

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian



tar of the type used in the 19th Century.

The workshop limited to 20 participants will cost each person \$20.00 for the day. For more information and to make reservations, please call the Director of the Cobblestone Resource Center, Mrs. Delia Robinson at 589-4355.

The afternoon session of the workshop will be conducted at the cobblestone residence of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Beamer located on West Shelby Road, Orleans County, N.Y. Mr. John Bero, architect of Bero Associates in Rochester will discuss Structural Repair and Heat Conservation for historic homes. The 150-year-old Beamer residence will serve as an excellent background for Mr. Bero's discussion.

The Beamer residence which is pictured here is built in 1836 by John Shelp an early settler in the Town of Shelby. For many years this was the farm residence of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Dewey, Mr. Dewey being a descendant of John Shelp. About two years ago Mr. & Mrs. Beamer purchased the house from Mr. & Mrs. Peter Gamin. The Beamer's love of cobblestone masonry and historic buildings ultimately shows in the appropriate restoration techniques they have employed in the restoration of their home. Their house in the Federal Style of architecture is an excellent example of the use of field stone. This indeed, will make a nice comparison with the lakewashed cobblestone used in the Universalist Church at Middleport for workshop participants. The Shelp-Beamer residence was constructed with the kitchen being the basement or ground floor level which opens up at grade level in the rear. A huge fireplace with brick baking oven was once used there for early cooking purposes. Around the turn of the century a wooden addition was added to the east end of the house for a service wing which included a kitchen and dining room. At the time Colonial Revival woodwork was put into the first story replacing Federal style detailing. Also, an impressive Colonial Revival staircase was added to the front hall replacing the original set of stairs.

Although these changes took place over the years, the Shelp-Beamer residence remains today as one of the outstanding examples of early cobblestone masonry in Western New York. Now in its sesquicentennial year, it stands as a monument to an age long past when ingenuity, thrift and an industrious use of cobblestone produced a lasting and beautiful residence.

COBBLESTONE WORKSHOP

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As its contribution to Architectural Heritage Year 1986 in New York State, the Cobblestone Society will conduct a "Hands-on-Cobblestone Masonry Workshop" on Saturday, September 20. The morning session will commence at 10:00 A.M. at the historic First Universalist Church (Cobblestone) on Main Street in Middleport, Niagara County, N.Y. It will be conducted by Newell Mix who will demonstrate technique and show mortar formulas. Cobblestone home owners and others who are interested in learning how to repair cracks or other problems in old masonry are encouraged to attend. Mr. Mix has been working on repairing the cobblestone walls of the 1841 First Universalist Church in Middleport for several months. One can see here first hand how an expert has dealt with fixing cracks and erosion in cobblestone walls. Participants enrolled in the workshop will actually mix and apply soft mor-