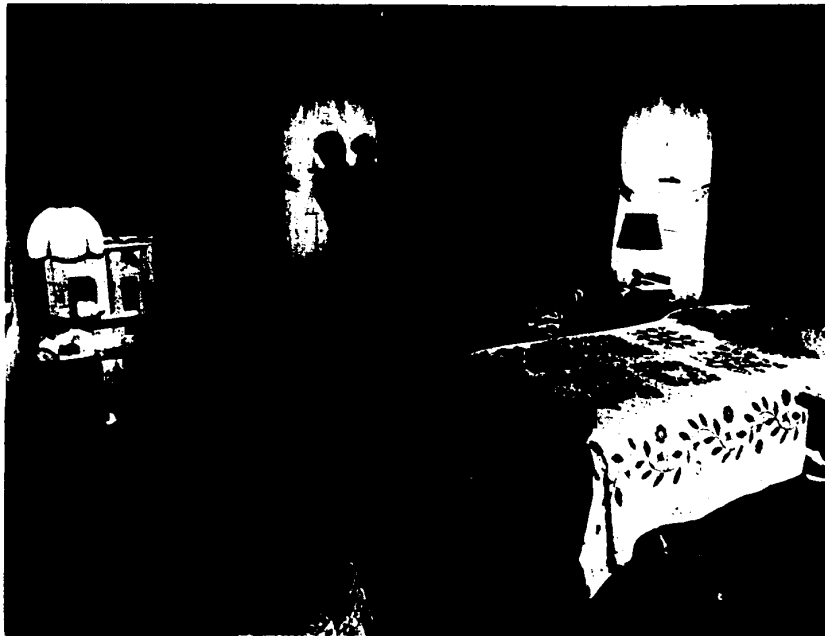




The family room fireplace was built by the present owners from brick taken from the old drive beside the home at Eleven Mile and Power.



Lisa Juliano's bedroom has an ageless look for the nine-year-old to savor and cherish. Her mother made the quilted spread.

The rocker belonged to her great grandmother and the doll house was once her mother's favorite toy.

150-year-old former tavern becomes home

By CORINNE ABATT

FARMINGTON HILLS—It took Ann Juliano a while to get used to having people stop in front of her home to take pictures. Now, she understands they're admiring the nearly 150-year-old home for its classic beauty and excellent restoration.

Built about 1827 by Nathan Philbrick, a Quaker settler, the building was a tavern for many years. Meals were served in the first floor rooms; drovers (cattle drivers) were offered sleeping accommodations in the upper attic, and the Philbrick family quarters were either on the first or second floor, Mrs. Juliano isn't sure.

Lee and Ann Juliano bought the home three years ago. They are experienced remodelers and had just completed renovation of their home in Pontiac when the former tavern at Eleven Mile and Flower came on the market.

As soon as they saw it, they knew it was meant to be theirs. Slowly, under their efforts, it is becoming a show-

place country home which will provide a rich heritage for their four youngsters: Lisa, 9, Joe, 6, Jeff, 4, and John, 2.

DR JULIANO built an attached garage on the south side of the home. He is reasonably sure the present family room behind it was the original tavern area.

"There was a lot of traffic in that room—the inch and a quarter floors were worn to three-quarters of an inch."

Although both love the look of natural wood floors, Dr. Juliano had to remove the worn floor planks. "They had been burned, charred and soaked with water. They weren't safe anymore," he explained.

He also took all of the old ceiling sand plaster off, leaving the original rafters, rough hewn, mellow in color with a patina that comes with age.

The couple built a large fireplace in the family room, the back of which forms one wall of the adjoining kitchen. There wasn't a fireplace there when they moved into the home, but

the foundation for one was in the basement, indicating that at some previous time, one had been there.

THE MICHIGAN fieldstone walls of the basement look like the foundation for a fortress—thick, strong, solid. Since the tavern was reputedly an underground railroad stop for slaves fleeing to freedom during the Civil War, the Julianos searched for some substantiating evidence.

The most they have found is an unusually large rock in the wall at the far corner of the basement. It is big enough to have guarded a tunnel to the pond out back. But evidence of a tunnel, if there was one, was doubtless covered when the cement floor was poured at some later date.

At one time during the gutting of the interior, Mrs. Juliano says she could stand in the family room and see through to the sky two floors up. The flooring on the second floor was removed, the structure strengthened and replaced.

In the upstairs hall leading to the

four bedrooms, a fifth is now under construction, the flooring sagged so badly and the walls so far out of plumb they had pulled away from the ceiling leaving large gaps.

Dr. Juliano replaced the upstairs spring floors with 2 by 12 posts. Spring floors are two layers with two sets of supporting beams.

THE UPPER ATTIC where the drovers slept is a large pitch roof room. The Julianos will probably leave it as is—unfinished. The exposed horizontal beams are hand hewn and 40 feet long. The wooden pegs which pre-date nails, are plainly visible.

Under the efforts of the couple, the home may be closer to what it originally was than it has been in the transition years. They made few changes in the main entry hall—only to installing new wood bannisters and shortening the turn in the stairs for easier passage through the hall.

They took out an attractive ledger rock fireplace in the living room because they felt it wasn't in keeping with the age of the home and replaced it with a Georgian style mantle.

As often as possible they save the original materials and use them in the

remodeling. The brick for the family room fireplace was part of the drive, a portion of which was removed when a cement one was built.

They have left the wainscoting in the downstairs which was added at some later time because they think it fits the country farm atmosphere.

Three years and countless hours of building, painting, wallpapering and refinishing later, the Julianos can look with satisfaction at their work.

They have a gracious family home, convenient, strong, open and colorful—an ideal heritage home for a growing family.



Jeff Juliano takes a leisurely stroll down the stairway of the main entry hall.

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