

Outhouses: Fine architecture



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

WELL-DESIGNED: Outhouses were not only functional, they were fine examples of architecture as well.

BY C.W. LATTIN

It was just 30 years ago that the Cobblestone Society Museum procured the first building it moved to its complex in Childs. It was a circa 1880 outhouse.

Now this was not ordinary outhouse that the museum acquired. In fact, it was more than just utilitarian, it even has architectural style known as Eastlake. It now stands by the Print Shop on Route 98 in Childs and is painted in the corresponding color scheme.

It was moved from the old Ferris place at Five Corners with the aid of Pete Roth's forklift and several amazed onlookers who referred to themselves as the privy council.

This fine piece of architecture is most unusual with very detailed Eastlake style paneling on the interior walls and ceiling. I should mention, too, it's a three-holer.

It wasn't long before Tom and Dee Hockenberry, who lived in Gaines, asked if the museum would like an outhouse from the early 1830's that was located at property on the corner of Route 104 and Route 279. This, too, is unusual in the Federal style of architecture

since the door is in one end rather than a side. The original door is unique with seven horizontal panels flanked by windows.

The whole interior is plastered and quite spacious. In other words, it's twice as big as it really needs to be.

Because of its size, two forklifts were used and again neighbors to the museum responded with again Pete Roth and this time Al Zambito assisting. This privy remains today behind the Cobblestone Church as a corresponding piece of architecture.

By now, it became apparent the Cobblestone Museum was collecting outhouses. That's when, in 1979, Mrs. Vernita Cooper from the Ashwood Road offered one of historic

nature. This was once located at the Bullock home on West Park Street in Albion and was the very privy once used by Gov. Rufus Bullock.

The property was later owned by E.F. Fancher, who moved it out in the country where Mrs. Cooper lived.

Architecturally, it is rather plain but has an unusual double hung window and an Italianate roof line. It is also plaster on the inside which finished it off quite neatly.

Again, a forklift was needed and Bruce Sartwell obliged in the move.

Most recently, Georgia Thomas and her grandchildren, Thomas and Ellen, spent a week cleaning, fixing and painting this privy which is located behind the Ward House.