

Cobblestone House Still Sound as a Brick

By MARILYN RICE

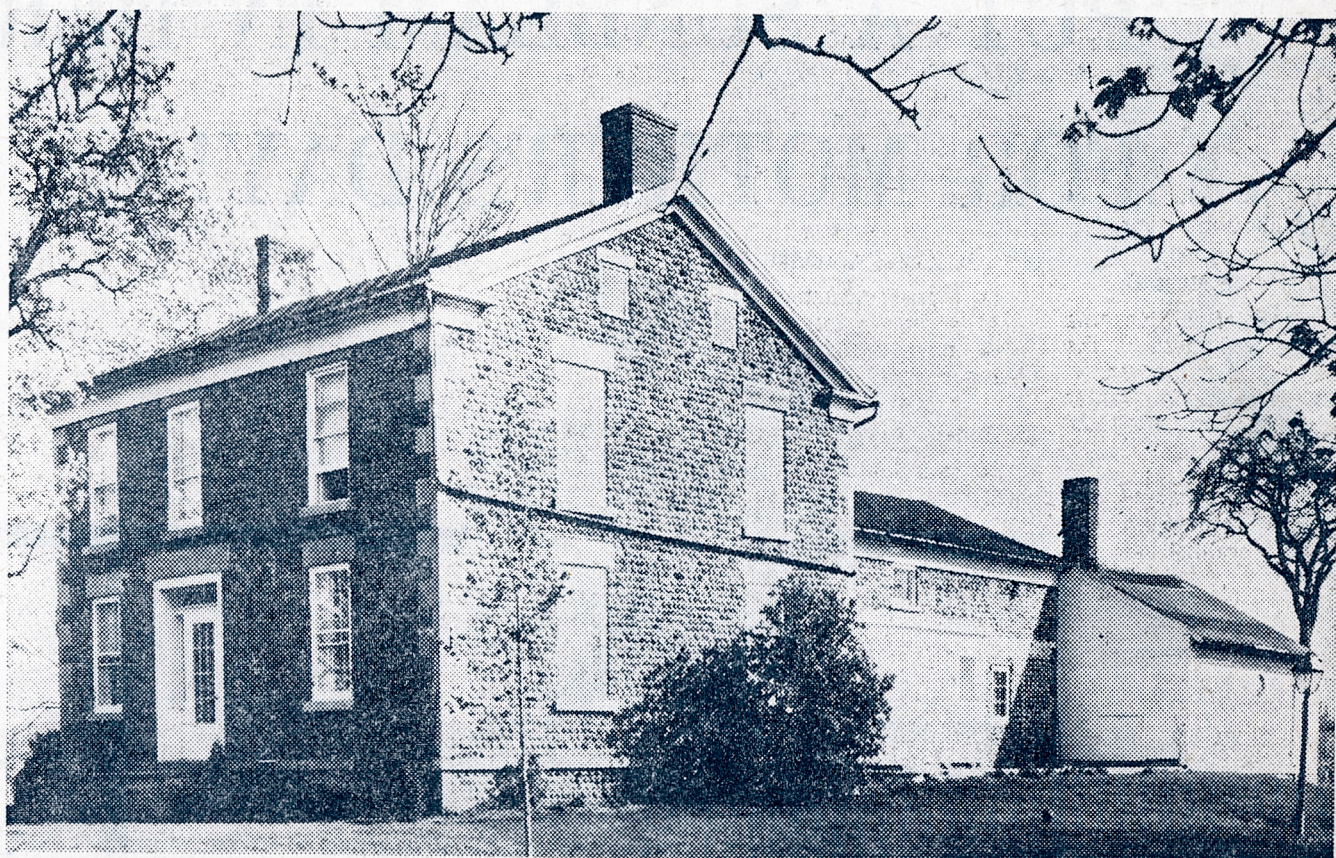
The Frederic R. Bean family of Sheffer Road, Scottsville, live in a home that needs no air conditioning, soundproofing or repairs. The large cobblestone house has been a comfortable home for about 130 years and undoubtedly would last another century without any changes.

The two-story cobblestone house was built for Peter Sheffer II in the early part of the 19th Century, explained Mrs. Bean. The Beans bought the house 19 years ago and since have added oil heat, a modern kitchen and a bay window but they have not changed the original plan of the house.

The wide board floors—hemlock downstairs and pine upstairs—are original as is most of the plaster throughout the house.

"YOU CAN'T NAIL pictures up on these walls," remarked Mrs. Bean, as she pointed out the two-foot thick wall through the center of the house. The mortar and stone walls act as soundproofing ("You can't even hear the children practicing their instruments") and insulation ("The house is always cool in the summer").

"Plumbers and carpenters don't like to work in this house because the walls and floor are so



D&C photo by Joe Watson

BUILT FOR PERMANENCE — The Frederic R. Bean home in Sheffer Road, Scottsville, is in as good

condition as when it was built in the early 1800s. Cobblestone house is one of many in Rochester area.

thick," said Mrs. Bean.

Ceiling fixtures provide the light upstairs because of the difficulty of putting in wiring for electrical outlets. The floor boards, more than two inches thick, could be sanded for years without any damage."

The window sills throughout the house are 24 inches deep and the panes in the front windows are the original glass.

