

Farmington has proud past

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more than three years after Arthur Power and his group cut the first trees for the first Farmington home, the township government began, with the first meeting conducted at the home of Robert Wisnom.

Earlier in the year, the state legislature had laid out the present boundaries for Farmington Township, thereby separating it from Bloomfield Township.

THE LITTLE SETTLEMENT had come to be known as Quakertown (not to be confused with the present Quakertown in this area) but both Power and Dr. Webb suggested Farmington as a name to honor the founders' former home in New York.

According to early records, the small village developed along Shawwasco and centered at the road's intersection with Farmington Road. This "old city" area still exists today with several

homes still standing, dating back to the 1840s.

After the 1840s, the village center shifted a bit south to Grand River and Farmington Road.

Grand River had become a main road between Detroit and the new state capital in Lansing.

The year 1850 brought the Fugitive Slave Act and Farmington's Quaker population, led by Nathan Power, quickly became associated with the anti-slavery movement and the Underground Railroad. The extent of their involvement is disputed by Leo Peel in his book.

After the Civil War, the people living in the square mile of territory along Grand River and Farmington Road voted to become a village. The village common council held its first meeting on May 9, 1867. The village became a city in 1920.

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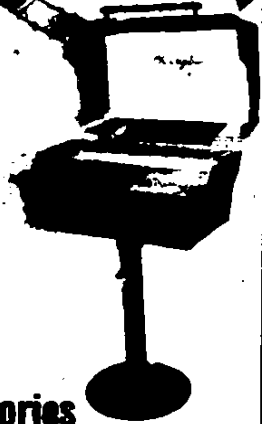
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