

Activities and Programs

Featured annually by The Cobblestone Society are several cultural programs and events. A Book Sale and a Patriotic Service around July 4, a Fair in August, an Old Timers Day in September and a Christmas Shop in November. Our church is also used each season for weddings and other religious services.

In an educational program each May, June, September and October, over 1500 Fourth graders visit our museum as a part of their local history studies. Travel agencies also send us tour groups during the spring, summer and fall seasons, especially senior citizen groups.

Membership

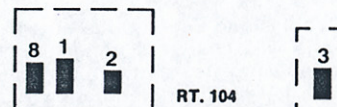
People interested in preserving our seven buildings in Childs or promoting the society's programs are welcome to join. Membership entitles one to visit our seven buildings during regular viewing hours free of charge and a quarterly newsletter.

Individual.....\$10	Patron \$50
Joint Membership	
(husband & wife)\$18	Corporate \$50
Family Membership\$20	Single Life\$150
Student\$5	Joint Life\$250

Send your check made out to "Cobblestone Society", along with your name and mailing address to:

The Cobblestone Society
P.O. Box 363, Albion, NY 14411

VILLAGE
INN★



- 1 COBBLESTONE CHURCH, MUSEUM AND GIFT SHOP
- 2 WARD HOUSE
- 3 COBBLESTONE SCHOOL
- 4 BLACKSMITH SHOP
- 5 PRINT SHOP
- 6 HARNESS SHOP
- 7 FARMERS HALL
- 8 BRICK HOUSE

THE COBBLESTONE SOCIETY MUSEUM

7 Historic Buildings on
Routes 104 & 98
CHILDS, NEW YORK

www.cobblestonesocietymuseum.homestead.com/Files



No.

5

The Print Shop

In 1977 the Cobblestone Society received the Print Shop building as a gift from Mr. Erling Maine. It was formerly located in Medina, N.Y. and was used for many years by the O'Donnell Lumber Company. It was built around 1875 by William Hedley who first used it as his lumberyard office. Stylistically, it is Second Empire with its Mansard porch roof and decorative trim around the windows and door. During the mid-1960's the museum received the printing equipment and presses once belonging to Herbert Hill of Knowlsville. Through a CETA grant the building was moved to land given by Mrs. Nellie Vagg, restored and set up as a working example of a late 19th century job print shop.



No.

6

The Harness Shop

In 1987 the Cobblestone Society was given this small building by Rose M. Welles. It was then moved to the museum grounds through the generosity of Rice Homes, Inc. During 1988 the building was restored to its appearance of the 1880's. It now houses the artifacts once used by John G. Peters, a harness maker and shoe repairer who started a business in Lyndonville, N.Y. in 1909. The building was built in 1838 by Starr Chester, a cobbler in Gaines, N.Y. until 1880. In 1883 the building was moved 300 feet to a new site by Gates Knickerbocker, a jeweler, who added the "Western Style facade". He used the building until his death in 1914. The sides and back are unusual in that they are stuccoed with lime mortar (restored) on hand-split lathe. Between 1922-1939 it was used as a Gun and Paint Shop by Clifton Nestle. Since that time, until its last move, it was used by a number of people for different purposes.

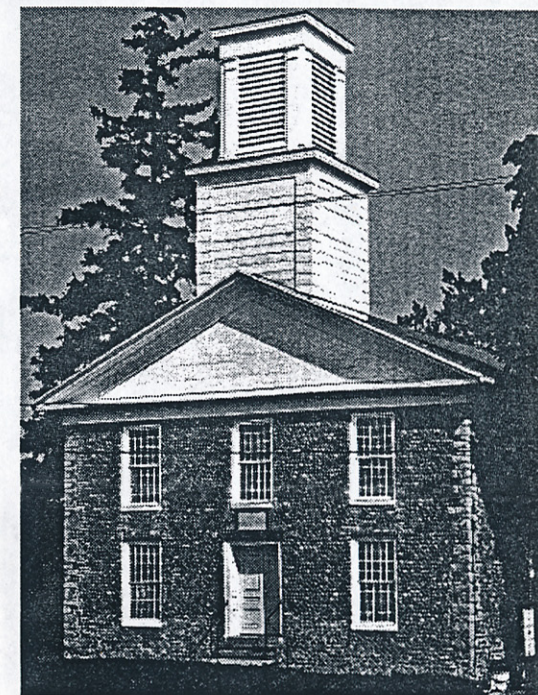


No.

