

Bethinking of 5-23-86 Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian



19th Century Homes -- Inside And Out

Vol. VIII

No. 20

1986 has been designated Architectural Heritage Year by the New York State Legislature. As a means of recognizing and contributing toward our architectural heritage, the Cobblestone Society has planned a series of four lectures entitled "19th Century Homes -- Inside And Out." These informative programs will all be held in the Cobblestone Museum (Rts. 98 & 104) at 8 p.m. on Wednesdays. The first lecture, entitled "Architecture of the Cobblestone Era," will be given by the County Historian May 21. The second lecture, scheduled for May 28, entitled "Textiles of the Cobblestone Era," will be done by Virginia Weis. The third program, entitled "Furnishings of the Cobblestone Era," will be conducted by Edward Cornwell. The fourth and final program of the series will be "Cobblestone Structures" by Delia Robinson. Series tickets for Cobblestone members are \$10 and \$12 for non-members. A single lecture, at the door, is \$3.50. For information and/or reservations call 589-9510.

New York State has a wealth of architectural treasures and perhaps one of the most unique forms is cobblestone masonry. Roughly between 1824 and 1860, around 800 such structures were built in North America, 90% of which are within an 80 mile vicinity of Rochester. The lecture series, "19th Century Homes -- Inside and Out" will cover this time period.

Since 1960, the Cobblestone Society has sought and disseminated information on this unique building form and related art and architecture. The Cobblestone Resource Center at the Cobblestone Museum contains information on many of the individual structures. Della Robinson, Resource Center director, provides us with the following bit of data about the local cobblestone home which is pictured here:

"Members of the Reed family posed in front of their cobblestone home on the Gaines-Waterport Road, now Rt. 279, north of the Ridge, for this photo circa 1900. In 1842 Abner Reed, then 40, with his wife Maria, and three children moved to the Town of Gaines from Rensselaer County. By the mid 1840's, Reed had, according to family legend, hired a Mr. Fox to build a cobblestone house."