

Ward House Represents 138 Years Of History

6-23-76



INEZ WARD COBBLESTONES, as seen prior to acquisition by the Society and restoration into the Museum system.

By William Aeberli
The second building for inspection in the cobblestone neighborhood of Childs on the Ridge is the Inez M. Ward dwelling acquired by the

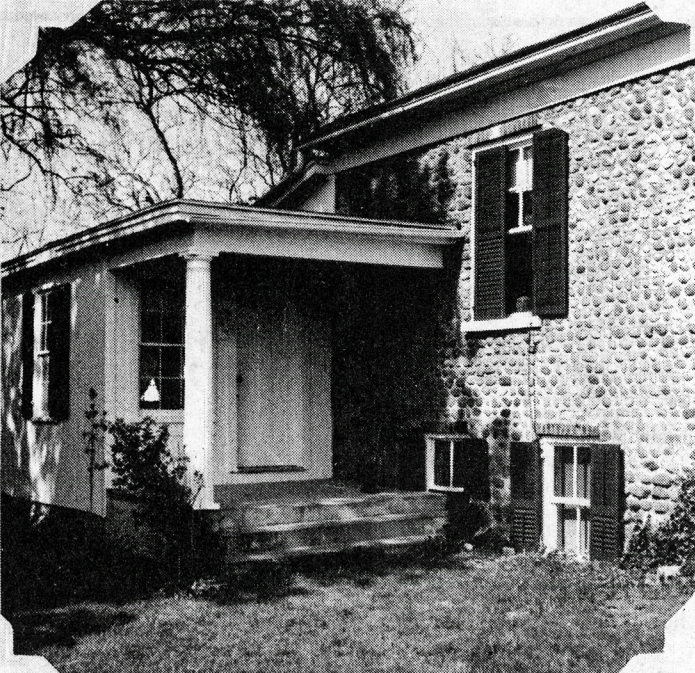
Cobblestone Society in 1975. Located directly across the church lawn Eastward, the house was probably erected around 1838, a little later than the church building.

How many people occupied the premises is not known, but one record states that Horace Greeley, the publisher, took a mortgage on the house around 1863 for a maiden relative or cousin who lived at the place for a few years.

Thirty years ago, Mrs. Inez Ward bought the house and remained at this address until her death at the age of 90 (May 29, 1976) in Texas. Mrs. Ward, in later years, spent her Summers at the cobblestone house and the remainder of the year with her son in Texas, where she died.

Born in the Town of Carlton, she was widowed twice, the first while with child and once again when she purchased the cobblestone. Local folks say that Mrs. Ward was baptized in the cobblestone church next door.

In preparation for this



WEST WALL, seen after completion in period architecture by Wilson Lattin, museum curator.

series, I saw Mrs. Ward while photographing the front of the church a few years ago. She was sitting by the window watching me. When I happened to catch a fleeting glance of her, she smiled and waved and I acknowledged her attention.

However, what will always be remembered about the elderly occupant was the scene. From my view, she was framed in the window, bathed in the serenity of soft sunlight. It was a perfect three-dimensional portrait of a Grandma Moses nature.

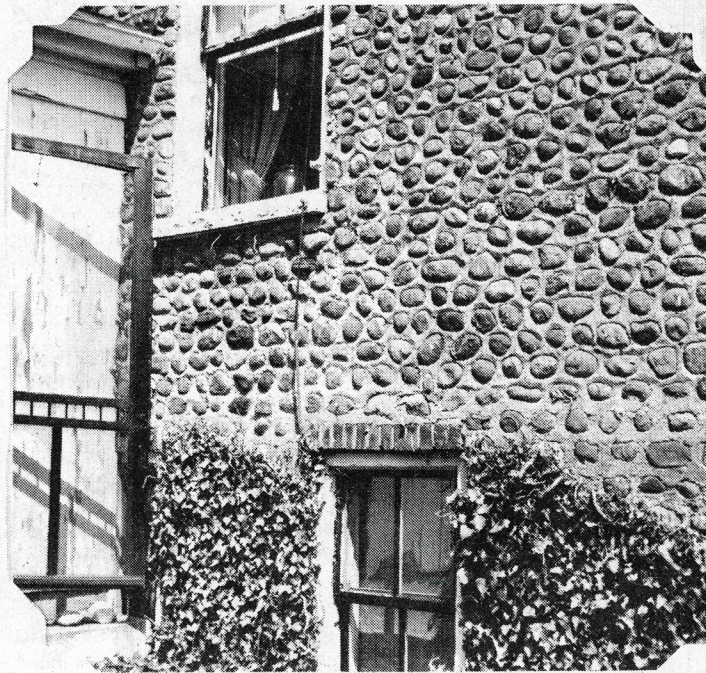
Upon acquisition of the house, a program of restoration commenced with Wilson Lattin, museum curator.

"What we're trying to do,"

he says, "is restore the interior with furnishings representative of Civil War times. It will be a slow and selective process but we'll have some results by next year. In the meantime, visitors this season will still be able to enjoy what is partially finished this year. We expect to remove the old wallpaper and replace it with period design as well as other things relative to period decoration."

The Ward cobblestone is an uncommon building. For such a small size, it is a very compact house and was probably designed that way in the beginning.

Actually, the first floor is



CLOSE-UP of West wall and portion of enclosed porch shown before restoration of exterior.

above ground, which originally had a parlor and two bedrooms; there is no slope to the rear of the property. One must climb stairs to reach the front door.

On the ground floor originally (which we tend to call the cellar) were two bedrooms, a kitchen, pantry and coal cellar.

The wooden portion was probably added around the early 1850's when the kitchen was brought up to the first floor and a dining room established.

Thirty years ago, the West porch section was glassed-in with storm sash and it is supposed that the garage was attached to the East side of the house around the same

time, with used lumber for material.

Lattin states that in order to display the exterior of the home with no obstruction from the roadside view, shrubs were removed and the garage was taken down. Also the West porch section was uncovered again and a Greek Revival pillar (origin unknown) was placed at the end for support.

"It was kind of a lucky break for me," he says, "the pillar had been thrown out for trash in Albion and I picked it up last Summer and saved it. I had no idea when I brought it down to the place that it would fit perfectly in the porch!"