

Their Dream House Was Built in 1842

Rochester at Home

By Jean Giambrone

Laurence Greene is willing to wager that his wife, Helen, can tell you the location of almost every cobble-stone house in the vicinity of Rochester.

He says that her great desire to live in one is the reason she researched them off and on for 25 years. "Buying one and fixing it" to suit themselves was delayed many years because, while they were native Rochesterians, Greene and his family moved to California for a while and later New York City because of his work.

When they came back to stay in 1956, the search was on again after they moved "temporarily" into a Pittsford home. It was seven years ago that the couple's wish came

true when they found "the perfect cobblestone" on Fox Road in Farmington.

"Nicest part," Mrs. Greene says, "is that the house was in slick up-to-date, already remodeled condition. Years ago we used to think we'd like to fix a place to suit ourselves. But finding one in this great condition at this point in our lives is even more ideal. The only thing we've done is make replacements — in fixtures and appliances.

"We also had the cabinets and bookcases across the back wall of the living room put in . . . and then just finished it off with our own decor."

The new bookcases were made to be a perfect blend with the rest of the house, about 1842 vintage. Carl Schmitt, a foremost authority on cobblestones, designed the wall, visiting the house and even taking prints of the existing woodwork so that it could be made to match.

The woodwork in the house is one of the features the Greenes like most. It's wide intricately notched and at the windows, it's splayed, that is, it widens out as it nears the floor. At each window there are sills deep enough to sit on, indicating the great depth of the walls.

To make the woodwork even more beautiful, the Greenes have had it painted in a deep green color to blend with the golds and greens of the living room.

The previous owners, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond De Volder, now of Sodus Point, did a masterful job — and most of it themselves — in remodeling the house, the Greenes are quick to point out.

The kitchen, still quaint and countryish, has a work island built in and all modern conveniences. A woodburning fireplace had to be restored by De Volder — now is handsome and big in a light red brick with raised hearth.

There are new pine cabinets. The wall paneled over the fireplace, also done in pine, was painted white by the Greenes, a striking background for the wall grouping of framed pictures of food and old black utensils and school clock they have hanging there.

The living room originally was partitioned to make three

rooms. With the partitions torn down, just the living area is 27 by 15 feet and then there is a spacious dining-L.

Helen says most of the furnishing are things that have been theirs or come from "some relative's home, attic or garage." They follow the antique line that suits a cobblestone — a medallion Victorian sofa, covered in green, old mahogany chests, a cherry an tiger maple end table given by a friend, and an old pendulum clock, the working parts of which are wood.

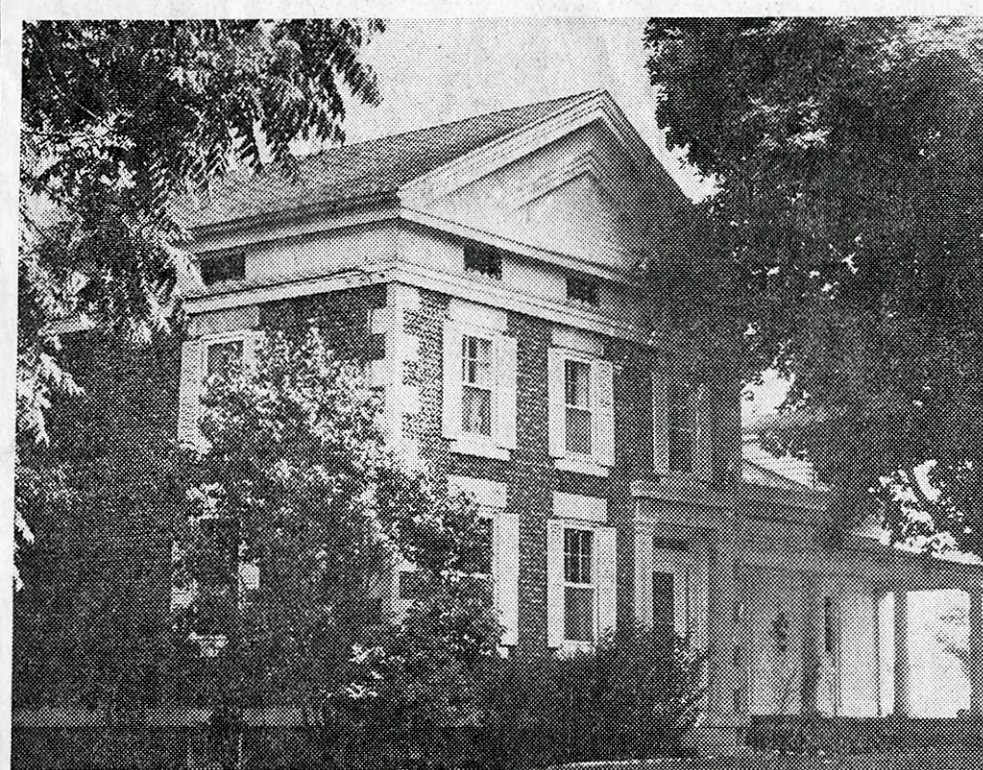
One antique Helen did buy is the coffee table in front of one of three sofas in the living room. It's an old pine butter worker, complete with gears and roller and small hole for draining off water. It's been mounted on black wrought iron legs to complement the black iron of the gears.

A prized painting is a huge oil done by Charles P. Gruppe of Greene's grandfather, the later Charles A. Greene, founder of Greene's Nursery and a chapter member of Oak Hill. The painting shows him with golf club in hand. Mr. Greene never took up the game until he was 60 and that's why the Laurence Greenes are especially proud of the leather and silver trophy he won as a tournament prize. It's on display in the living room.

The house is situated on 110 acres and the family, especially likes the location because they can look out from any window of the house — including the old grilled covered rifle windows in the attic — and see "unspoiled nature. It's true rural living," Greene says.

Greene, retired marketing auto fleet administrator at Kodak, and his wife, also have a condominium at Hilton Head, S.C. and with two other couples share a place in the Thousand Islands. The Greenes parents of Mrs. Judy Haslun of Bloomfield, Conn., and Michael and Kay, college students.

When the Greenes aren't at one of their homes, you'll probably find them at a pro golf tournament. So far this year, they've seen the National PGA Championship, the Masters and the U.S. open and in the fall it'll be the Heritage Classic at Hilton Head.



Cobblestone home on Fox Road, Farmington, built in 1842, is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Green.