

A third torn down

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Cobblestone homes adorn Crystal Lake

CRYSTAL LAKE — History records him simply as M. Simon but he built at least two cobblestone homes more than 100 years ago that are still in use today.

The first such house was commissioned by Columbus and Hannah Wallace 124 years ago.

Modern for its time the house was constructed without a fireplace and was heated,

instead, by an iron Franklin stove.

Located at what is now 36 Virginia Ave. in Crystal Lake, the Wallace House was built with small rounded stones which were hauled by oxen team from the shores of Lake Michigan.

Handhewn beams and cellar steps so steep that a person walked down them backwards like a ladder are special

features of this first Simon house.

It has three bedrooms on the second floor and a parlor, dining room and kitchen on the first.

The floors are wide pine boards and visitors to the Wallace House announced their arrival by ringing a silver bell.

The window sills in the house are a foot deep.

The front door key is six inches long.

Today the Wallace House is the residence of the James Myers' family who have lived in the stone structure for nearly seven years.

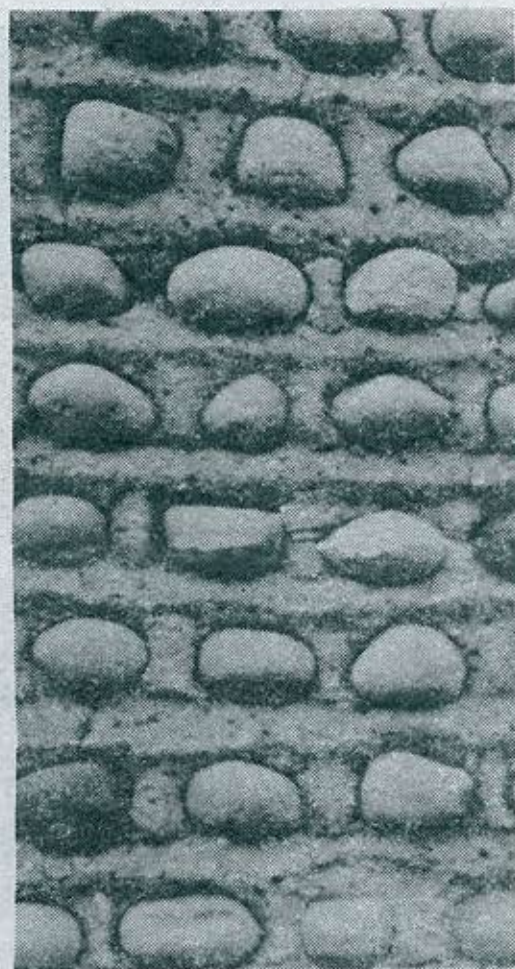
The second home Simon built in Crystal Lake was for a J. T. Pierson but the house was demolished in 1960 to make room for a new telephone company building.

The third house was built 114 years ago and is located at 5215 Walkup Ave. across from Veteran's Acres in Crystal Lake.

Similar to the Wallace House this Simon-built structure is locally known as the Walkup home and belonged to the Walkup family for many years.

Today it is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Bodner and their four children.

'M. Simon' built'em to last . . . and last



Detail of cobblestone work



The Walkup House - 5309 No Walkup Rd



The Wallace House

Virginia St
Crystal Lake