

Farmington Hills

HISTORIC DISTRICT



City of Farmington Hills
Historic District Commission

Revised December, 2000

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Farmington Hills Historic District

Numbering System

1-200	Greek Revival Buildings (before 1860)
201-300	Other early Pre-Civil War Era Buildings
301-500	Michigan Farmhouses (1860-1900)
501-520	Other Buildings (Post 1900)
900-920	Pioneer Cemeteries

ROYAL ALDRICH HOUSE



This outstanding example of Greek Revival architecture was built approximately 1842 by Royal Aldrich for his second wife, Jenett.

The land was taken out from the government by Royal's father Esek. The Aldrich family were pioneer Farmington farmers.

In 1879 the property was sold to German farmer Frederick Bade; his family and descendents owned the land until 1953.

This house has original clapboard siding containing square headed nails, thick walnut beams and a Michigan stone basement.

Extensive restoration has been done to make the house as close to its 1840 condition as possible.

This Greek Revival House is on the Michigan State Registry of Historical Places and the National Register of Historic Places.

JOHN GARFIELD HOUSE



This Greek Revival house with a Federalist influence was probably constructed between 1831 and 1838 by John Garfield. The outer portion has hand-hewn beams and the inner basic beams are logs with bark still on them.

The house experienced extensive remodeling and modification over the years but has been restored to its original Federal-Greek Revival appearance.

The property at one time contained an orchard and a dairy farm. The barn, which has been remodeled into a home, is on neighboring property. A carriage, to the east of the house, was moved here from its original location near the Botsford Inn.

The John Garfield House is on the Michigan State Registry of Historical Places.

LEMUEL BOTSFORD HOUSE



Lemuel Botsford was a Connecticut farmer who came to Michigan in 1836. He moved to Farmington soon after; attracted by the Quaker community. The current house replaced a smaller structure that was on this property in 1837.

Lucy and Lemuel had ten children, a number of whom were prominent in the Farmington community. Rhonda Botsford married P.D. Warner. Milton became proprietor of the Botsford Inn. Orville was known for the fine horses he raised.

The Greek Revival house was located on a hill called Botsford Hill overlooking the Village of Farmington. Subsequent owners included John Pettibone of the pioneer Pettibone family.

The 1837 house has had numerous additions including a bedroom wing added in the 1930's by Ralph Finneron, a Ford Motor Company executive.

This fine Greek Revival house is listed on the Michigan State Registry of Historical Places.

THE PHILBRICK TAVERN



Nathan Philbrick sold his tavern on Grand River and built this structure at the intersection of what was, in 1827, the Orchard Lake Trail and the Lansing Post Roads.

During its day the tavern that Nathan and Asenath Philbrick ran was known for its excellence in food. Nathan Philbrick was the Justice of the Peace in 1824, 1838 and 1840. The original tavern had a taproom, small sleeping rooms, and a second floor ballroom. The two-story home is of wood peg construction. It has a basement, attic and many hand-hewn beams. The foundation is made of stone.

During the pre-civil war days, George Fisher Chamberlin and his brother, Charles Chamberlin, farmed the land and lived in the tavern now converted to a farmhouse. It was reported then that the old tavern was a stop on the Underground Railroad, which whisked slaves away to freedom in Canada.

Site No. 4 – continued

At considerable risk to their families and their finances people helped escaping slaves by providing them with lodging and some transportation. This network was known as the Underground Railroad and Farmington was one of the stops.

This house is listed on the Michigan State Registry of Historical Places.

STEPHEN YERKES RODGERS HOUSE



A transitional Federalist and Greek Revival style highlights this 1834 farmhouse with twelve-pane windows, corner pilasters and a paneled front door with sidelights and frets. The house built by Stephen Yerkes Rodgers, of the pioneer Yerkes family from Romulus, New York is noted on early Oakland County maps (1872, 1896, and 1908).

In spite of financial setbacks, members of the Yerkes family have managed to continue ownership of the house for over 150 years. Included in the list of owners is Maria Antoinette (Nettie) Yerkes, daughter of Great Lakes Sea Captain Solomon Gardner, who married Lyman Yerkes, grandson of Stephen Yerkes Rodgers. They lived in the house at the turn of the nineteenth century.

In 1908 Harmon Yerkes, a first cousin to Lyman Yerkes and Charles Rodgers, and his family began their ownership of the house and farm. The farmland was sold by Harmon's daughter, Alice Yerkes Barber. Robert Joseph Barber, grandson of Harmon Yerkes, bought the house and his family continues their residence at the historic homestead.

The house is listed in the Michigan State Registry of Historical Places.

