

Cobblestone masonry is a technique used regionally in Upstate New York in domestic, civic and ecclesiastical buildings. It was used from about 1828 - 1854 in the prevailing architectural styles of the time. The majority of cobblestone bldgs. are in the Greek Revival style. [Explain earlier and later examples]

The greatest concentration of cob. arch. is found in a radius of about 75 miles around Rochester.

The technique develops from the most easily accessible bldg. material of the area: ~~the glacial debris which carried contains these cobblestones. In technique it resembles ~~many~~ European rubble wall structures~~

The cobblestones contained in the debris which was deposited in this area by the advancing and retreating glaciers. Cobblestone masonry ^{is} ~~can~~ be classified as coursed rubble wall masonry as distinguished from random rubble wall masonry.

Before I go into the more detailed geological aspect of cobblestone architecture, I like to show some of the more outstanding examples of domestic cobblestone architecture. [For civic and ecclesiastical please see exhibit in hall.]

A few terms which I use in describing the buildings have to be explained in advance:

First of all, what is a cobblestone?

A cobb. is a fragment of rock from about 2 1/2 to 10 in. in diameter which has broken off from the parent rock and has been transported from its original position. During ^{this} transportation erosion takes place ~~through rubbing~~ ^{against each other} ~~or the action of water~~ and the stone is more or less rounded. - Long travel - short travel; igneous or sedimentary rock.

nature-made
shaped
not man-made

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Wall corners are re-inforced by cut stone quoins (occasionally brick) in order to define size of cobblestone. I use the term 10 and 10 many "rows per quoin" (standard ^{height} ~~size~~ of quoin 12"). [Slide front 4 side 3].

You will hear me refer to three different regions: western, eastern ^{in relation to Rochester} and southern.

Each of these regions has its own characteristic building material which I will explain later ^{Fourth Group} ~~also~~ inter-

regional houses: bldg. material not native but transported from the Lake.

I will show how some examples of domestic dwellings in the customary chronological order of styles:

Hereunder - Fisher

basically 18th c. plan and elevation.

"Blockmass" : ^{symmetrical distribution of heights} transverse or elliptical

lanthorn - southern region;

semi-circular light west of Rochester,

smaller dimensions, probably earlier in date.

earliest
origin of
cobbles arch.
west of Rochester
(Schmidt says
Mendon - Perth)

1. Hereunder House, Farmington (Ontario)
Poultney R.

1832 date stone one of earliest dated.
stone: glaciated "primitive" texture,
almost boulders.

2. Fisher Farm, Scottsville (Norfolk)
Southern R.

probably 1840

stone: glaciated

3. Moses Hayden House, York (Livingstone)
Southern R.
1828 date by county historian. [First
County judge]

stone: glaciated

Stylistic conglomeration evident ^{point out} but
its history not documented.

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Greek Revival houses, many varieties
of plans and elevations

Two typical Greek cottages, both eastern region
4. Wychemere Farm, W. of Pultneyville,
Greek cottage (Wayne Cty) Eastern R.

Probably 1840

Stone: Lake washed red sandstone.
(vicinity of Lake)

Pilasters cover corner re-inforcements.
(characteristic of area!)

Story + 1/2 with wing, frieze windows.

~~(Mention other plans: 1 1/2 long side to
road, no wing eastern R.)~~

65. Tater House, Castile (Wyoming) Southern R.

1844 date stone. Center section typical of Greek
of area.

stone: flacciated squarish (short travel from
parent rock!)

[Typical Upstate N.Y. elevation but
only cobble of the kind (?)]

56. Zimmer Waters House, Pultneyville (Wayne)
Eastern R.

1850 (account books)

stone: lake washed red sand stone,
six to a quoire
mention plan
Vicinity of Lake

7. Tiffani House, Canandaigua (Ontario)
Southern R.
1846 (History of Ontario County)

stone: flacciated, 4 to quoire
thickened door joints (Shaw's design), over
Pultney's 1808

~~several~~ other houses in that neighbourhood have battered doorjamb and window posts.

Center salience unusual. - Lime kiln on premises for commercial production.

Two porticoed Greek Revival House
8. Barrow House, Geneva (Ontario)

Both done portico
Fuler - regional - 1848 date stone
stone: red lakewashed, (pencil out!) 5 to 9 in
"Masonry signature"

Not many other porticoed Greek Rev. houses.
Mention Holland Patent.

9. House in Liverpool, (Oneonta)
[Syracuse editors]
Fuler - regional

stone: lakewashed of igneous origin

Fuler - columnation interesting.

Columns on porch are continued to rear.

Other Syracuse houses usually "upright and wing", all very much the same plan ^{but not} regional material - Name of Chapman as mason prominent.

