

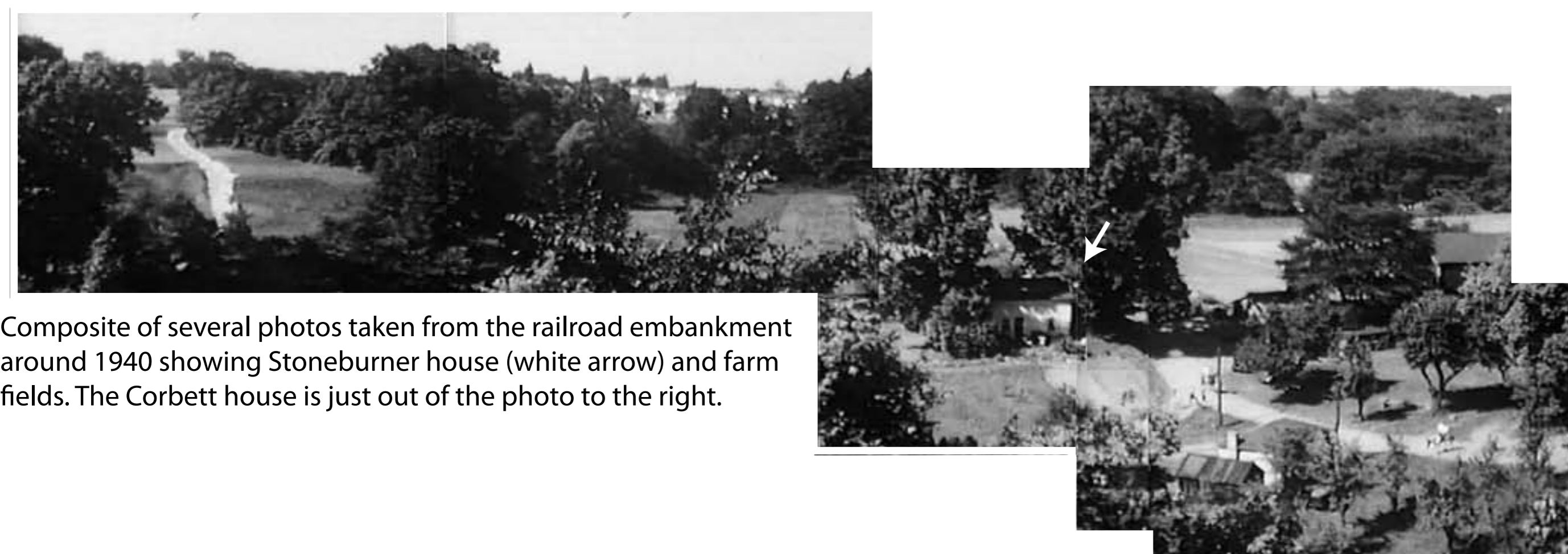
The Stoneburner Farm

Before it was Corbett's Glen, it was Stoneburner's Glen: 1815 - 1880

Leonard Stoneburner moved to the glen in about 1815 from a site on Irondequoit Creek near Panorama Plaza where he operated an Iron-making forge. Leonard and his family ran a farm in the glen until 1880, thus it became known as *Stoneburner's Glen*.

