

The old farmhouse gets a new foothold as a new basement and foundation are added.

Historic house stays put

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

No, it's not being moved or torn down.
The old Maple Woods Farm farmhouse, northwest of Halsted and Eight Mile roads in Farmington Hills, was simply raised and moved forward 60 feet so that a basement could be added.

The Greek Revival-style house then was moved back 60 feet, although it wasn't scheduled to be lowered onto its new foundation until this week.
"A lot of the house was built with log, but it also has some hewn beams," says Lee Barthel, whose family has owned the property since 1938.

He and his wife, Floy, now live in the old apple barn.

Ninety percent of the farmhouse's new split stone facing — which appears to be the new foundation but which really is the top of the basement wall — is complete. The eventual 20-inch-high facing won't be completed until mid-January.

The 1 1/2-story farmhouse — "where the farmer who plowed the field and milked the cows lived" — is about 125 years old. "That's a guess. Nobody really knows," Barthel said.

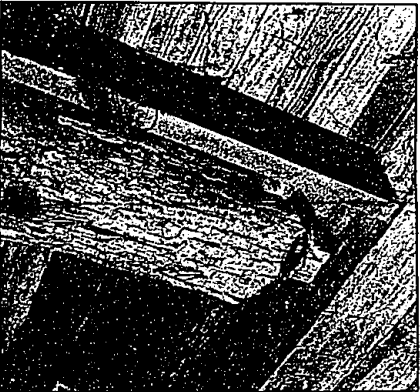
THE ORIGINAL house has been enlarged twice and, in Barthel's view, was built too low on the prop-

erty, causing water to set underneath in the crawl space. "Now," he said, "it'll sit higher."

Current residents are Barthel's nephew, Earl Baxtresser, his wife Judy, and their three children. They remained occupants during the farmhouse's 60-foot journey forward and back. Baxtresser runs Custom Rock Creations, a division of Barthel's Barthel Contracting.

Maple Woods Farm spanned 240 acres before much of it was sold in the mid-1950s to develop what is now Meadowbrook Hills subdivision.

A history buff, Barthel remembers "that only three kids lived in this square mile of Farmington Township when I went to school back in the late '40s and early '50s."



photos by C.D. STOFFER/staff photographer

Log beams that still have their bark as well as hewn beams are seen from the old farmhouse's new basement.

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Golf course building honored

Farmington Hills' San Marino Golf Course and Recreational Maintenance Center on Halsted has received an Award of Merit for its maintenance center.
The Park Maintenance and Grounds Management magazine

bestowed the honor.
Completed in March 1985, the 6,000-square-foot building houses large vehicles, seed, fertilizer, mowers and recreation programming equipment.
Jon Madden, golf course and

parks maintenance superintendent, attended the National Institute of Parks and Grounds Maintenance awards banquet in Louisville, Ky., to accept a plaque on behalf of the Department of Special Services and Farmington Hills.

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The look is here.

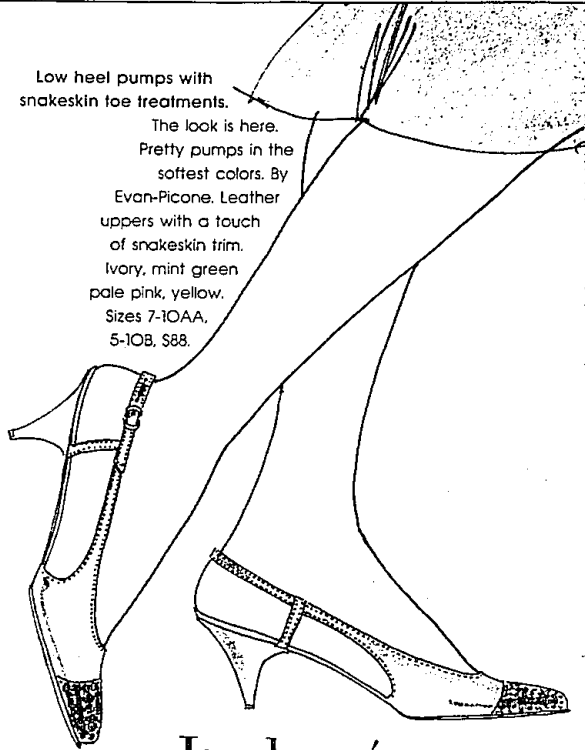
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