

Cobblestone Tour In Rochester, N.Y.

A TOUR of 26 of New York State's unique cobblestone houses has been arranged by the Cobblestone Society, an organization devoted to the preservation of this unusual type of building.

The tour will be held June 6 starting from Webster, east of Rochester, and will include a church and 26 houses, seven of them open for visiting.

These unusual buildings, which feature cobblestones, small, naturally - rounded stones, as a building material, are all more than a century old and are found almost exclusively in an area within 60 miles of Rochester, according to the State Department of Commerce.

The style was originated about 1825 by stone masons who had worked on the Erie

Canal. In the hands of master builders it became a highly sophisticated technique in which each builder developed individual characteristics which distinguish his work.

The tour, which is on a drive-yourself basis, will start at the cobblestone Baptist Church in Webster where tickets and a tour booklet with a map of the route may be purchased. The price is \$2. Proceeds will be used for the repair of a cobblestone church at Childs, one of three cobblestone buildings owned by the Cobblestone Society.

All of the seven houses open during the tour are still in use as residences, one of them by descendants of the original owner for whom it was built in 1845. The earliest house was built in 1830.