

Remember These?

Shepard Settlement School – District #4

This school on Stump Road, between Shepard and Chapman Roads, measured 24 by 28 feet and was built in 1850 to serve the children of Shepard Settlement and the surrounding area. It remained a simple, rural classroom until modernized in 1935 when electric lights replaced the kerosene lanterns that students used to study by.

In 1938 the school was annexed into the Marcellus Central School District. The school was then closed and sold to the Grange for \$225. They used the building for meetings and other events until 1966 when the Grange disbanded.

The unoccupied building, in disrepair, was finally torn down in 1985. The land was returned to the farmland from which it came.

Skaneateles Falls Methodist Church

This church, on Jordan Road south of the bridge nearest the Post Office, was built in 1877 for \$1,506. It served the community until 1966 when the congregation merged with the members of the Mottville Methodist Church. In 1978 a new church, Saint Andrews, was completed on Jordan Road opposite the Mottville Cemetery.

The Skaneateles Falls church bell, originally from the old Methodist Church in Elbridge, was mounted along with the Mottville bell, in front of the new church as a show of unity between the two churches.

The Skaneateles Falls church was then torn down to make room for the expansion of the Cowles Chemical Company.

The Mottville House

The Mottville House, on the southeast corner of Jordan Road and Mottville Road, dates back to at least 1842 when it started as a store. Benjamin and John Nye then purchased it and built a tavern on the site. It appears that it was two buildings as there was a double wall between the north and south sides and two separate cellars.

John Nye became sole owner upon the death of his brother. Then John Gamble bought it in 1866, naming it the Mottville House. On the second floor was a ballroom with a “spring floor” which dancers especially enjoyed.

In 1879 Gamble opened a store in the building and Charles Krebs operated a barber shop there two afternoons a week. The House was sold to Michael Hackett in 1899 and was named the Mottville Hotel. In 1905 Frederick Nicholas purchased it and renamed it the Nichols House.

David Farrar was the next owner, in 1910, and his son Roscoe ran a meat market while his other son, George, operated a candy store and soda fountain. Lack of patronage eventually caused the hotel business to be discontinued. After the two brothers passed away, the building stood vacant for some time.

In 1960 Donald Paradiso purchased the building and used it as a storage area. However, the building gradually deteriorated and was finally torn down in March of

1985. The site remains a vacant lot today.

The Reese Pitman House

This farmhouse was located on the west side of Jordan Road just north of the Mottville Road. The farm consisted of 157 acres. The property was purchased in 1977 by Welch Allyn for its new medical facility.

The vacant house was torn down in August of 1982 by a demolition crew. They also cleared away the two small garages and a barn.

Fabin's Steak and Lobster House

A small restaurant was built at 803 West Genesee Street by Morris “Mushy” Protage in 1940. Known by some as “Mushy's,” the owner served lunches and ice cream. Others knew it as the Village Inn, a popular site for Auburnians who could not get a drink in Cayuga County after 1 A.M., but could at the Inn in Onondaga County until 3 A.M.

Morris's wife and her brother ran the business while he served in the Navy during World War II. On his return, Morris moved to California and several other owners took over the business.

Stella and Stanley Fabin purchased the business in the mid 1960's and ran the restaurant for almost 40 years. Stanley had learned to cook while he was in the Army.

The two built living quarters on the second floor and added two dining rooms in the restaurant. They also built a clam bake area in back. The restaurant became known for good food and sizzling steaks. Stella was in charge of handling the food and drinks and helped out in the kitchen when needed.

Stanley's retirement resulted in the closing of the restaurant. The building was demolished in 1998 and replaced by the Kwik Fill gas station.

Sid Hand House and Barn

Located at the northwest corner of Route 321 and Old Seneca Turnpike this house was built for Harry Vary by the well-known builder Peter Thompson just prior to the Civil War. The farm consisted of 143 acres in 1890. After several other owners, Sidney Hand, an attorney from Syracuse, purchased the property in 1935 and rented out the land.

Welch Allyn acquired the property in 1967 and donated the house to Baltimore Woods in Marcellus. It was moved in September of that same year to the Nature Center, a distance of 6 miles, costing \$8,000. Its most renowned feature was a beautiful spiraling wooden staircase in the front hallway.

As a training exercise, the barn was burned by the Mottville Fire department in December of 2001. Currently a hotel is being built off Mottville Road.