The floor plan of the home includes a living room at the left of the center entrance way with entertaining room for the children aged 14, 16, 19, 21) and a laundry room at the right.

A FAMILY room-dining room is across the middle of the house, with the kitchen at the back. Upstairs are four bedrooms, a

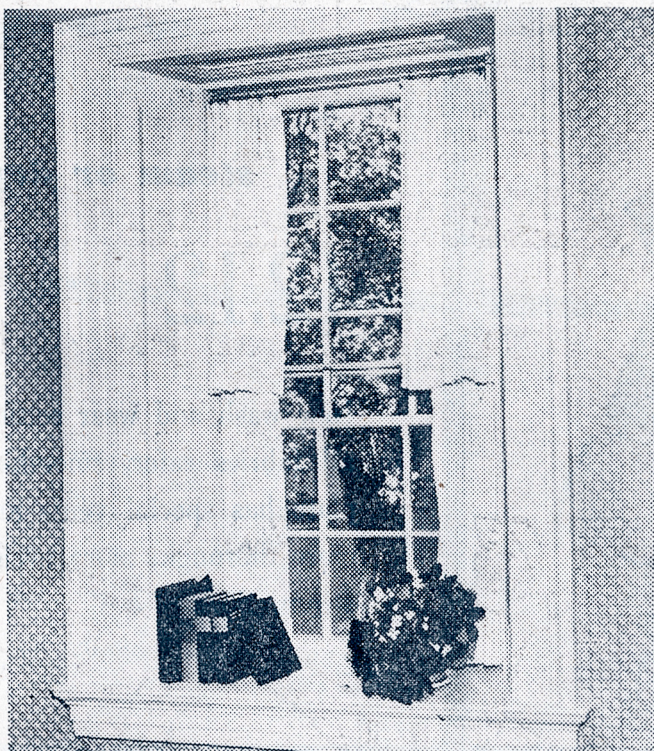
bath and two storage rooms. The upstairs room at the back of the house has open handcut beams in the ceiling covered with big nails that used to hold hams and vegetables for drying.

The only fireplace in the house is in the family room that once was the kitchen. The house had to be heated by some other means, explained Mrs. Bean, but no

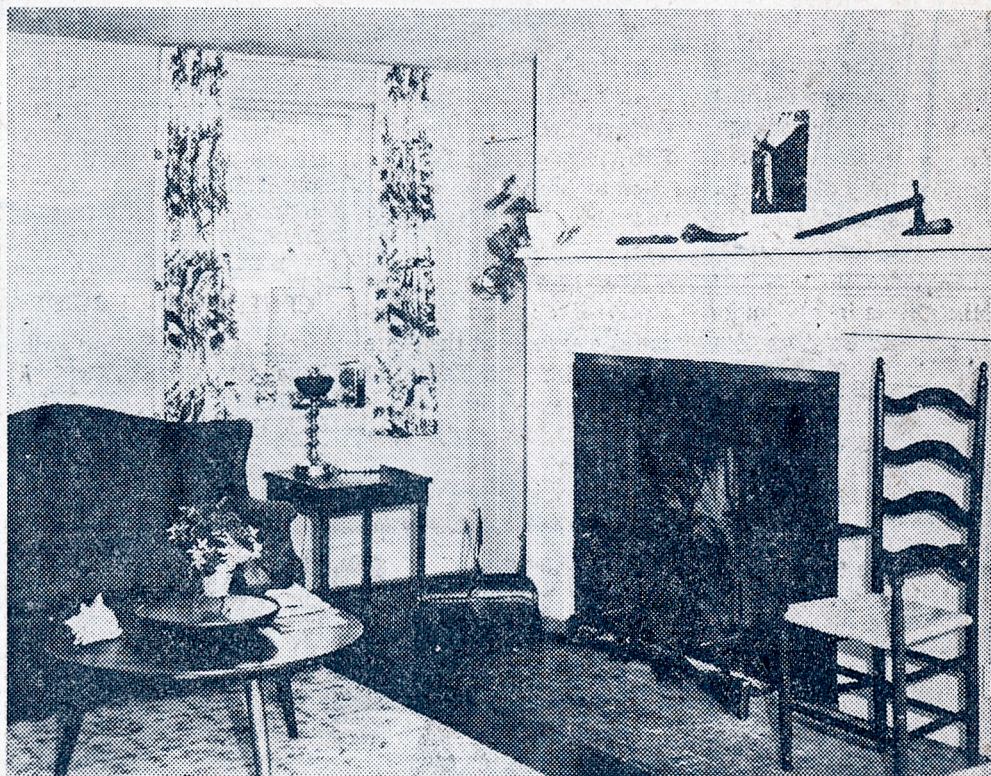
one is positive what was used.

The dutch oven at the right of the old fireplace had been bricked up by former residents. A cupboard at the left may have been used as the pantry.

A bay window in the dining room was built after the Beans had the old wood dining room, once used for hired hands, ripped down.



DEEP WINDOW—All the windows in Bean home are 24 inches deep. Panes of glass are the original. Carving around window is found only in one room.



ORIGINAL FIREPLACE — This fireplace, now in the family room, was the

original kitchen fireplace. Cupboard at left may have been used as pantry.