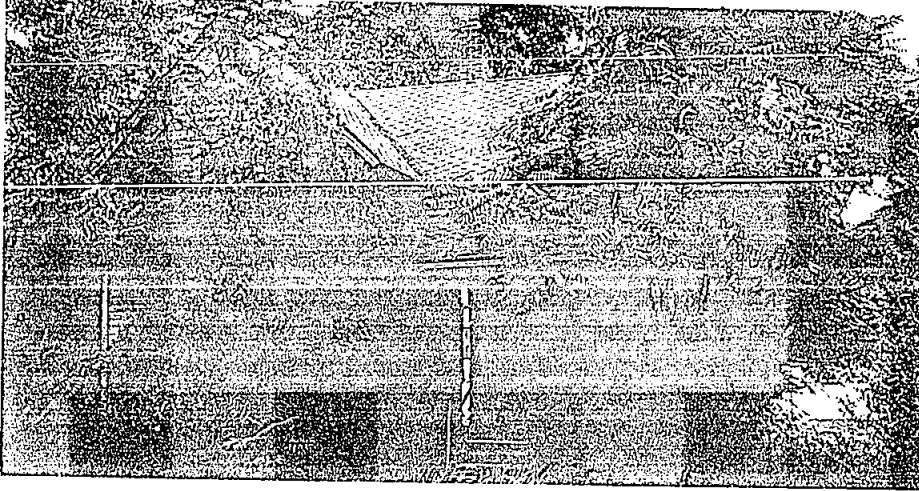




This old house, at 32018 Grand River in Farmington, soon may be moved to Bainbridge Street in Livonia.

Farmington house may be moved

By Marie Chestney
staff writer

A 100-year-old Victorian house now sitting vacant in downtown Farmington may be moved and attached to another house on Bainbridge Street in Livonia.

But one of the first hurdles Plymouth architect Robert Summers has to get over in making plans to move the house is getting Livonia's OK.

At first the city seemed inclined to overrule a denial from the city's building department and grant approval to move the aged structure.

Then last night, after seeing pictures of both houses at both locations, Livonia City Council referred Summers' request back to committee for further study.

"There's a lot of serious questions about both properties," said council president Robert Bishop.

In August, Summers request to move

the house seemed destined to die after a city building inspector said the "very old" house was in a "state of disrepair" and recommended that it stay in Farmington.

Summers had proposed renovating the two-story home, now at 32018 Grand River, and attaching it to his present 650-square-foot home at 14647 Bainbridge.

Summers appealed building inspector John Pegan's denial to the Livonia City Council.

Last Monday, reassured by Summers' promise that the old house would be restored and impressed with the architect's willingness to pay a large amount of money to upgrade the old building, council said it was leaning toward overriding the building department's denial.

Last night, saying both houses show signs of needing maintenance, council said it needed more time to study the request.

"I'M IMPRESSED with his love for the old structure, that he's fighting that hard for a 100-year-old home," Councilman Fernon Feenstra said at last week's meeting. "I normally wouldn't go against a building department's decision, but this time I'm on his side. It's more of a labor of love."

Summers admitted the inside of the old house needed a lot of work. The house is dirty, he said, and some walls need to be either removed or replaced.

He called the outside "weathered but in good shape," except for a front porch and a rear addition. Both were beyond repair and would be torn down, he said. The front porch would be rebuilt.

When finished, Summers said the two houses would have matching exteriors. The old house would have a new roof, new interior and new electrical, mechanical and plumbing systems.

Summers estimated the project would cost \$50,000 and would increase the square footage of his house to 2,100 square feet. It was curiosity, Summer said, that drew him to the house the first time he saw it standing at its Grand River location.

"It was tucked way back in the trees and it interested me. It was in decent shape for this kind of project."

Summer said he is researching the history of the home. But "when a house

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