

Samuel Gilbert Hathaway House
(Known as Hathaway Hall)
Solon Road, north side of NY Route 41,
at crossroads of Solon
Solon
Cortland County
New York

HABS No. NY-5592

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. NY-5592

SAMUEL GILBERT HATHAWAY HOUSE
(Known as HATHAWAY HALL)

Location: Solon Road, north side of NY Route 41, at crossroads of Solon, Solon, Cortland County, New York.

Present Owner: Frank Tinelli.

Present Occupant: Mr. Tinelli.

Present Use: Restaurant.

Brief Statement of Significance: The home of Major General Samuel Gilbert Hathaway (or Hatheway), a New York State senator in New York and a United States Congressman.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:

1844-1867 Samuel Gilbert Hathaway, builder and owner until his death.

1867-1908 Elizabeth Hathaway, daughter of Samuel Gilbert Hathaway, until her death in 1908.

1908-1920 A caretaker.

1920-1956 Edwin Blake Bickford, great grandson of Samuel Gilbert Hathaway, had it until his death in 1956.

1956-1958 Edwin Blake Bickford, Jr., son of Edwin Blake Bickford, inherited the property. It was held in joint trust by descendents until cleared to be sold.

1958-1969 Mr. Robert Hall purchased the property and ran an inn and restaurant in it.

1969-1972 House unoccupied because of proceedings by the County against Robert Hall.

1972 Frank Tinelli purchased property and with his father and brother have redecorated some rooms and plan an expansion on the rear.

2. Date of erection: 1844-1845. A stone under the eaves in front is dated 1844.

3. Architect: Unknown. Said by some to have been George L. Cole, carpenter contractor, a native of Rhode Island.
 4. Builder, suppliers, etc.: Local artisans, using stone from Quarry Brook nearby, and lumber from the surrounding acres.
 5. Original plans, construction, etc.:
Central hall plan, two stories, plus attic, plus a wooden kitchen wing at the rear. Native stone walls 19" thick, planked inside with rough pieces of sawed timber, later plastered. Four chimneys; attic beams 12" x 12" joined with wooden pegs; floors of double parlors of wide pine boards, others of alternating maple and cherry. First floor rooms are 12' high, second floor 10'. A full attic is ample for a ballroom. Interior walls were finished in marble dust. Mrs. Edwin Bickford Sr. explains that the marble dust was mixed in the plaster and so skillfully applied that the walls are remarkably smooth, fine textured and very hard. Trim is ashwood. Water was brought 1½ miles from a spring by wooden pipes. The house was heated by stoves and fireplaces.
 6. Alterations and additions: In 1857, a sunroom was added to the east side, adjacent to the sitting room. In 1866, the wooden kitchen wing was removed and a stone wing matching the rest of the house, and doubling the size of the house, replaced it. Four more chimneys were added. In 1959-1960, Mr. Robert Hall restored the interior, and later added a terrace room, adjoining the north wall of the house and west wall of the 1866 addition. The house now has 25 rooms.
- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:
Samuel Gilbert Hathaway (originally Hatheway) came to this area in 1808 at age 28. In 1810, he was made Justice of the Peace. From 1814-1818, he was a State senator and in 1832, became a United States congressman. In 1823, he had been commissioned a Major General. Two Presidents, Franklin Pierce and James Buchanan, are known to have visited the mansion. There is a family cemetery on the hill back of the Hall, originally walled with the same stone as that used for the house.
- C. Sources of Information:
- Bibliography: From the Hathaway material or folder on file at the Cortland County Historical Society.
- Blodgett, Bertha. Stories of Cortland County. Cortland County Historical Society. 1932.

Smith, Norman K. "Hathaway Hall", typescript, term paper
Smith of 1388 Ridge Road, Ludlowville, New York. (Copy in
HABS file.)

Cortland Standard for July 22, 1959 (clipping). Cortland, New
York.

Obituary of the Late Major General Samuel Gilbert Hathaway, by
Henry S. Randall, LL.D., was in collection of Robert Hall.

- D. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:
Articles, reminiscences, local newspapers, and countless state
and federal documents and publications relating to Major Hathaway.
Living relatives: Mrs. Edith Bickford, wife of Edwin Bickford,
Sr., Little York, New York, and her son Edwin Bickford, Jr.,
Solon, New York.

Prepared by Dorothy E. Graves
April 2, 1964

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: An example of local stone
construction in the New York State Greek Revival style.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of the Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Two stories, 42' (five bays) x 40',
plus addition 40' x 22'.
2. Wall construction: Walls of regular ashlar, stone taken
from Trout Brook to the east of the house; quoins of cut
quarry stone.
3. Structural system: Stone with wood rafters (two 40'
rafters 12" 12" run north and south.)
4. Porches, stoops: Entrance portico with two Ionic columns
supporting a broad entablature and solid frame railing on
portico roof, entered by three stone steps.
5. Chimneys: Four, two on east wall and two on west wall of
original structure.
6. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Front doorway flanked by glass, single pane, side lights and a glass transom. Door on east side with stone lintel and flat arch.
- b. Windows and shutters: One-over-one double hung windows, polished stone lintel and flat arch, louvered shutters.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Hip roof with high frame parapet of alternating panels and ballusters.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Deep entablature with broad eaves surrounds main house.
- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: Three dormers on roof not visible from ground.

G. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor plans: First floor, central hall with straight stair rising along east wall; double parlor and behind it a library on west side of house, sitting room and behind it a music room on east side of house. Addition entered by door in northwall of music room into present dining room; behind this kitchen and at north end breakfast room; back stairs, pantries, bathroom, and utility room along west wall of addition. Large dining room added by Hall and remodeled by Tinelli at northwest corner of house.
2. Stairways: Main staircase, straight run to second floor; simple turned ballusters and curved handrail terminating at cylindrical newel post with ball on top.
3. Flooring: Double parlor, white pine board; dining room and music room and upstairs back hall, alternating 3" boards of cherry and maple.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls originally covered with a mixture of plaster and marble dust.
5. Doorways and doors: Door frames of wood pilaster strips with lintel with Greek fret design at either end and in center.
6. Special decorative features: Dining room, wainscot of alternating butternut and chestnut boards; fireplaces of marble with incised designs. Early pier mirrors between front windows in both parlors.
7. Hardware: Nickel plated front door knobs, wooden knobs on interior doors. Old hardware on exterior not original

to the building.

8. Lighting: Electric.

9. Heating: Oil hot water, radiators.

D. Site and Surroundings:

The house sits back about 150' from the road with a circular drive in front and fir trees randomly placed around the yards.

Prepared by Constance Werner Ramirez
From a paper by Norman K. Smith
January 4, 1965; 1973

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records are part of the documentation of structures in the Southern Tier of New York State, undertaken by HABS in cooperation with the Cortland County Historical Society and the Valley Development Foundation, Inc.

The project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The historical material was prepared by Miss Dorothy E. Graves in April, 1964. Photographs were taken by Jack E. Boucher in April, 1966. The project was edited for deposit in the Library of Congress by Constance Werner Ramirez, October, 1974.