



Classic architecture distinguishes a rural residence.



Modern artistry in building is shown in a Farmington Hills office building.

## *Farmington area has old charm, new hopes*

By CORINNE ABATT

If Alaska is called the land of the midnight sun and Cuernavaca, Mexico, the city of eternal spring, then Farmington may be called an area of contrast.

Along with contrast comes the blend of the old and the new, the yesterday and today, that gives the area its charm.

It is not easy in a money-oriented society which cottons to massive parking areas, skyscraper-walled cities and back-to-back ersatz Tudor, to preserve the pleasing blend.

Maybe it started at the beginning when the first settlers sighted the land and decided it would be a good place to raise crops and families.

These early Quakers came with a built-in reverence for spiritual and educational values, a love of the land and an awareness of their place in his-

tory. The Farmington story begins in 1823 when Arthur Power, a Farmington, N.Y. Quaker bought land here for \$1.25 an acre.

**HIS FOURTH** son, Nathan, who joined him here in 1826, taught school and later became active in politics. The Quaker families opened a one room-ungraded school within a year after their arrival.

Power lived to his mid 70s and kept a diary a good part of his life. His attitude toward his eventful life is clearly one of commitment to God and personal productivity.

Just how some of the Quaker values were passed down to the present is not easy to trace. It is enough to say they are still evident.

Education is a vital concern in the communities. From that single cluster of Quakers, the religious groups now number well over 30. Each has

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Gravins Drive In at Thirteen Mile and Northwestern began as a truck garden. It represents businesses prevalent in the Farmington area for most of the city's history.



Alexander Hamilton's modern office on Twelve Mile is typical of the multi-state businesses attracted to the Farmington area.