



1. 11570 RAMSHAW RD.



14370 RIDGE RD. 2.



3. 13849 PHIPPS RD.



12646 PLATTEN RD. 4.



5. 2825 KNOWLESVILLE RD.



61 SOUTH MAIN ST. LYNDONVILLE 6.



7. COR. RT. 98 & BACON RD.



204 EAST STATE ST. ALBION 8.

COBBLESTONE SOCIETY TOUR OF HOMES

Saturday, June 2, 1990

Noon - 5:00 P.M.

The price of the tour includes not only the eight homes listed but the Smith Arboretum and seven historic buildings at the Cobblestone Museum Complex located on Route 104 and Route 98 at Childs, New York, plus the historic Pullman Memorial Universalist Church at the corner of Route 98 and East Park Street in Albion. Pamphlets for the Museum and the Church are available at both locations. Lunch is served by ladies of the Universalist Church from 11:00 to 2:00.

Last year the Cobblestone Society held its first tour of homes since 1980. It was most successful as a money-making project. This year the society is proud to present eight more historic homes and an arboretum for your inspection. We are sorry we were not able to procure more than one cobblestone residence for this year's tour. However, we feel certain the homes which you see will in no way be disappointing.

Variety is the best word to describe this year's tour. You will see everything from Country Colonial at the Pollard residence, to spectacular Victorian at the Vanderheite home, to nostalgic 1920's at the Nestle-Schasel house, and everything in between at the other dwellings. And yes, don't miss the Smith Arboretum. To find your stops more easily, watch for the balloons.

IN APPRECIATION

The Cobblestone Society gratefully acknowledges the cooperation of the home owners: Tom and Marsha Wenhold, René Schasel, William Nestle, Jerim Klapper, Ellen and Ange Leta, Joanne and Jerry Vanderheite, Paul and Jean Pollard, Barbara and John Merrill, Ruth and Bill Larimer, Marion Smith, and the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church.

We also wish to thank all our volunteers who have helped in pre-tour preparations and for help on the day of the tour.

Tour Booklet Written and Composed

by C. W. Lattin

except

House No. 3

by Jerim Klapper

Edited

by Mildred Fields

Photographs by James Orr

Map by A. J. Leta

"Ah, to build, to build; that is the noblest art of all the arts. Painting and sculpture are but images, are merely shadows, cast by outward things. On stone or canvas, having in themselves no separate existence. Architecture, existing in itself, and not in seeming, A something it is not, surpasses them as substance shadow!"

..... Longfellow

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wenhold
11570 Ramshaw Road, Town of Ridgeway
Federal Style Cobblestone, circa 1835

Nine years ago Thomas Wenhold and his family purchased this five-bay Federal Style cobblestone home. Indeed, this is a very early example of cobblestone construction, as the house is built of fieldstone which was perhaps gathered off the surrounding farmland as some pioneer cleared a field. The masonry joints are thick, and the stones give a rustic feeling to the exterior walls. The house is trimmed with Medina sandstone lintels and quoins. Here you will notice that these are quite elongated and vary slightly in size. The front door retains its original transom and glass in an attractive geometric design. A fan or sunburst opening may be found in the gable ends of the house.

Perhaps during the 1860's or 70's a former owner added a new roof-line making it about two feet higher than the original. No doubt the original cornice was very simplistic in the Federal Style, while the present one is more Italianate in nature. One will also notice the ends of three original tie rods through the building which appear on the east and west ends of the dwelling. Early masonry structures in this area frequently have such rods.

The new wooden wing in the rear is in keeping with the main portion of the house. Mr. Wenhold notes that this is the third addition the home has had in that spot, the original rear wing being a log cabin which was probably the first house on the property. This new addition serves as an office and lavatory.

As one enters through the front door he first sees a beautiful Federal staircase with a delicate cherry handrail and neatly tapered square spokes of cucumber wood. The treads have been grained by Mr. Wenhold. To the right is the kitchen and dining area. Here one may see the original fireplace and baking oven. Notice also the built-in cupboards over the mantle which made use of otherwise vacant space above the Dutch oven and firebox. On the other side of the front hall is the living room, which also has an original fireplace, but much more restrained, as it was originally simply used for heating.

