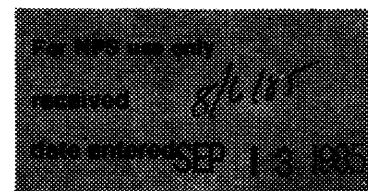


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COBBLESTONE BUILDINGS
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INVENTORY OF NOMINATED PROPERTIES (cont.)

Murray-George House
County Highway P
Turtle Township

Owners: Mrs. Ruby George
612 High Street
Clinton, Wisconsin

The Murray-George House is located north of County Highway P in Turtle township, Rock County. George M. Murray, originally from Pompey, Onondaga County, New York, came with his parents, brothers and sisters to Rock County in 1841. The family engaged in farming in both Clinton and turtle townships. George M. Murray began the building of this house around 1845.¹⁴

For purposes of this nomination the house is included in an area of less than 1 acre beginning from a point 2' south and 2' east of the southwest corner of the structure, thence 48' easterly, thence 53' northerly, thence 48' westerly and thence 53' southerly to the point of beginning. The limitation of the boundary includes only enough land to accommodate the structure of the house as now built and excludes a detached garage. There are no other buildings of significance to the nomination on the property.

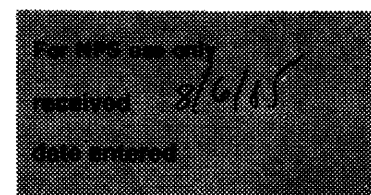
The cobblestone house consists of a 2 story west wing and a 1 story cobblestone "ell" to the east.

To the rear, north, side of the house is a new two story frame wing which was added in 1969-1970, which for the purposes of this nomination is not considered significant. This wing abuts the original construction, and replaces a deteriorated frame wing removed at that time. It should be noted that the interior north wall is constructed of rubble limestone and is original to the house: It was apparently covered by the now-demolished original frame wing.

The cobblestone two story wing features a Greek Revival style returned cornice on the southerly side. Limestone quoin, sills and lintels, and a watertable are other features of the exposed cobblestone construction. The cobblestones themselves are of fairly uniform size and are predominantly grey and brown in color. Many similar 1 1/2 to 2" diameter stones are still being turned to the surface by plows in the fields around the house to this day. The cobblestones are laid in horizontal rows, four courses to a quoin, and separated by layers of V-shaped mortar. No major alterations to the cobblestone fabric had been made. The windows of this section of the building are all six over six double-hung sash.

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INVENTORY OF NOMINATED PROPERTIES (cont.)

The one story cobblestone wing, a single large room, served originally as both kitchen and dining room. The first floor of the two story wing has two rooms. An interior stair leads to one large room above. Floors are made of 8 inch wide pine boards, with mop boards, door and window frames also of pine. Window frames are made of two pine boards one of which is set at a 45 degree angle to the wall. The interior window framing is remarkably similar to the Clark-Brown house, and compares favorably with it.

The dimensions of the two story portion of the cobblestone work are 18' x 25 1/2'; while the one story cobblestone wing is 14' 9" x 20' 9", partially enclosed by the addition to the rear. Hewn beams are visible in the basement.

UTM Reference: 16/340760/4707930 (Shopiere, Wis. 1:24000) Acreage: less than one

Significance

The significance of the Murray-George House lies in its use of small cobblestones as an exterior wall surface. The west, south and east walls are constructed of this material and represent a type of construction distinctive to Rock County in the 1840s and 1850s. Although a new wing to the rear covers a rubble-type limestone north wall, the exposed cobblestone construction contributes significantly to the theme of the nomination and the cobblestone heritage of Rock County.