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Piece by piece, posh home moves for mall Other houses are being razed to make room, but this jewel is being carefully taken apart.

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*Star-Telegram Writer*

HURST - The pink brick dream home was once the jewel of Pipeline Road. Why, people wondered, would someone build a 3,100-square-foot house near homes that were decades old and only about half the value - in a neighborhood slated for condemnation

Neighbors always said the house would have fit in better in Colleyville or Southlake.

"It looked kind of out of place here. We thought it was going to be a business or something," said Doris Lopez, who lived in the neighborhood for 30 years.

Maybe they were right.

While most other houses in the neighborhood are being demolished to make way for the expansion of North East Mall, the pink house is being carefully dismantled. It will be packed up and reassembled - possibly in Colleyville.

The \$220 million mall expansion project forced 127 residents to leave their houses.

The pink house's original owner, 75-year-old Bob Evans, accepted the city's buyout offer.

The city gave Evans \$230,000 for his land and let him keep his dream house, which was built two years ago for \$161,000, on the condition that he move it by July 1, said John Pitstick, development director for Hurst.

Evans sold the house to North Richland Hills resident Sam Sayani, who said he is considering moving it to Colleyville. Sayani declined to give any details on the rebuilding of the house.

"I can't say at this point," he said. "It's a possibility, but we haven't decided for sure. " Evans could not be reached to comment this week.

Terry Rogers, a subcontractor from Louisiana who is dismantling the house, said workers are doing their best to save every piece.

"The house is supposed to look the same when they put it back up," Rogers said.

Evans' former neighbor, Jeff Molenburg, said he is glad the house will be rebuilt.

"A house like that belongs in Colleyville," he said. "It's beautiful. " He said he is glad that Evans made money off the house, even if other residents of the neighborhood didn't profit to the same extent.

"If he made anything off of it, more power to him," Molenburg said.

But other former neighbors said they are not sure Evans ever intended to stay in the

house.

"He built that house knowing they were going to expand the mall," said Lopez, 62. "He made money off that house, that's the reason he built it there." Glenn **Sodd**, an attorney representing several residents who sued the city over condemnations, disagreed.

"I don't think he knew they were going to take the house," **Sodd** said. "They told him that the house wouldn't be touched by the expansion." Last year, Evans told the Star-Telegram that he and his wife of 50 years, Rita, intended to stay in the house unless they got a better offer.

"Half a million - but you can always go down," Evans said then.

"Then we can buy another property down the street.

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