

Close to home adventure has some special delights

A day, or at least part of one, spent on a walking and driving tour of the Farmington-Farmington Hills area could be one of the pleasant surprises of your life.

And no more beautiful time than a warm, sunny day in May. If you want to follow this suggested tour pattern, then start at the heart of downtown Farmington, the corner of Grand River and Farmington Road.

The Farmington Historical Commission has recently documented a number of old homes in the center of the city in hopes of establishing a historic district. Commissioner Paul Schreiber suggested the homes that might be of interest.

Our suggestion is to walk the route at a leisurely pace. Stop in the shops as you pass by and in general enjoy.

1) Park your car in the area directly behind the stores on the southeast corner of Farmington Road and Grand River. There's a Village Mall on the corner with a small cafe if you need coffee and doughnuts to get you going.

2) Jerry's Bookstore directly across from the mall on Farmington has a collection of used books to delight all bargain hunters.

3) The Mosaic Temple on the northwest corner of Farmington and Grand River was the early town hall. Built in 1878 at a cost of \$4,300, it is considered one of the finest, most attractive and authentic landmarks in the county. Johnson S. Prall was the builder-designer of the building which combines European-Victorian and French Renaissance influences.

4) It's a four-block hike westward on Grand River to the "Governor's Mansion." The graceful home set among tall trees was built in 1887 by the father of Frederick M. Warner, governor of Michigan, 1905-1909.

5) About a block east of the mansion on the north side of Grand River, there's a small street, Grace. Follow Grace north to Shiawassee and stop for a moment at 23010 Grace, home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mahoney. Members of the same family have lived in the house ever since it was built in 1874.

6) A left turn at Shiawassee will take you past the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Jackson. Their home at 23020 Shiawassee is an example of early Greek Revival. It was built in the 1880's and has been maintained in original condition even to the siding.

7) A turn east and you're heading for the Wilbur Smalley home, 23013 Shiawassee. Very few alterations have been made to this Michigan farmhouse with Victorian and Colonial influences since it was built around 1880. Just east of the Smalley home, there are three more of interest to history buffs.

8) The residence of Judge Max Holst, 23001 Shiawassee, was built in 1940. It is a good example of early American architecture of the time. The second story was added at a later date.

9) The Lee Peel home, 23026 Shiawassee, built in 1894, originally belonged to Dr. Alanson Hudson, community physician. The Michigan Greek revival architecture has been patiently and authentically restored by the present owner.

10) The oldest home in Farmington, 23020 Shiawassee, was built by one of the community's founding fathers, Percy Power, Quaker settler in 1804.

11) The white First Baptist Church at the corner of Shiawassee and Farmington roads, is the second oldest Baptist church in Michigan. In 1898, the congregation will celebrate its 100th birthday.

12) Continuing east on Shiawassee, the next home of special interest is the Arthur Leonard residence, 23009 Shiawassee. It was built in 1941 and

the Greek Revival influence is evident.

There are no nails in the rough hewn roof beams. They are supported by mortise. A well in the backyard, still useable, was a source of water for the early bucket brigades in the pre-fire hose days.

13) Shiawassee curves into Warner. Turn right at Warner and about a block down the street is the Roy Klappinger home, 23700 Warner. It was built about 1850 and remodeled in 1922.

14) Two blocks west on Oakland and you're back on Farmington Road and within sight of the community's first post office. It is located at 23009 and 23007 Farmington and is a mixture of farm Colonial and classic designs. Dr. Ezekiel Webb was the first postmaster. Mrs. Hilda Foster is the present occupant.

15) Time to pick up the car and start east down Grand River. The home of Dr. Ann H. Bamford, 23009 Grand River features Greek Revival accents and early Victorian style Mansard roof. The oldest part of the home was built in the 1860's. The living room floor is secured with wooden pegs.

16) Lunch time: Botaford Inn, 2000 Grand River has been a mecca for travelers since 1828. It is the oldest operating inn in Michigan and was a stop on the stage coach route from Detroit to Lansing. A treasure house for those whose appetites run from food to antiques and back again.

