

Construction begins on museum gazebo

By Julie Brown
staff writer

Margaret Walker and Kay Blakeney are pleased to see a gazebo being built on the grounds of the Farmington Historical Museum.

"It's very rewarding," Blakeney said of the project.

The two women have spent the past several years working on the project. Construction of the gazebo began in mid-June.

The original master plan for the museum grounds was a gift from John Grissim and Associates, landscape architects and site planners.

Making the gazebo portion of that plan a reality took some work.

"When we began to get serious about it, it was necessary to find out how much it would cost," Walker said. They were put in touch with Richard Bos.

"His specialty is Victorian architecture and preservation of structures," she said. "This is kind of a little jewel he's been intrigued by personally."

THE WOMEN met with Bos, to discuss ideas for the gazebo.

"After several conferences with him, we came up with the final plan," Walker said. "The price which he established and has held firm on is \$15,000."

The gazebo is designed to fit into the site, its architecture complementing that of the museum.

Funding for the project has come from several sources. The women went to William Slocum and Susan Slocum Klingbell, the grandchildren of Gov. Fred Warner.

"They came up with a grant for the project," Walker said. The grant, from the George and Mabel Slocum Foundation, covers a portion of the project's cost.

"That Slocum Foundation has been generous to the museum," she said.

In addition to the \$5,000 from the foundation, the women sought funds from area businesses.

"We were to raise \$10,000, which we did," Blakeney said. They began their work with phone calls and visits to local businesses.

The money was raised throughout 1983 and 1984. Contributions came from more than 100 businesses, "from the corner candy store up to the biggest," Walker said.

"It will be a gift from the business community," she said of the gazebo. "It will be a gift to the city from the business community."

Funds raised for the project now exceed \$15,000.

"We have gone over it, and deliberately so," Walker said. Donations are being used to cover additional costs.

"WE'RE STILL receiving donations to assist with the additional costs of electrification and beautification, the landscaping," she said.

Construction on the gazebo should be completed in time for the Farmington Founders' Festival, scheduled to begin July 16. A local Boy Scout, Ian Glick, is assisting with the construction work.

"This is only one of many Eagle Scout projects that have been completed on the premises," Walker said.

The gazebo could be used for a variety of musical and theatrical performances, she said.

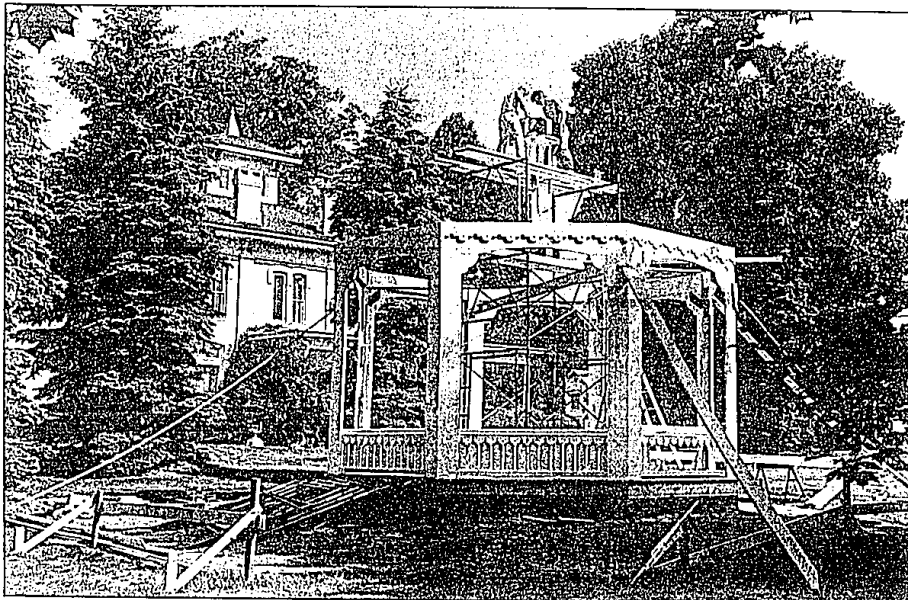
"There could, for example, be the recreation of historical speeches. There are so many talented groups in the Farmington and Farmington Hills area that could be featured there."

"I think we'll have weddings in it, if it's possible," Blakeney said.



Margaret Walker, left, and Kay Blakeney have spent many hours working on the gazebo project.

RICK SMITH/staff photographer



Construction has begun on the gazebo on the Farmington Historical Museum grounds.

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