Theron Murray House



Built between 1833 and 1837 by Theron and Rebecca Murray, this Greek Revival house changed hands many times before Horace Green purchased it in 1863.

The house, like the barn, features hand-hewn framing construction, pegged together; some of the original windows and original woodwork are still visible. The little pond on the property is part of the legendary Minnow Pond.

When the Murrays, who were part of the prominent pioneer Welfare family of Commerce Township, left the Farmington property after four years, they farmed in West Bloomfield.

Horace Green purchased the house in 1863. Horace was the grandson of Levi Green, a Revolutionary War veteran who is buried in North Farmington Cemetery with his wife, Asenath. Horace Green's parents were Zephaniah Ripley Green and his wife Zerilla Gould Green. The Zephaniah Greens came to West Bloomfield in 1832. Horace Green's wife was Mary Eliza Seeley. They farmed the property from 1863 to 1911.

This house is listed on the Michigan State Registry of Historical Places.

DAVID SIMMONS HOUSE



Built in 1843 by David Simmons, a relative of the pioneer Simmons family of Livonia, this Greek Revival house has a stone foundation, hand-hewn timbers and pegged construction.

An addition was made to the house by incorporating the carriage house as the south wing.

This house is listed on the Michigan State Registry of Historical Places.

CLARENCEVILLE BLACKSMITH HOUSE



Built as a home on Heise Street in Clarenceville around 1840, this house was the home of William Heise, a blacksmith.

The house was owned next by another blacksmith, Otis Jensen.

The house has been moved twice, once to a little strip of land in the middle of Grand River Avenue when the street was first widened in the 1930's, and next to its location on Ontaga in 1946 when Grand River was widened once more.

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH



The Greek Revival church building has been used for continuous church services since it was dedicated August 28, 1853. In 1967 it was moved from Piety Hill on Shiawassee Road in Farmington to its current site in Farmington Hills, which had been a centennial farm.

Sergius P. Lyon, Farmington's pioneer settler and man of many talents, was one of the founders.

Outstanding detail on the building includes the twenty-pane windows in front. Many anti-slavery meetings were held in this building.

This fine example of Greek Revival architecture is listed on the Michigan State Registry of Historical Places.

SILAS GREEN HOUSE



The basement in one section of this house is of Michigan stone; beams are tree trunks with the bark still on them. Another section of the basement shows split stone as the foundation.

There is an enclosed staircase in the center of the house. The upstairs, in one section may have been unfinished rooms under the dormers used as separate bedrooms, for the boys and girls, common in the ca. 1840 houses.

It was probably built by Silas Green, improved by his son, George, and once again by Orvil Stringer. The house had additions in 1864 and in the 1880's.

Ernest Langbecker, who owned the house in the 1890's, had a dairy farm on the adjoining land.

This house has been listed on the Michigan State Registry of Historical Places.

EBER DURHAM HOUSE



This Greek Revival farmhouse was built by Stephen Jennings, one of the early owners of the Sixteen Mile House (the Botsford Inn). It was said to be a wedding gift to the Jennings' daughter, Jane, when she married Eber Durham in 1845.

After Henry Ford purchased the Botsford Inn in 1924, the house was extensively renovated and used as a home for the managers, Mr. and Mrs. William Shaw. The house was on part of the Botsford Inn property west of the Inn, and faced Grand River.

The house is built on heavy log beams and has an enclosed stairway to the second floor. It has been moved twice, once after 1924 when Grand River was widened, and again in 1983.

The house is listed on the Michigan State Registry of Historical Places.

STEPHEN JENNINGS HOUSE



Ca. 1841 Greek Revival home built by Stephen Jennings, one of the early owners of the Sixteen Mile House (the Botsford Inn). The house is built on a log frame and has an enclosed staircase.

The house was adjacent to the Sixteen Mile House. The Jennings family made their home in this house. Sally Jennings lived in this house after her husband's death when the Inn was sold.

After Milton Botsford purchased the Inn in 1860, Lovinia Botsford raised her children and some of her grandchildren in this house.

In 1924 the Botsford Inn became the property of Henry Ford, who allowed some of his employees to live in the house.

John Anhut, a Botsford innkeeper, moved the house in 1973 when he sold off part of the property. In 1983 the house was moved to its present location on Drake Road where extensive renovation was done.

This Greek Revival gem is listed in the Michigan State Registry of Historical Places.

JOHN DALLAS HARGER HOUSE



The John Dallas Harger house is an unusually fine example of Greek Revival architecture. It is notable in particular, for its Michigan cut-stone construction.

The front or west side made of stone was constructed in 1837, while the back portion is wood frame. Additional improvements were made to the farm property in 1855-56.

