

Potsdam Awaits Construction Of Controversial Relief Route

POTSDAM — Construction of Potsdam's Relief Route, a four-lane limited-access bypass, did not begin in 1979. But officials are hopeful that bids will be let sometime soon so that construction can begin in the spring of 1980.

The road is expected to alleviate traffic congestion in the Village of Potsdam by routing vehicles away from the Maple Street bridge—at present the only bridge in the village that crosses the Racquette River.

A new bridge that roughly parallels a railroad bridge is to be built across the river. It will allow drivers making the trip from Canton to pass by Potsdam's downtown area on a four-lane road that will take them near the Montgomery Ward's store and bring them out onto Market Street between Elderkin and Willow streets.

That will be the first phase of the project, which alone is expected to take two years to complete. Two other phases of the road will see the bypass continued northward through the village to a point near the Pest House Road where it will eventually intersect with Route 56 north; and also see improvements to the intersection with Route 11 to the south.

Barstow's Store Has Full Line

POTSDAM — Barstow's Furniture Store, owned since 1967 by Roy Barstow, is located at 24 Market St., in the center of the village's Historic District.

The building, which features a handsome front facade, was originally the home of the Rialto Theatre. The stairway to the second floor of the furniture store is the original stairway to the balcony of the movie house.

Barstow's employs three people fulltime and one person part-time. Marlyne Glasgow is the store manager; Dorothy Villmore is general office manager and bookkeeper.

The store offers a full line of living room and dining room furniture, bedroom furniture, carpeting, lamps and accessories, featuring Armstrong carpets and the Kling line of furniture made by Ethan Allen.

According to Ms. Glasgow, Barstow's is one of the first stores in this area to display its wares in a "gallery" showroom.

In conjunction with the completion of the Relief Route's first phase, highway engineers say they plan the return of two-way traffic to downtown Potsdam. Because of past traffic problems, four of Potsdam's major downtown streets have been designated one-way to create a traffic loop.

Controversy
The Relief Route has been in the planning stages for several years and has been the focus of considerable controversy in the village. Proponents say that it will not only aid vehicular traffic patterns but will provide a much-needed second bridge in case of emergencies.

Officials from the New York State Department of Transportation, which will build the road, were hopeful of starting construction last fall. But the project got bogged down in local efforts to save the village's old railroad depot from being destroyed during the construction of the road. Plans had called for the depot, now renovated as a nightclub, to be demolished during

construction of Phase I. But pressure from local residents succeeded in having the former train station placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Because of that designation, a federal agency known as the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation was called in to try to find a solution to demolition.

Recently, the Village of Potsdam and the state Department of Transportation have agreed upon a plan to move the depot to a nearby location in order to avoid demolition. But to date, the Advisory Council has yet to mediate a memorandum of agreement with all parties involved.

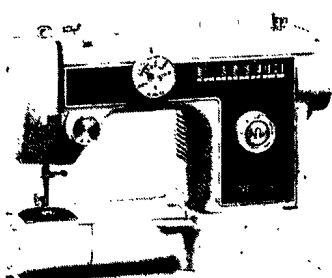
Officials for the village and the DOT said recently that they are still hoping to begin construction sometime this spring. Some 75 percent of construction costs are to be funded by the federal Highway Administration and 25 percent by the state DOT. Also involved in the decision over the depot is the state Office of Historic Preservation.

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Goddard Block-Front Chest	\$318.50	\$239.50
Tufted-Back Chair from In Velvet as shown	\$725.00	\$549.50
C Tea Table	\$504.00	\$359.00
Queen Anne Chair from In floral print as shown	\$395.50	\$299.50
	\$999.00	\$699.00
	\$455.00	\$329.00



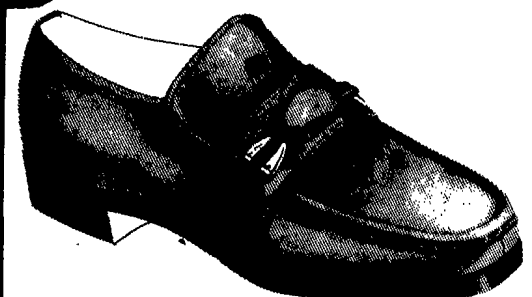
BARSTOW'S FURNITURE

24 Market St., Potsdam

265-7370

Little Red Shoe House FACTORY SHOE OUTLET

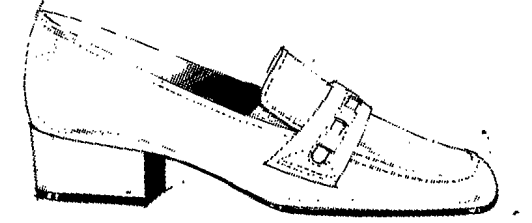
\$\$\$ DOLLAR DAYS



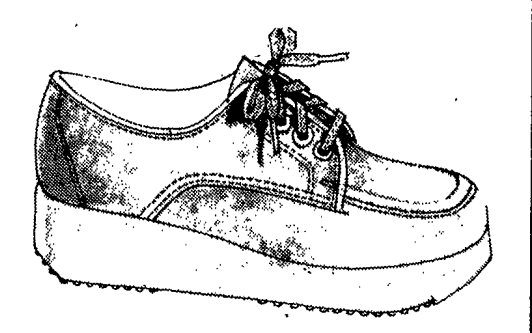
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