



The "Governor's Mansion" is one of the most elegant homes of old Farmington.



The former Philbrick tavern was a haven for 19th century travelers. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)

Return for another look

Surprises abound after music fades and celebrations cease

By CORINNE ABATT

Visitors to Farmington and Farmington Hills during the Founders Festival are in for some surprises. Those here for the first time may not be aware of the history, charm and heritage of the communities.

After the tents and ferris wheels have been packed away and the last notes of band music have faded, newcomers may want to return for another, quieter look at the area.

Our suggestions are for a walk-drive tour of the area with stops along the way for shopping and refreshment stops.

1) Park your car in the area directly behind the stores on the southeast corner of Farmington Road and Grand River. There's a Village Mall on the corner with a small restaurant, Cozy Cafe, if you need coffee and doughnuts to get you going.

2) Jerry's Bookstore directly across from the mall on Farmington has a collection of books, new and used, to delight bargain hunters.

3) The Masonic Temple on the northwest corner

of Farmington and Grand River was the early town hall. Built in 1876 at a cost of \$1,300, it is considered one of the finest, most attractive and authentic landmarks in the county. Johnson S. Prall was the builder-designer of the building which combines European-Victorian and French Renaissance influences.

1) It's a four-block hike westward along Grand River to the "Governor's Mansion." The graceful home set among tall trees was built in 1867 by the father of Frederick M. Warner, governor of Michigan, 1900-1906.

2) About a block east of the mansion on the north side of Grand River there's a small street, Grace. Follow Grace north to Shiawassee and stop for a moment at 23910 Grace, home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mahaney. Members of the same family have lived in the home ever since it was built in 1871.

3) A left turn at Shiawassee will take you past the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Jackson. Their home at 33629 Shiawassee is an example of

early Greek Revival. It was built in the 1830s and has been maintained in original condition even to the siding.

7) A turn east and you're heading for the Wilbur Smedley home, 33613 Shiawassee. Very few alterations have been made to this farmhouse with Victorian and Colonial influences since it was built around 1880. Just east of the Smedley home, there are three more homes of historical interest.

8) The residence of Judge Max Hulett, 33601 Shiawassee was built in 1815 and is a good example of early American architecture. The second story is a later addition.

9) The Lee Peel home, 33616 Shiawassee, built in 1811, originally belonged to Dr. Alanson Hudson, a community physician. The Michigan Greek Revival architecture has been authentically restored by the present owner.

10) The oldest home in Farmington, 33130 Shiawassee, was built by one of the community's founding fathers, Percy Powers, a Quaker settler in 1821.

11) The white First Baptist Church at the corner of Shiawassee and Farmington, is the second oldest Baptist church in the state. The congregation celebrated its 150th birthday this year.

12) Continuing east on Shiawassee, the next home of particular interest is the Arthur Leonard residence, 33309. It was built in 1811 and the Greek Revival influence is evident.

There are no nails in the rough hewn roof beams. They are supported by mortise. A well in the backyard, still useable, was a source of water for the early bucket brigades in the pre-fire hose days.

13) Shiawassee curves into Warner. Turn right at Warner and about a block down the street is the Roy Klepinger home at 23700.

It was built about 1830 and remodeled in 1922.

14) Two blocks west on Oakland you're back on Farmington and within sight of the first post office. It is located at 23929 and 23927 Farmington. It is a mixture of farm

Cont. on Page 4