7

Farmers Hall

Formerly the Old Kendall Town Hall, it was built in 1855 for a Universalist Church and served as such until the 1870's. Later the German Lutherans used it for a few years prior to the Town of Kendall. No longer utilized in 1978 it was given to the Cobblestone Society. It was dismantled by CETA workers who rebuilt it at the museum complex on land donated by Mrs. Neva Murray. It functions now as an exhibition hall for 19th and early 20th century farming tools and implements to tell the story of agriculture in bygone area. Nearby stands a replica of a 19th Century Liberty Pole which was dedicated "To The People Of Gaines" in 1982.



The Cobblestone Church

GUIDED TOURS

June 23 to Labor Day

11-5 Tuesday - Saturday; 1-5 Sundays

Closed Mondays

September and October; 1-5 Sundays

Adults over 18; \$3.50; Seniors: \$3.00;

Individual Students: \$2.00

Educational Program \$3.00

Group Tours by pre-arrangement April - October

Museum Office (585) 589-9013

C.W. Lattin, Director (585) 589-9510

P.O. Box 363, Albion, N.Y. 14411

Cobblestone Masonry

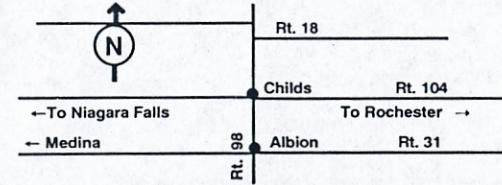
Cobblestone masonry was a construction method in which stones, laid in horizontal rows and set in projecting, decorative mortar, were used to enhance the beauty of an architectural style such as Federal or Greek Revival. This masonry style began, matured and ended during the period of creativity and growth between the completion of the Erie Canal and the beginning of the Civil War. Originating in New York State, it spread with pioneers moving westward along the Great Lakes Plain. It is now believed over 1200 of these buildings were constructed in North America. Ninety percent of these cobblestone buildings can be found within a 75-mile radius of Rochester, N.Y. By 1860 this form of building became too expensive for the industrial age and the art diminished.

The Cobblestone Society

The Cobblestone Society was organized at Childs in 1960 and was chartered under the New York State Education Laws. Its major purpose was to acquire and preserve the rapidly deteriorating 1834 Cobblestone Church. The second purpose was to amass and disseminate information on this early 19th Century building style. The Society has also acquired the School, the Ward House, Blacksmith Shop, Print Shop, Harness Shop, Farmers Hall, and Brick House. The Cobblestone Society continues to restore and preserve its museum properties, acting as a regional museum and a center for cobblestone preservation and research. The headquarters is the Cobblestone Church where tours begin.

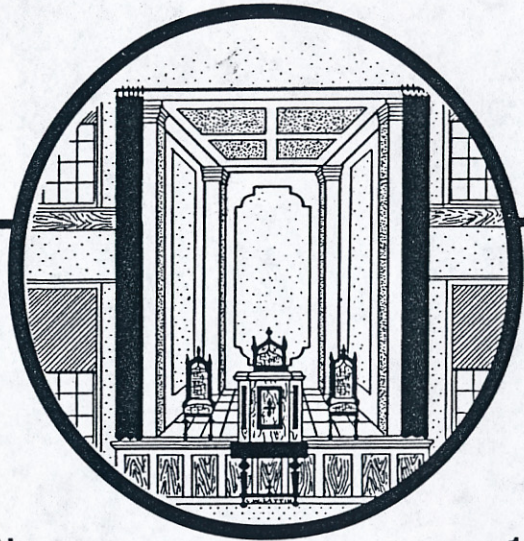
Location

The Cobblestone Society Museum properties are situated in the heart of Orleans Co. In Childs, N.Y. at Route 98 and 104 (Ridge Rd. W.). This is exactly 2 miles north of Albion and the Erie Canal, 21 miles north of Batavia (Thruway Exit 48), 27 miles west of Rochester and 50 miles east of Niagara Falls.



