



THE FORMER WYATT HOME, now owned by Mrs. Arthur M. Willerton at Cobblestone Corners on the Hall Rd., is a familiar landmark to Genevans. Exterior feature of the Gothic style cobblestone structure is the ornamental woodwork with acorn design.

Home is 100 Years Old

Cobblestone One of Last To be Built

By MILDRED JENNINGS

Cobblestone houses, schools, and churches are a Western New York specialty—there are more of them here than anywhere else in the world—one authority says, in urging that they be preserved.

One of the interesting old cobblestones in this vicinity is the home purchased in 1946 by the late Arthur M. Willerton and now occupied by Mrs. Willerton, their son Tommy, 6, and daughter, Susan, 10.

The home, which was 100 years old this summer, was built in 1854 and purchased by the Willertons from the late Robert Wyatt. The location was formerly known as "Wyatt's Corners" but was later changed by the Willerton's to "Cobblestone Corners."

Situated on the Hall Road directly at the crossroads, the beautiful Gothic-style structure was one of the last cobblestones to be built in this area.

Farm Sold

It was earlier owned by John Rippey (1810-1870). He was the fourth child of the Matthew Rippey's well known in this area in Geneva's early days. John Rippey bought the Smith farm in 1849 and built the cobblestone house.

Members of the family lived there and the home was later inherited by Janet and Charles Read who lived in the home until they moved to Geneva about 1908.

Mrs. Willerton, present owner, explained that the cobblestones built in the early 1820's differ from later built cobblestones in this respect; They had lower ceilings. Ceilings in the Willerton home are quite high.

Situated as it is at the corner of two roadways, the house provides an excellent view of the countryside.

Frames Wide

The living room is completely finished in butternut wood. Wide and deep, window and door frames are exceptionally beautiful. The three bedroom structure has two living rooms, a central hall, a large kitchen and dining room, and a sizeable utility room.

The house was built at a time when the pot bellied stove was becoming popular. Since people had used fireplaces for a long time, they began to put in "sham" fireplaces without the hearth yet giving the effect of a fireplace.

Entering the Willerton home from the side door, one steps into a cheery kitchen with modern equipment but retaining an "old-fashioned" air. Wallpaper is of "Johnny Appleseed" design. Door panels are uniquely decorated with paintings of cat-tails, the work of Mr. Willerton, who was a talented artist.

Antique colored glassware at the windows reflect rainbow hues in the sunlight. The mantelpiece is gayly decorated with a chintz ruffle in orange and black design.

Paintings of Mr. Willerton, who majored in Fine Arts at Cornell University, decorate various rooms throughout the house. They reveal considerable artistic talent. He has painted a delightful hunting scene which hangs directly over the davenport in the living room.

Water colors of the Willerton home and farm homes of friends also are to be seen. Mrs. Willerton said her husband liked to paint in winter when the farm work was slack.

The entire house is finished in butternut wood and the recessed front entrance and door are all handmade. The door is three inches thick with an ornamental Gothic inset. Walls of the structure are twenty-three and a half inches thick.

Rooms Face Road

Both living rooms are in front of the house facing the roadway. One is a very informal lived-in room with deep windows of mellow butternut. The furniture is in keeping with this room where the family spends most of its time.

In the formal living room across the hall, you will first note the unusual overhanging woodwork with acorn design, matching the design on the outside eaves of the home. This decoration is all handmade.

Walls of this room are a dark green, a striking setting for the stark white window woodwork. Builders concreted and reinforced the overhanging into the walls of the home.

A rose satin davenport, green velvet chairs, an old rosewood piano decorated with marble-base brass and prism lamp, Grandma Moses drapes, and other appointments lend a delightful old-fashioned air to this room.

Wallpaper In Hall

A fine oil painting of poinsettias, the work of Mr. Willerton, hangs over the fireplace. Reds and greens of this plant were the basis for the decorative scheme of this room.

Wallpaper in an old-fashioned Mount Vernon pattern decorates the central hall. Antique chairs upholstered in soft apricot color, braided rugs, and all-wool braided step rugs on the stairway, are in keeping with the general old-time appearance of the home.

Most unusual feature of the hall is the hand-carved Grecian frieze in dark butternut wood which outlines the railing of the stairway and baseboard of the hall.

Wall paper in old-fashioned design decorates the walls of the

bedrooms and furniture and accessories complement the other furnishings throughout.

Floors Firm

There are two baths, one on the first floor and one on the second. A delightful mulberry shade of paper with silver birdcages decorates the bath on the second floor. Appleblossom pink woodwork accents the decorative scheme.

Floors of the structure are solid and firm. There are so many extra features in this home that it's really a show place of cobblestones. Front of the building is of hand-graded stones and the rear, including the "woodshed" or what is called the utility room in modern homes, is of field stone.

There is as much wood used in one of the living rooms alone, including the very massive trim, as would be used in the finish of one "modern" home.

The large cellar runs beneath the main structure with the exception of the back wing.