



NINTH COBBLESTONE TOUR

ORGANIZED BY THE COBBLESTONE SOCIETY, SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 1969

**A MOTOR TOUR IN
THE MONROE COUNTY TOWNS OF
HENRIETTA, RUSH, & WHEATLAND**

THE COBBLESTONE SOCIETY

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF
COBBLESTONE BUILDINGS IN AMERICA

FOUNDED IN 1960 IN CHILDS, N. Y.
POST OFFICE: ALBION, N. Y. 14411

NINTH ANNUAL COBBLESTONE TOUR

Saturday, June 7, 1969

1 p. m. until 5 p. m.

BUILDINGS

1.	Halpin House.....	not open
2.	Miller House.....	not open
3.	Carriage Stop Restaurant.....	not open
4.	Vogel House.....	not open
5.	Vollmer House.....	OPEN
6.	Bushman House.....	not open
7.	Grushow House.....	OPEN
8.	Gross House.....	not open
9.	Smythers House.....	not open
10.	Gaffney House.....	not open
11.	Tuety House.....	OPEN
12.	Walker House.....	not open
13,14.	Letson House & Wall.....	OPEN
15.	Jurkovich House.....	not open
	Chili School Museum.....	open

I N A P P R E C I A T I O N

The Cobblestone Society gratefully acknowledges the generous assistance given by Mrs. Eleanor Kalsbeck, Henrietta Town Historian and the kindness of the proud cobblestone house owners: especially Mr. Albert Vollmer, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Grushow, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Tuety and Mr. & Mrs. George Letson whose buildings make this tour possible. The talent of Philip Bornarth was generously given in the form of the drawing on the cover of this booklet.

1. HALPIN HOUSE - not open
4495 W. Henrietta Road, Town of Henrietta

Perched at the crest of Methodist Hill, this 1832 cobblestone house has always caught the admiration of passing motorists. The ordered symmetry of the building centers about the front entrance of Federal design, which is typical of the immediate region. An 8-panel door is flanked with sidelights whose panes are separated by wood muntins. These are capped by a half-elliptical fanlight of leaded glass with lead ornaments placed at various points. A cut limestone arch with keystone surmounts this. The reveal at this entrance is faced with paneled wood.

Roughly cut limestone is used for the quoins at the corners. The lintels over the windows are also of roughly cut limestone -- small stones laid with radial joints to form a flat arch. Cobbles are field stones of various colors laid four courses high to each quoin. This house is the residence of Mr. & Mrs. John Halpin, Sr.

2. MILLER HOUSE - not open
5121 W. Henrietta Road, Town of Henrietta

William Henry Gorton, farmer and son of a Baptist preacher purchased the property in 1828 and a few years later built the house. It has always been a working farm under a succession of owners: Jared Gorton, Daniel Fenner, Ludwig Miller and since 1932, George A. Miller. Now it is one of the four remaining dairy farms in the Town of Henrietta. In basic form the house is the same type as #1, but with a simpler entrance. Quoins, of rather roughly cut limestone vary in height. Field cobblestones form the walls.

3. CARRIAGE STOP RESTAURANT - not open
5393 W. Henrietta Road, Town of Henrietta

In 1835 Joseph Williams, a Henrietta Blacksmith with 15 years of experience, purchased this large structure. The first floor, with cobblestone walls, is approximately 50 ft. deep and 115 ft. long, while the upper floors are wood frame. This first floor originally housed seven open forges on an earth floor, while above wagons were built, painted and fitted. Later Joseph Williams enlarged the building to house a foundry and steam sawmill, and to make farm implements and carriages. An 1865 census records the production of that year of 25 buggies, 25 sleighs, 50 lumber wagons, as well as rollers and plows. At one time over 50 men were employed here.

It continued in use until 1922 as a blacksmith and wagon repair shop. Then a decade of inactivity followed with the advent of the automotive age until it reopened as the 'Cobblestone Garage' which it remained until 1962.

Then in 1968 it was imaginatively transformed into the 'Carriage Stop Restaurant'. It is open for business and inside, the old hand hewn beams and posts are left exposed for atmosphere.

