BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(518)237-8643

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
UNIQUE SITE NO._____
QUAD._____
SERIES_____
NEG.NO._____

YOUR NAME: Kathy Howe DATE: Sept. 1994

YOUR ADDRESS: 133 South Fitzhugh Street TELEPHONE: (716)546-7029
Rochester, NY 14608
ORGANIZATION (if any): The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc.

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IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): Davis-Bagley Cobblestone House
2. COUNTY: Monroe TOWN: Greece
3. STREET LOCATION: 149 North Greece Road
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [ ] b. private [X]
5. PRESENT OWNER: Robert M. Finegan and Jan Forth-Finegan ADDRESS: (same) Hilton, NY 14468
6. USE: Original: residence/farm Present: residence
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes[X] No[ ]
   Interior accessible: Explain private residence

DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard [X] b. stone [X](fdn.) c. brick [ ] d. board and batten [ ] e. cobblestone [X] f. shingles [ ] g. stucco [ ] other: Asphalt roof shingles.
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known)
   a. wood frame with interlocking joints [ ]
   b. wood frame with light members [ ]
   c. masonry load bearing walls [X]
   d. metal (explain)_____
   e. other_____
10. CONDITION: a. excellent [ ] b. good [X] c. fair [ ] d. deteriorated [ ]
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site [X] b. moved [ ] if so, when? _____
    c. list major alterations and dates (if known):
    (see continuation sheet)
12. PHOTO:
13. MAP:

"This is a 'red,' there's no question about it. It has everything going for it: grilles, frieze windows, etc. It's a straight 'red.' " P.Malo.

COLOR CODE

Red

14. THREATS TO BUILDING:

a. none known [X] b. zoning [ ] c. roads [ ]
d. developers [ ] e. deterioration [ ]
f. other: _____

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:

a. barn [ ] b. carriage house [ ] c. garage [X]
d. privy [ ] e. shed [X] f. greenhouse [ ]
g. shop [ ] h. gardens [ ]
i. landscape features: _____
j. other: Cobblestone smokehouse.

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):

a. open land [X] b. woodland [ ]
c. scattered buildings [X]
d. densely built-up [ ] e. commercial [ ]
f. industrial [ ] g. residential [X]
h. other: Fay C. Bagley House next door to the north at 141 N. Greece Rd.

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

(see continuation sheet)

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

(see continuation sheet)

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1845

ARCHITECT: Not determined. (Carl Schmidt was the architect for the remodelling done in the 1960s.)

BUILDER: Edwin Davis, builder and original owner.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

(see continuation sheet)

21. SOURCES:

(see continuation sheet)

22. THEME: Agricultural: Farmhouse and smokehouse.
Cobblestone architecture.

11c.
Former woodshed area at north end of one-story, north wing was converted into a modern kitchen (ca. 1960s). The former doorway on the north elevation of this wing is filled with a casement window in the upper part.

The door on the south wall of the porch was moved from the inside to the outside casing and is now fixed in place, the space behind the door forming a closet (ca. 1960s).

One-story, gable-roofed frame addition, known as the west wing, built on southwest side of the cobblestone house in 1962.

One-story, gable-roofed frame addition (ca. 1990) built at rear of the west wing.

Most of the windows in the house are double-hung replacement sash (ca. 1960s).

Solar panels added on south side of main roof.

Bay window added at rear, west, elevation ca. 1960s.

One-story, side-gabled frame garage added at northwest corner of house in 1975.

Former barn, southwest of house, destroyed by fire in 1968.

Interior remodelled (ca. 1960s). Fireplace built in 1965.

17. The house is on the west side of North Greece Road. It is located in the northwest quadrant of the town. The property retains 2.61 acres of its original 100 acres. It is on top of Frisbee Hill, with the house set back deeply from the road, giving the property a rural feeling. The lot slopes gently down to the south. There is an attached garage on the north side of the house, and a cobblestone smokehouse northeast of the garage. A recent, non-contributing, gable-roofed frame shed is located behind the house to the west. The property has many mature trees and is partially screened from the road by pine trees. Most of the surrounding architecture is post World War II residential, with the exception of 141 North Greece Road (ca. 1905) and 140 North Greece Road (1888), (see separate inventory forms).

