1669 Reed Road — Town of Sweden Historic Landmark



This view of the home, facing south, was taken in the ????s and used in the landmark nomination document. PHOTO: ????

At the time of designation this owner-occupied investment property was owned by **Douglas** and **Jeanie Brown**, needing repair. It is the finest Italianate brick structure in the Town of Sweden and, at 6,000 square feet, its largest. This elegant, dignified building of simple lines, large belvedere and porches is situated on 5.4 rural acres

The architect was **Merwin Austin**. The building was erected in 1854 by builder **George Ayers** for owners **Asa** and **Ruby (Reed) Rowe**. The original house plans were donated to the Sweden Farmers Museum [upon landmark designation?]. Known alterations include: The west addition and carport added by **James Brown** in the 1970s.

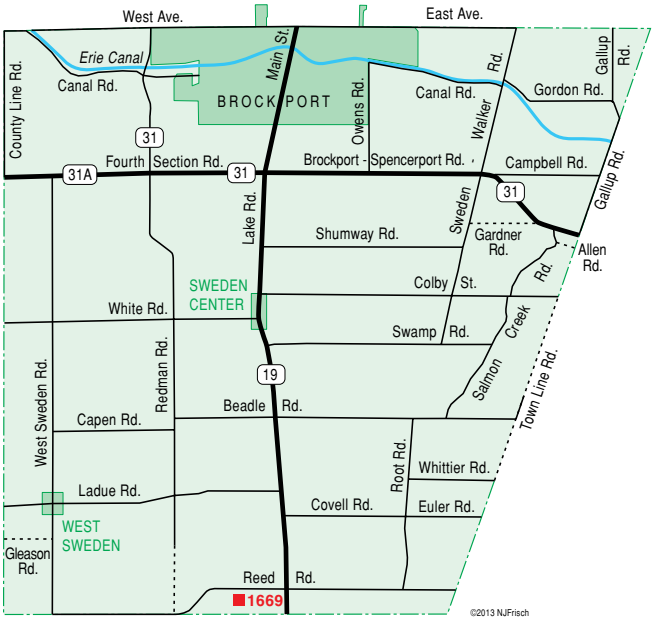
Asa Rowe was the founding father of Greece, NY and Supervisor of both Greece, NY and Sweden, NY. He was also first nurseryman of Monroe County.

Ownership:

1854 Asa and Ruby (Reed) Rowe
? Edwin Rowe
? May Davis (great grand-daughter)
1960 James Brown
1999 Douglas and Jean Brown

http://www.scribd.com/doc/20072183/Asa-Rowe-1806-1895-Pioneer-Tavernkeeper-Nurseyman

Asa and Ruby (Reed) Rowe house Proclaimed 2011.01.25



House location is indicated in red.

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10 Proclamation document

Nomination documentation: David Strabel, Town of Sweden Landmarks Advisory Committee Chair scanned all at 100% of size from paper copies on file at the Town of Sweden Office and provided them as .pdf files.

Proclamation document: Karen Sweeting, Town of Sweden Clerk provided this as a .doc electronic file. Note: Proclamations are ordinarily found in the official Town minutes on file at the Town of Sweden Office.

Layout: Norm Frisch converted files to .jpg format as needed then rotated, adjusted, retouched and reduced to fit this page format. Page one summary was compiled by him primarily from nomination documents.

1669 Reed Road — Town of Sweden Historic Landmark

LANDMARK/DISTRICT/VIEW SCAPE FACT SHEET

Landmarks Advisory Committee
Town of Sweden

1. LOCATION:
   Street Address/Legal Description/Boundry Outline
   1669 REED RD (ASA ROWE HOUSE)
   BERGEN, NY 14416 Town of Sweden Monroe County
   Tax Map Number(s):

2. OWNER:
   Name(s): Douglas and Jeanie BROWN
   Address: Same Phone: 300-9029

3. PRESENT USE OF PROPERTY: owner occupied investment

4. ZONING DISTRICT: residential

5. DESCRIPTION:
   General description of exterior of property(s): Brick Italianate - sits on 5.4 acres, a 6,000 sq. ft structure, the largest rural home in the Town of Sweden, an elegant, dignified dwelling of simple lines, large belvedere, porches
   General description of site and surroundings: rural, farm land
   General description of exterior conditions (state of repair): good, roof needs repairs, also porch needs repairs