4. VOGEL HOUSE - not open
5582 W. Henrietta Road, Town of Henrietta

In 1816 Abel Post arrived at the frontier town of West Henrietta with his wife and three young children in an open lumber wagon. Within 16 years his family had increased to nine children and his prosperity enabled him to build this house with his initials and the date (1832) incised in the keystone of the arch over the front, center entrance. This entrance is similar to #1 with its sidelights and leaded glass fanlight. Local legend has frequently connected Abel Post with the underground railroad. In the 1890's a secret room large enough to conceal two persons was discovered in the basement. A descendant, John Post of Henrietta, recalled his great grandfather was a staunch abolitionist and remembered hearing from his father and grandfather tales of the secret room.

The four first floor windows were lengthened in the 1870's and had new sash installed, the other windows were not changed. Other changes were made from time to time, obscuring the original lines and beauty of the building. Then in 1946 it was purchased by Mr. & Mrs. Walter Vogel who have done much to restore the original beauty of the house and to provide its handsomely landscaped setting.

5. VOLLMER HOUSE - OPEN
6637 W. Henrietta Road, Town of Henrietta

Visitors should park on the highway.

This house, pictured on the cover of the tour booklet stands remote atop a rise in the fields west of W. Henrietta Road, with an ancient lilac and a line pine tree for company. It was built in the early 1830's by Jonathan Longfellow, and was occupied until 1919. Later owners - the Todd and Vollmer families preferred the closer proximity of the highway and the conveniences of a more modern frame house. The result

of this is the lack of modern 'improvements' - plumbing, electricity and central heating which give the visitor a rare glimpse of an unchanged 19th Century farmhouse.

Earlier this year the Henrietta Town Building Inspector examined the building and declared it basically sound. The exterior of the house shows, via a couple of timbers fastened to the walls, that there was once a porch at the front door and a shed attached to the rear.

The south wall incorporates a chimney that serves fireplaces in the cellar, living room and bedroom. The basement, paved with cobbles, shows remains of a rainwater cistern partially filled in with gravel. Some of the beams supporting the first floor above still have their original bark. One rusty hand pump on the first floor which originally drew up water from the cistern still remains.

Copies of the two-page inspection report are available from the Henrietta Town Building Inspector. Anyone interested in acquiring this landmark should contact Mr. Albert Vollmer of West Henrietta.

6. BUSHMAN HOUSE - not open
633 Telephone Road, Town of Henrietta

This house was built in the mid 1830's by Jacob Bushman and has remained in his family now being the home of his great grandson Leland Bushman and his wife. It is a simple house, that shortly after the Civil War had its roof raised to give it a steeper pitch, and the gable added on the front. This was to make it more up-to-date in appearance. At the same time the front first floor window openings were narrowed and their sills lowered almost to the floor line. The front door gave way to a pair of doors spanned by a brick arch and sheltered by a porch. Above this door, a window at the second floor was closed up. Lightning rods, once standard equipment on country buildings, still punctuate the roof line.

7. GRUSHOW HOUSE - OPEN
830 Telephone Road, Town of Henrietta

This house, built in the 1830's, has been in the Grushow family since 1916 and is now the home of Mr. & Mrs. Harold Grushow. It is unusual for having an elaborate cornice of Federal style with modillions (small wood blocks) spaced regularly along its length. This motif occurs at the front entrance also. A leaded glass fanlight with its original ornaments spans this entrance with its sidelights. Inside, the original box lock and key still remain in use.



This entrance opens into a center stairhall. Doors at each side open into front parlors which have handsome paneled reveals at the windows. The door to the room on the north has its original graining resembling crotch mahogany. The stair case has simple woodwork typical of a frontier farmhouse.

Outside, at the rear and south of the house, is a cobblestone smokehouse with brick chimney.

8. GROSS HOUSE - not open
887 Telephone Road, Town of Henrietta

Built in the late 1830's or early 40's by Jacob Bushman for one of his sons, this house has been recently acquired by Mr. & Mrs. William Gross who are in the process of remodelling it. It is a small, simple house - almost a cottage. The only bit of pretension is the front porch with its two fluted wooden columns. These are pure Greek Revival and are a variation of the Doric Column.