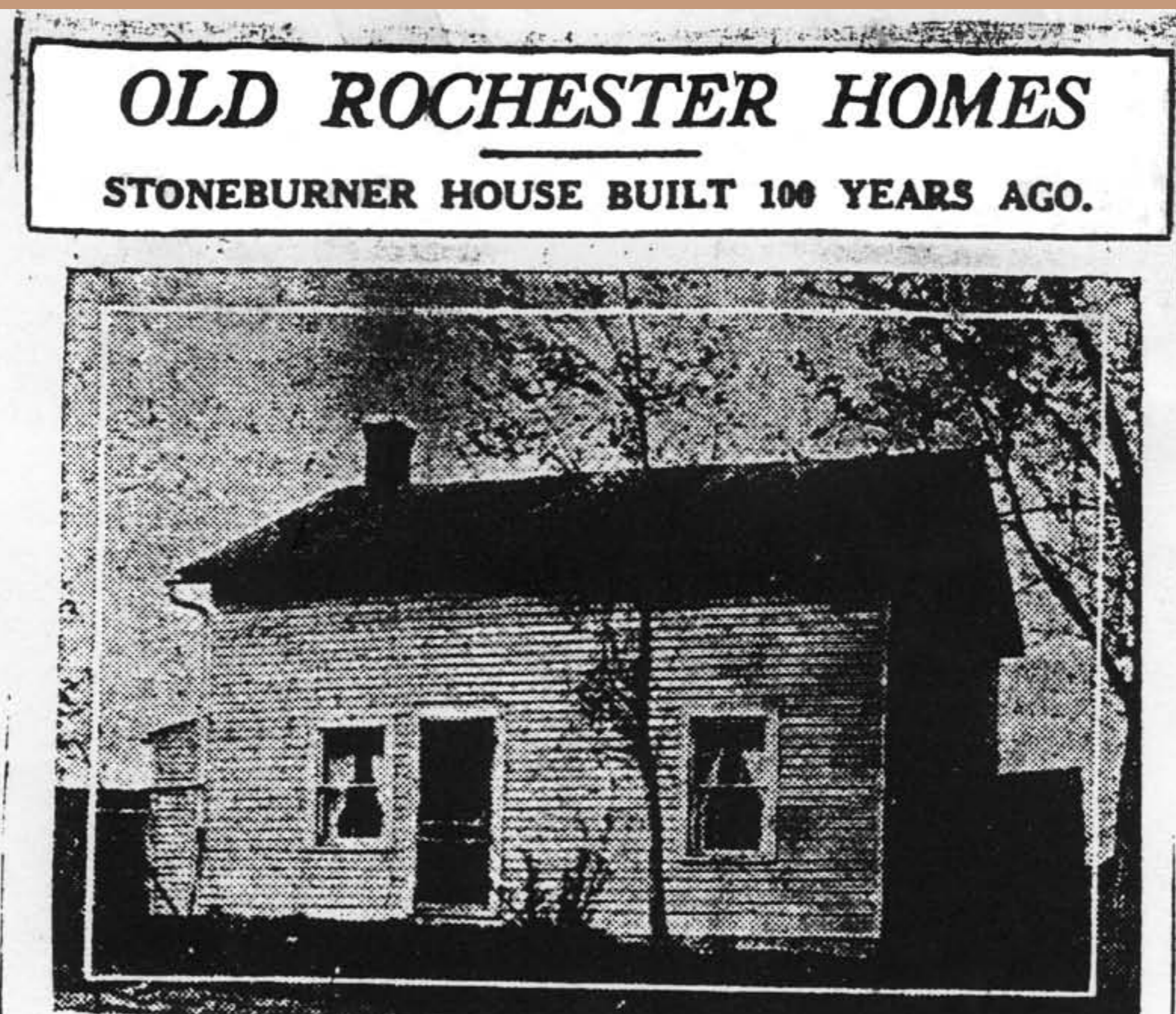
The little Stoneburner house was built about 1825 and was of log construction. The layout of the farm structures and fields is unknown but a drinking water well has been found just across the present drive from where the house was located. The house survived into the 1990's when it was pulled down because it was badly deteriorated.

By 1890, the Stoneburners had sold all their property in the glen. The house was sold to George and Jane Ashton. In 1890 the Ashtons sold the house and surrounding land to Patrick Corbett. The Stoneburner house was used for many years by the Corbett family.



Composite of several photos taken from the railroad embankment around 1940 showing Stoneburner house (white arrow) and farm fields. The Corbett house is just out of the photo to the right.

THE STONEBURNER HOUSE



—Photo by Times-Union Staff Photographer.

