

# The First Presbyterian Church Seneca Falls, NY 1842 -1871 “2nd Church Building”

Built by Lathrop & Bigelow

From the time that the First Presbyterian Church of Junius (now Seneca Falls) was organized on the 10th of August, 1807, there have been five locations where services were held. Organization took place in Colonel Daniel Sayer's barn in Bridgeport. There was a shift in population from Bridgeport to the Seneca Falls, Kingdom, Waterloo areas.

Because of this, services were moved in 1816 to the school house in Seneca Falls, which was located directly south of the present church on Cayuga Street.

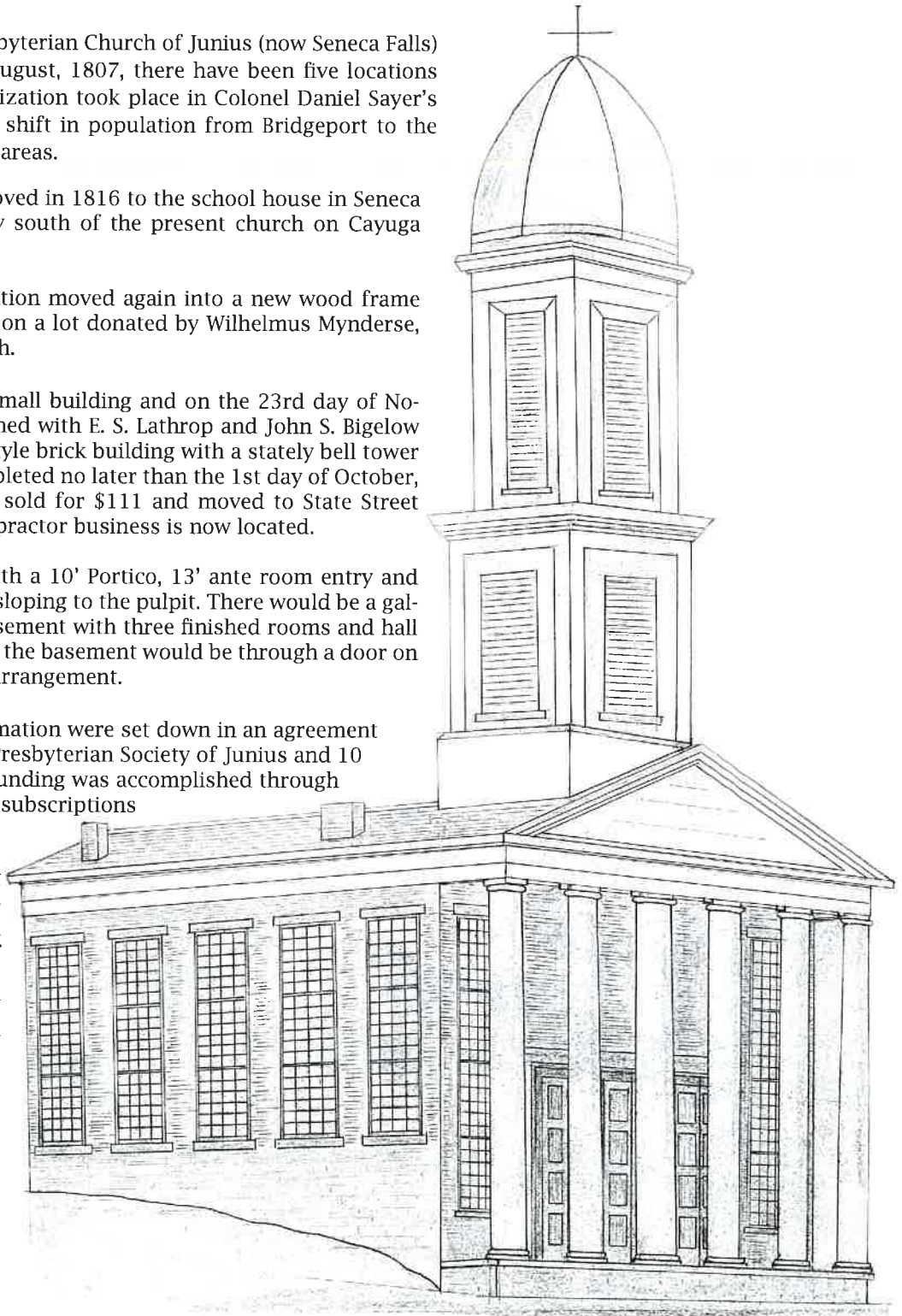
In September 1817 the congregation moved again into a new wood frame church building which was built on a lot donated by Wilhelmus Mynderse, the location of the present church.

The congregation outgrew this small building and on the 23rd day of November, 1841 a contract was signed with E. S. Lathrop and John S. Bigelow to build a period Greek Revival style brick building with a stately bell tower for the sum of \$6,500, to be completed no later than the 1st day of October, 1842. The existing building was sold for \$111 and moved to State Street where the barber shop and chiropractor business is now located.

The overall size was 82' x 52' with a 10' Portico, 13' ante room entry and 58'x 52' sanctuary with the floor sloping to the pulpit. There would be a gallery over the ante room and a basement with three finished rooms and hall and an unfinished area. Access to the basement would be through a door on the south similar to the present arrangement.

Detailed specifications and information were set down in an agreement between 5 members of the First Presbyterian Society of Junius and 10 men of the congregation. Initial funding was accomplished through a \$2,000 Mynderse bequest and subscriptions totaling \$2,500.

The 10 members of the agreement would receive slip (pew) assignments valued at \$150 each and there would be a general sale of slips within one year of the completion of the building. The new church building was dedicated on the 16th of November, 1842 and used until 1871 when it was demolished and the present church building was constructed and dedicated on the 14th of January 1873



*Artist Note: Drawing depicted by Marvin Lay.*



## CHURCH BUILDINGS

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