9. SCHULTZ - SMYTHERS HOUSE - not open
889 Rush-Henrietta Town Line Road, Town of Rush

Like #8 this is a small house, almost a cottage. It has been in the Schultz family since 1900 and is now occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Alex Smythers. Modern porches have been added to the front and side.

10. GAFFNEY HOUSE - not open
791 Rush-Henrietta Town Line Road, Town of Rush

Sitting a bit back from the road, it has been in the Gaffney family since 1900, now the home of Mrs. Bert Gaffney. The exterior is virtually unchanged since the date of its erection in the early 1830's. Simple and un-adorned it shows the simple, no-nonsense life of the early farmers.

11. TUETY HOUSE - OPEN
512 Fishell Road, Town of Rush

In 1808 Henry Fishell, from Gettysburg, Pa. settled along Honeoye Creek and in the mid 1830's built this house of stones gathered by his children from the surrounding fields. John Fishell, of the second generation, lived here until 1879 and fathered 21 children. This explains the necessity of the large wooden addition on the rear which was built in the late 1840's or early '50's.

Three generations of Fishells occupied the house and in the early 20th Century it was bought by the Allen Family who eventually sold it to the Van Wag-enen Family. In 1968 it was most fortunate in coming into the ownership of Mr. & Mrs. Thos. Tuety. They have combined an harmonious grouping of furnishings both new and old amidst color schemes that have their roots in the past but still very much 'today'.

The center entrance has the half elliptical fan-light and sidelights flanking the door, similar to houses #1, 4, & 7 but with slight variations. The double hung window openings are spanned with lintels made of a single piece of stone in contrast to many of the other buildings on this tour.



12. WALKER HOUSE - not open
459 Quaker Road, Town of Wheatland

The historic marker by the roadside reads:

ERECTED 1834 QUAKER MEETING HOUSE,
BUILT AND USED BY ORTHODOX QUAKERS 1834-1854.
BY HICKSITES 1854-1873, GRANGE HALL 1937.

The original purpose of the building is proclaimed by the two entrances on the east side - one for women and the other for men. Construction of the building in 1834 cost \$500, exclusive of gathering the stones from nearby fields and hauling them to the site and exclusive of the mortar.

The Genesee Grange used the building until 1962 when it was purchased by Mr. Francis Krenzer who turned it into a house. The Robert Walkers have lived here since 1963.

13, 14. LETSON HOUSE AND WALL - OPEN
5015 River Road, Town of Wheatland

Isaac Cox, pioneer Quaker settler arrived with his father's family in 1804 to clear the rich bottom land of the Genesee Valley, south of Scottsville. His success as a wheat farmer and profits from his investments in the Genesee Valley Canal and the Scottsville flour mill, made construction of this house possible in 1839. A descendant of his, Anna Cox Harmon, recorded the construction of the house in 1938 as she remembered hearing it from her forebears:

"In the year 1838, Isaac moved his family to a large log house on the farm known as the Giles place. Here, Anna, his wife, did her work in a kitchen separate from the house."

"The larger and better buildings which Isaac had in mind for his new farm of 160 acres would be of the finest workmanship. Everyone of the field cobbles used in the construction of this house, where he expected to spend the rest of his life, must be perfect and uniform in size. Certain sized hoops were used for this purpose. It had to be a double house, so that one of his sons might live in the south part of the house and work the farm for him. Isaac had reached the age of 53 and he began to think of the time when he might retire from some of his activities."

"The wings on each side of the main part of the house are composed of the sitting rooms, each with a fireplace, winter and summer kitchens, and pantries. Over the sitting rooms, reached by winding stairs at one side of the fireplace are low-

ceilinged rooms which were called the hired girls' rooms."



