

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

### 1. Name

historic Herrick Cobblestone

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number 2127 Broadway \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Rockford \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 16

state Illinois \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_ county Winnebago \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property

name John H. Logli

street & number 5830 E. State

city, town Rockford \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Illinois

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Winnebago County Courthouse

street & number 400 West State

city, town Rockford \_\_\_\_\_ state Illinois

### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey  
Illinois Historic Structures Survey

has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

Rockford Historical Preservation Report

date 1974, 1974, 1978 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county  local

depository for survey records Springfield, Rockford

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state Illinois

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Greek Revival in style, the Herrick house is a fine example of typical cobblestone construction.<sup>1</sup> The walls are approximately 15" thick and are composed of a backing wall of larger stones laid up at the same time as a facing of cobbles (some extra long for bonding), selected for their similarity of size and shape. Following tradition, larger stones were used at the back of the building and in the bottom courses. Special care was taken to use smaller stones of similar color in the front.

A highly plastic lime mortar was used which allowed succeeding layers of stone to be applied fairly rapidly. The actual hardening of the mortar was slow and enabled the building to settle well. The joints were embellished with a horizontal V projecting 1". Corners are accented by eleven 12" quoins, each with three to five courses of cobbles - a fairly typical sizing.<sup>2</sup> There is no water table, a common feature of cobblestone buildings.

The foundation is composed of Galena dolomite. Quoins are fashioned from Plattville limestone set on edge, making them more vulnerable to weathering. Both limestones are local. The cobblestones are generally glacial erratics, primarily igneous and limestone, carried south to Rockford as glacial deposits. They include but are not limited to granites, dolomites, limestones, basalt and diabase. Cobblestones on the front are primarily basaltics, darkened further by the sulfurous content of soft coal used for fuel. The design is flavored by the inclusion of some jasper, chert and felsite, to name a few.<sup>3</sup>

The house is approximately 36'x26', has a two-way pitched roof with gables east and west and two chimneys. There are front, back and east doors as well as a cellar entrance below ground. There are thirteen windows, six over six, with much of what appears to be original glass. Lintels are wooden with a slightly raised frame, except for the back three windows which are planks only. Five frieze windows are in front and one is at the back serving to light up the central stairway.

The front porch is a later "Victorian" addition. The doorway is Greek Revival with four sidelights on either side of the door and a five-paned transom (painted over). Four decorative pilasters are at either side of the sidelights. There is a small shed-like addition at the rear entrance.

# The interior plan is simple with two rooms on either side of the stair and two per side upstairs. There is plumbing, heating and electricity with interior alterations to accommodate these modernizations.

The exterior of the building appears to be in good condition. The greatest joint erosion is at the southwest corner. Cracks in the mortar are probably due to settling or foundation problems. The window frames are badly weathered. There is some "gatoring" on the cornice and frieze.

"Anonymous buildings, if they are good, submit to aging as only the wisest of human beings can; they gather years as if they were fruit, not weight."  
Sibyl Moholy-Nagy, Native Genius in Anonymous Architecture

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) folk art

Specific dates 1847\*

Builder/Architect Elijah L. Herrick

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The northern Illinois, southern Wisconsin border once had the largest number of cobblestone buildings outside of New York state. Few of them are left; the Herrick cobblestone, among the oldest buildings in Rockford, "is one of two listed on the Illinois Historic Sites Survey." According to Keith A. Sculle, October 12, 1978. Cobblestone masonry (the branch origins of which go back Roman opus incertum), using indigenous materials selected for both service and appearance, flourished for thirty years as an American folk art.

Cobblestone masonry, originating in New York around 1825, was influenced by British masons working on the Erie Canal.<sup>1</sup> Knowledge of flint construction, experimentation with mortar for the canal and prosperity resulting from the new waterway all contributed to the development of cobblestone architecture.<sup>2</sup> Masons carried the techniques to other parts of the Great Lakes region where the necessary till or drift glacial deposits co-existed with limestone.<sup>3</sup>

Trade secrets were transmitted by observation and oral tradition, thus interpretation of cobblestone techniques is largely speculative. One mason who furnished an account of cobblestone construction to a rural journal was Chester Clark of Marion, New York and Beloit, Wisconsin. A second builder in this area was Will Wright who constructed the other Illinois cobblestone (surveyed), in Roscoe.<sup>4</sup>

Was Elijah L. Herrick<sup>5</sup> a cobblestone mason? Local legend has it that Herrick and his sons built the house, hauling stones by ox cart from the Rock River two miles away.