6. PHYSICAL HISTORY:
   Original and subsequent owners: Asa + Ruby (Reed) Rowe, Edwin Rowe, ~~May Rowe~~ (great-grand-daughter, James Brown (1960) Douglas/Jeanne Brown (1999)
   May Davis
   Date of Erection: 1854 Architect: MERWIN AUSTIN
   Builder: George Ayers
   Notes on original plan and construction of building: architectural plans are in Town of Sweden Barnes Museum, bricks came by Erie Canal
   Notes on known alterations and additions, with dates and architects and builders:
   James Brown added west addition ca 1970s and carport

7. REASON:
Why the property(s) should be designated.

A. Special character, historic, or esthetic interest or features: ~~It is the~~

B. Historic events or persons associated with the property: ✓
Asa Rowe - Founding father of Greece, Ny; Supervisor of Greece and of Sweden, NY. First Nurseryman of Monroe County

C. Distinguishing architectural style(s) or period:
It is the finest example of an Italianate style in rural Town of Sweden

D. Exemplifies a particular heritage:

E. The work of a significant architect or builder: Merwin Austin
His original plans have been donated to ~~Bergen's~~ Sweden Farmer's Musuem.

F. Conspicuous relationship within neighborhood: It stands on a slight rise, adding to its distinction

8. OWNER CONCURRANCE:

Owner's signature(s): Jean M. Braun
Date: 11/18/10

JB 11/20/10

1669 Reed Road — Town of Sweden Historic Landmark





Photograph Description:_____ Number:_____

Attachment B (page number___of___)

1669 Reed Road — Town of Sweden Historic Landmark



Photograph Description:_____ Number:_____



Attachment B (page number____of____)

PAGE 8 SNAPSHOTS VOLUME 8 ISSUE 2

From the desk of the town historian

Asa Rowe House

The fifth annual Sweden Farmers Museum Harvest Festival was held on Saturday, September 18 (see center spread photos) with numerous activities, a 5K race, animals, music, vendors and food. There were cemetery tours, hay rides and the restored barn with its new loft floor and the farm house were open to all. Councilperson Danielle Windus-Cook, the force behind the restoration work and establishment of the Sweden Farmers Museum, thanked Mary Louise Bater for her generous donation in honor of her late husband Gene which enabled the loft work to be done.

Eagle Scouts Justin and Michael Carter were thanked for their projects which included the installation of a brick walkway and landscaping. Danielle also thanked the Monday morning volunteer crew and the Town of Sweden Highway Department for their efforts.



The Asa Rowe House, Reed Road

For those who toured the farm house, you may have noticed the framed floor plans and sketches of the Asa Rowe House. Thanks to the generosity of Doug and Jeanne Brown, the Town has acquired a rare and unique set of architectural plans by Merwin Austin who designed the Rowe House.

It is highly unusual to have the original plans of an historic home still intact but to also have letters, detailed directions, price lists and contracts for a home the age of the Rowe House (built in 1853) is a treasure.

Asa Rowe was a man of considerable organizational skills, among his many abilities. He was born in 1806 and by "1833 had a four-page catalogue as an insert in the *Genesee Farmer* displaying his plantings, seeds for fruit and ornamental trees, shrubs, grape vines and flower. His Monroe Garden and Nursery in Greece was probably the first successful commercial nursery in the county."

He owned a hotel in Greece where he also served as Town Supervisor for two terms before he married Ruby Reed, the daughter of John Reed whose homestead is still standing at the corner of Reed Road and Rt 19. He purchased 343 acres of land on Reed Road, west of his wife's family and proceeded to farm and raise six children while also becoming very involved in Sweden activities. It was said that, "he cultivated that farm in an intelligent, energetic and successful manner." He served as Sweden Town Supervisor in 1850.

