

//.- HARISON PLACE ON CORY ROAD

This beautiful house on Cory Road is owned by Mrs. Beverly Harison. Mr. Harison an exporter and business man died only a few weeks after I interviewed him.

The cut stone part was built in 1810 and the cobblestone part in the 1850's. The later wing was built for a schoolhouse, for there were no schools in the vicinity at that time. The builder apparently wanted to provide his children and neighbor's children an education. The man who is believed to have had it built was originally from Rhode Island and later drowned in Lake Ontario. The present owner bought it a few years ago and have been doing extensive repair on it and using it as a lovely summer home. Mr. Harison said that instead of finding wallpaper he found sketchings on the wall. The cobblestone part was being used as a smoke house when the Harisons bought it. It is now a kitchen and storage place.

STONES: The stones are nearly all red lake stones on all sides. Their size range from $1\frac{1}{2}$ -8 x $2-2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The stones at the back are in rows but laid flush. Even the stones on the inside of the walls are laid in rows.

meticulous masonry than most cobblestone houses have.

Sodus must have been the location of the earliest masons because two houses there are definitely different and more primitive. They have no shaped joints and are of very large and irregular stones. The cornerstones in these two houses - - the Ellis and the Barkley Houses - - are irregularly cut native stone. Since they are the only houses of their kind in the county, one may conjecture that they were built by a local man with no previous experience. However, I cannot honestly tell whether they were built before all the other cobblestone houses or whether they were constructed by some novice during the middle of the building period.

Cobblestone buildings have served many uses -- as inns, warehouses, blacksmith shops, milk and smoke houses, barns, carriage sheds, churches, schoolhouses, and homes. Cobblestone building was contemporary with the peppermint industry, and one wonders how many of these structures were made possible by the raising of peppermint, which brought good money and made many wealthy.

These stone buildings were not the first examples of stone masonry in this county. Years before, cut stone buildings had attained much popularity and to-day many of these houses in almost perfect condition may be found

near their cobblestone brothers. The Harrison House in Marion Township (where there are a great many cut stone houses) is a cut stone house with a cobblestone wing.

The preservation of our stone dwellings and their adaptation to modern needs are well worth while, for they are one of the native architectural features of the lake counties. There will never be any more of them built, for even if modern masons rediscovered the lost art, it would not be economically feasible to build one. With to-day's union hours and labor costs, it would take a good-sized fortune to build such a house.

Being characteristic of Western New York, these old structures should be saved to serve as a reminder of bygone days when our pioneer fathers put in an honest day's work for a small wage. These are solid, substantial buildings which do not have to be painted, are warm in winter and cool in summer. The stone surface gives forth a beautiful pattern of light and shadows in the sunlight. Unfortunately, however, one finds that some of them are showing signs of wear. Deterioration as exemplified by white patches on the horizontal or vertical joints shows where mortar has begun to disintegrate. The late Mr. George Chapman found that this crumbling can be stopped by making a thin paste of cement and water, applying this with a brush over such places where disintegration is noted, taking care not to