Like Clark, he came from Massachusetts where there are no cobblestone buildings.<sup>6</sup> Since the typical pattern of migration was to stop in an area, then move west again, Herrick, too, may have learned the art before arriving in Rockford. The proximity of Beloit and Roscoe would not preclude contact with Wright and/or Clark. Families often assisted masons and the technique was fairly easily learned.<sup>7</sup>

While Herrick probably was instrumental in building the house, it is doubtful all the stones came from the Rock River. Glacialfluvials, these cobbles are found on the site (which is part of a vast sand and gravel deposit), and were probably gathered while clearing the land for farming. Additional stones may have been collected at the river while obtaining limestone at the quarry nearby.<sup>8</sup>

The careful placement of stones, selected for size and color, and joint embellishment are aesthetic judgements. The result is a harmonious rhythm of texture and pattern, enhanced by light and shadow. The Herrick cobblestone

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house, an achievement both in utility and aesthetics tells "not the official but the private history of a culture-the unending struggle for physical and spiritual survival of anonymous men."<sup>9</sup>

Footnotes:

Section 7-

<sup>1</sup>Olaf William Shelgren, Jr., et al., Cobblestone Landmarks of New York State, Syracuse, New York, 1978. This is an excellent book on cobblestone construction.

<sup>2</sup>ibid.

<sup>3</sup>On site inspection with Milton Mahlburg, Director-Curator, Furpee Museum of Natural History, August 4, 1979.

Section 8-

<sup>\*</sup>Rockford Daily Register, Dec. 12, 1898.

<sup>1</sup>Susan Edward, "Cobblestone Houses: A Part of the Land," Historic Preservation, 30 (3) (July-Sept., 1978), p.33.

<sup>2</sup>Shelgren, Jr., op. cit., p.7,21,4.

<sup>3</sup>ibid., p.5.

<sup>4</sup>Interview with Nancy Douglas, National Register Officer, Rock County Historical Society, Janesville, Wisconsin, Oct., 1979.

<sup>5</sup>Elijah L. and Hannah Abbott Herrick came to Rockford from Andover, Mass. in 1839, gaining distinction as the builders of the cobblestone house. Descendants of their fourth son, Elijah L., gained prominence in education and business. His wife, Lucy Dunbar Jones was an assistant to Anne Sill, founder of Rockford College. Their daughter Elizabeth also taught at Rockford College and their son Charles became a successful Chicago businessman and civic leader: president, Brenan Packing Company; vice president, Chamber of Commerce; president, Chicago Rotary Club (the first of the Rotary Clubs).

<sup>6</sup>Interview with Olaf William Shelgren, Jr., Oct. 1979.

<sup>7</sup>ibid., Shelgren, Jr. disagrees with Carl F. Schmidt, Cobblestone Architecture, 1944, that the masons were highly secretive.

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8 Interviews with Milton Mahlberg and Dr. John Clark, former Curator of Sedimentary Petrology, Field Museum, now assistant to Mahlberg, have led me to conclude much of the stone probably was gathered on site.

9 Sibyl Moholy-Nagy, Native Genius in Anonymous Architecture, New York, 1957.

Bibliography

Books-

Koeper, Frederick, Illinois Architecture From Territorial Times To The Present: A Selective Guide, Chicago, The University of Chicago Press, 1968. The Herrick house is not listed by HABS, as reported by Koeper.

Moholy-Nagy, Sibyl, Native Genius in Anonymous Architecture, N.Y., Horizon Press, 1957.

Shelgren, Jr., Olaf William, Cary Lattin, Robert Frasc, Cobblestone Landmarks of New York State, Syracuse, N.Y., University Press, 1978.

Magazines-

Edward, Susan, "Cobblestone Houses: A Part of the Land," Historic Preservation, 30 (3) (July-Sept., 1978).

Perrin, Richard W.E., "Boulders, Cobblestones, and Pebbles: Wisconsin's Fieldstone Architecture," Wisconsin Magazine of History, 47 (2) (Winter, 1963-64).

Newspapers-

Various issues of the Rockford Morning Star, Register Republic, Daily Gazette.

Interviews-

Dr. John Clark and Milton Mahlberg, Burpee Museum of Natural History, (Rockford)

Nancy Douglas and Rick Hatung, Rock County Historical Society, (Janesville, Wisc.)

Cary Lattin and Olaf William Shelgren, Jr., Cobblestone Society, (Albion, N.Y.)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

see page 3

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UMT References

A 

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 Zone Easting Northing

B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

216 A 422, lot 2, block 3, Rock View addition to the city of Rockford

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Maureen E. Gustafson

organization \_\_\_\_\_

date October, 1979

street & number 2118 Oaklawn Ave.

telephone 815-226-1264

city or town Rockford

state Illinois 61107

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register:

date \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SUC CONTINUATION SHEET

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.53

Quadrangle name ROCKFORD NORTH

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UMT References

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing			

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing			

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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national  state  local

*Dad Kenny*

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Director, Ill. Dept. of Community

date 1/18/80

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered MAY 14 1980

Name

Location

Herrick Cobblestone

Rockford  
Winnebago County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy  
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson  
Honorable John B. Anderson

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

COPY OF CONGRESSional NOTIFICATION