



Philbrick Tavern once served travelers who journeyed across poorly kept roads by stagecoach. Today, it is the home of the Juliano family. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

## Tavern-turned-home tells story

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making sure the old homes stay in their present condition.

When Lee and Ann Juliano bought the Philbrick Tavern on Power near 11 Mile seven years ago, the 148-year-old home was in poor condition.

"There was a lot of misuse," said Mrs. Juliano. "There were renters in the house and some people changed the walls. We don't know how it was originally."

They restored the old tavern so it kept its original appearance outside

but offered modern conveniences inside.

WHEN THEY FIRST moved in, the wooden floors in the home buckled with humidity and a carpet had to be tacked over them.

They refinished the wooden floors in the dining room which remain from the days the home was a tavern. But the soft wood can be easily dented when children play on it, so the Julianos have covered most of the floor with rugs.

Although the historic value of the home wasn't the reason they purchased it, they enjoy that aspect of the tavern. Occasionally school children will ask to see the basement of the home which is rumored to be a link in the Underground Railroad.

So far, the Julianos haven't seen anything which would indicate the home was a station in the movement to help slaves escape. A few years ago when they dug a pool in the backyard, they didn't find any indications of a tunnel.

The basement, which has been covered with cement, lacks any clues to the home's past.

While Mrs. Juliano concedes that the value of the home and its taxes will probably rise if it is included in the historic district she would like to see the home preserved.

"IT'S ONE OF A KIND," she said. "They wouldn't want to see someone buy the home only to tear it down."

Mrs. Nelda Czubiak, another member of the ad hoc committee, owns one of the 70 homes under consideration. Part of her house was built in 1835 as a farm house.

Before the 1900s, an addition to the house made it possible for two families to live in it.

Her home on 14 Mile near Farmington Road has four bedrooms and 1 1/4 baths.

"It has tremendous appeal as a home," she said.

In the kitchen are cupboards which were built in 1895. In the mid-1950s a new chimney and fireplace were installed.

Although she and her husband, Tom, are aware that taxes may increase with the designation, they want to see their house preserved.

"We have a sentimental feel for preserving old things that are nice," she said.

## K of C drive nets \$3,695 for charity

The St. Francis Council of the Knight of Columbus in Farmington Hills raised \$3,695 during its fourth annual Tootsie Roll Drive. The funds will be distributed among five local charities.

The drive was held Palm Sunday weekend to benefit the mentally retarded. Checks were presented by council members on July 11.

Recipients include St. Clare's Special Religious Education program; Greater Farmington Association for Retarded Citizens; Camp Fair Haven (Michigan District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod); Farmington Training Center; and Northwest Community Association for Retarded citizens.



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