

This is one of the many rooms at the historic Botsford Inn which creates a mood of history. (Staff photo)

## Anhut saves corner from gas station

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came involved in saving it.

"Purd bought and restored it in the 1920's, when Grand River was just a two lane highway," she said. "He had it until death."

It was Ford's task originally, and it is Anhut's now. He calls the inn his labor of love.

"An auto dealership wanted to buy this land some time ago. But I decided to keep the inn operating," he said.

Anhut's commitment includes seven additions, the latest, a dining room completed last year. There are 60 guest rooms plus dining rooms, meeting rooms and wedding reception facilities — a booming business at Botsford.

Between 60 and 65 workers are employed to keep the inn running 24 hours a day. That includes almost constant maintenance required by the old buildings.

Tuesday, two workers were painting a nineteenth century saltbox home on the Botsford grounds while a gardener tended to the flowers and shrubs. Mrs. Clara Ford was a rose bush fancier and the grounds are still well landscaped.

**STILL SURVIVING** in the oldest part of the building, the house built by Orrin Weston in 1836, is a living room, parlor, dining room and kitchen. The house was converted to a tavern by Stephen Jennings in 1841.

The original wooden floors still squeak under the daily pressure of foot

traffic. Some of the original doors remain. The soft pine wood walls of the parlor are corn-cob smoked. The preservation process involved steaming barrels of corn-on-the-cob and was done by Henry Ford.

An interesting picture of Ford, sitting down with a large hole in the sole of one shoe, hangs above the cooking fireplace in the kitchen. Old copper kettles and black pots still hang in their original places.

Botsford is a mixture of different time frames. Just inside the front door, visitors are greeted by a large fireplace. A mounted deer's head and rifle hang over the mantle. There is an old wood rolltop desk and handback chairs in the lobby. A calendar from 1923 hangs behind the reception counter.

There are photos of the Farmington High School class of 1895 (six students), a stage coach wage bill from 1840, and Governor William Milliken with Miss Farmington of 1974.

**LES VOLLBERT**, of the Michigan Historical Division, in Lansing said consideration of Botsford for the National Register will go before a state review board on Tuesday, June 5.

"Most likely, it will be approved," he said. "Then the forms will be sent to Washington. If Washington approves, and they usually do, it'll be listed in two or three months."

## Hickey appointed

National Bank of Detroit has appointed David W. Hickey of Farmington as assistant banking officer in its U.S. Banks Group. In his new job, Hickey will provide banking services to NBD correspondent banks in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Nebraska and Iowa. In his nine years with the bank, he has held a number of managerial posts.



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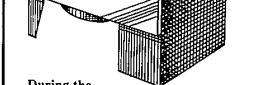
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