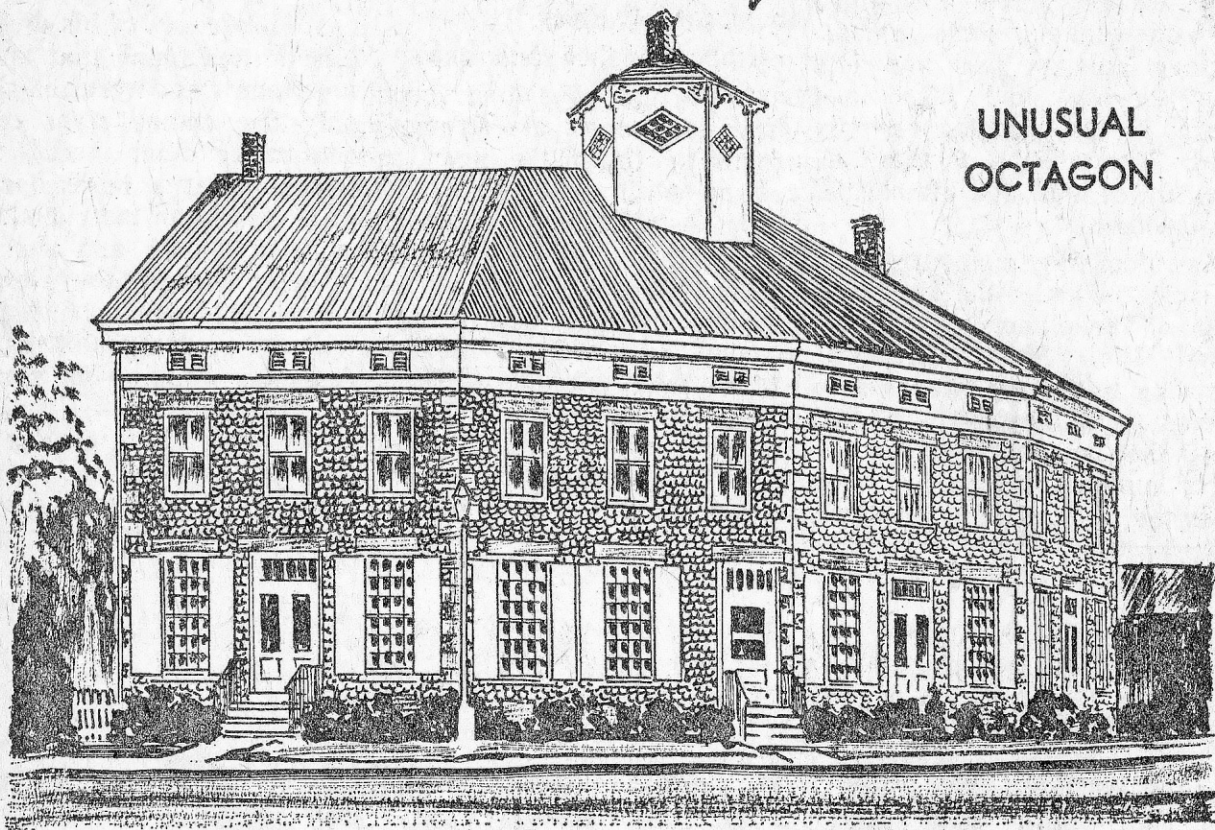


Historic Central New York

by *Wallace Hamilton Campbell*

UNUSUAL
OCTAGON



This cobblestone irregular octagon house stands at the four corners in Bouckville where the Cherry Valley Turnpike crosses Route 26, just a stone's throw from what used to be the Chenango Canal, an inland waterway connecting Utica with Binghamton.

The structure, built in 1851 by James D. Coolidge, was originally a store, divided into four sections, each with its own entrance. Coolidge, who designed the building topped it with a six-sided cupola in memory of his five deceased wives and designated the sixth side to honor the bride he was about to marry.

"Canawlers" coming down from the north to load hops for the downstate breweries, brought in a wide variety of farm produce for the store.

It was Coolidge who introduced hop growing into this area of Madison County, and while his store carried the general merchandise for a rural community, it specialized in sulphur and

burlap sacking for the hop industry.

The building, patterned after a house built in Fishkill by a noted phrenologist, Orson Fowler, is made of cobblestones that were brought in by the farmers at 25 cents a load. Undoubtedly it was constructed by the men who built the canal.

After the death of Coolidge the store became the property of Lewis Coe, from whose son Robert Palmiter purchased it in 1940 and is the present owner.

Palmiter, a nationally known authority on period furniture, remodeled the building for a residence with a segment used as an antique shop.

Although the shop has been discontinued, Palmiter still deals in rare furniture and antique paintings, many of which he has procured for the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

Source of data: Ramona B. Bowden, Fayetteville, N. Y.