In 1898 the farm passed to the Resch family. Remington Resch occupying the house until 1963. In 1966 it was purchased by Mr. & Mrs. George Letson who have begun to restore and redecorate the house. They are proceeding with this slowly and with a great deal of understanding. The north wing is complete and is open for the tour. The Letsons use this for their dining room and kitchen. Behind the kitchen is the old milkroom with brick floor and stone slab supporting the hand pump over the well; also the old woodshed. In the dining room, the large fireplace is unusual with its cut stone facing lining and hearth. Even on a dark day, the light warm colors of the wallpaper and the antiqued finish on the woodwork give the feeling of sunlight streaming in through the windows. A doorway, opposite the fireplace has been closed up and a simple cupboard inserted into the recess.

On the outside, the porches at the north and south wings and the cornices of these wings are the original Greek Revival designs. The central portion had the original cornice removed and the eaves extended in the latter part of the 19th Century. Notice, also the window sash in this portion -- the upper sash have nine panes while the lower sash have only six panes. A cut stone water table stretches across the front just above the first floor line.

Several hundred yards north of the house, along the road Isaac Cox built a six-foot-high cobblestone wall originally about 500



Peterich Photo

feet long. A small section of this wall still remains. The stones used in this wall are large at the bottom and gradually decrease in size up to the top. A wood shingled 'roof' caps the wall. Isaac Cox originally had his gardens, orchard, and duck pond behind this wall.

15. JURKOVICH HOUSE - not open
East River Road, Town of Henrietta

This is one of the earliest cobblestone houses that can be dated with certainty, for on the keystone of the lintel over the second floor center window is the date - 1831. Jacob Brininstool was the original owner, it is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Jurkovich. In basic form it is very similar to #10 - the Gaffney house. It is also one of those rare cobblestone buildings that have an airspace in the exterior walls which provides added protection against heat, cold and dampness. The first floor of the house, due to sloping land, is almost a full story above grade at the front. Late in the 19th Century or early in the 20th, porches were added across the front and on the north side. In the mid-20th Century the Thruway became its neighbor to the south.

CHILI SCHOOL MUSEUM

2517 Scottsville Rd. at Morgan Rd., Town of Chili

This cobblestone schoolhouse was built in 1848 on land that was given for this purpose 20 years earlier by the Sheffer family. It

served as a schoolhouse until 1952. The Wehle family was interested in its preservation and gave funds for its restoration, as the Town of Chili Historical Museum. It awaits a visit from you during the hours of this Ninth Cobblestone Tour.

IN GENERAL: There are several features of the cobblestone buildings that are typical of the immediate area and the buildings. First - all the buildings are of the field cobblestones, there are none of the smooth lake washed stones that have been seen on previous tours in other areas. Second - smooth finely dressed limestone is used sparingly. The lintels over many of the windows are of small roughly rectangular pieces of limestone laid vertically and at a slight angle. Third - several of the houses have similar entrances with the flat elliptical headed opening spanned with flat-faced curved pieces of stone that arch up from a small projecting piece of stone at the spring line to a keystone at the center.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Cobblestone Society welcomes new members and we invite you to fill out the form below and mail together with a check or money order to -- Mrs. Charles Thompson, Ridge Road, Route 1, Albion, N. Y., 14411.

