

VILLAGE of HOBART, NEW YORK

“A Look At The 25 Oldest Buildings in the Village”

And

A List of The Buildings Built Prior to 1893

- 1) Trying to Determine or Estimate the Age of a Building
- 2) Oldest Buildings, #1 through #9; Built 1801-1815 (200+ Years Ago)
- 3) Oldest Buildings #10 through #26; Built 1816-1840 (175+ Years Ago)
- 4) 61 Buildings Built From 1840 to 1893 (125 – 175+ Years Ago)

Compiled by

James Meagley, Village Historian

And Member of Hobart Historical Society

53 Gaslight Trail, Buffalo, NY 14221

jmeags53@roadrunner.com

Telephone (716) 688-4394

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TRYING TO DETERMINE or ESTIMATE THE AGE OF A BUILDING

Information in Property Deeds

GENERAL – Deeds do not routinely have information about any building on the property

Sometimes a deed will contain a reference to a building (such as newly built)

PRICES – Comparison of purchase price vs subsequent sales price shows significant variance

Example: Purchased for \$100 (only the lot?); sold 5-10 years later for \$1000 (lot & house?)

LOTS – Subdivisions: Looking at various deeds, it is possible to determine when a specific house lot was sold off, or split from, a larger undeveloped lot; helps estimate when house built

Hobart Independent newspaper article, Saturday, December 14, 1901: “Hobart’s Old Landmarks”

Article cited the oldest buildings in the Village; said only two buildings were more than 100 years old

Grist Mill, built in 1793 = oldest building in 1901 [As of 2018 – no longer exists]

St. Peter’s Church, built in 1801 = 2nd oldest building [First Church Service Dec 25, 1801]

Several Buildings were between 75 years and 100 years old (built between 1802 and 1826)

Rear of Commercial House [645 Main St, Hobart Inn], last of old stone bldgs, almost 100 yr old

Residence of Mary C Foote [284 Pearl Street in 1901 & today]

Old Booth Place [At 68 Maple Ave in 1901; moved in 1914 to 351 Maple Ave]

Dr James Reynolds house [808 East Main Street in 1901 & today]

Dr. [Thomas] Hanford Place [81 River Street in 1901 & today]

The Episcopal Rectory [108 Maple Avenue in 1901 & today]

Jesse Beers Place [278 River Street in 1901 & today; but possibly not built until 1830?]

NOTE 1905 List Below: maybe this was meant to be Andrew Beers Place [at 250 River St]?

Jacob Lawrence house [760 East Main Street in 1901 & today]

Home of Charles Perry [Was at 65 Maple Ave in 1910; torn down in 1937]

Old Marvine Home [Was on the Playground area in 1901; torn down by 1918]

1905 History Booklet: “A Souvenir of Old St. Peter’s and of Hobart Village, NY” (by Episcopal Ch)

Mentioned oldest buildings; stated that three were more than 100 years old (as of 1905)

Grist Mill

St. Peter’s Church

Residence of Mary C Foote

Other Old Buildings Referenced

Basically – the same buildings as referenced in the 1901 newspaper article

ONE Difference – this 1905 booklet cited the “Andrew Beers residence”, (at 250 River Street); and did not cite the “Jesse Beers Place” (across the street at 278 River Street). Perhaps the 1901 newspaper article meant to reference Andrew Beers rather than Jesse Beers (Andrew’s house at 250 River would have been 15-20+ years older than the house at 278 River St).

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Per Delaware County Real Property Tax Assessment Rolls (2017), the Village of Hobart has 262 listings on the tax rolls – 224 taxable properties, 6 utility franchises, and 32 tax exempt properties. This summary of old buildings covers about 87-90 parcels (some are tax exempt). Based on above guidelines, and relying upon more than five years of active research of property deeds for every parcel in the Village, as well as other historical documents and records, the following information as to the age of certain buildings in the Village of Hobart represents Jim Meagley’s best estimates as of February 2018 (subject to change with future research).

Nine Oldest Buildings in the Village: Built 1801-circa 1815

[NOTE: All referenced in the 1901 and 1905 articles re oldest buildings in Hobart]