The exact date of the building of the frame work of the house shown above is not known, but it probably was about 1813 or 1814. The original construction was of logs, and this still stands, though the exterior has been covered with clapboarding.

The house was built by Leonard Stoneburner who came to Brighton about 1809. Stoneburner came from the East and had had an eventful life, having been held captive by Indians at one time. When he arrived in Brighton he rented a building on the bank of Irondequoit creek from Stephen Lusk where he built carriages and boats, the latter being launched in the creek and floated to the bay and Lake Ontario. It must be understood that Irondequoit creek was at that time a wide and deep stream and that vessels of considerable size were able to proceed from the lake to Tryontown which was located at the end of the Landing road. In the present day the creek had dwindled to a small stream and what was once a moderately deep harbor is now flat meadow land only partially overflowed in high water.

Stoneburner brought with him to Brighton his wife and four children and one of the sons, William, was active in running boats with food and supplies through the enemy blockade on Lake Ontario to the American forces in the War of 1812. It seems probable that it was the returns from this traffic which enriched the Stoneburner family to the point where it was possible for the elder Stoneburner to build the house shown above, now standing to the left as one passes under the big stone arch of the New York Central over Allyn's creek near his present residence of Patrick Corbett.

It is related that William Stoneburner started out on one occasion with a 10-ton boat belonging to his father, laden with whisky and potatoes. When three miles east of Eighteen-mile creek he was discovered by a British boat which gave chase and finally took him prisoner, his cargo being confiscated. His capturers endeavored to learn from him the whereabouts of the American forces, but he refused to give the information, despite the fact that he was threatened with impressment into the British service on the ground that his father had at one time been a resident of Canada. After a brief period of imprisonment Stoneburner was put ashore in the forest and left to find his way home as best he could. In 1814 Stoneburner started with a five-ton boat loaded with potatoes which he delivered safely. When he was about to return, however, he and his boat were pressed into service by General Wilkinson, then in command of the American forces. Stoneburner conveyed the party down Lake Ontario, being paid \$1 a day for his services and \$75 for his boat which was retained for the use of the American forces.

Following the close of the war Leonard Stoneburner and his son conducted a shipping business, building one 20-ton schooner and several smaller vessels. The neighborhood of Allyn's creek has been industrially active in more than one war, for it is still possible to see the cellar excavations and a few of the foundation stones of the two powder mills which stood on the left side of the road running along the creek. These mills furnished powder which was used in the Civil War but were wrecked by an explosion in 1869.