Upstairs the master bedroom also has a small fireplace with built-in cupboards beside it. An interesting Federal arch separates an alcove from the rest of the room.

Mr. and Mrs. Wenhold are in the process of restoring this fine old country home and enjoy the challenge this home affords them. The rural setting and attractive grounds truly enhance this residence.

Residence of William Nestle/Rene Schasel
14370 Ridge Road
Frame Construction

This house, like many rural dwellings of simple character, was built in stages. In viewing the underpinnings and floor joists, one can determine three separate enlargements to the original part, dating perhaps to the late 1820's. The most noteworthy addition, however, was the east wing built for a kitchen, perhaps in the 1870's.

The property was originally owned by John Proctor (1786-1868), the founder of Fairhaven, now known as Childs. However, several former owners of the property were blacksmiths who also owned and operated the adjacent Blacksmith Shop. Most noteworthy of these individuals was Joseph H. Vagg, who moved with his wife and two children to Childs in 1909. Here Mr. Vagg worked until he retired in February, 1956.

The Vaggs were frugal people, and therefore made no additions to the house. However, in 1926 they upgraded the interior woodwork in the parlor and living room. They also added the bungalow-style overhang and green shingles to the upper portion of the main body of the house. No major alterations to the residence have taken place since that time. When René Schasel went house hunting in 1985, this is exactly what he was looking for. In his terms "...one that wasn't all buggered up." He and William Nestle purchased it from Mrs. Melva Warner, daughter of the Vaggs, and have made every attempt to retain its authenticity.

Tour goers will indeed find this home a real curiosity, as the kitchen is just the way it was "modernized" in 1926. The front parlor of the house was papered in 1948 in a dark maroon paper with large magnolia blossoms. Most people, thinking wall paper of this period and type hideous, would have stripped it, thus wrecking a beautiful example of that era of American decoration. The house is likewise furnished with many period pieces dating from the 1920's.

Behind the house is a modest carriage barn and, behind that, property which was originally part of the lot the house stands on. In 1975 Mrs. Nellie Vagg bequeathed this land and her late husband's Blacksmith Shop and its contents to the Cobblestone Museum.

The Nestle/Schasel house, grounds and related outbuildings appear much the way they would have been sixty years ago. Therefore, between exterior and interior, you will be stepping back into a time lag. Enjoy!

No. 3

Residence of Jerim Klapper

13849 Phipps Road

Greek Revival

Pleasant View Farm, as it was originally called, was constructed in three stages: the first dwelling, the single-story east wing, is characteristic of the period, with butted plank construction. It was built by Artemis Loveland around 1828. The southern double-story clapboard structure--the main house--was built to the south adjoining the original dwelling, in 1868, by a grandson of A. Loveland. The fluted columns on the wrap-around porch were a later innovation. The small front porch has been completely reconstructed using a portion of the original columns. The parlor originally contained a large stairway, removed by the family around the turn of the century because, in their view, it was "oversized." The music room contains one of the two original pianos--a Boston Chickering No. 1. The wallpaper was specially reproduced as an exact match of the original. All of the doors and windows in the front rooms have been stripped and regrained, matching the original elements. The adjacent bedroom, called the "French Room," contains art and furniture beginning with the Directoire Period (1795). The kitchen has been largely restored to blend in with the south and west wooden walls and the original cabinets. The ceiling has been removed to expose the beams. Four layers of flooring

have been taken up, revealing an early floor (probably not the original). The pioneer sink is hand-carved stone from the early part of the last century.

Charles Howard opened the Santa Claus School here in 1937, and the property eventually became known as Christmas Park. Following the death of Ruth Howard in 1974, the house was communally occupied by a religious group, Peace in Jesus, from 1975 to 1980. Their sanctuary was created by removing the wall between the music room and parlor; it has since been restored with matching moldings by the present owner.

