

2 Hills houses granted status as historic sites

Two Farmington Hills houses have been listed in the State Register of Historic Sites.

The Frank Steele House is at 35810 11 Mile. The Edward E. Beals House is at 31805 Bond.

The Frank Steele House is a single story, side-gabled dwelling erected from fieldstone with shingle cladding in its gables. The roof pitch changes at the junction with the full-width front and rear porches. The roof plane is broken by a massive front-gabled dormer and exterior stone chimney.

The facade is composed of three fieldstone piers that mark the transition from a large integrated corner entry porch to a sun room displaying a bank of four multiple-over-single lighted sash.

The east elevation's visual interest is supplied by a sleeping porch mounted upon two massive fieldstone pillars. The gable's wide eaves are supported by large Craftsman brackets.

The original shingle cladding has been sheathed in aluminum siding and the rear porch has been enclosed. A side-gabled two-bay detached garage was built of fieldstone to complement the house.

THE FRANK Steele House was built in 1920 by Farmington contractor Amos Otis, assisted by Fred Schampeter, who laid the stonework. Stones employed in construction were gathered from the Steele farm. The house was built for Frank Steele, a descendant of Edward Steele, one of Farmington's first settlers, who patented the land in 1824.

Steele opened the first grist mill in the Farmington area at a locus that grew into the village of Sleepy Hollow, which was in existence from 1825 until the 1930s.

Frank Steele taught in the Detroit Public Schools for nearly 50 years and served as a justice of the peace and a member of the Farmington Township board. The house remains in the family's possession today.

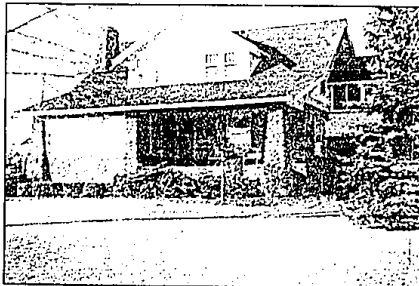
"The Frank Steele House is an excellent vernacular expression of the bungalow type displaying Craftsman style references and an unusual mode of construction."

"It is associated with one of the pioneer families of the Farmington area, and is one of the few homes of its vintage in Farmington Hills."

"It also represents an initial expansion into the suburban Detroit area by professionals who commuted daily to work in the city," said Martha Bigelow, director, Michigan Bureau of History and executive secretary, Michigan Historical Commission.

THE EDWARD E. Beals House is a single-story, side-gabled, residence clad in stucco. It features a prominent cross-gabled bay complemented by a weatherboard-clad gabled dormer.

The steeply pitched roof is broken by an entry vestibule with round arch door, set at an angle across the cell formed by the junction of the cross-gabled bay with the main body of the dwelling. The arrangement of windows and doors is asymmetrical



BOB SKLAR

The Frank Steele House is at 35810 11 Mile.

and varied in size and shape, and is composed of multi-pane glazing.

The stucco and decorative half-timbering combine with a stone exterior chimney, rather rare false thatched roof, and an irregular silhouette to create a picturesque example of the Tudor Revival style.

The wall cladding and roof treatment is repeated in the house's complementing detached garage.

THE BEALS house is one of several built in an early planned community subdivision, the Oaklands, one of the first designed to reflect the growing impact of the automobile in urban life. The master plan included a school and golf course.

The Edward Beals house was erected in 1925 for the president of the Great Lakes Land Corp., which was developing the new subdivision.

The architects for the corporation, subdivision and this house were the Detroit firm of Butterfield and Butterfield, composed of Wells T. Butterfield, the first mayor of Farmington and Emily Butterfield, one of the first woman architects licensed to practice in Michigan.



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The Edward E. Beals House is at 31805 Bond.

expanses of farmland interrupted by a few scattered houses until the tract was redeveloped during the 1950s.

The State Register was established in 1955 to recognize historic sites in Michigan.

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