

The Carpenter House is at 33430 Shiawassee, just west of the First Baptist Church of Farmington. The house drew many interested buyers, but all declined when told the house

had to be moved before renovation. The church plans to use the space for an expansion of its parking lot.

RANDY BORSI/Staff photographer

Church agrees to demolition of historic Carpenter house

By Casey Hans
staff writer

The 162-year-old Carpenter House, Farmington's oldest frame house, is slated to be torn down during the next four months.

But its demolition may be more a blessing than a sin, say those involved with it.

The historic house is a shambles, according to leaders of First Baptist Church of Farmington, owners of and neighbors to the house. The church is raising the \$3,000 to \$5,000 needed for its demolition.

JUST LAST month, city officials deemed the residence on Shiawassee unfit for human habitation and agreed it should be demolished. Monday, the city council gave church leaders a time frame.

"We wanted to keep the house because of its historical value," pastor Richard Duncan said.

The church bought the house in 1978 with plans to move it from the site, leaving room for more church parking on the landlocked parcel. It offered to donate the house to the city — which did not work out — then placed it on the market nearly

two years ago.

More than 100 people have looked at the house, but none wanted to move it and renovate it, Duncan said.

"They all want to keep it right where it is, and we need the property,"

THE HOUSE's poor condition has hampered any sale, Duncan said.

It has been used for meetings and storage by the church since 1978, but was boarded up last December after a meeting with Earl Billing, the city's director of public services.

A city report said the structure of the house has deteriorated and decayed. No reports have been made of vandals or others entering the dangerous building, Billing said.

The city placed the church on notice May 24 that it needed to bring the house up to code. Church officials decided to demolish it, but asked for six months in order to raise the needed money.

They said Monday they would comply with the four-month deadline, even if they had to borrow the money.

HAD THEY not complied, the city

could have taken measures to hold public hearings and condemn the property.

"The simplest method is voluntary . . . between the two parties," city manager Robert Deadman said. "It (condemnation) would be a long, lengthy legal process. All it's going to do is drive up the church's costs."

Councilman Ralph Yoder suggested using the house as a fire training exercise, but others said it was too close to neighboring buildings.

ACCORDING to various historical accounts, the house was built by Farmington founder Arthur Power sometime between 1824 and 1826 with lumber from his nearby sawmill, shortly after Farmington was founded.

It was used as a store by Daniel Lee before being bought by the Power family, who lived in it from 1889 until 1924, at which time they rented it.

In the early 1930s, it was bought by William and Beatrice Carpenter, who owned it until the Baptist church bought it in 1978.

The house "was not fit for human habitation" when the church bought it, Duncan said.

Bouchard resigns job to work on campaign

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David Moffitt, and groups including the Michigan State Police Troopers Association.

In trying for the House seat Aug. 2, Bouchard says he will take his merits to the people, letting them make a decision.

Bouchard said he feels comfortable with his success, including his election to the Beverly Hills City Council in 1986 and his subsequent election to the president's post by his peers. Under his leadership, the village has become more active regionally.

BOUCHARD HAS been a resident of the district for 26 years and belongs to a number of civic groups, including chambers of commerce, the Jaycees, and county and local Republican groups.

Despite resigning his job to work on his campaign full time, Bouchard

retains his post as president of the Beverly Hills Village Council and ownership of his private security company.

Bouchard endorses a conservative view of government. "I feel comfortable with the record of my success," he said. "I'm for smaller (government). As (Thomas) Jefferson said, 'the government that governs least, governs best.'"

Bouchard wants voters to concentrate on personality, character and integrity of candidates as much as they review the issues. "Issues come and go," he said.

One of Bouchard's strong points may be his criminal justice background, which he said has taught him patience. The 1979 Michigan State University honors graduate has been in police work and juvenile investigations for 12 years.

AND PATIENCE is a necessary

skill for dealing with the bureaucracy of state government, according to outgoing Rep. Brotherton.

"I'm used to dealing with the frustration of not seeing things move as quickly," said Bouchard. "I'm prepared for it."

Bouchard said he is also prepared to represent residents throughout the district. "A person in any part of the district is equally important to me," he said. "I don't think I have to be a next-door neighbor to someone to cure about them."

Bouchard faces three Republican challengers in the Aug. 2 primary: Farmington Hills councilwoman Jan Dolan, Farmington Hills planning commissioner Paul Weldon, and first-time candidate Mike Sarafa.

The 69th District seat has been held for the past 14 years by Brotherton, who in January announced his retirement when his term expires.

Sarafa calls for cooperation

The last part of a profile of Mike Sarafa, Republican candidate for the 69th state House district seat, was inadvertently cut Monday. Here are the contents of that segment.

Mike Sarafa calls for regional cooperation for communities in the Detroit area. He wants to combine school finance and property tax reform with the gas tax issue to satisfy

residents statewide.

He also suggests building a new state prison with a percentage of forfeiture drug money from area police agencies.

The Birmingham Brother Rice graduate plans a door-to-door effort for the remaining weeks of his campaign. If elected, he pledges to open a local office, at his own expense, and commute from Lansing daily. He faces three Republican chal-

lengers in the Aug. 2 primary: Beverly Hills Village Council president Michael Bouchard, Farmington Hills councilwoman Jan Dolan, and Farmington Hills planning commissioner Paul Weldon.

The 69th District seat has been held for the past 14 years by Rep. Wilbur "Sandy" Brotherton, who announced his retirement effective with the end of his seventh two-year term.

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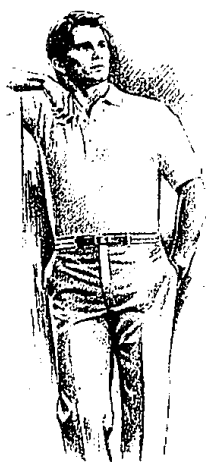
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