

Carriage Shop in Business 133 Years

By Mrs. Robert L. Holley

Long before Henriettans envisioned Miracle Mile, shop-

ping plazas and the ribboning Thruway that ties us to the rest of the state and nation,

industry thrived in our town!

Hub of "big business" activities in West Henrietta was

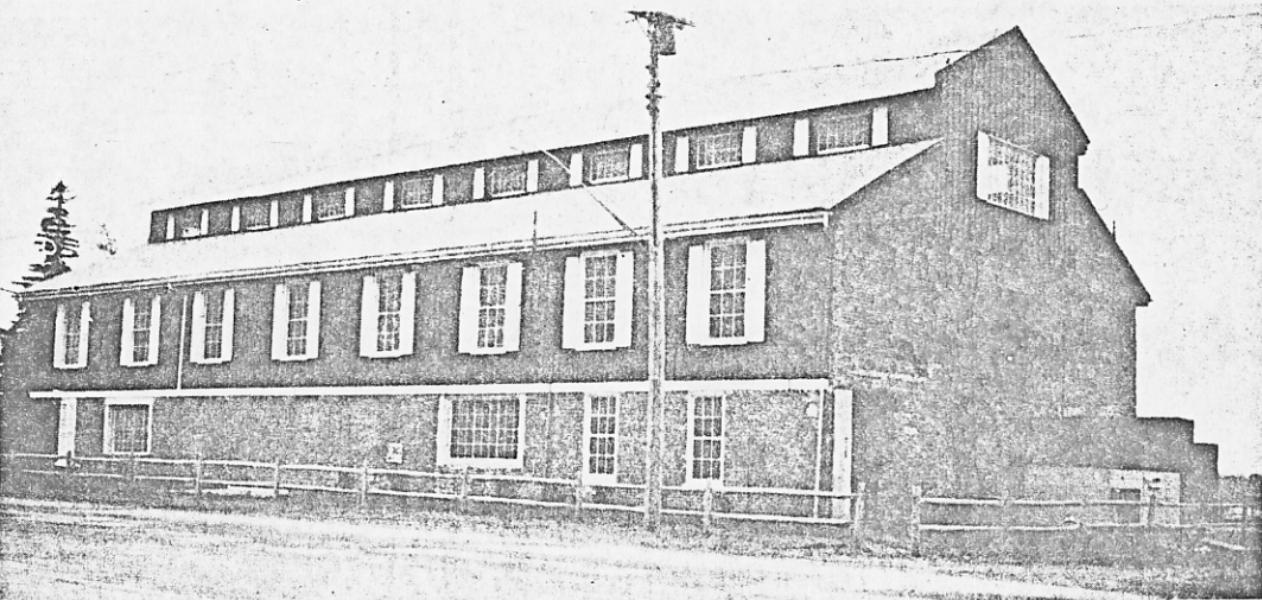
the cobblestone building at 5393 W. Henrietta Rd., proud witness for 133 years to the passing parade of progress.

In 1835 the Williams brothers, Alexander and Joseph, after having been in the blacksmith trade together for 15 years, decided to go separate ways.

Joseph purchased the then new, large cobblestone structure north of the west village, while Alexander removed to the center of the village to set up a smithy and carriage shop (today the garage standing on property of Mr. and Mrs. H. Albert Gay, 5795 W. Henrietta Rd.).

Carl Schmidt, architect and historian, wrote of the building

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THE CARRIAGE SHOP is now the Carriage "Stop."

Carriage Shop is an Ol' Timer

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in his book, "Cobblestone Masonry," (1966) that it was 50 feet wide, 116 feet long. "Originally it was longer, a section. . . was razed on the north end."

The first story of fieldstone cobblestone stood four courses high on the street front. The second floor and loft were wooden-framed, supported by 15-inch-thick oak beams.

One can only imagine the hustle and bustle of life within these walls during those long ago, mid-19th century days. Anvil and hammer met in clanging chorus. Animals snuffed and stamped their hooves restlessly on the earthen floor.

