

## 2543 HUBER ROAD

A cobblestone is defined as a small stone that can be held in the hand. The word derives from the Middle English “cob” meaning rounded lump, and “ston” meaning small rock. Hence cobblestone – a rounded rock. Cobblestones as found in this area of



Western New York are of two kinds: fieldstones from glacial till and washouts, and water-rounded stones from Lake Ontario and the Finger Lakes, left by retreating glaciers.

About ninety percent of buildings constructed with cobblestones in the United States are located in the Rochester, New York area and were built between 1825 and the Civil War. Cobblestone buildings were sturdy, fire proof, attractive, and relatively maintenance free. In addition, the stones themselves were free, and merely needed to be picked up along the lakeshore or removed from fields. Construction methods evolved over time, with builders gradually adding more intricate patterns and using various mortar patterns. Unfortunately, by 1865 cobblestone construction was for all intents and purposes over, falling victim to increasing labor costs, decline in the availability of cobbles, and the development of more efficient building methods.

Perinton is lucky enough to have three cobblestone homes within its borders. One of those homes, located at 2543 Huber Road. Local architect and author Carl Schmidt describes the house in his 1966 book Cobblestone Masonry as follows: “The cobblestones are round and oval-shaped lake-washed stones of various colors .... They vary from one and one-half to two inches in diameter....The horizontal and vertical joints are ‘v’ed’. Roughly squared red sandstone quoins vary from eight and one-half to ten and one-half inches high....On the north side the cobblestones are also lake-washed ovals, but larger and laid in a crude herringbone pattern.” Further, architectural historian Paul Malo says that “this [house] is a beauty – very nice. Being cobblestone, that’s important in its own right.”

The two-story front gable structure is located on a slight rise on the west side of Huber Road in Perinton’s northeast quadrant, which, because it is surrounded by woods and open fields, retains much of its former agricultural open-space character. There is also a mid-sized gable-roofed barn with board and batten siding and a stone foundation that contributes to the agricultural ambience of the property. First appearing on the 1852 map of Perinton, the cobblestone section was probably constructed as early as the 1840’s, with the frame addition following soon thereafter. The property’s initial owner was Myron Palmer, who, with his wife and family occupied that area from the 1840’s to the turn of the century. Palmer first appears in the 1843 tax list and is listed in the 1878 directory as a farmer with 28 acres on the northwest corner of Furman and Huber Roads. Several owners appear in the record during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, among them Isaac Peters, Robert Bacher, Stanley Luczkowski, Charles Pembroke, and the current owners, Jim and Deborah Elman.

The house itself, built in the Greek Revival style, features wide cornices with returns, frieze windows, stone quoins, and 6 over 6 windows. Both windows and doors have wood lintels and the front paneled door appears to be original. The gable-roofed barn was probably built sometime during the Palmer family ownership. The large stone chimney on the north side was most likely built in the late 1940's or early 1950's. While the property has been subdivided in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, much of the original land still remains as open space, including a large portion that is now a Christmas tree farm.

This property has recently been declared a Perinton landmark, fulfilling several of the five criteria for designation. The property is historically significant due to its strong association with Perinton's agricultural past, and it also "represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood." Perhaps most significantly as one of only three cobblestone houses in the town it "embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style." The house, the barn and the setting combine to represent an excellent example of an aesthetic and historic asset to the Town of Perinton and thus deserve their recognition as a designated landmark.