

The LeFevre Stone House



THE STONE HOUSE

November 2012 Article

The historical background of the Stone House is taken largely from a Survey Report prepared by Loudoun County historian Mr. Eugene Scheel in 1995 for the Mobil Land Development Corp.

This past summer, Broadlands Associates, LLC (Developer) transferred ownership of the LeFevre (Stone House) property to Broadlands Association, Inc. (HOA). This community is now given the responsibility of determining what will be done with it. The HOA Board wants to enlist the community to work out the future of the Stone House. The range of options and costs – from simple removal to complete restoration for a community purpose – lies before us. The Board is seeking volunteers to form a Stone House Committee, whose purpose will be to gather facts, analyze and review all options, including their consequences and costs, and then develop recommendations to be brought to the Board for disposition of the Stone House. If you would like to participate in this process, please contact the Broadlands HOA offices at 703-729-9704, and you will be added to the roster of the Committee.

For 138 years, the Stone House has stood on the south side of Waxpool Road, just across from the Broad Run Church and cemetery site, on an area known since the 18th century as “Hillside”. The Broad Run Church, built about 1750 where Waxpool now passes the house, was long gone in 1874 when the house was built. The cemetery has survived even to this day, and now contains over a dozen graves from the family that built the house. The cemetery contains the LeFevre family plot and the solid stone structure south across the road is the LeFevre House. Today, it and the cemetery are the oldest remaining vestiges in Broadlands of the rural life that once spread across all of Loudoun County.

The land upon which the house stands was part of a large farm (over 500 acres) purchased at a public land sale by a Pennsylvania German immigrant, Peter Echer, in 1811. One of his daughters married into the LeFevre family, and by this route, the land passed to William LeFevre. In 1850, he bequeathed it to his sons, John and Samuel. It was John who built the Stone House, at a time when he and his wife had seven children, thus a need to expand. The task of constructing the new home fell to John Alexander Caylor, who, along with being a talented woodworker, was also a relative of the LeFevres by marriage.

John Caylor had been born in Indiana in 1851, but had returned to his parent’s previous home in Loudoun County, where he married Priscilla LeFevre, a niece of John LeFevre, and lived in the Broad Run district. He was primarily a carpenter, and no other building construction attributable to him is known. There are indications he may have employed a skilled stone mason for the LeFevre house project. The house as built was virtually plumb, level, and square, and undoubtedly the product of a skilled mason, showing some German influences in its design. Some of the stone appears to have had prior use, and the origins of it are unknown, as there are no stone outcroppings or obvious sources of new supply in the immediate area. After completing the house, John Caylor went to work for the W&OD railroad, building bridges.

Two generations of LeFevres lived in their stone home and worked their farm for the next 42 years, until 1916, when it and the surrounding farmland was sold to John and Earl Smith. The Smith family occupied the house until 1959, when it and the surrounding land were sold to a developer, Goose Creek Acres Inc.

The Stone House today has not changed a great deal. The interior rooms were subdivided over the years, making for more individual living areas. There is a door on the second floor front that served as access to the original second story front porch. The current single story porch was put in place around the time of the sale to the Smiths.

Originally, the house also had a two story rear-facing porch, and still visible on the East side first floor is a doorway, which opened onto the roof of a basement level wood shed that was added about 1910. The roof of the shed also served as a porch, with the doorway coming from the kitchen of the house. The barrel-like underground cement structure on the west side was added around 1920 as a storage cellar.

Today, the Stone House faces an unknown future. It has stood empty and without purpose for over 50 years. The stone chimneys have grown unstable and, along with the stone end walls, are no longer plumb with the framing of the house. The foundation has sustained significant water damage and is sinking in places. The roof has failed, the front porch is in danger of complete structural failure, and interior structures have been removed or are in poor shape.

We – this community of Broadlands – must do something with the Stone House. It has passed to our hands, and the one thing certain is it cannot be left untended and ignored.



Chimney Displacement On Right Side Of House



Right Side Elevation And Chimney And Wall Displacement



Water Damage And Rotting Wood At Roof Eave



Deterioration Of Framing Members At Front Porch



Cracks And Settlement In Front Porch Slab At Concrete Columns



Deterioration Of Front Porch Roof Framing



Gap Between Roof And Chimney – Right Side



Rafter Connection At Attic Floor



Wall Displacement At Left Side Wall



Water Damage In North West Corner Of Basement