18. The Davis-Bagley House is composed of a front-gabled, two-story, cobblestone main block with a long, one-story, side-gabled cobblestone wing to the north. The main block is two bays wide by three bays deep. A one-story, recessed frame porch projects from the east elevation of the wing. Attached at the northwest corner of the house is a non-contributing side-gabled, frame garage (1975). Two, one-story, gable-roofed, frame additions (1962 and 1990) have been added on the southwest side of the main block.

The blocky massing, and classical detailing of the house, which includes cornice returns, a wide frieze band, decorative grills and Doric porch columns, are features associated with the Greek Revival style. Fenestration is regular with six-over-six, double-hung wood windows featuring red sandstone sills and lintels. The corners of the house are marked by roughly squared, red sandstone quoins, about 12" high and 18" long. The house is constructed atop a foundation of coursed ashlar sandstone. The cobblestones on the front, east, elevation of the main block are water-rounded stones of various shapes, sizes, and colors, laid six courses to a quoin height. Most of the horizontal mortar joints are tooled to a V-shape. The cobblestones on the south elevation of the main block and the front, east, elevation of the north wing are slightly larger with five courses to a quoin height. The cobblestones used on the north elevation of the wing are even bigger, and laid four courses per quoin height. The rear, west, elevation is constructed of coarse red sandstone ashlar.

The recessed frame porch has square wooden columns and pilasters which support an entablature above. The porch walls are plastered. The windows of the porch have wood surrounds extending to the porch floor and enclosing a recessed wood panel below the windows. A wood baseboard extends between each of these panels. The center entrance on the east wall of the porch has a wood paneled door with glazing in the upper part. The paneled door on the south wall of the porch has been fixed in place. The north end of the porch is clad with wood clapboards.

The garage addition on the northwest side of the house and the two additions at the southwest side are sympathetically designed to respect the historic form and details of the cobblestone house. These modest-scaled, gable-roofed, frame buildings are clad in wood clapboard and feature simple Greek Revival inspired moldings and pilasters.

18. continued

Of special note on the property is the intact cobblestone smokehouse, north of the house. The gable roof of the smokehouse is sheathed with wood shakes. This structure has roughly 4 courses of cobblestone per quoin with the exception of the west elevation which is built of coarse fieldstones rather than cobblestones. A door of vertical wood boards is located on the south elevation.

The interior of the house was remodelled by architect Carl Schmidt in the 1960s. Alterations at that time included the addition of the west wing. The exterior rear wall was allowed to remain exposed within this wing. The former woodshed area at the north end of the house was remodelled into a kitchen. A former doorway at the north elevation was made into a window. A fireplace was installed between the kitchen and dining room. A large bay window was added to the west elevation of the house. Bookshelves were built on the west wall of the front parlor. Most of the original pine plank flooring is intact.

20. The Davis-Bagley House is architecturally significant as an outstanding example of a mid-nineteenth-century, Greek Revival cobblestone farmhouse retaining a high degree of integrity of design, materials, and craftsmanship. (A description of the house appears on page 47 of Carl F. Schmidt's *Cobblestone Masonry*.) It is one of four extant cobblestone buildings in the town of Greece. The farmstead is historically significant as well as for its long association with the Bagley family, who were early settlers and farmers in North Greece.

