



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LEMIEUX

Moving history: A crowd, above, turned out a year ago to watch the historic Kirby White House be moved a mile down Farmington Road. The house now sits neglected at Farmington and 10 Mile roads. At right, Wayne Elliott, shown last May during the move, is still upbeat about the house's future.



House from page 1A

son found that Elliott, a builder, owned property in the city and was interested in the house, its preservation seemed assured.

"It (the move) was already a month late," said former Mayor Jack Soronen, who served on the church committee that worked with the Historic District Commission to forge a compromise.

"We had the financing (for the expansion), the architect's plan, and the loan approval," she said. "We were ready to go."

With much fanfare, help from the city and utilities involved — and two delays — the move down Farmington Road came off on a sunny May day. The atmosphere

during the move was like a holiday parade, with entire families lining the street to see the slow-moving piece of history.

"We were tickled," Soronen said. "It didn't have to be destroyed." The church gave the \$15,000 that it would have paid for the demolition to Elliott toward the cost of the move. But after the mover got the house to the property, the troubles really began.

Stuck in the mud

The rain that had delayed the move had also softened a filled-in ditch, and the house sat on 10 Mile until the early hours of the next day. And once it was on the

lot, it couldn't be moved back from the road, prompting complaints from residents and motorists alike about the dangerous, blind corner.

"We were kind of walking on eggs," said assistant city manager Dave Call. "We didn't want to condemn the house, but we wanted it moved. We had gotten calls for about two weeks."

The plot then thickened, just like the spring mud surrounding the house, when the house mover, Michigan House Movers, could not move the house over the foundation. Eventually the city impounded the mover's truck that had been left on the lot, and Elliott had to hire another mover "for \$10,500 to move it 80 feet," said Historic District Commissioner Bernie Ludwig.

The extra expense and delays

followed by a long, cold winter, put the project behind, leaving Gary Olaszewski, Elliott's immediate neighbor to the east on 10 Mile, wondering if there ever would be progress.

In the fall, birds were roosting in there," Olaszewski said. "And with the holes, kids could fall in. Now the woodpeckers are going at it."

Olaszewski, who is also a builder, said he understands that a lot of the problems weren't Elliott's fault. But he began to think no work was being done and is concerned the house will just sit, open on two sides and unfinished. "I felt awkward," said Soronen. "I drive down Farmington Road all the time and it just sits there."

Still a go
Through all of the hassles, tick-

ets from the city for violations, and even a lawsuit against Michigan House Movers, Elliott has kept his optimism. Asked if he had any regrets, he answered, "hell no."

"It's a big project," he said. "We should be getting our loan in the next few days. I expect to be working on it in a week and a half. And we (Elliott and wife, Cindy, who's expecting a child at the end of May) should be moved in by Thanksgiving or Christmas at the latest."

Sutcliffe said she's heard that song before. And after having the house moved "too close" for comfort, after a \$4,000 assessment increase on her house, which she now can't sell, and after learning that the city is also planning a bike path across her property, she's had enough.

"Hey, as soon as he gets it fin-

ished, we're outta here," she said.

Sutcliffe faults the Historic District Commission and the city for diving into the project with both feet without looking. But Call said the city has done what it could to make sure Elliott completes the project, and has been involved with many successful house moves over the years.

"We were not required to give any special notice to the neighbors that this house was going to be moved onto that lot," Call said. "But in hindsight, I think we probably would have given them some notice."

Ludwig, an 18-year resident and member of the commission for seven years, said there were no shortcuts.

"We posted our meetings," he said. "Wayne came to several of them. I'm just glad that he's going to be able to get going on it."

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REPORT OF CONDITIONS	
CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF CONDITIONS OF METROBANK OF FARMINGTON HILLS in the State of Michigan, and its Domestic Subsidiaries, at the close of business on March 31, 1994.	
Published in accordance with a call made by the commissioner of the Financial Institutions Bureau pursuant to the provisions of Section 223 of the banking code of 1969, as amended.	
ASSETS:	Thousands of Dollars
Cash and balances due from depository institutions	6,351
Noninterest-bearing balances and currency and coin	0
Interest-bearing balances	0
Securities	6,007
Held-to-maturity securities	1,965
Available-for-sale securities	4,236
Federal funds sold	1,250
Securities purchased under agreements to resell	6,201
Loans and leases, net of unearned income	48,193
Loans and leases for sale and lease income	814
LEAS: Allocated transferable assets	0
Loans and leases, net of unearned income, allowances, and reserve	47,638
Assets held in trading accounts	0
Premises and fixed assets (including capitalized leases)	1,843
Other real estate owned	400
Investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries and associated companies	0
Customers' liability to this bank on acceptance outstanding	0
Intangible assets	793
Other assets	74,598
Loans deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823(j)	0
Total assets and losses deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823(j)	74,598
LIABILITIES	
Deposits:	
In domestic offices:	68,774
Noninterest-bearing	18,771
Interest-bearing	62,403
Federal funds purchased	0
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase	0
Demand notes issued to the U.S. Treasury	0
Trading liabilities	0
Other borrowed money	20,205
With original maturity of one year or less	0
With original maturity of more than one year	0
Monetary liabilities and obligations under capitalized leases	0
Bank's liability on acceptances executed and outstanding	0
Subordinated notes and debentures	0
Other liabilities	358
Total liabilities	89,228
Liabilities related stock and related surplus	0
EQUITY CAPITAL	
Perpetual preferred stock and related surplus	0
Common stock	152
Surplus	3,478
Undivided profits and capital reserves	1,078
Net unrealized holding gains (losses) on available-for-sale securities	(3,131)
Total equity capital	4,577
Loans deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823(j)	0
Total equity capital and losses deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823(j)	4,577
Capital resources: Federal funds, equity capital and losses, and losses deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823(j)	17,899
MEMORANDA: Deposits of state money - Michigan: 0 none	