

SECRET ROOM IN COBBLESTONE HOUSE FOUND IN REMODELING

Cobblestone house in West Henrietta remodeled by the Barr & Creelman Company

" A secret room with iron bars at the two small windows on the grade level was found by workmen in a cobblestone dwelling in West Henrietta, modernized by the Barr & Creelman Company. The room was in the cellar, even the shutters on the windows being designed to prevent anyone from looking in. It is believed the room and house may have been used as a station of the "underground railway" to harbor slaves fleeing from the South during the Civil War.

The house was built in 1832, according to a date cut in the stone above the front door. The large Colonial entrance has been retained, although the house has been made entirely modern throughout.

Ten large rooms have been provided, the high ceilings and large deep windows admitting plenty of light. The walls are over two feet thick, the windows being recessed. Several windows stretch almost from floor to ceiling. There are four bedrooms.

An inclosed porch has been built across the front of the house, with a sun porch on the rear of the unusually large living room. In back of the kitchen a laundry has been built, while a former pantry has been converted into a breakfast nook.

Modern kitchen and bathroom equipment has been installed. A special pump and tank has been built in the cellar to provide water from a large cistern in the rear. There also is a deep well on the property, supplementing the regular water supply.

Colonial papers have been used on the walls. A three-car garage of concrete has been built on the rear. The property originally was a large farm but has since been cut up. About an acre of ground remains with the house now. The property has been landscaped.

From clipping given the Henrietta Town Historian, Eleanor Kalsbeck, by the Irondequoit Town Historian, Miss West, at Brockport, April 18, 1961.

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fireplace removed.