The house was built by Edwin Davis in 1845. The house first appears on the 1852 county map with the owner's name, Edwin Davis. Davis sold it to Lucius Bagley in 1856 as part of a 100 acre farm. L. Bagley is shown as the owner of this house on lot 47 on the 1858 county map. Lucius Bagley and his descendants occupied the house for the next 97 years. When Lucius was no longer able to work the farm, his first son, Henry Joel, took over the farm. The 1902 county map shows Hy. J. Bagley as the owner of the house and 100 acre farm. Beans, corn, wheat, hay, and fruit were grown on the Bagley farm. The main barn on the Bagley farm, located southwest of the house, was destroyed by fire in 1968. After Henry Joel's death at the age of 90 in 1942, his daughter Ruby and her husband, Morton Nellis, moved

20. continued

into the house. (The early-1900s house next door at 141 North Greece Road, which was once part of this farm, was built by Fay Bagley, son of Henry Joel Bagley.)

In 1953, the cobblestone property was sold to John and Martha Lane. The Lanes lived in the cobblestone house until 1958, at which time Stanley and Mary Hazen purchased the property. The Hazens made substantial upgrades and improvements to the house including the first west wing addition. Prominent local architect Carl Schmidt was in charge of these alterations which were sympathetic to the existing design of the historic house. In 1989, the house was sold to its current owners, Robert Finegan and Jan Forth-Finegan.

The Davis-Bagley House is architecturally significant as an outstanding, intact example of the cobblestone method of construction in New York State. This cobblestone farmhouse property may be eligible for listing to the State and National Registers of Historic Places. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of cobblestone construction in its use of lake-washed cobbles laid in horizontal rows and bonded with limestone mortar, the use of stone quoins to decorate and stabilize the corners of the building, and the use of stone sills and lintels at door and window openings. Typical of the Middle Period (ca. 1835-ca. 1845) of cobblestone construction, the house features water-rounded stones of various shapes, sizes, and colors laid six courses to a quoin height on the front of the main block with five courses per quoin on the side elevations of the main block. The horizontal joints are V-shaped.

The farmhouse is additionally significant as a representative example of mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival, rural domestic architecture in the town of Greece. It displays a Greek Revival form and plan, i.e., a two-story, front-gabled main block with a one-story, side-gabled wing. It also embodies the distinctive features of the style in its symmetrical fenestration, its wide, wooden frieze with exaggerated cornice returns, and its recessed porch with in-antis square columns and pilasters.

The significance of the farmhouse is enhanced by the survival of the cobblestone smokehouse. Like the main house, the smokehouse is architecturally significant as a representative example of the cobblestone method of construction.

20. continued

The cobblestone buildings of New York State resulted from the adaptation of prevailing masonry construction technology to a special building material commonly found in Central and Western

New York at the time of its settlement and early development. Cobblestones were shaped and deposited in this part of the state by glaciers at the time of the Last Ice Age, and were readily collected as a building material by settlers who were clearing land and preparing fields for planting. The construction of the Erie Canal between 1817-1825 brought many skilled masons to the area, and the completion of that project left masonry workers available for work in building construction. Cobblestone architecture developed in the late 1820s, reached its peak of popularity in the 1830s and 1840s, and continued at a lesser pace through the 1860s, after which time it became an outdated technique used only sporadically for repairs or additions to earlier cobblestone structures.

21.

Aeberli, William. "Cobblestone, An Art of Masonry from Yesteryear," Part II. *The Greece Post*, 31 December 1970.

Aeberli, William. "The Hazen home built by Edwin Davis more than 125 years ago," Part III. *The Greece Post*, 7 January 1971.

Aeberli, William. "The Old Cobblestone House on The Hill." *The Greece Post*, 24 December 1970, pp. 7,8 and 23.

Assessment Records. Assessment Office, Town of Greece, NY.

Beers, F.W. *Atlas of Monroe County, New York*. New York: F.W. Beers & Co., 1872.

Brown, P.J. *Gillette's Map of Monroe County, New York*. Philadelphia: Gillette, 1858.

Brown, P.J. *Map of Monroe County, New York*. Addison, NY: A.G. Gillett, Publisher, 1852.

Interview with Robert Finegan, owner of 149 North Greece Road, July 1994.

21. continued

Map of Monroe County, N.Y. Philadelphia. PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1924.

Plat Book of Monroe County, New York. Philadelphia, PA: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1902.

