

# ‘This House Is Human’

The Cobblestone Society of Chilts, N. Y., has asked town historians throughout the state to provide it with information on cobblestone structures in their areas. Irondequoit Historian Maude I. West reports Irondequoit has three such structures. This is the second of three articles on them.

By DON MILLER

The next time you drive along St. Paul Boulevard, slow down when you reach the vicinity of Armstrong Avenue.

There you'll see one of the town's oldest homes — and one of only three cobblestone structures in Irondequoit.

The home at 2523 St. Paul, opposite Armstrong, is nearly obscured by a tall hedge and a number of stately shade trees.

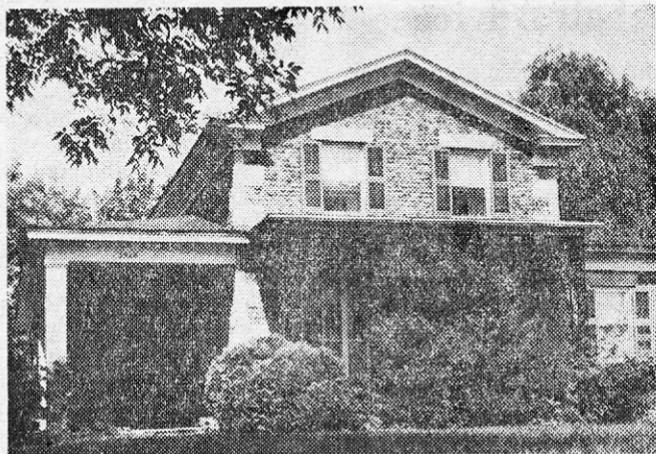
Owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Walter K. Grimwood since 1948, the house has been kept in excellent repair.

Its owners and Town Historian Maude I. West think the house was erected about 1835.

It's also the opinion of Miss West that the fourth owner of the property, Henry N. Langworthy, erected the home.

Fifteen other owners have occupied the home in the past century.

“It's a house you have to adjust to because it won't adjust to you,” said Mrs. Grim-



wood, the mother of three children.

She likes to compare the cobblestone structure with some of today's modern ranch homes, which, she says, often have an “un-lived-in” look about them.

“This house,” she said with a grin, “is human. It has its faults.”

Her husband, a physicist at Eastman Kodak, finds the house “fascinating,” she said, “because of the beautiful way it holds the heat without fluctuations.”

The principal factor behind this phenomenon, Mrs. Grimwood said, is the thickness of the walls and partitions—18 inches.

The thick walls are responsible for one of the most appealing features of the home, according to the Grimwoods—its deep-seated windows with their wide, cupboard-like shelves.

Another feature of the

house that amuses visitors but has taxed Mrs. Grimwood's ingenuity at decorating is the dining room.

Only about 10 feet long and 14 feet wide, the room has no less than five doors: One leading to an outside porch, a second to the kitchen, another to the living room and others to the basement and a closet.

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UPSTAIRS, the home has two good-sized bedrooms under ceilings that slope gently on one side. They're connected with a hallway that has a round window, cut through the 18-inch thick wall, that resembles an oversized porthole on a ship.

The roof is dominated by two whitewashed chimneys that lead up through partitions from two stone fireplaces on the first floor.

A third chimney at the rear of the house now serves the gas heating unit.