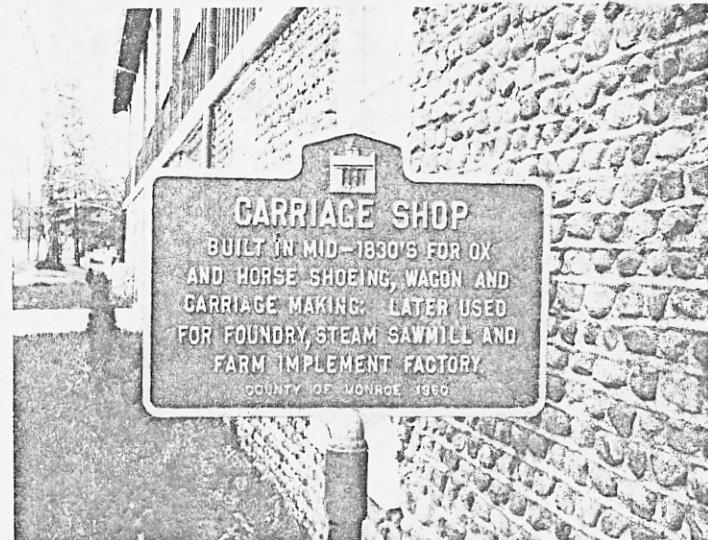
Heat rose in shimmering waves from the seven open forges. And, men talked on, as they have always done, of prices and politics while waiting for oxen and horses to be shod. *From ECK Kalsbeck*!

On the second floor wagons were built, painted, and fitted, then rolled down a ramp when finished. Mr. William Lees, Sr., who now lives next door to the "shop," reported display rooms may have been situated across the street on other property Joseph owned, seen on an 1872 map.

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In later years Joseph enlarged the building to house a foundry, steam saw mill and farm implement factory, and added to his services the making of fine carriages as noted in Town Historian Eleanor Kalsbeck's "Age of Homespun" (1966).

An 1865 census report gleaned from Nancy Lu Gay's "History of a Village" records Joseph Williams' production for that year as: 25 buggies, 50 lumber wagons, 13 rollers, 10 plows and 25 sleighs--a ly admirable inventory!



MONROE COUNTY donated this marker to the Carriage Shop in 1960.

At one time over 50 men were in his employ, including farmers, apprentices, wagon makers, blacksmiths and laborers. *CK*.

They took their meals in his home next door (destroyed by fire in the early 40's, and rebuilt by Mr. Lees in 1945). Some lived with the Joseph Williams family; others lodged in small houses on Erie Station and Brooks Roads. *CK*

Mrs. Charles Zornow, 1326 Erie Station Rd., graciously provided further information on the history of the building. In 1900 her husband's grandfather, William Smith, bought it and continued the blacksmith and wagon shop for some 22 years.

Then ownership passed on to Mr. and Mrs. George Zornow, and their son, Charles, but the building stood idle until 1930.

With the advent of the automobile and the fast tempo of a new era, the building at this time was converted to the "Cobblestone Garage" service and gas station, managed by William Droney, Joseph

LaBarr and finally Carl Richlin, who operated the business from 1940 to 1962.

In 1960 the property was sold to Mr. Gordon Cartwright, who, in turn, sold it to Ray Hylan and Gus Werner, the present owners. The building and land are being leased by Mr. Carl Borghi and Mr. Armand Lannuti, who will open a newly-enlarged, air conditioned "Carriage Stop" restaurant and party house in June.

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A sneak preview of the expansive interior with second floor mezzanine and spacious banquet facilities shows it will easily accommodate up to 460 persons. The original cobblestone walls remain, and many original hand hewn beams, fastened with wooden dowls, spikes and ring hooks where smiths hung their tools are still intact.

An old forging pit has been converted into a side board for waitresses. Antiques such as horses' collars, pewter-ware, earthen jugs, and an old gramophone deck the walls and corners.

Leaded, stained glass Tiffany shades (collected from all over the state) cast myriad lights upon the rooms and further enhance the old-fashioned flavor of the scene.

In 1960 the County of Monroe placed a marker in front of the carriage shop door, ever commemorating this important landmark, not yet conquered by Time, but a lasting link with Henrietta's history of 150 changing years.