

The magical history tour is coming Oct. 2-3

If you've passed by some of the historic homes in the Farmington area and wondered what they look like inside, you're the type of person the Heritage Home Tour sponsors hope to attract.

For the first time, sponsors say, the Farmington Historical Commission and the Farmington Hills Commission have joined forces in sponsoring a historic home tour to be offered from 1-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 2-3.

"History buffs, people interested in antiques, people interested in architecture, just plain sightseers interested in seeing what we have in Farmington inside the homes they've passed by so many times, that's who we're looking for," says Dave Litigot, a teacher at Dunkel Middle School who has immersed himself in local historical lore and belongs to the Farmington Historical Commission.

While admitting Michigan cities such as Marshall have an edge on Farmington when it comes to period architecture, Litigot says the Farmington area is underrated by most of its residents in terms of historical homes.

"Instead of being a city like Marshall or Detroit, these homes were scattered over miles and miles," Litigot says. "They were built by well-to-do farmers

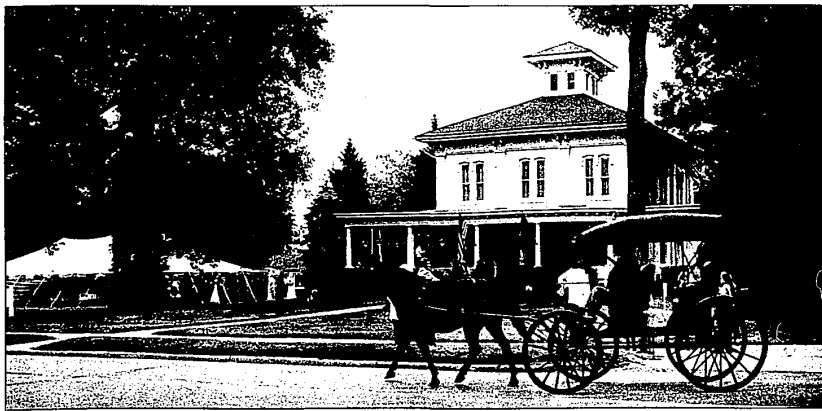
who moved here to get out of the city back in the 1800s."

WHILE SOME of the 16 homes on the tour have been remodeled to the point that they no longer appear as they did in the 19th century or turn of the 20th century, all retain remnants of the past.

"It might be the original floors, the original woodwork that's been restored or they might match or duplicate hand-stenciled wallpaper," Litigot says.

Tickets for the tour are \$7 in advance and may be obtained at either the Farmington or Farmington Hills City Hall, the Farmington Community Center or the Farmington Chamber of Commerce. Tickets will be sold at \$8 both days of the tour at the Masonic Temple in downtown Farmington. Helping to lend a nostalgic air to the event, the Veteran Motor Car Club's Huron Valley and Brighton chapters will parade around town in antique autos.

It's not a group tour or a guided tour, say sponsors. Persons may visit as few or as many homes as they wish during either day as long as they don't visit a site twice. The homes will be marked with a large number on them, and each stop will have at least two persons providing information about the building and its historical significance.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

The Governor Warner Mansion is stop No. 5 on the Heritage Home Tour. The building now serves as the Farmington Historical Museum.



The Philbrick Tavern is stop No. 9 on the tour. The home, which was reportedly used as a stop in



The Aldrich-Flora House is stop No. 10 on the tour. This Greek Revival home was built in 1842 by Royal Aldrich for his bride, Jennett Stevens.

Choose from 16 locations or visit them all in 2 days

Following is a list of historical homes which will be open for the tour:

• **Farmington Masonic Temple (formerly Township Hall)**

An example of Victorian and French Renaissance architecture, the building was built in 1876 by Farmington Township officials and members of Masonic Lodge No. 151. It was used as the Township Hall until 1983.

• **The Walker Residence**

A home built in 1841 at 33315 Oakland with a long wrap-around porch built by the current owners on the exact spot the porch originally stood.

• **The Power-Parker Home**

A Greek Revival home at 34002 Shiawassee which dates back to 1851, it was built after the original burned with what is believed to be the original hand-hewn timbers on a Michigan stone cellar.

• **The Sperry-Larson House**

At 33221 Oakland is the 1848 home on a stone cellar featuring original timbers in what was once an eight-room Victorian style farmhouse.

