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Colossal Cobblestone in the Country

4929 West Ridge Road, Parma

Stretching over 360 miles, the Erie Canal was a feat of civil engineering unlike any seen before. Along its path many villages and towns grew and prospered. Some such as Rochesterville grew so considerably that they became cities within a mere decade or two. In the 1820s, a farmer named Ralph Thrall, attracted by the fertile lands of the Genesee region, likely emigrated from his home in Connecticut to the Town of Parma near the Village of Spencerport and the Canal. He soon married, started a family, and established a successful farm of some 140 acres. In 1845, after years of success, he built the substantial Greek Revival style home seen today.

Lovingly cared for by the current family since 1972, the Thrall House is one of about 200 cobblesstone structures in the greater Rochester region still standing. The entirety of its 3,320 square feet was built at once, with the finest and most regular stones used for the imposing front façade. A generous entry porch provides cover to the vault-like original walnut front door, complete with original hardware and doorbell pull.

Stepping over the broad stone threshold, a grand foyer with soaring ceilings, abundant woodwork, and graceful staircase greets you. Directly ahead, a paneled door with broad Greek moldings leads to the large dining room. To either side are the front parlors, the more formal of which features an original colonnade leading to a smaller sitting room. In nearly every room light streams in from the large windows onto glowing pine plank

floors. The dining room is the first room of the rear wing of the house and is the heart of the home with doors at front to the parlors and foyer, at rear to the pantry/laundry and kitchen, and to the wide, open side porch. Passing by a large arched alcove and powder room, the kitchen has plentiful storage and access to the original carriage doors, cellar stair, and rear patio. A more recent servant's stair leads to a partially finished storage room above.

The second floor features five bedrooms, many with generous closets, glowing pine floors, high ceilings, and multiple large windows, and a shared full bath. The two front bedrooms are nearly as gracious as the parlors beneath them. The walk-up attic is vast and showcases the house's heavy-timber internal structure. The basement is tall and dry with beautiful stone walls, updated mechanicals, and the original window shutters awaiting reinstallation. A carriage house with loft and original cobblesstone smokehouse complete the property.

From its sandstone foundation and corner quoins, to the six-over-six double-hung windows and plentiful original millwork, the Thrall property has aged gracefully and awaits its next steward. Contact Eve Meagher, Remax Realty Group for more information 585-737-7937, and make it yours for \$239,000.

by Christopher Brandt

Christopher is a longtime Landmark Society volunteer and blogs about his own historic home at www.myp perfect little money pit.com.