Article obtained from DAR records of old homes published in Times Union in 1920



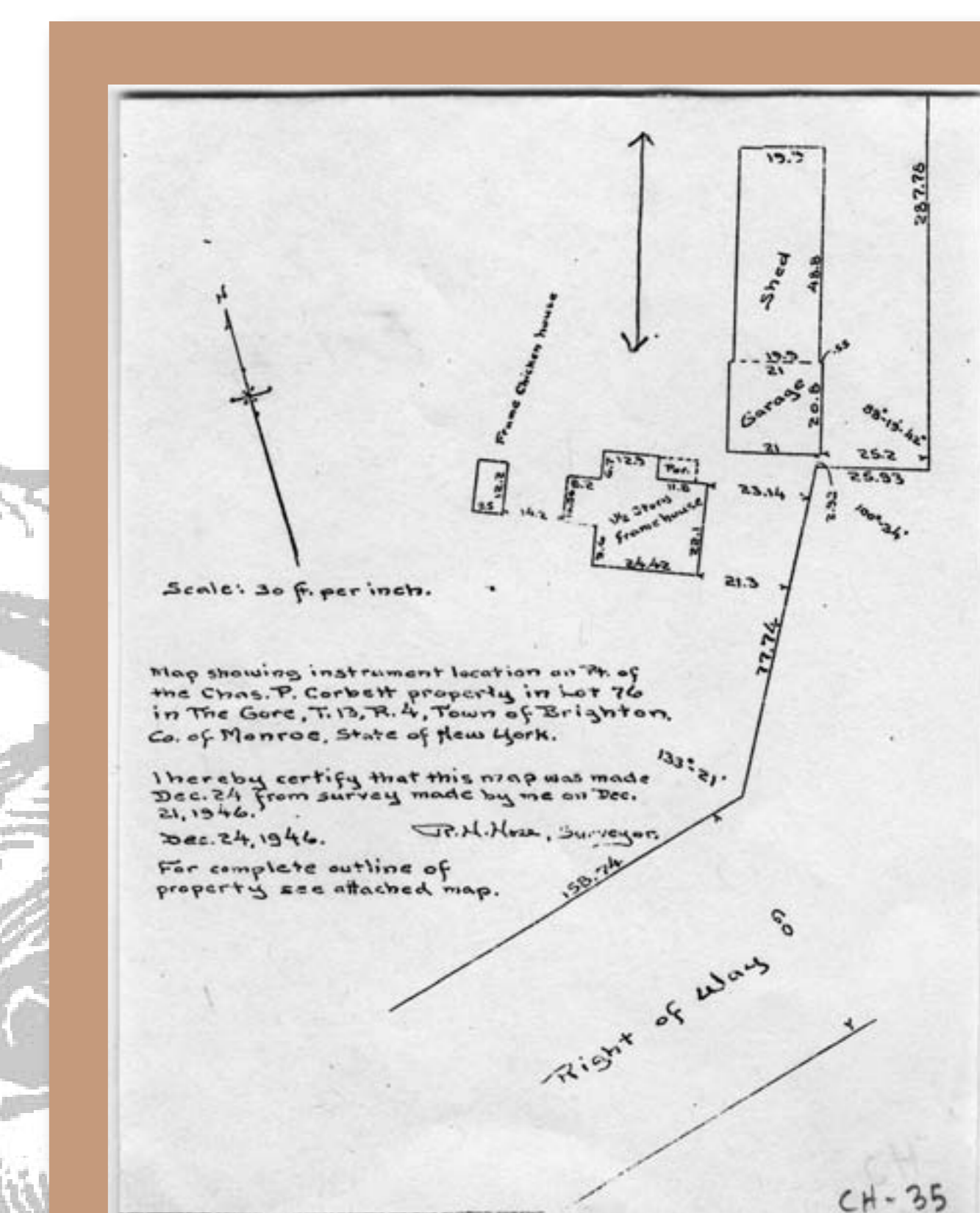
Photo taken around 1990 showing the Stoneburner house a few years before it was removed.



1972 following Hurricane Agnes



An 1872 map showing the Stoneburner house in the glen. Note that the road into the glen does not cross under the railroad track with the creek; the embankment which replaced (buried) the trestle was not built until 1882. The road was re-routed to pass through the embankment tunnel with the creek.



This drawing made in 1946 shows the location and dimensions of the Stoneburner house

THE STONEBURNER FARM

1850 FARM CENSUS

20 acres improved
1 acre unimproved
cash value \$100

Value of machinery \$75

horses 2
milk cow 1
other cattle 1
sheep 4
swine 4

Value of livestock \$250

100 lbs of butter
12 lbs of wool

35 bushels of wheat
75 bushels of indian corn
20 bushels of irish potatoes

value of orchard produce \$20

5 tons of hay
value of animals slaughtered \$40

1880 FARM CENSUS

48 acres improved
6 acres unimproved
cash value \$6000

machinery \$150

horses 3
milk cows 3
swine 3
barnyard poultry 40

livestock \$400
wages \$40

mown 5 acres
hay 5 acres
indian corn 3 acres - 300 bushels
wheat 3 acres - 50 bushels
rye 12 acres - 120 bushels
oats 4 acres - 60 bushels
potatoes 3 acres - 330 bushels
beans - 3 bushels
apples 1 acre 40 trees - 50 bushels

calves 1 sold living
1,300 lbs of butter
120 dozen eggs

value of products \$700