- December 1801: St Peter's Church (83 Church Street)
Built from July 4 to about mid-December in 1801, per 1881 history of St Peter's Church
But not finished inside – no pews existed until about 1814 (some say pews put in 1822)
Consecrated by Bishop John Henry Hobart, Sept 2, 1819
Fire on Feb 12, 1901 (= Village election day) almost destroyed the building
Weather Vane (with a fish) on Steeple, may date back to 1790s (100 yrs old in 1892, SMR)
- Circa 1802-1805: House at 284 River Street [former Mary C Foote residence]
John Foote (b1778), son of George Foote, lived here; he first married in 1811 at age 33
John was age 24-27 during 1802-1805, working as first blacksmith in Hobart
- Circa 1805: Last of the old Stone Houses; [rear part of Hobart Inn, at 645 Main St]
Hobart Inn was built some time before 1827 (=70+ years old in 1897, per Murray history)
This lot was owned by George Foote as of 1803; maybe he built a Stone House here?
George Foote (and his son, Bailey) later lived just down the street, at 709 Main St
- Before 1806: House at 81 River Street [former Dr. Thomas Hanford residence]
Deed dated August 12, 1806 (Hanford purchase) stated that a dwelling house existed here
- Circa 1805-1810: House at 250 River Street [former Andrew Beers residence]
Andrew Beers settled in this location; lived here from about 1793 to 1804
Andrew's son, Joseph D Beers, bought this property in 1806; maybe he built a house here?
Oldest part appears to be along Pearl St; not referenced in 1901-1905 as 100+ years old
- Circa 1805-1810: House at 808 Main Street [former Dr James Reynolds residence; tannery]
This house was associated with a tannery located here in early 1800s; Tannery = 65 acres (1812)
1812 Ad for Sale: tannery lot included "two framed houses" [#1=808 Main; #2=760 Main?]
- Circa 1805-1810: House at 760 Main Street [former Jacob Lawrence residence]
Ransford Baldwin bought this lot/house in 1813; front part on Main Street, is oldest portion
MAYBE...this lot was part of the "tannery" lot before 1812?? (see above for 808 Main)
- Before 1815: House at 108 Maple Avenue [former Episcopal Church Rectory]
The 1881 history of the Church stated this house and lot formerly owned by Joseph Beers
Joseph Beers lived in Hobart from about 1806 to 1815, then moved to NY City
Church started using as Rectory in 1832, and owned this building from 1834 to 2004
- Circa 1815: House at 351 Maple Avenue, moved from 68 Maple Ave [former Booth place]
Charles Booth married Sarah Maria Foote, dau of Geo Foote, in 1825; lived at 68 Maple Ave
It appears that Noah Wells lived here circa 1815-1820; house possibly built at this time
This house was moved in about 1914 from 68 Maple Ave to 351 Maple Ave

Oldest Buildings #10 Through #26: Built After 1815 to About 1840

- By 1820: House at 180 Maple Avenue (Wesley House), moved from 80 Church St
This building was built circa 1817-1818 for use as a school and Masonic Lodge (after 1816 fire)
Major renovations have been done through the years, inside and outside
It was first located at about 80 Church St until 1832; then moved to 168 Maple (now 180 Maple)
- By 1820: 1073 Main St, house (former Van Kleeck house and farm)
Baruch Taylor bought this farm in 1828, and probably moved here from Whiskey Hollow Road
Isaac Whitney owned from 1815-1824; he probably lived here, and possibly built a house
- By 1820: 709 Main Street – site of George Foote Family homestead, up to 1852
Per deeds, Bailey Foote (son of Geo) owned at 1820; Bailey d1822; Orrin = Bailey's oldest son
Possibly George Foote lived here? he moved to Hobart in 1798, died in 1820
Orrin Foote sold in 1852; per Foote Family genealogy, Orrin lived on Foote homestead
- During 1820s: 217 River Street (DeWitt house now)
Hobart Historical Society info, says this house built in 1820 – no confirmation found yet
Per deeds, a “wagon shop” and “still house” on this lot in 1817 (then part of 245 River St)
- During 1820s: 267 River Street
A house was here as of 1830 when Cyrenius Foote died; his widow, Volusia, lived here to 1865
Cyrenius Foote owned and operated the Grist Mill during 1820s; possibly lived here
- During 1820s: 207 Pearl Street
Silliman Family lived here/in this area, per 1830 federal census; Mary Foote owned lot
AG Silliman's mother purchased in 1846; Silliman Family lived here/owned until 1946
- Circa 1825-1827: 48 Maple Avenue (Meagley house now) – first mayor of Hobart lived here
Elias Johnson paid \$200 in 1825 (lot?); he sold for \$1200 in 1834 (lot & house?)
Dr Marshall & wife 1834-1865; Dr McNaught (first mayor), 1874-1903; Dr Dart 1903-1920
- By 1827: 645 Main Street, Hobart Inn (right side of building; left side built 1885)
As of 1897, the Hobart Inn building was at least 70 years old (Murray's Delaware Cty history)
Renovated in 1887 with new 2 story addition on the left side; thus oldest part is the right side
Before 1887, the small building next door at 631 Main was attached to the left side
- By 1828: 698 Main Street, first floor (no Post Office bldg until mid-1920s)
Per March 1828 deed, William Trotter was residing here; Trotter bought from Orrin Foote
Henry King lived here from 1837 until 1870s; John Olmsted converted into carriage house
John Gregory converted Olmsted barn into hardware store in about 1911; sold to Edson Hoag
George Flower built Post Office bldg as a garage in mid-1920s? – became Post Office in 1948