

STOP, LOOK and LISTEN

A tour of historic homes is more than just a chance for the curious to see what someone else has. It's also a chance for self-enlightenment in the visual arts including architecture and local history. An educational tour of this sort is therefore a chance for participants to do something very

simple — STOP, LOOK and LISTEN. Appreciating all forms of culture takes this very simple discipline.

On the Cobblestone Tour of Homes which is scheduled for Saturday, June 3 in and around Albion, people will get a rare opportunity to see things from different angles, from up close, and from inside out.

The photo shown here is the home of Dave and Sue Nicholson on Rt. 98, south of Albion. It will be on the tour, and here is a different angle on it. Built in 1879 for Stephen Hallock, it was designed by the local architect William V.N. Barlow in the Second Empire Style. The date is inscribed in the key-stone over the front entrance.

Most drive by hardly seeing anything about the house, with only a vague perception of the front. A big veranda impresses most because it is a dominating feature. And of course, we know the house is red brick. But when we STOP and LOOK up close and from a different perspective, "Oh my, how things change." Just look at this wonderful balcony off a second floor bedroom over a bay window. What an imagination Mr. Barlow must have had. Look at the innumerable brackets supporting the roof, the decorative railing and incidental details on the posts and capitals. It's all there, a wonderland indeed. How easy it is to pass this all by unless we STOP and LOOK.

a delightful feature of the residence. Don't miss seeing the unique spindles which are attached to the sides of the treads rather than on top of the treads. Barlow created this little quirk in at least three other houses in Albion. Perhaps the most noteworthy architectural feature inside of the house, is the woodwork. Look at it up close. It's all fake! What appears to be natural wood is only painted to look like either walnut or chestnut, depending on the room it is in. Up close it is still deceptive even when you STOP and LOOK and it is all original.

And LISTEN too. All the homeowners themselves, have much to tell and impart to their touring guests. Dave Nicholson for example, can tell you how he has created beautiful and authentic-looking chandeliers for their home. And I'll repeat this too. All the homeowners are treasure chests of knowledge. You can learn a lot if you STOP and LISTEN.

Eight historic homes are included on the tour sponsored by the Cobblestone Society. All have their unique features, characteristics and beautiful furnishings. Come get an eyeful. Tickets and booklets with a map will be sold on June 3 beginning at 11 A.M. in the Cobblestone Museum and the Pullman Church. The houses will be open from 1 P.M. to 5 P.M. so that you can STOP, LOOK and LISTEN.

