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## LACAC-Star column

# Local house builder has made his mark

### The Man who Changed the Face of Cobourg

As an artist fleshes out the figure, or as a story-teller rounds out the character after the main story is in place, so did Reuben Jackson fill in the streets of Cobourg during the early years of this century.

Jackson came to Cobourg as a young craftsman ( a bricklayer of considerable skill) and was immediately hired for the demanding task of laying the rounded corners of the Armory Building in 1904. He worked for a local contractor and was able to build the first of his houses in 1909 on Albert Street. No 12 Albert was the first house he lived in himself, and interestingly, his last house (his own) is also on Albert Street, No. 170, built in 1946.

Between these years he built 71 houses throughout the town, many during World War I and many during the late depression years. He wanted to keep his men employed and so Cobourg gained.

These houses stand today, some with porches filled in or removed, but the majority in their original style. The greatest number of these on one street will be found on Chapel St. 20 in all. Notice the row of his most frequently used design on the north side of Chapel, east of College Street. You will find other rows on Albert Street, Mathew Street, and University Avenue. There are still others on Ball, Blake, William, Spring, Walton and Bond Streets.

Happy hunting! and congratulations to those of you who live in and care for a Jackson house -- you have a special piece of Cobourg in your hands.