

Old Home in the Road of Progress

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BATH — A special "wake" is being held here this weekend, probably the last of its kind for the village.

From 2 to 4 p.m., the public is welcome to take a final look at the "deceased," the more-than-a-century old, Davenport estate gate house on Cameron Street.

Progress has killed the cobblestone landmark, one of the few of its kind remaining in Western New York.

The tall trees and large bushes that kept it half-hidden were removed in recent weeks, leaving it astonishingly exposed, the last thing to be demolished in the area for the coming Southern Tier Expressway.

The Conhocton River just a few hundred feet north of the long vacant, but apparently sound structure will be relocated to a channel running through what is now the site of the small building erected in the 1850s.

Moving the river southward in the area is part of the expressway project.

The structure, admired by architectural buffs, was used as an office by Col. Ira Daven-



Cobblestone house will be torn down for highway construction.

port, the wealthy merchant and public benefactor who founded the now long-gone Davenport home for orphan girls in the Civil War era.

Several efforts to save the cobblestone building, with its distinctive chimney, apparently have failed.

The Davenport Library, as

owner of the house and land, received \$8,000 for it from the state. Cost estimates to have it moved, relocated and repaired have ranged from \$12,000 to \$40,000. These high costs apparently have dimmed the few efforts to preserve the building.

So, it will be open to the

public today to accommodate those who want to take a final look inside — for many the first and last because it was long shuttered.

Interior features include ornate paneling and a carved fireplace in an octagon-shaped room added in the 1880s.