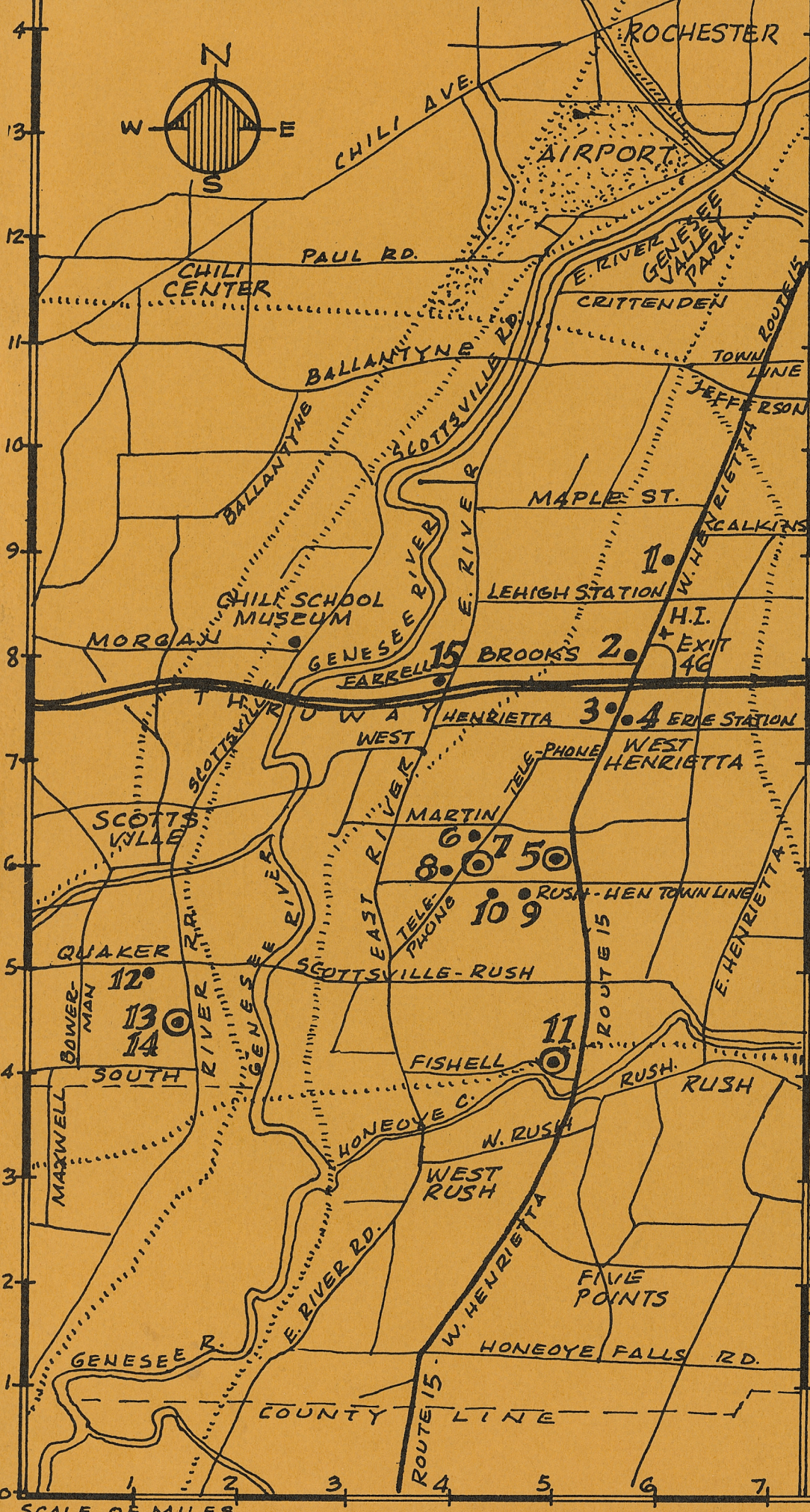
Please enroll me as a member of the Cobblestone Society for the coming year. I enclose a check for _____ dollars, payable to the Society.

Annual Dues:

Active Membership...\$2.00
Patron.....\$25.00
Life Membership...\$100.00

Signed _____

Address _____



- 1 HALPIN HOUSE
4495 W. HENRIETTA RD.
- 2 MILLER HOUSE
5121 W. HENRIETTA RD.
- 3 CARRIAGE STOP RESTAURANT
- 4 VOGEL HOUSE
5582 W. HENRIETTA RD.
- 5 VOLLMER HOUSE OPEN
6637 W. HENRIETTA RD.
- 6 BUSHMAN HOUSE
633 TELEPHONE RD.
- 7 GRUSHOW HOUSE OPEN
830 TELEPHONE RD.
- 8 GROSS HOUSE
887 TELEPHONE RD.
- 9 SMYTHERS HOUSE
889 TOWNLINE RD.
- 10 GAFFNEY HOUSE
791 TOWNLINE RD.
- 11 TUETY HOUSE OPEN
512 FISHELL RD.
- 12 WALKER HOUSE
409 QUAKER RD.
- 13 LETSON HOUSE & WALL
- 14 5015 RIVER RD. OPEN
- 15 JURKOVICH HOUSE
E. RIVER RD.