AFTERNOON ALTERNATIVES
The Historical Commission in the city of Farmington Hills is now in the process of documenting the old homes in the area.

Since an official list is not yet available, we are suggesting several of the many that have special interest for sight-seers. Two are on Power Road which runs north from Grand River between Orchard Lake and Farmington. It jogs to the right at Shiawassee.

This part of the tour is by car. The Robert Rowe home, 34770 Power, is between Ten and Eleven Mile. It was built in the 1880's. It has some Greek Revival characteristics. Originally 32 rooms, at some time in the past the north wing burned and the basement foundation rediscovered during excavation for a new home on the north lot. There is a full Michigan basement under the Rowe home, each stone carefully split to provide a flat inside surface. The large, hand hewn

stone beams are pegged, cut and shaped through each other. The home stands on land which was part of the original tract belonging to Farmington founder Arthur Power.

Drive north on Power to Eleven Mile for a view of the original Phillbrick Tavern. The picturesque house which now belongs to Dr. and Mrs. Lee Juliano was built in 1857 by Quaker settler and innkeeper Nathan Phillbrick. The present owners have almost completed three years of patient restoration and added the garage. The tavern is said to have been an underground railroad stop.

West on Eleven Mile over a half-mile stretch of unpaved road takes you to Farmington Road.

The Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College is a short drive north and well-worth a tour for those who haven't been there lately to see how this attractive complex is developing.

One of the loveliest settings in the area, beautifully maintained is the Farmington Community Center on Farmington Road between Ten and Eleven Mile. Recently the Longacre

home, it was built in 1889 by Palmer Sherman and has been covered as an area landmark for more than 100 years. Now operated as a meeting place for organizations, clubs and civic groups, it offers a full program of classes. Visitors are welcome to walk inside and tour the grounds.

The Farmington District Library on Twelve Mile Road between Farmington Road and Orchard Lake is a fine example of a modern library facility designed to meet the needs of a growing community. In addition to book and reference areas, it has meeting rooms, a small stage and changing displays of the work of local artists. Particularly interesting is the combination of textures and surfaces in the structure that contribute to the natural, relaxed, uncluttered atmosphere.

At this point you're on your own. There are several pleasant places to stop for refreshment at the intersection of Twelve Mile and Orchard Lake roads. There's a new shopping mall at Fifteen Mile and Orchard Lake roads and some interesting shopping areas along the way.



The Robert Rowe home, 34770 Power, is an example of architecture of the 1880's.

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The former Phillbrick Tavern, a haven for travelers in the last century.



Michigan Governor Frederick M. Warner called this charming mansion home.

Staff
photos
by
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Tour stops

1) Farmington and Grand River, shopping and coffee.

2) Window shopping in the heart of Farmington.

3) Mosaic Temple, northwest corner Farmington and Grand River.

4) The Warner mansion, Grand River, four blocks west of Farmington Road.

5) 23010 Grace, home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mahoney.

6) 23025 Shiawassee, home of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Jackson.

7) 23013 Shiawassee, Wilbur Smalley home.

8) 23001 Judge Max Holst Home.

9) 23026 Lee Peel home.

10) 23020 Shiawassee, oldest home in the city.

11) First Baptist Church, second oldest Baptist in the state.

12) 23009 Shiawassee, Arthur Leonard home.

13) 23700 Warner, Roy Klappinger home.

14) 23009-23007 Farmington, first post office.

15) 23009 Grand River, Dr. Ann H. Bamford's home.

16) Botaford Inn, 2000 Grand River.

AFTERNOON ALTERNATIVES

1) 34770 Power Road, home of the Robert Rowe family.

2) Northwest corner of Power and Eleven Mile, Dr. Lee Juliano home.

3) Oakland Community College, Farmington Road south of Twelve Mile.

4) Farmington Community Center, Farmington Road between Ten and Eleven Mile.

5) Farmington District Library, Twelve Mile between Farmington and Orchard Lake roads.



Looking much as it did when it was built in 1880, this Farmington home belongs to Wilbur Smalley.