It was during the 1840s and 50s that a convivial competition between John Reed, Chauncey White, F.P. Root, Zenas Beadle, Asa Rowe and others took place to see who could build the "biggest and grandest house" in the Town. It would seem that F.P. Root won that competition with his 40-room home that unfortunately has been lost to fire. Asa Rowe, however, built a rather impressive 6,000 square foot house in which 140,390 bricks were used for its construction and which had a privy attached to the house. Asa kept many records of his letters to the architect, carpenters, masons and numerous other merchants with whom he did business while building the house.

It is a fascinating collection of information in addition to the original plans for the house. For this we are indebted to the Browns who by their gift have increased our knowledge not only of the Rowe family but also of what life was like on a prosperous farm in the Town of Sweden over 150 years ago. It is the Town's intention to properly preserve these papers so that we can all benefit from their wealth of information.

Kathleen Goetz, Town Historian

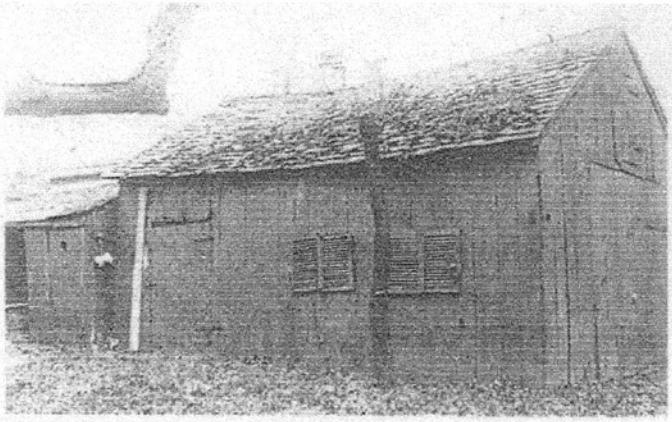
Town of Sweden

www.townofsweden.org



Snapshots

Send ideas, comments or suggestions to Leisa Strabel at 18 State Street, Brockport, NY 14420. Phone: 637-7588 Fax: 431-0039. E-mail: leisas@townofsweden.org



Enos Stone House. The first frame dwelling erected on the east side of the Genesee River in what is now the city of Rochester. Photo taken by Charles T. Howard, November, 1899

The houses shown here were typical of early dwellings. The Rowe family may have built a log home like this when they arrived in Greece in 1805. Abel Rowe married Ame Hincher in 1805. Asa was born a year later.



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Finding the east/west "Ridge" route turned out to be very important because ease of transport was the key to settlement in the wilderness. Travel was very difficult in those early days. There were few roads as they are known today, only time worn Indian paths. Most new settlers to the area came in the winter with oxen pulling their belongings on sleds over frozen ground and streams.

New York State knew the importance of roads, and by 1804 improvements to the "Ridge", or "New York State Road" ended at what is now Long Pond and Ridge Roads. It was at this intersection that Abel Rowe, Asa's father, bought land and settled after Kings Landing settlement was disbanded because of the sickness and death caused by malaria bearing mosquitoes. Eli Granger and Gideon King, the founders, both died. (The Granger family relocated in Canandaigua). The Rowe family built a tavern in 1870 (where St John's R. C. Church is today on Ridge Road). He foresaw that Ridge Road would become a *"great thoroughfare of travel"* between the emerging industrial city of Rochester and the eastern and western markets (such as New York City and Buffalo). *"The echo of the stage horns and the rattling of coaches (would) add to the life and bustle of the place."*

FROM THE MEMOIRS OF GEORGE LATTA

In 1810, the Ridge Road was not cut out on the Ridge where it is now traveled, but ran on the Ridge and north and south of it, wherever it could be made with the least labor. I think there was but two frame buildings between Lewiston and Genesee River, one of which was at or near Gaines, and the other was erected by Abel Rowe, father of Asa Rowe, for a tavern, and was occupied for a tavern until the spring of 1846, when it was burned down. At the time it was burned it was owned by R. P. Edgerton as a public house, Since that

FROM MRS. MITCHELL'S MEMOIRS

Fall's House housed the Post Office and was one of the stops on the stage route between Rochester and Jenkins Corners, or North Greece. Mr. Fall's only daughter, Emma, taught the district school in the 1850s. The original hotel building burned (1883) after Mr. Fall sold the property, and a hotel which stood on the site of the Catholic Church was moved across the road. The foundations of the two buildings were about the same size.