The single-story north wing contained a gas plant which supplied heat and light to the Howard family in the first half of this century.

Guests are invited to explore the grounds and to view the plantings. The completion of this eight-year restoration project is slated for 1992. Future additions will include a lily pond in the west yard, a greenhouse of early design to be added east of the music room, and a bird sanctuary on the site of the disused ping-pong court on the east lawn.

The barns are not open for view.

No. 4

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Leta 12646 Platten Road Frame Construction

Mr. and Mrs. Leta purchased this old farm and farmhouse in 1969 and moved in with their three children. As you approach the house, you first see attractive grounds, with various old farming implements as lawn ornaments. A tile silo, possibly dating from the teens, is a focal point of the back yard. A large pond with an island is located just east of the house. A rabbit, a family pet, resides all summer on this island unharmed by predators. On the west side of the house you will notice a fieldstone smokehouse dating from the last century. Old lime mortar was used in its construction and in the foundation wall of the house. Notice in the cellar wall how the irregular quarried stones have been visually squared off by the mortar.

On entering the residence from a spacious side porch, you find yourself in a rustic style mudroom and stair hall, off of which is a men's room. A rustic handrail is a feature of the stairs. Upstairs is a ladies' room, plumbed with old fixtures. The hall contains an assorted collection of cameras dating back to the 1890's.

The dining room, with original wainscot, is done somewhat in the same period as when the house was built. From here you may look into the kitchen, where an antique kitchen cabinet is now used as a liquor cabinet. Also off the dining room is a rustic family room done in red pine, like the interior of a log cabin. Old farm tools decorate the walls. The stove in this room, along with solar panels on the roof, heats the house. The entire dwelling has been renovated and designed for energy conservation. Next to the family room and contrasting to it is a Victorian-style parlor. A more recent addition to the house includes a sunroom. The Letas have used a pressed-metal ceiling in this room which came out of St. Joseph's Church in Lyndonville. Ange and Ellen Leta, in the creation of their home, have done all the work themselves and collected various artifacts for decoration. Their personal touch adds a delightful element to the atmospheric quality of the home.

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Vanderheite

2825 Knowlesville Road

Italianate, circa 1875

This Italian villa is surely one of the most outstanding country residences of its style still remaining in tact in Orleans County. Built by the Ostrander family, the architectural character suggests it was erected in the 1870's. Notice the bracketed overhang, window caps, original siding, and beautiful porches which retain all their decorative details. The dominating feature of a true Italian villa is always a tower or cupola, and here we see such a feature. For aesthetic purposes, on the south side of the house, there are two dummy windows with closed blinds. The front entrance consists of double doors with round headed, frosted windows which welcome the visitor to a grand and spacious front hall, with a beautiful open staircase.

To the left, off this hall are two parlors with exquisite ceilings which retain their plaster moldings and center medallions. The woodwork in these two rooms and hall is chestnut, trimmed with walnut molding. It has never been painted. The second parlor has the added feature of a fake fireplace with a very decorative over mantel. It is believed that this was added to the dwelling in the 1880's. Behind the parlors is a den with a large bay window facing north. This retains its original inside folding shutters, also made of chestnut. This is the only room with inside shutters, as all the other windows retain their original outside blinds. Next to the den is the dining room, which has a chestnut wainscot and matching woodwork. Notice the original unusual built-in cupboards in an alcove between this room and the front hall, and a pass-through cupboard to a pantry on the east end of the dining room. A plaster medallion forms a decorative feature in the ceiling. The dining room and two parlors are illuminated with gasoliers which hang from the medallions. This residence originally had an acetylene system for lighting.

While all these architectural features really make the house what it is, the appropriate antique furnishings and decor make this house so exceptional. Decorated entirely in the Victorian tradition, this house stands out on a par with the Italian Villa at the Genesee Country Museum.

No style is any better than any other style. There are good and bad examples of all styles. When you visit the Vanderheite home you will see that a Victorian interior can be truly exquisite, because this is a good example.

