in 1835 by William Gorse. Clay from a nearby creek bed was spread on the ground inside a pen. Chopped straw was spread over the clay and then oxen were walked around inside the pen until the materials were thoroughly mixed. Plank forms about a foot high were laid out on the wall foundations and the clay and straw mixture placed in them. When it was dry the forms were raised and another course poured. Floor joists were laid across the walls and a layer poured on top thus embedding the joists in the wall. It took a year to build the house and when it was finished the interior walls were plastered and whitewashed. In 1978 the house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. *It is most unusual to find an adobe structure in this part of the country.*

**** Information on these pages came from research material done by former Penfield Town Historian Kathryn Thompson... Her book Penfield's Past and records of the Historical and Historical/Architectural Review Board which she prepared; from conversations with Miss Leora Fahrer.

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