



Mrs. William Carpenter lives in historic Power home

1870s fire may alter historic site boundaries

By CORINNE ABATT

The fire which raved through the little community of Farmington in the 1870s doubtless played havoc with the lives of many at the time.

But the ramifications are still being felt. Because of that fire the boundaries of Farmington's planned historic district may be changed.

The city had a visit this week from Miss Amy Hecker of the state historical division. She came to talk with members of Farmington's Historical Commission, Paul Schreiber and V. O. Bates, and to tour the historic district.

The visit of the state official was most welcome. Papers, photographs and background material on the district have been gathering dust on some state desks since 1971.

MISS HECKER'S first glimpse of historic Farmington was the Masonic Temple. It rated an "Oh boy" that is a gem.

She was complimentary about many of the other 18 structures included in the district boundaries. It was the distance between the historic structures which seemed to bother her.

"It is important," she told Schreiber and Bates, "to see what the essential character of the district is—what ties it together."

During the driving tour, which covered the central area of the city, Shawassee and Warner, Warner to Thomas, along Thomas to about the funeral home, along Oakland and Farmington Road she made many

comments, some about houses which had been changed from the original main complementaries for the well preserved ones. She was particularly interested in one section of homes outside of the planned district on Grand River just east of the Shawassee intersection.

The Miss Hecker seemed to think might have been built at the same early time by the same builder, "maybe as worker's houses," she said.

AFTER OFFERING some first-impresion suggestions interspersed with comments such as "that's nice, that's very nice about the Lee Peal home on Shawassee and "that could stand on its own" about the Governor Warner home, she planned to sit down with Bates and Schreiber and retrace the boundaries.

It was that fire in the late 19th century which left so many blank areas in the original village area, Schreiber told her.

Many of the original structures were lost. Those that replaced them do not all qualify as historic structures.

Miss Hecker asked if the Commission members had gone to an early plat map to establish the center of the early settlement.

Schreiber said they had accumulated their information from many sources, piecing it together. She explained to the men as they drove one problem would be that in nominating an area for an historic district for the state and national regis-

ter, every house in the proposed district must go in.

SHE SUGGESTED a letter be sent to each homeowner explaining what the designation of historic district means.

Commenting that the homes whose owners have agreed to be in, could be entered as separate units instead as part of a district, she added "but that doesn't have as much strength."

The character of the community which Miss Hecker is interested in establishing began when Arthur Power visited the area in the early 1800s. Finding it agreeable, he soon moved his family to the area.

The Power home, built in 1824, stands unobtrusively on Shawassee and is lovingly cared for by its present occupant, Mrs. William Carpenter.

Mrs. Carpenter and her husband moved into the house in 1932. A daughter, Mrs. Barbara Whitman of California, was born in the house.

An older son, William Carpenter of Boston, climbed the trees nearby while his sister dozed in her crib.

THE CARPENTERS put in new floors, fixed the ceilings and added a convenient downstairs bathroom to replace the outdoor plumbing. But, the bright, verbal Mrs. Carpenter says that except for those practical changes, the house is much the same as when she moved in.

It is a home without pretense, characterizing those early Farmington area settlers. Mrs. Carpenter takes special pride in the stairway—sturdy, smooth black walnut with a patina over the years that has been nurtured with waxed applied with lots of love. Before the tour was over, Miss Hecker had a view of the backyard of the Leonard home and the site of the community well beside the summer herb garden.

Schreiber told her the community well was used long ago when there was a fire. The bucket brigade was set up as the townspeople turned out to help.

The early settlement of Quaker farmers who built their schools and churches almost as fast as they built their homes, families who soon got involved in government and religious affairs is certain to be significant in the development of the state.

What remains is to settle on just how the district will be established. Its boundaries and its unique features. Miss Hecker said that in a year or less, if things go as planned, it should be in the state and national register.

SHRINE CIRCUS

EXTRA VAGANZA

JANUARY 23-25

As a kickoff to the Shrine Circus Come enjoy the antics of over 100 Shriners in the following units: Oriental Band with two delightful belly dancers, the Clowns, Keystone Kops, Chanters, Drum and Bugle Corp, the Americans, and the Flag Patrol.

There will be a coin toss in the fountain for discount tickets to the Circus. Caricature Sports posters will be given to all participants.

All coins go to Shrine Charities.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 7-8 p.m.
SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1:30-2:30 p.m. (Sears Court)

CELEBRATING "Y" WEEK

Farmington YMCA Metropolitan Champion Gymnasts will perform **SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1-3 p.m.**
 January 25 & 26 (Crowley Court)
 Livonia Family "Y" Trampoline Team will perform **Saturday & Sunday 3-5 p.m.**

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY EVERY TUESDAY

- FREE MOVIE at the Cinema 9:45 & 10:15 a.m.
- FREE PRIZES
- MANY IN-STORE SPECIALS

Have a nice day, on us!

Livonia Mall

7 MILE at MIDDLEBELT

OPEN DAILY 10-9 SUN 12-5

Christian lay workers to speak at breakfast

Christian lay-workers from the poverty-stricken coal-mining region of eastern Kentucky will speak to women of the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington at the Women's Association Breakfast on Thursday, Jan. 23.

Bob and Linda Davidson are employed as community service workers with the Christian Service Ministry arm of the Presbyterian Church in eastern Kentucky, which is in the same synod as Michigan.

The young couple will describe their work in helping to set up the Shouderbake Center near the Middlefork River, where they have established a clothing store which will carry good

clothing, infant wear, coats, and shoes for sale at prices under \$1.

The Davidsons are from Kansas, where they attended Kansas University before their marriage. They worked in the inner city in Knoxville, Tenn., before committing themselves to two years' work in Kentucky. Their commitment was completed in August, but they have volunteered to serve another year.

The breakfast will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the church at 26165 Farmington Road. Reservations can be made by calling the church office (674-6170). Sitter service is available, but should also be reserved.