

Bethinking of

Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian



Building Move

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It's not every day that buildings are moved. However, over the past ten years nine buildings have been moved on to the grounds of the Cobblestone Museum Complex at Childs. These have included the Farmers Hall, formerly the old Kendall Town Hall; the Cobblestone Society Print Shop from Medina; an oil storage shed once used in connection with the lighthouse at Oak Orchard Harbor; a R.R. Flagman's Shanty from Albion and several architecturally significant privys. The tenth building to be added to this series has been donated during the past week to the Cobblestone Complex by Rose Wells, owner of the Chatterbox Restaurant on Route 104 at Gaines.

It is a small wooden building, measuring 12 x 16 feet, of early plank construction which was built prior to 1840. In getting the structure ready to move to the Cobblestone Complex, it was discovered that the exterior sides and rear wall were originally covered with stucco on split lath. It is most unique to find a structure of this vintage which was intended to be covered with such a lime and gravel mixture. Within the last 50 years or so, the stucco was removed and other siding has been applied. It is believed that the present facade dates to the 1880's when the building was probably modernized to be more stylish. The floor joists are large logs 16 feet long and smoothed level only on one side to accept the flooring.

The Cobblestone Museum Director with support of the Board of Directors of the Cobblestone society has pursued the acquisition of this building for several years. All are most appreciative of the generosity of donor Rose Wells. By having this structure removed from the Chatterbox premises it will allow for more parking space to accommodate the restaurant clientele.

On Friday, Aug. 28 the building was moved to the Cobblestone Complex through the generosity of Rice Homes of Barre Center. The Orleans County Sheriff's Department and the Town of Gaines also cooperated in this venture.

At the Cobblestone Complex, the building will be located on Route 98 between the Print Shop and the Farmers Hall, all of which are directly south of J. H. Vagg's Blacksmith Shop. It is intended to be used as a harness shop which will fit in with the agricultural theme of all the buildings on the Route 98 parcel of the museum. During the 1960s the contents of the Peters Harness Shop of Lyndonville were donated to the Cobblestone Museum. With the acquisition of this building the Peters Harness Shop artifacts will be moved to it and have the identity as a separate unit that it deserves. Completion of the entire project is slated for 1989. The immediate priority will be to do exterior restoration for cosmetic reasons.

Anyone wishing to contribute financially toward the preservation of this historic structure may do so by sending a check made out to the Cobblestone Society, designated for the Harness Shop. Mail to Donald B. Ross, Treas. Cobblestone Society, Albion, N.Y. 14411. Names of contributors will be listed in a dedication publication when that occurs.

Town of Gaines Historian, Delia Robinson and Deputy Historian Janice Thaine are both completing indepth research on the history of this building. The fruit of their efforts will appear in this column next week.