• **Governor Fred Warner Home**

At 33805 Grand River is now the site of the Farmington Historical Museum. The home was built in 1867 in Victorian Italianate style by P.D. Warner, father of the three-term Michigan governor.

• **Salem United Church of Christ**

On Oakland Avenue, it was built in 1902 and is fronted by a stained-glass window in a Gothic style.

• **The Botsford-Wallaert Home**

The house at 2414 Farmington Road dates back to about 1850 and was built by Lucy and Lemuel Botsford, who were Quakers. A twin house was built across the valley where Milton Botsford ran a stage coach stop before purchasing Botsford Inn.

• **The Farmington Community Center**

Also known as the Longacre House, the center is located on Farmington Road, north of 10 Mile. It had its first portion built in 1869 by Palmer Sherman. The six-foot high stone wall was built in 1917. The land was bought by Luman Goodenough, a Detroit attorney, in 1915 and named the Longacre House.

• **The Philbrick-Juliano Home**

At Power and 11 Mile Road allegedly was a stop in the Underground Railroad for slaves before the Civil War. This home was built as a tavern in 1827 by Nathan Philbrick at the junction of Orchard Lake Trail and Post Road. When the roads were rerouted, the building became a farmhouse.

• **The Aldrich-Flora House**

At 31110 11 Mile Road the house was built in Greek Revival style in 1842 by Royal Aldrich.

• **The Halsted-Robinson House**

This home at 28325 Halsted was built before 1840 on the site of an old log cabin owned by James Boorn, the area's pioneer settler. Boorn's grandson,

Harvey Halsted, converted the site to an apple orchard.

• **The Halsted-Ludwig House**

This structure at 28320 Halsted was built in 1891 for Harvey Halsted to store apples. It was later converted to a home that turned out to be well insulated because of its prior duty as a place to keep apples warm in the winter and cool in summer.

• **The Davis-Robertson House**

At 33370 12 Mile is a three-story Victorian Gothic home built in 1872 by Samuel and Susan Davis. Their daughter, Martha, married Fred Warner, the governor. The house is now used as an office building and was restored by Gary Robertson.

• **The Cudmore-Friedman Home**

The house at 28062 Danvers dates to 1916 but under the exterior on the southeast side is an 1830 farmhouse built by Richard Cudmore, a Detroit banker and treasurer of the Farmington-based Detroit and United Railroad trolley line.

• **The Drake-Campbell House**

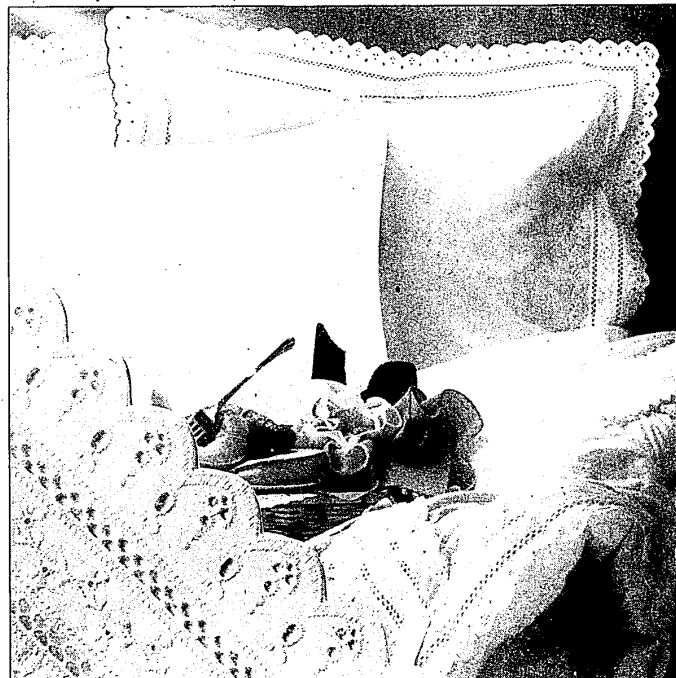
This home at 28804 Drake was built around 1830 but has been extensively remodeled. The original owners were William and Theodore Francis Drake II. Esther Drake lived there with her brothers until she married.

• **The Cox-Willyard House**

At 35510 13 Mile Road is a Greek Revival house built around 1840. It was the home of Ezra Cox in the 1870s, remodeled in the 1920s and restored to its original condition by its present owner, John Willyard.



The Davis-Robertson House is a Victorian Gothic built in 1872 now used as an office building.



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