

'I'm Fond of That Building'

The Cobblestone Society of Childs, 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 last of three articles on them.

One of Irondequoit's most noted landmarks, seen by thousands each day, is undergoing another change.

It's the 131-year-old cobblestone building at 2035 Ridge Road East, just west of Culver Road.

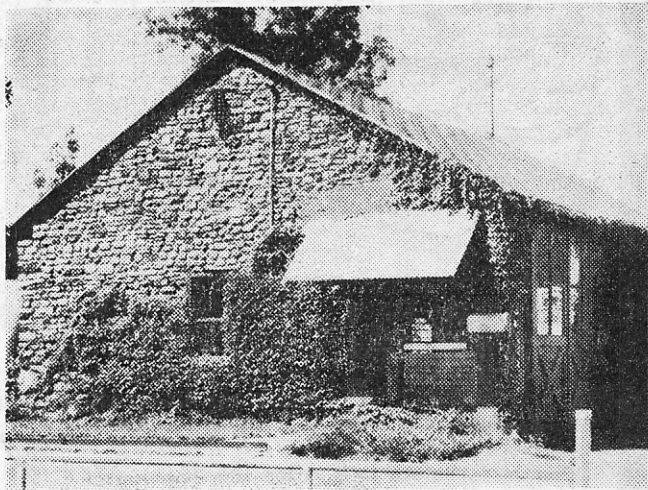
Originally a blacksmith shop and recently a gift shop, the building now has been leased by its owners for a furniture refinishing business.

It's at least the seventh different business the building has been used for since Irondequoit pioneer Ransford Perron had the cobblestone structure erected in 1830.

Since 1948, the building has been owned by Mr. and Mrs. Gerard E. Richter of 68 Walzer Road. Richter operates a welding and iron work shop in a building near the cobblestone landmark.

He began the business in 1945, renting the cobblestone building for a shop from the previous owners.

During its long stand on Ridge Road, the building also has housed a heating firm, a repair shop for



Model-T Fords and a sporting goods store.

From September 1951 to May of this year, Mrs. Richter used the cobblestone building as a gift shop.

"It was my little baby, a hobby more or less," Mrs. Richter said.

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DESPITE its 18-inch-thick walls, the cobblestone construction has its disadvantages when the wind blows, Mrs. Richter said.

She explained that over the years the mortar or adhesive used to cement the cobblestones together has loosened somewhat "when we had a good wind from the west, the dust blew through cracks and covered everything," she said.

The building today still has its original wood beams and a big iron ring that

horses were tied to when it was a blacksmith shop.

The structure served as a meeting place for the town's pioneers back in the days when the town government didn't have a home.

Since early days, the only major alteration to the landmark has been the addition of windows for display purposes.

The building contained its original wood floor until about ten years ago when a cement one was installed.

Mrs. Richter said the structure has been photographed by hundreds of tourists over the years.

Do she and her husband have any plans to sell or raze it?

"Oh, no!" Mrs. Richter exclaimed. "I guess I'm just terribly fond of that building."