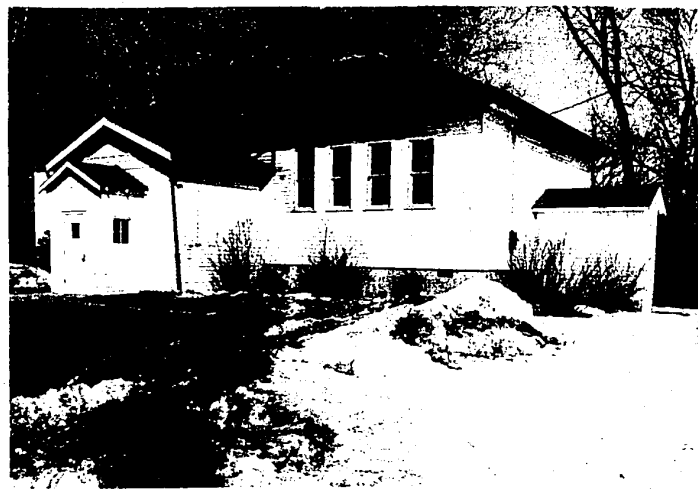




Nichols School on Farmington Road just north of 13 Mile Road.



Noble School on Middlebelt between Nine and 10 Mile, now the special education office.

## One Room School Buildings Are Heritages Of The Past

Twenty-two 20th century school buildings in Farmington city and township are serving as anchors in the community for 14,422 children.

But still standing in city and township are five 19th century school buildings which served as anchors for youth of an earlier day.

The five are:

- Noble School on Middlebelt between Nine and 10 Mile, now serving as the special education office.
- German School on Middlebelt between Northwestern and 14 Mile, now the Mayfair Cooperative Nursery School.
- Nichols School on Farmington Road between 13 and 14 Mile used for storage by the school district and the Little League.
- Fairview School on Grand River west of the city, owned by the school district and unoccupied.
- Stone School on Middlebelt between 14 Mile and the Expressway, now serving as a fieldhouse for the State Highway Department.

THE FIRST THINGS pioneer settlers would erect when their homes were built were a church and a school. So important to the life of early America were schools that a proposed stanza of "My Country 'Tis of Thee" (written between 1828 and 1895) put it this way:

"Tis (America's) halls of learning fair,  
Whose bounties all may share,  
Behold them everywhere,  
On hill and vale."

The dates vary from 1826 to 1828, but Farmington village's first school was a log hut built on the then Indian trail of Shawassee by the first schoolmaster, Nathan Power. It stood on land deeded by Deacon Adams on the bank of the creek. It was

painted red and known throughout the district as "The Little Red Schoolhouse."

After it was remodeled in later years, the school became known as Fairview School. Its bell was moved to the new Fairview School.

Farmington outgrew its schools as rapidly a century ago as it does today. When the red schoolhouse was outgrown, Nate Power erected a new building in 1835 for the sum of \$375.

IN 1852 the need for a still larger structure was met by construction of the Standard or Old Union School, a two-story stone facility. It stood on the site of the present Farmington Junior High.

The school burned on Jan. 10, 1918. The desperate need for space required that the demolished building be replaced immediately. So before the close of the year, the present junior high was erected.

According to the Enterprise of 1898, Union School in a 16-year period sent out 48 graduates "who have reflected great credit upon the thoroughness of work done while in the school room."

Farmington's early era schools were set up in 1830 into nine school districts with some lapping over into other townships. These were called "fractional districts."

There were two school departments, higher and lower. A male teacher taught the higher for \$1,000 a year; a female the lower for \$400. School was in session 40 weeks a year.

After consolidation in 1944, a few of the latter day school buildings were used for self-contained kindergarten units.

As late as 1957, Farmington High had graduates whose first days of school were spent in these small heritage buildings of the past.



Fairview School just outside of town on Grand River.



German School on Middlebelt north of 14 Mile Road, now the Mayfair Cooperative Nursery.



Stone School just south of the expressway on Middlebelt, now a fieldhouse for the highway department.