

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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TOUR OF HISTORIC HOUSES



On Saturday, June 2 the Cobblestone Society will hold its 1990 tour of historic houses from Noon to 5:00 p.m. This year the tour will take in eight historic homes from Albion to Lyndonville. These homes vary greatly in character and architectural style and therefore are all unique unto themselves. In the Albion area tour goers will have the opportunity to see the Colonial Revival Style home of Mr. and Mrs. William Larimer, the Jerim Klapper residence in the Greek Revival Style which was the former home of Mr. and Mrs. John Merrill which is a modest country residence where restrained decoration suggests that there is purity in simplicity.

In Childs the former Vagg/Warner residence, now owned by William Nestle and Rene' Schasel will lead you back into the 1920's with its nostalgic and authentic interior. On the Knowlesville Road the grand Italianate residence of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Vanderheite will take you back into the Victorian Era. Likewise, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Leta on the Platten Road will also give a glimpse into different styles.

The only cobblestone house on this year's tour will be the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wenhold located on the Ramshaw Road. Pictured here, it is an early example of cobblestone masonry in the Federal Style. And finally, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pollard in Lyndonville is attractive in the Greek Revival mode and will be a delight for everyone. Now that's not all folks! This year there is an added attraction. Tour goers will also have the opportunity to see the beautiful shrubbery, plants, and grounds of the Smith Estate in Lyndonville.

Tickets for the tour will be on sale June 2 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Cobblestone Church Museum in Childs and the Pullman Memorial Uni-

versalist Church in Albion. These tickets also will entitle tour goers to see the seven historic museum buildings in the Cobblestone Museum Complex and the Pullman Church where their members will serve a light lunch beginning at 11 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. With your ticket you will receive a map and a booklet with descriptive information on each of the eight private residences for this self-guided driving tour between Noon and 5 p.m.

A tour of this nature I suppose, has limited appeal. But for those who care to indulge, you will not be sorry, for you will see and I'm sure, appreciate the beautiful interiors, antiques, art and architecture. It is a cultural event for our county whereby we can learn something about aesthetics from others who are our neighbors. Oscar Wilde once writing about aesthetics noted, "To me beauty is the wonder of wonders. It is only shallow people who do not judge by appearances. The true mystery of the world is the visible not the invisible." On this house tour we are dealing with the visible which Wilde feels is the true mystery of the world. For example, let's take the invisible such as infinite space, the human psyche, the concept of God or the origin of life - these to me, are not at all mysterious but only natural. However, when we stop and think about the world we live in, the fact that its concrete substance and matter and all quite visible, that we can see, and taste, and touch and smell and hear, how can one deny its mystery? Indeed, "It is only shallow people who do not judge by appearances." And like Wilde, to me "Beauty is the wonder of wonders." What's more, it comes in so many different forms and styles which is even a greater mystery.