

NY Times
April 18
1945

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Telegraph, now The Catholic Tele-
graph Register.

Bishop Fenwick continued his
missionary travels. In 1832 he
succumbed to an attack of cholera.

MUD HOUSE OF 1835 STILL USED UP-STATE

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., April 17
—A dwelling built in near-by Pen-
field of mud and straw in 1835,
and in use ever since, soon will
have a new tenant.

The two-story house, built by
William Gorse in a period which
present builders would be likely
to regard as marked by shortages,
still stands snug and solid after
more than 113 years of occupancy.

Mrs. Anson Antes of Fairport,
granddaughter of the builder, re-
vealed how the house was built of
clay taken from a near-by creek
bed. The clay was spread out and
cut straw was mixed with it by
driving oxen over it. Plank forms
were built on a stone foundation
and were filled with the mixture.
When the clay dried the forms
were elevated and the process was
repeated. On completion the house
received a thin coat of clay out-
side and the interior walls were
plastered and kept whitewashed.

Three fireplaces of brick were
built, one equipped with a Dutch
oven. It took one year to build
the house.

Gorse, who had grown up in a
log cabin near by, moved into the
house in 1836 with his wife and
small daughter. The daughter,
Emily, left the house when she
married, but returned to live in it
in 1877 after her parents died.

For the last decade the house
has been used as an office for a
nursery firm. Central heating,
water and electricity have been
installed but only minor repairs
have been made to the original
structure and, says Donald C.
Brown, nurseryman, who has built
a new office and who will rent the
clay house to one of his workmen.
"It's probably good for another
hundred years."