Rochester Suburban Directory for the Year 1938. Rochester, NY: Sampson & Murdock Co., 1937.

Schmidt, Carl F. *Cobblestone Masonry.* Scottsville, NY: 1966.

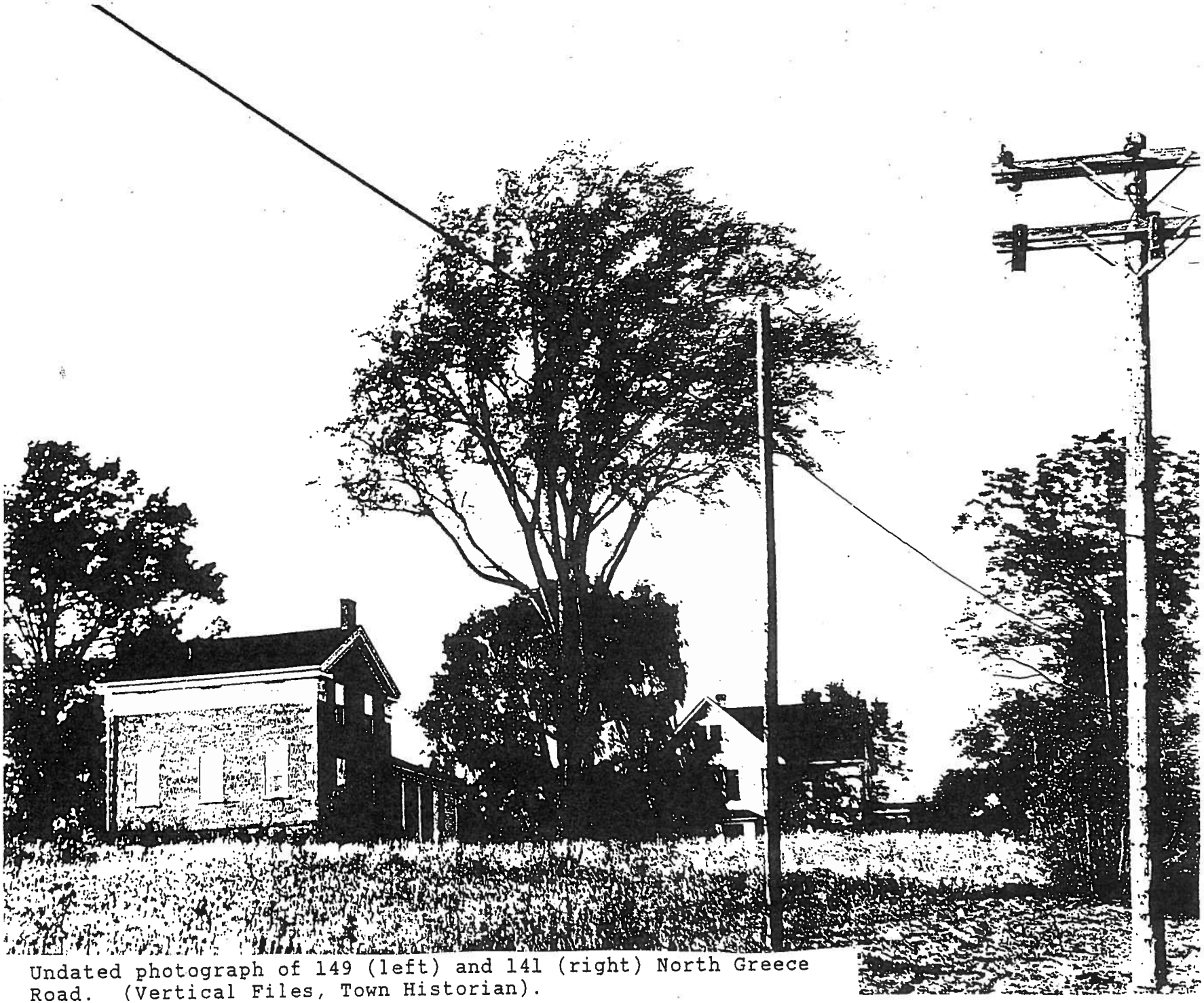
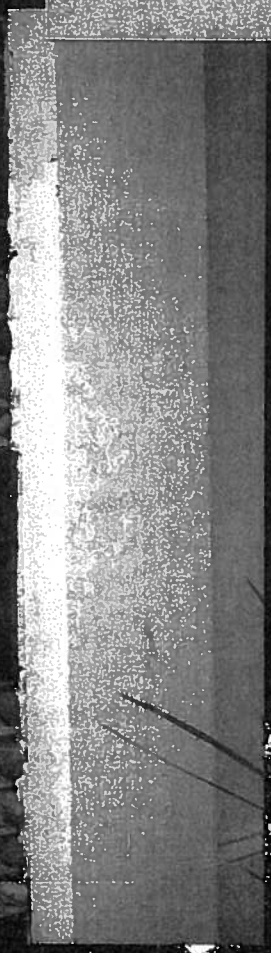
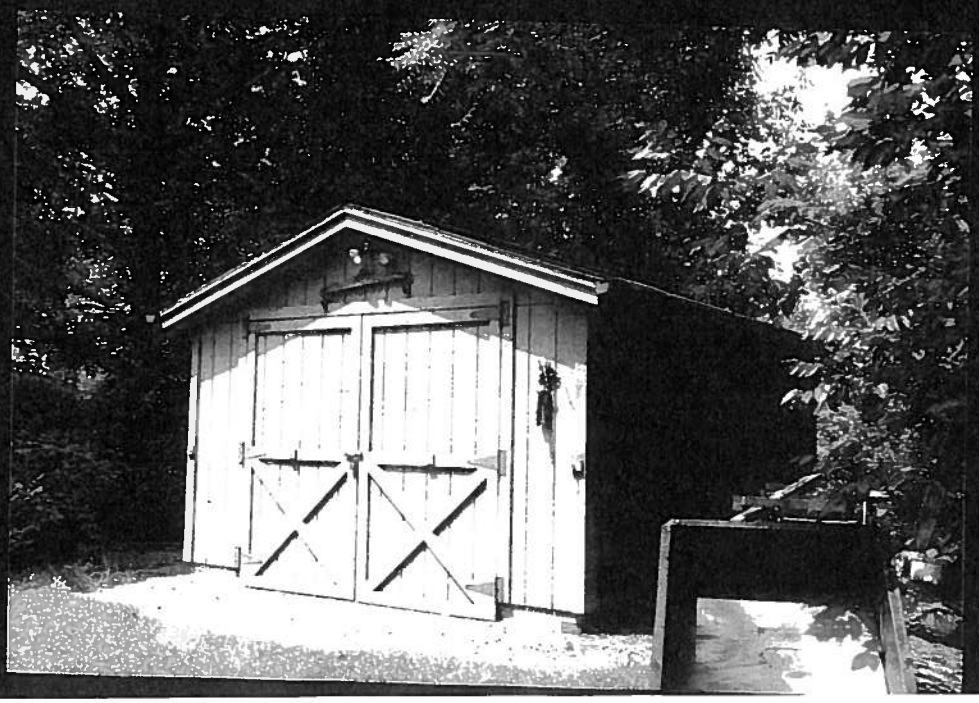
Todd, Nancy. Cobblestone Architecture of New York State. Multiple Property Documentation Form, National Register of Historic Places nomination. Albany, NY: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, 26 March 1992.

Town of Greece Historian's Office. Vertical Files. Greece, NY.

Wagner's Complete Survey of Monroe County, New York. Cincinnati, Ohio: A.C. Wagner Co., 1928.

Henry Joel Bagley. (Vertical File on Local History, Greece Public Library.)

—149 North Greeca Road.



Undated photograph of 149 (left) and 141 (right) North Greece Road. (Vertical Files, Town Historian).