

POST - VOGEL HOUSE

5582 West Henrietta Road in village of West Henrietta, N.Y.

Abel Post built this fine home in 1832. His initials and the date were carved into the keystone above the entrance. In 1816 Abel Post arrived ~~in the~~ ^{AT THIS} frontier town with his wife and three young children in an open lumber wagon. Within sixteen years he had prospered, enlarged his family to nine children and built this cobblestone mansion with walls varying from 30 inches thick at the basement to 24 inches above ground level.

Success~~ve~~^{ve} owners have altered the house and also added many interesting features. The one fireplace remaining in the living room is not the original, but a cast "Morris Stone" fireplace manufactured in Rochester about 1930. Painted white, it ~~does~~ closely resembles an early nineteenth century wooden fireplace mantle. In the 1930's, Mr. John Weider built the three-car garage and also used wood from the former summer kitchen to construct a laundry and sun room at the rear. Mr. Weider added modern conveniences and a bathroom from part of the wide upper hall. An enclosed front porch was also added, plastering over much of the cobblestone in the process.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Vogel purchased the home in 1946. One of his first projects was to remove the porch. He carefully chipped away the plaster to restore the original contours of the stone and mortar beneath. Even the once gilded keystone was returned to its natural state. Lumber from the porch was used to create a workshop attached to the garage. A kitchen window was added.

The Vogels have also done extensive landscaping, transferring bushes and shrubs from the corner lot to the front of the house, and planting their own gardens where tulips, ivy and lilies of the valley mingle with green lawns in the shadow of giant poplar and maple trees.

Local legend has frequently connected Abel Post with the underground railroad of the 1850's. Toward the end of the nineteenth century, during the occupancy of Frank Stanton, workmen discovered a "secret room", big enough to conceal two persons, in the basement. Over a century later, a descendant, John Post of Henrietta, recalled that his great grandfather was a staunch abolitionist and remembered tales of the secret room from his father and grandfather. In spite of the best efforts of area historians to substantiate this, no definite link with the underground railroad has been established.

The unusually tall, first floor windows would appear to be a Victorian improvement of the late 19th century, ~~handsomely~~ executed.

HANSDOMELY

R. Fraach
Text - Cobblestone Town
guide