



Cobblestone House Available

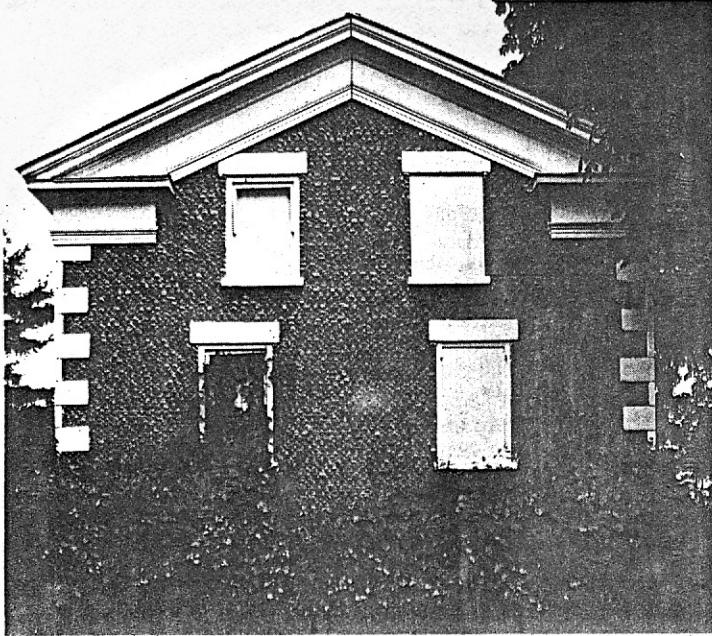


Photo: NYSEG, 1978

The Morgan Van Wagoner House is a two-story cobblestone farmhouse (c1848) with Greek Revival details. It is located in a rural area of the town of Somerset, Niagara County, not far from the shores of Lake Ontario. It is also located within the boundaries of the proposed Cayuga Station, an 850-megawatt, coal-fired steam electric generating plant.

Construction of the Cayuga Station is being undertaken by New York State Electric and Gas Corporation (NYSEG). When completed, the station will supply electricity for NYSEG customers and provide reserve power for the New York Power Pool. Because federal permits are required, the project must comply with federal environmental regulations, including those of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation ("Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties"). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which issues these permits, is responsible for meeting the federal requirements.

As a preliminary step, the Corps of Engineers completed a cultural resources survey of the proposed project area. As a result of this survey, several structures and archeological sites were identified as possessing some historical, architectural or archeological significance. In 1978, the Corps of Engineers consulted with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in order to assess the National Register eligibility of the resources identified. The SHPO determined that only the Van Wagoner House appeared to meet the criteria for listing on the National Register. The Keeper of the National Register formally concurred with this finding on December 1, 1978.

Since the construction of the Cayuga Station as planned would have an adverse effect on the Van Wagoner House, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation was required to comment. During discussions between the Advisory Council, the Corps of Engineers, NYSEG and the SHPO, various alternatives were explored, including redesigning the power station complex and retaining the building in its current location. Since none of the alternatives proposed was feasible, a memorandum of agree-

ment was negotiated which, as much as possible, mitigates the adverse effects of the project on the Van Wagoner House.

The significant provisions of the memorandum of agreement are as follows:

1. The Morgan Van Wagoner House will be recorded in accordance with the standards of the National Architectural and Engineering Record (NAER) in Washington, D.C. The documentation, which will consist of photographs and drawings, must be accepted by the Library of Congress before any work on the Cayuga Station project can begin.
2. New York State Electric and Gas Corporation will attempt to relocate the Van Wagoner House by advertising its availability. Although the building will be offered at no cost, potential owners must be willing to move and restore the structure. If NYSEG is unable to find a new owner for the building, the conditions of the memorandum allow NYSEG to demolish it.

Anyone interested in the Morgan Van Wagoner House should contact Fred S. Doolittle, Public Information, NYSEG, Box 248, Barker, New York 14012, 716-795-3255. A brochure containing additional information and a list of possible funding sources is available upon request. All proposals must be received by March 18, 1981.