

Cobblestone arts center

A renovated 149-year-old cobblestone house across from Eastview Mall that on July 9 will open as an arts center will be open for tours today through July 1. The building, the Victor Association of Cultural and Performing Arts, 207 High St. Extension, Victor, will be open from noon to 8 p.m. Sundays and 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Admission is \$4; children under 12 are admitted free. For information call 425-3058.

The late Sarah Hall Bonesteel lived in the cobblestone from 1898 until the 1940s. She was a patron of the arts, as is the new dweller, Lorene Flora-Benson. Benson admired the vacant house for years while she ran The Arts School of Classical Dance in Farmington, outside Victor. Through her persistence and much hard work, she leased it from William T. Roach.

Aiding her in the restoration of the house were her husband, Scott, and her father, James, of Flora & Benson Construction General Contracting; her brothers James Jr., Mark and Wayne Flora, and friends Jerry Ivey and Sue Benson. They installed a heating system, a new septic system and sanded the old pine and oak floors and woodwork. They installed new windows and trim where needed and painted and wallpapered.

To maintain the country atmosphere, walls were stenciled in three rooms by folk artists Ruth Flowers and Kat McCormick. Others volunteered services, such as Ted Collins, who donated landscaping, and Michael Houser, who made iron lighting fixtures.