

THE MUD HOUSE

1000 Whalen Road

*Washed*  
This adobe house was built in 1835 by William Gorsø. Clay from a nearby creek bed was spread on the ground inside a pen. Chopped straw was spread over the clay and then oxen were walked around inside the pen until the materials were thoroughly mixed. Plank forms about a foot high were laid out on the wall foundations and the clay and straw mixture placed in them. When it was dry the forms were raised and another course poured. Floor joists were laid across the walls and a layer poured on top thus embedding the joists in the wall. It took a year to build the house and when it was finished the interior walls were plastered and whitewashed. In 1978 the house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. *It is most unusual to find an adobe structure in this part of the country.*  
\*\*\*\* Information on these pages came from research material done by former Penfield Town Historian Kathryn Thompson. Her book Penfield's Past and records of the Historical and Historical/Architectural Review Board which she prepared, from conversations with Miss Leora Fahrer.

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