

# Century-Old Home Has Roots In Past



CENTENNIAL HOME — The Robert Potter home on Oakland Ave. in Farmington looks much as it did when it was built in 1848.

According to Mrs. Robert D. Potter, when she and her husband moved into their Centennial Home at 3322 Oakland Ave., Farmington, they "immediately had roots."

Mrs. Potter maintains that living in a home so historical gives one a strong link with the past.

The past with which the Potters' home is linked was researched in 1967 by Farmington High School student Craig Anderson.

IN HIS RESEARCH, Anderson discovered that the site on which Potters' house is built was part of a subdivision platted in 1837 by Ebenezer Stuart, who was married to the daughter of early Farmington settler Arthur Power.

After minute inspection of the home, Anderson concluded that the house consists of three buildings built during three periods of architectural design—Greek Revival from 1820 to 1840; Early Victorian from 1830 to 1850 and Late Victorian from 1850 to 1900.

ACCORDING to early tax assessments, the original structure was built in 1848.

Indicative of early construction are the two supporting posts of the porch which are centered in large boulders, the narrow staircase, the large hand-hewn beam above the staircase, cast iron hinges on the doors which date from 1840 and the iron nails used in the home's framework.

IN THE 15 YEARS the Potters have owned the home, they have made only minor changes.

When painting of the outside of the house—every other year became arduous, the couple searched and searched to find narrow, charcoal-colored aluminum siding to put on what it would be in keeping with the home's age.

The Potters spend most of their time when home in a so-called "keeping room" at the back of the house, Mrs. Potter says. "Keeping room is originally a New England term. You might call such a room a prototype of today's family room."

THE KEEPING ROOM wing is so cozy, with its door opening to a small sheltered terrace, that even the two Potter dogs make themselves thoroughly at home in it.

In addition to the keeping room, on the first floor are a living room, kitchen, study, bedroom and bath. Upstairs are two bedrooms and a half-bath.

ALTHOUGH Mrs. Potter hasn't filled her home entirely with antiques, she has a choice Sheraton table on one living room wall. Above this is a picture of her husband's grandfather, Lieut. Gen. John Caldwell Tidball, who instituted the sounding of "Taps" at serenity of the home which are victims of gravesides.

Potter's mother was the first Caucasian child born in Alaska and she left her son an appreciation for things historical. In fact, Potter is a fond of his historical home that he drives 68 miles a day to and from his job in Mt. Clemens just so he can live in it.

As his wife comments, "That proves we love this house."



COZY CORNER — Although this fireplace is not the original one built in the Potters' 100-year old home, the brick in the fireplace was taken from the first fireplace.



HISTORY — The Centennial plaque on the Robert Potter home in Farmington says that the original structure was built in 1848 with additions made in 1855.



Wood Creek Farms

The Navittes, Merl, Wilma and son, had a delightful trip west. They left here June 22, driving first to the panhandle of Idaho and the spectacular Snowy Mountain range, then southerly to the new Dinosaur National Park and the Flaming Gorge of Utah. They visited Yellowstone National Park; they hiked in the Big Horns of Montana; drove through the Bad Lands of South Dakota; through Minnesota and reached home July 12.

This is a very hurried and short column because a phone call Monday night informed us that son, Terry, and family were en route here in their camper and are due to arrive any minute. After an all too short stop here, they will be on their way to Alaska.

## Relative To Sing For GOP

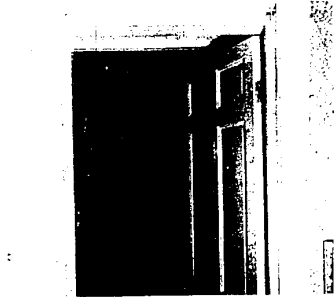
The sister of a Farmington resident will sing at the Republican National Convention in Miami this week.

Mrs. Gloria McMaster, a mezzo soprano, will perform at the Julliard School of Music over nationwide television at 8 p.m. Thursday evening Aug. 8. She is the sister of Florian Bugni, 3367 Hartlan Dr. Last year, Mrs. McMaster sang for the New York State Republican Convention and at a state Republican dinner in the Waldorf Astoria. This led to Gov. Nelson Rockefeller's recommendation that she sing for the national convention this week.

Mrs. McMaster is a graduate of the Julliard School of Music and holds a master's degree from the Eastman School of Music. She has performed in various concertos and operas, including the Julliard Opera Theater and with the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra.



SHELTERED NOOK — Hidden from the street by the angle of the Potters' Centennial Home is this shaded terrace and garden at the back of the house.



ORIGINAL DOOR — This door leading from the Potters' living room to the bedroom shows from its design that it is part of the home's original structure.

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