The Vanderheites purchased this property in 1976 from the William Boyce family, who purchased it from the Ostrander family in 1946. Mrs. Vanderheite has many artistic talents and not only uses her ability in authentic interior design, but raises and arranges dried flowers in bouquets and wreaths.

No. 6

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pollard

61 South Main Street, Lyndonville

Greek Revival, circa 1830's

This attractive Greek Revival residence of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pollard and family is located at 61 South Main Street in Lyndonville. It is considered one of the historic sites in Orleans County, as it was selected by Irene M. Gibson for inclusion in her book Historic Sites published in 1979

by the Orleans Chapter DAR and the OCHA. Miss Gibson, in her book, calls it the Mudgett-Weld Homestead and indicates that it was built of locally fired brick in the 1830's. She states:

"The property was first owned by Stephen W. Mudgett (1797-1850), a tanner and shoemaker, who was in Ridgeway in 1816, but 'soon removed' to what is now Lyndonville. There he set up a tannery and shoemaking business; his tannery, says Signor, was 'a little below the bridge.'"

"Mudgett received a deed 9 August, 1933, for 50 acres....on the east side of the main street. No record of 'articles' to land in Yates can be found for most sections, but it must be assumed that Mudgett and most other settlers were in Yates clearing land for some time prior to receipt of their deeds. He is said to have built several houses, including this brick one on Main Street.

"A merchant, Royal Chamberlain, bought this house in 1838. Arad Thomas states that Royal Chamberlain was from Vermont and that he 'settled here (at Yates Center) about the time the village began to be established'. He was for one term judge of the Court of Common Pleas.

"The third owner, who bought the house in 1847, was Joseph Babcock. However, the family which owned it longest, from 1863 to 1923, was the Elisha Weld family....In 1817 Thomas Weld brought his family to Ridgeway and settled about a mile south of the present Village of Lyndonville. Thomas' son Elisha was born in Reading, Vermont, and married Laura Parker in 1821.

"In 1855 Elisha listed himself as a farmer in the Census of that year. Eight years later, in 1863, Elisha bought the brick house and was probably the owner who enlarged it, for at that time the Welds had three of their daughters living with them: Jane W. (Mrs. H. G. Scott), Cynthia U. Weld, and Lucy A. Weld. it is said that two of the Weld daughters taught in Yates Academy.

"In 1924, the 'heirs of Elisha Weld' sold the house to Frank B. Visscher. Visscher's wife, Charlotte, sold it in 1934 to Donald R. Wilson and his wife, Margaret B. Wilson."

In 1963 the house was purchased by the Richard Farwells, and in 1979 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pollard acquired the residence.

The house at first glance is Greek Revival in style but, having been built in the 1830's is somewhat transitional in nature. The beautiful front entrance with two sidelights and transom is very bold and unmistakably Greek design. By contrast, the overhang and cornice is somewhat delicate and restrained in character, which is more of a Federal style characteristic. The lintels are Medina sandstone, and a louvered fan or sunburst appears in the front gable. In 1981 the Pollards had the paint removed from the brick, thus restoring the original appearance of the structure. Inside, a spacious hall welcomes those who enter. Of particular note is a Federal style staircase with a most delicate railing and supporting spindles. The newel is also very slender, with spindles which encircle it. The woodwork in some rooms, however, is Greek Revival in character, with deep grooved recesses and large convex moldings.

In decorating the home, Mrs. Pollard has utilized the architectural features, thus enhancing and creating a delightful and historic interior.

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. John Merrill
 Corner Route 98 and Bacon Road (Five Corners)
 Frame Construction with Italianate Details

The residence of Mr. and Mrs. John Merrill is a good example of an old farmhouse which has been added to throughout the generations. It is thought that part of the house, although now disguised, was perhaps built as early as the 1820's. It was, however, during the 1870's that the present overhang and Italianate front door with matching canopy over it were added. Inside, Italianate-style moldings can be seen around the framing of windows and doorways in the first story. The stairway was once reversed and open on one side. This was changed by a previous owner.