Cobblestone Resource Center

The Cobblestone Resource Center, the Society's research library, is located in the basement of the Cobblestone Church. This collection contains documentation on cobblestone buildings constructed in North America. Information spans the 19th century soft lime mortar construction to 20th century preservation and restoration. The collection also encompasses early history of Western New York and the Great Lakes Region of the U.S. and Canada. Documentation of the Society, its buildings and collections completes this archive. For more information on or use of the Resource Center call (716) 589-6467 or write Evelyn Lyman, Cobblestone Society Research Director, Box 363, Albion, N.Y. 14411. E-mail: cobblesociet.juno.com



No.

1

The Cobblestone Church *

The inscription over the door states: "Erected by the First Universalist Society A.D. 1834. GOD IS LOVE". The foundations were dug in April 1834 and the church was dedicated in October. The stones were gathered from surrounding fields and carted to the site by oxen. In 1874 the interior was remodeled to suit changing tastes. The pews were turned around, the woodwork grained, a deceptive painting was created and a new pulpit and chairs were added. With the opening of the Pullman Memorial Church in Albion, the Childs Church closed in 1895 and stood as an idle landmark until 1960. It is the oldest and one of the best preserved of 26 cobblestone churches. During the 1840's and 50's George M. Pullman of railway car fame attended church here before moving to Chicago.



No.

2

The Ward House *

Location, masonry, architecture and village history indicate that this one and a half story Federal cottage, with its kitchen originally in the basement, was built in 1836 as a parsonage for the church by John Proctor. Mr. Proctor, village founder and catalyst to the building of the church, owned the land on which the house stands from settlement to 1861. In 1861 Mary Ann Dwinell purchased the house and the mortgage was held by her nephew Horace Greeley until 1864. Many of Mr. Greeley's family and friends were already residents of this area. E.R. Reynolds, then an attorney in Albion and Greeley's lifelong friend from Vermont, handled the sale of the property in 1864. In 1975 the Cobblestone Society purchased the home, along with some of its Victorian contents, from its last owner, Mrs. Inez Ward, for whom the house is named.



No.

3

The Cobblestone School *

The marble tablet in the facade states: "District No. 5 of Gaines A.D. 1849 Wm. J. Babbitt Esq. gratuitously superintended the erection of this building and made the district a present of the bell." The building is unique in that it is a wooden structure with only a cobblestone veneer. The cobbles are a small lake-washed variety with the corner quoins, lintels and sills of Medina Sandstone. The interior with its sloping floor appears as it might have in the late 19th Century. In 1952 the school was closed and in 1961 the Cobblestone Society purchased it for the legal fees which amounted to \$129.00.



No.

4

The Blacksmith Shop

On October 29, 1921 a fire destroyed the old brick blacksmith shop at Childs. Joseph Vagg, a blacksmith there since 1909, immediately started to rebuild his business with the present shop being completed in the spring of 1922. Along with shoeing horses, iron work and repairing farm machinery, Joe Vagg had a wood shop in the south part of the building. He worked continuously for almost 50 years and was the last blacksmith along the Ridge Road. His widow, Mrs. Nellie Vagg, made The Cobblestone Society a gift of his shop and tools through a bequest in her will.

* In 1993 The Church, The Ward House and The School were designated NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS under the title Cobblestone Historic District by the National Park Service through the United States Department of the Interior.