

THE EASTON STOREHOUSE.  
ONONDAGA HILL, ONONDAGA COUNTY, NEW YORK.

HABS NY-223

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
DISTRICT OF NEW YORK-2  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Walter H. Cassebeer, District Officer  
84-Exchange St., Rochester, N.Y.

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THE EASTON STOREHOUSE  
ONONDAGA HILL, ONONDAGA COUNTY, NEW YORK.

OWNER: Fred Buck  
Onondaga Hill, N.Y.

1970 MR. EVAN B. EVANS

Occupant: Daniel Reardon, Blacksmith.

DATE OF ERECTION: 1823

ARCHITECT: Unknown

BUILDER: Unknown

**PRESENT CONDITION:** The building is in very poor state, the foundation and exterior walls beginning to fall away. Changes which have taken place have been mainly on the first floor, the building being now about as originally constructed with the exception of a brick forge and chimney. On the second floor a small area has been set off as living quarters for one man. The basement area has been filled in with refuse from first floor occupation to the depth shown. The writer was told that there was a concrete floor below the fill but this is probably stone bed rock. The entrance door to the blacksmith shop has been removed and a sliding door put in its place. The opening was widened at the time the former sliding door was placed on the exterior, now removed. The floor has been recovered with newer material, and the walls of this, the first floor finished with wood dado to the stool level, above this the original lath and plaster, in some places replaced by wood. The timber ceiling of the portion to the new chimney sealed with three inch matched lumber. The roof is corrugated sheet iron, replacing shingles. The windows on both sides are later than the original, and were broken in without stone lintels or sills.

**NUMBER OF STORIES:** There are a basement, two full stories and a low attic.

**MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION:** The foundation and entire exterior walls are local Onondaga limestone, laid in a rubble wall with the exception of the front which is coursed ashlar, dressed stone. All floors are wide boards of pine laid on heavy timber joists. The old chimneys as usual in this area are local brick from the attic space to above the roof.

**OTHER EXISTING RECORDS:**

Syracuse Herald, December 29, 1918.

## ADDITIONAL DATA:

Onondaga Hill was settled previous to the city of Syracuse. It was until 1827 the county seat at which time it was transferred to Syracuse. The Seneca Turnpike which was the principal highway west of Utica ran through the town. Storehouses similar to the one here dotted the pike. Another stood opposite this one but was removed at the time the state highway department lowered the grade. Probably at this time the grade in front of this building was raised closing in openings to the basement. It is now almost the last of such buildings left unaltered.

The following information is furnished by Mr. Elwood P. Boyle, a resident of Onondaga Hill.

" The building was erected in 1823 by Henry Charles and Francis Easton who conducted a general store at Onondaga Hill. It was used as a storehouse and at that time it was said to have been the largest building of its kind between Albany and the Pacific Coast. After the Eastons went out of business the storehouse was used as a grocery store but I am unable to find out who conducted it.

In 1850 the property was purchased by Charles G. Nye who conducted a wagon-making shop for many years.

About 1880 it was purchased by Owen Higgins, a retired farmer who lived in the house located on the property until his death. He rented the shop to George F. Walters who conducted a blacksmith shop until 1889.

Early in 1900 it was again used for a grocery store having been rented by Thomas H. Mansfield. He continued in business for three years. Then the property was purchased by Frank Crispin who continued as a blacksmith until April 1922 when he sold to Fred Buck, the present owner. It is now rented to Daniel Reardon."

Walter H. Cassebeer  
District Officer, NY2.  
August 1936