

(Rochester, N. Y.)

8B

The Times-Union
Sat., Feb. 6, 1965



Chili Cobblestone School To Be Opened as Museum

THE COBBLESTONE SOCIETY

Ridge Road

Chili, New York 14411

By BETSY BUES

The Town of Chili, which for 13 years has planned to restore a one-room cobbleshed schoolhouse (above), will open it this summer as a museum, says Supervisor George K. Lusk.

This was his reaction when asked about an offer from the Chili Historical Society to take over the project.

The society, headed by Mrs. George P. Smith, this week asked permission to restore the school, charging that the town has left it "vacant and deteriorating" for the 13 years it has had the property.

In a letter sent to the Town Board, the society said "... this committee believes that the Chili Historical Society is the logical body to effect the restoration."

Lusk's reaction: "This schoolhouse is town property, and will never be deeded over to the historical society while I'm supervisor."

Lusk said the ceiling has been replastered and plans are under way to

have school benches replaced, and the floor oiled, so the building can be open as a town museum by this summer.

He said Mrs. Ruth McFee, town historian, will be in charge of the restoration, as she is the "logical person" to do it. Lusk has set up a meeting Feb. 25 with Mrs. McFee and a town committee to work on the restoration.

The schoolhouse, which is located on Scottsville Road near the Morgan Road, is more than 100 years old. It is on property—originally owned by the Sheffer family—which was deeded to Chili School District 4 in 1828. It was used as a school until 1952 when the district turned it over to the town.

According to Mrs. Smith, the schoolhouse is the only one in the county which can still be restored, since any others have been bought and renovated as homes.

The late Louis Wehle donated \$500 for its restoration and the town chipped in an additional \$500, said Lusk.