The Merrills purchased the home from Marjorie Robbins in 1979. They immediately decided to raise the roof on part of the rear wing, which now offers commodious space for a master bedroom. In 1981 they also added to the living room a fireplace which is constructed of beautiful quarried Medina sandstone.

Decorative appointments occur throughout the house in the form of antique heirloom furnishings. These specimen pieces add a sense of warmth and character to this old house. They are indeed the kinds of furnishings which are totally appropriate for a home of its age. Wallpapers and background color in the house are subtle and subdued in nature. Great care has been taken in furnishings which suggest design and harmony without ostentation. Sir Joshua Reynolds wrote: "Simplicity is an exact medium between too little and too much."

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. William Larimer

204 East State Street

Albion, New York

Colonial Revival

The Larimer residence is actually the family home of Mrs. Larimer. Her grandfather, Benjamin Williams, a lawyer, purchased the house around 1910. Three generations of that family have now lived in this Colonial Revival dwelling. Prior to the Williams family owning the house, it belonged to Albert C. Burrows, also a prominent local attorney. Benjamin Williams defended the only person ever executed in Orleans County back in 1888. Needless to say, Williams lost the case and George Willson lost his life by hanging, due to a murder conviction.

The Larimer residence is greatly changed from when it was the Baptist Parsonage back in the mid-1800's. We judge this house to have been built in stages beginning in the early 1830's. Some floor joists and attic rafters are simply logs hewn even on one side, either to accept flooring or roof boards. It was probably originally Federal in style. The greatest change in the house took place perhaps in the late 1890's. At that time it was made into a five-bay house. The west parlor, bedroom above, and roof line above that were added. Hence, the west parlor was added to the front of the dining room wing in an area which originally had a side porch. At the time of this addition the Colonial Revival style was becoming quite popular. The three dormer windows and lintels under the eaves were a part of that alteration. The window sash in the dormers take on a Colonial pattern in division of panes. Likewise, the front entrance, with its leaded glass sidelights, is also Colonial Revival.

Inside, a very spacious front hall separates the east parlor and library from the west parlor and dining room. At the end of the hall is a Colonial Revival style staircase with two landings. The stained glass Palladian window in this stairwell is an outstanding focal point of the interior in its Colonial Revival mood. Notice the original brass newel-post light.

The Larimer's furnishings are mostly family pieces which have been in the house for eighty years. Mrs. Larimer's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Schnitzer, added the fireplace to the library in the early 1940's, along with the built-in book shelves. The fireplace in the dining room is Gothic in style, which suggests it might have been added in the 1850's.

No. 9

Grounds of Miss Marion Smith
Platten Road, Lyndonville, New York
Smith's Pond - Arboretum (Park along road)

In 1935, William Smith, father of the present owner, acquired an abandoned farm for his family's future home and arboretum. The Smith Estate, known as "Robin Hill", now consists of forty-three acres including seven acres of ponds. After making roadways, the first lawn was mowed in 1938.

The Medina sandstone house, which is not open to visitors, took three years to build. The Smith family moved into this residence in 1951. William Smith and his son George trimmed all the locally-quarried stone to an eight-inch face. Visitors may, however, stroll around the dwelling to view the plantings and shrubbery.

Presently there are over 450 specimens of trees and shrubs in this registered arboretum. Among some unusual species are Giant Sequoia, Black Cypress, and Meta Sequoia, the last thought to be extinct for a number of years. William and George Smith, who both took great pride in their grounds, never bought anything from a nursery. They started their own trees, shrubs, and plants from seeds. They also used wild-flowers, ferns, wild plants, and bulbs to enhance their landscaping. The many shrubs and plants also attract birds, making this a fine sanctuary. Five members of the Smiths are also buried on the estate in a private cemetery. Presently, two gardeners care for these attractive and beautiful grounds.

Visitors may stroll around the grounds following the roadways. One road encircles the ponds, which is about a mile walk. For many years Smith's Pond was a nesting place for swans, until dogs and foxes proved survival of the fittest.

