

# Old Railroad Building Will Be Preserved

Preservation of the oldest railroad building in New York State, a cobblestone pumphouse in Fishers built in 1845, has been pledged by a yet-unannounced purchaser of a portion of the old Auburn Branch right-of-way, J. Sheldon Fisher, Ontario County historian, announced yesterday.

The New York Central System, which is negotiating the sale of the eight-mile strip between Pittsford and Victor, is taking a direct interest in preserving the historic landmark. A. J. Perlman, railroad president, wrote Fisher:

"We presently have this pumphouse under discussion with a proposed purchaser—who does not wish his name disclosed at present—and who advises us that he intends to have the pumphouse maintained for historical purposes either by dedicating it to the town (of Victor) or to you as the county historian."

The picturesque building originally fed water to wood-burning engines of the Auburn & Rochester Railroad, which in 1850 became part of the New York Central System. It is the second oldest railroad building in the United States; only the old Baltimore & Ohio station in Baltimore is older.

This is the third time in 23 years that Fisher has had to intervene to preserve the old pumphouse. In 1938 he persuaded the Central's management to call off plans to raze it. In 1950 these plans were revived, but again the management gave in to Fisher's pleas and let the building stand.



**SAFE FOR POSTERITY**—J. Sheldon Fisher, Ontario County historian, is shown with cobblestone pumphouse,

oldest railway building in the state, which now has been assured of preservation by buyer of Auburn Road strip.