~~(Pompeii Hollow - house on Valley Drive
[Joseph Smith worked on farm])~~

Romantic Revival Houses

10. ~~Leading over into the Romantic Revival,~~
although itself Greek

Octagon in Madison (Madison) Porter R
pre - Orson Fowler; 1840 built for Dr. James

~~Coolidge, who also built the polygonal
block in Bouckville in 1850.~~

- 11 King Farm, Phelps (Ontario) Gothic cottage
 Juler - regional, perhaps the earliest
 Juler - regional
 1842 ~~[??]~~
 stone: lake washed red sandstone, 5 to 6 in.
 cobblestone over windows
 plan similar to the many story and 1/2
 Greek cottage. Different in stylistic
 detail.
~~Similar Gothic cottage nearby, 1850~~

- 12/13 Stridger and Rippley
John Newroe House, Stridger (Okonouaga)
 Juler - regional
 1851 family records.
 Architect! the Englishman Thomas Atkinson
 & speak of research on subject ^{hand books} ~~†~~: Also
~~built Gothic cottage on 24 Van Rosten~~
~~Street, Auburn~~
 Stone: lake washed igneous from
 Oswego beach
 Point out: cobbles arches and Masonry
 sign (also Greek & Barron House)
~~John~~
 over

J. Rippley Jr. House, Geneva (Ontario)

Faler - regional

1854 latest known date of domestic dwelling.

Point out: arches ^(King Cottage), door treatment, ^(Barron House) clastone, interior (Adkinson?) ^(Barron House)

~~House in Lyndonville (Orleans)~~
~~inter-regional; w. of Roch~~
~~point out difference to variety e. of Roch.~~
~~several in this style, each have different textures (very fine herring bone work)~~

mention inter-regional
 w. of Roch.

Masonry techniques

History: from Roman rubble wall through pre Romanesque in France into the English Flint wall of Sussex and Essex. Cobblestone cottages in Yorkshire ^{England} just got material about of cobbles "mason" who came from Yorkshire.

Discuss three techniques.

Two aspects: 1) Wall structure

2) Wall embellishment

The aspect of the European origin of cottest.
masonry I shall discuss very ~~but~~ lightly

Three examples of

Masonry techniques

left: three interlocking vertical layers.
glaciated material. Southern region
Does not lend itself to wall
establishment by its own material.

center: rubble wall, boulding stones
~~(Rough)~~ Lake washed material
Eastern region

right: veneer in front of field stone
wall. Most widely used. Technique
described in 1856 builder's hand-
book (Buffalo publ.)

"What is called cobblestone work
looks very well in cottages. The walls
are built of the roughest and most
irregular stones, and the outside
thickly coated with strong mortar
into which are hammered wet cobble-
stones, forming regular horizontal
courses of similar stones"

Least durable technique

Discuss poor work

Water-laid material?

Mortar joints

discuss very briefly

Geological background

Glacial Moraine and Brumley heap

Lake Michigan shore: Ridge Rd.

Present shore line and material found,
 Gneiss going u.-e., yellow sandstone
 underlying sandstone - color
 Reeking sandstone

Limestone and sand

Glacial Moraine Route 5+20

Wyoming deposit

Brumley's Palmyra - Syracuse -
 south of Rock.

Southern Region

charact. Glaciated stone
 Limestone for solid stone members
 of wall

Grey - yellow general tonality.
 "5-14-3" treatment.
 glaciated and water-laid
 old stone: lime quartzite granite

Breaker Reeking House, Scottsville 1934
 and nearby gravel pit
 limestone quoin - three rows to
 quoin. Roslar grey. No attempt

North - eastern region

Charact. : ^{warm} brown - red sandstones.

Solid stone members red sandstone or limestone.

Wall embellishment by use of different colors.

Near Lake all lakewashed material, further inland water worn glaciated material, but same ^{warm} brown - red tonality

Mistletoe House, Lake Road 1844

flat arches shaly sandstone
quarries sandstone

- 1) front - side quartzites (metamorphic rock)
- 2) other side : salt and pepper effect
discuss other ways of front-side treatment

~~Jinri Waters house, Palsneyville 1850~~

~~discuss facements and water table~~

Newleadyke House ^{north-east} — north of Waters house
point out color of soil and colors of house.

Close-up and back, about 200' away from house, where cobbles were gathered.

A typical treatment of the Altoon Bay region: colored banding (mention other proportions 2:2 - 4:4)

Teller House, Altoon - late 1840th
~~mention types further inland~~
~~House on Estate Ridge Rd~~
~~same locality but not lake washed material~~

To show the difference between the color of the western and eastern sand stone these two cut-stone examples are most expressive.

Left house near Pulneyville

Right house in Medina - notice pink

W-charact.: irregular large stones. Pinkish tonality, local sandstone quoin. Wall embellishment: banding herring bone etc.

Billings House, R. R. west. 1835 slate stone.

Block mass house of modest dimensions. Semi circular light

Window lintels brick headers in the dark glazed finish found in

Pennsylvania and New Jersey
 (older possibility that brick members suggest early dates.) Reiger House

~~Laure house 14~~

~~Water - worn cobbles - possibly keokuk.
Interesting texture frequently encountered
in that region.~~

~~Detail of house said to have datestone
1817 : Herringbone banding. Notice
the shale~~

Blodgett - McCale House 1840

and Chugg House perhaps same time
discuss banding and flat arches
~~to the~~ ~~Bo~~ Herring bone banding
convenient levelling course. Water-
worn stone for banding
Farther west more grey shale.

~~Ruger House date unknown~~
discuss inter-regional W of Rock.

Finally I am tracing the story of one
of the inter-regional houses, the Keuro
House in Elbridge

Igneous stone - lead joint
beach in Oswego, 50 miles north.