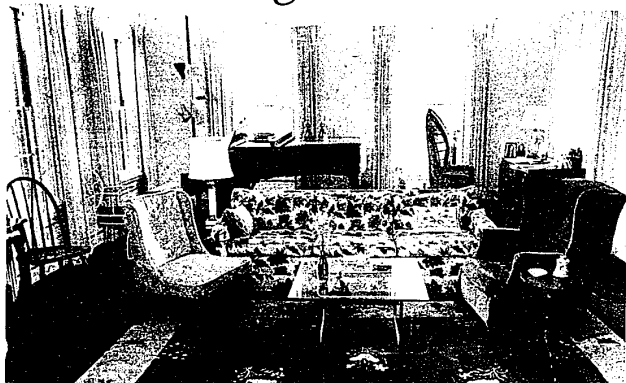


Farmington Hills seeks out historical roots



The modern is mixed with a bit of the old in the living room which was a part of the original home. Crubiak resident to give this comfortable look to the (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Historical districts can mean preservation and recognition for notable homes and buildings. It can also mean higher taxes for their owners.

The pros and cons of the decision to set up a scattered historic district in Farmington Hills are being tackled by an ad hoc committee. They estimate their task should be completed by spring, 1980.

The committee, under the leadership of Al Mochman, is studying 70 homes in Farmington Hills for membership in the district. Letters have been sent to the owners informing them of plans for a historic district.

Architectural, social and economic significance will play a part in determining which homes will eventually comprise the district.

But while owners of some of the homes welcome the attempt at preserving the best of the past, they may face higher taxes.

As with other historic districts around the state, the special designation increases the market value of the home. City assessors take this into account when they set the market value of the home for tax purposes, explained

city attorney and ad hoc committee member John Donahue.

HISTORIC DESIGNATION doesn't offer a tax break, Donahue said.

With historic designation also comes some restrictions on the type of exterior alterations that can be done to the home.

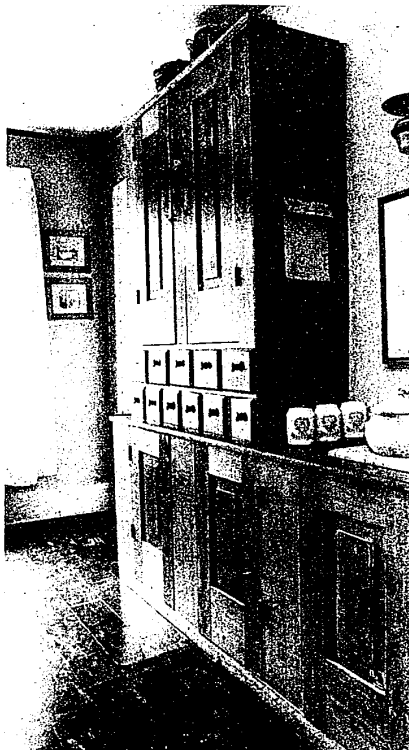
Usually, Donahue explained, additions and remodeling to the home must

be approved by the historical commission before they are begun.

This way the commission can assure that the original appearance of the home isn't altered beyond recognition.

Persons who own historic homes in Farmington Hills say they bought them for their old-fashioned charm. The owners say they favor an attempt at

(Continued on page 4A)



Built in 1895 by Burt Simpson, this cabinet is an example of the handiwork which has gone into the historical home over the years. (Staff photo)



Tom Crubiak and family enjoy living in this historical home built in 1835. This is one of the homes considered for designation as an historical landmark. (Staff photo)

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

INSIDE FOUNDERS: Once again it's Founders Festival time in Farmington. Here's some last minute information:

• Farmington's Summer Marching Band: The 40 elementary-school-aged musicians are part of the area's summer fine arts program. The group will make their public debut on Grand River on July 28 in the Founders Parade. Let's hear it for the youngsters.

• Rocking and disco dancing: This can be accomplished at various times during the festival. At 8 p.m. July 26 at Twelve Mile and Drake, TILT will kick off a weekend of rock sponsored by the Farmington Area Jaycees. On July 27 at 8 p.m., Mugsy, which bills itself as "the nasty men of rock n roll" will appear. Next, at 8 p.m. on July 28 The Look will appear. They were voted the best new group of 1978 in WABF's Michigan Music Awards poll. Tickets for these three concerts are \$3.50.

On Saturday, July 28, that price includes hearing Michael Quatro, Suzi's brother, rock along with the Magic Machine.

Prices rise at 7 p.m. July 29 when Mitch Ryder, a Detroit made good, entertains the hometown audience. Ryder is known for recordings of "C.C. Ryder" (no relation) "Devil with a Blue Dress On" and "Little Latin D Loop."

Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Farmington Harmony House in the Farmington Downtown Center. Advance tickets will be available until July 25.

• Disco types: WDRQ will play disco from 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. for those dancing feet on the Oakland Community College grounds, Twelve Mile and Orchard Lake Road. From 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. on the same day, July 28, there will be a disco contest in the Downtown Farmington Center.

• Jaycee July Fest: From July 26-29, there will be pony rides, bingo and a carnival midway to entertain the whole family on Twelve Mile and Drake in Farmington Hills. There will be hot balloon rides available for all old fans of Around the World in 80 Days from 6 p.m. until dark, July 26 and 28.

• So you think you can beat the Guinness World Records? Want to prove it? Participate in the Chatham Square Merchants contest to break some Guinness records. Events include ice cream eating, which invites big slurpers to down three pounds, six oz. of the cold stuff in 90 seconds. Golf ball balancing record is held by someone who balanced six new golf balls stacked vertically. Doughnut eating challenges the contestant to eat 29 doughnuts (2 pounds, 12 1/2 oz.) in seven minutes, 16 seconds. Try balancing on one leg for more than 13 hours without putting your leg down. If you do, you've broken the record.

Potato Chip lovers, eat 30 two-oz. bags in 24 minutes and you've equalled the record. Loop your yo-yo more than 20,302 times in three hours and you have your own record. Eat 17 (4 1/4 oz.) of bananas in two minutes and

you've equalled another Guinness record.

Or drink 1.2 quarts of milk in 3.2 seconds and equal the existing record.

Record breaking begins at 1 p.m., July 28 in Chatham Square. Eleven Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

• Chatham Square joins the festival this year. In addition to the Guinness Book of Records contest, it will sponsor a dance band from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. on July 28 and a flea market from noon to 6 p.m. on July 29.

AN ADOPTED BIRD has found a home with Jennifer Davis of Farmington. The 4 1/2 year old girl found the bird in her backyard and nursed him to health by feeding him worms. The little gift from the sky is appropriately named "Skylab."

VOLUNTEERS are still needed by Richard Rutter for the Farmington program to help high school drop-outs readjust to school. If you're a high school drop out and want to return but need some help call Rutter, too. 477-6767.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY First United Methodist Church. The congregation is celebrating its 150th anniversary on July 29. The celebration begins at 9:30 a.m. on the site of the original church, on the corner of Warner and Shiawassee. There will be a brief ceremony followed by a procession to the current building.

There will be a 10 a.m. worship service in the church at 33112 Grand River near Warner. This will be followed by a brunch at Botaford Inn. Everyone is invited to attend the worship service which will include a color guard and chancel choir.

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