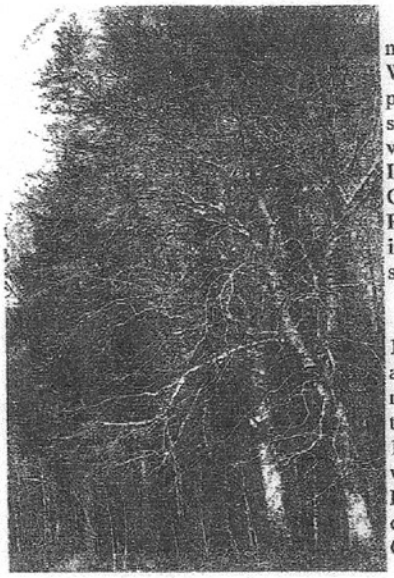
The tavern sat where St. John's old church building sits today on Ridge Road. As the above excerpt states, the tavern was moved across the street and placed on the foundation of the FALL'S HOUSE, which was destroyed by fire. It later became known as RICHARD'S ON THE RIDGE, a restaurant that operated until the building of GREECE TOWN MALL when the building was razed to allow construction.

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MAP—from the Wadsworth Collection, S.U.C. at Geneseo. The township of Northampton encompassed the territory shown on this map from 1797 to 1807. On April 8, 1808, Northampton was subdivided into Parma, Riga, Murray and Northampton. Northampton then was reduced to the present towns of Greece and Gates until 1822 when it was again subdivided and the present town of Greece established.



Note Falls Town settlement on Genesee River



Original forest which the settlers must conquer were dark and deep. Wild animals, including bears and panthers, roamed freely. Travel was slow, by footpath or water. There were few white settlers among the Indians. This was the Genesee Country wilderness into which the Rowe family settled in Kings Landing, formerly called Falls Town as seen in the map above, in 1797.

Asa Rowe was born in Greece in 1806. His parents were Abel Rowe and Ame Hincher Rowe. His maternal grandparents, William and Mehitable Hincher settled in Charlotte in 1792. His paternal grandparents were Daniel Rowe and Ruth Granger Rowe. As Asa grew to adulthood, so did the communities of Greece and Charlotte.

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t for Free

1669 Reed Road — Town of Sweden Historic Landmark

RESOLUTION NO. 20

Designating 1669 Reed Road
As An Historic Landmark

WHEREAS, a public hearing, duly advertised as required by law, was held on January 25, 2011 to hear all interested parties on the petition by Jean Brown of the Town of Sweden to designate 1669 Reed Road as an historic landmark under the Historic Preservation Local Law No. 1 of 1993; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board heard all parties and testimony and documentary evidence presented have been made part of a record regarding the historic, architectural or cultural importance of the proposed landmark; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Sweden Landmarks Advisory Committee has submitted a letter of recommendation supporting the evidence regarding the architectural and historical importance of 1669 Reed Road.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

Sec. 1. That the Town Board of the Town of Sweden hereby designates 1669 Reed Road as an historic landmark under the Historic Preservation Local Law No. 1 of 1993 this 25th day of January 2011.

Sec. 2. That the Official Map of the Town shall be updated to include the designation of 1669 Reed Road as an historic landmark and will indicate the portions of land embracing the landmark.

Sec. 3. That this shall take effect immediately.

MOTION for adoption of this resolution by Councilperson Connors
Seconded by Councilperson Donohue

Discussion:

VOTE BY ROLL CALL AND RECORD:

Councilperson Carges	Aye
Councilperson Connors	Aye
Councilperson Donohue	Aye
Councilperson Myers	Absent
Supervisor Milner	Aye

Submitted – January 25, 2011 Adopted