John D. Harger came to Oakland County from Niagara New York, in 1834. He was living on this farm in Farmington by 1835. The farm went to his son, Oscar in 1881. Oscar S. Harger was supervisor of Farmington Township in 1871. The property stayed in the family until 1952.

It was moved from an original site at 28450 Halsted Road to Twelve Mile Road in 1994, where it has been restored.

CORNELIUS DAVIS HOUSE



Pioneer farmer Cornelius Davis built his Greek Revival house around 1845 on land he had owned for about ten years in the area of Farmington known as the English Settlement, along Thirteen Mile Road between Inkster and Middlebelt roads.

The house went next to his son, John, who was a cooper as well as a farmer. While Cornelius and his wife, Elizabeth, built a house on Davis Lane, John and his wife, Mary, improved their house in 1861. (They were living in the house from 1853 but did not get formal title until 1867.)

When John died his land went to his children. William, who inherited the house, moved to the Southfield burg where he was a proprietor of the Mill. The house and land became the property of the Gravlin's who owned it for three generations. The house was moved in 1986.

BOTSFORD INN



Built in 1836 by Allen Weston, this Inn was used as a hotel and tavern. It was significant as the Sixteen Mile House when owned and run by Stephen Jennings on the Detroit to Howell Plank Road. Milton Botsford purchased the Inn in 1860 and gave it his name.

In 1924 Henry Ford became owner of the Inn and did extensive restoration. He also moved the Inn back to make room for the widening of Grand River Avenue.

This Inn is listed in the National Registry of Historic Places and Michigan State Registry of Historical Places.

MARK ARNOLD HOUSE



This Greek Revival House was built by Mark Arnold ca. 1837 on a site near the Steele Grist Mill in Sleepy Hollow. The house is a hybrid of balloon/timberframe construction. It sits on its original foundation and it still retains the original stone well.

Mark Arnold ran a sawmill and coopershop with his partners, Warren Serviss and Pheroras Perrin from 1837 to 1849. During the 1850's Mark Arnold moved to the Village of Farmington, where he practiced law and became Justice of the Peace.

The house was sold and soon incorporated into the grist mill property.

Various people associated with the mill in Sleepy or Pernambuco Hollow lived in the house. They included the Hardenburghs and Wadenstorers, Henry Wadenstorer being the last of the Steele Grist Mill millers.

1941 additions include the garage and chimney. Both were built by local mason Stanley Gates.

ORVILLE BOTSFORD (LONE RANGER) HOUSE



Built in 1860 by Orville Botsford of the pioneer Farmington Botsford family, this house has Greek Revival features.

The building is over a three-part basement: a Michigan cellar with cut stone walls on the east-end of the house, a log crawl space foundation is in the center and a cement block basement c. 1930 is on the west-end of the building.

Orville Botsford was 39 when he built this home on one of his properties. There he was a dairy farmer and raised horses. He had been in the business as the Botsfords were involved in community activities and businesses.

Orville had two wives; Mary Ann Eddy, his eighteen year old bride, who died shortly after the birth of their son in 1845 and Sophia Gage, with whom he had three children after they were married in 1849.

Earl Graser, the original radio Lone Ranger, lived in the house in the 1930's and did extensive remodeling. He was killed in an automobile accident in 1941 and Bruce Beemer replaced him on the radio, in the role of the Lone Ranger.

This house is near the border of the City of Farmington yet is very country-like on its one and one-quarter acres. The house is in Farmington Hills and the front yard is in Farmington. Ancient locust trees still exist on the property.

PALMER SHERMAN HOUSE



Built by Palmer Sherman c. 1858. Purchased with “no buildings on the land” he developed it into a prosperous farm: raising seed for the Ferry Morse Seed Company along with dairy farming.

He and his wife, Loretta, had a family of nine children. In 1867 he built a brick house next to his small Greek Revival home. When the farm was sold to Luman Goodenough, a Detroit attorney, the small Greek Revival house was moved to its present site (c. 1918) and the brick house was enlarged.

The house was used for servants’ quarters by Goodenough and later housed the farmers who worked the Spicer farm from about 1940 to 1960. The little house became part of a service area for the Spicer farm and an addition was put on the east side of the building.

At some time when Palmer Sherman owned the house, he helped shelter escaped slaves as part of the Underground Railroad. The fugitives were probably in the Sherman barns rather than the crowded house. The barns were destroyed by the Goodenoughs, who replaced them with gardens.

It is now part of the service area of Heritage Park.

ALONZO SPRAGUE HOUSE



The house was built in 1847 by Alonzo Sprague on 46½ acres he purchased from his father Caleb Sprague. Caleb and Lydia Sprague's farm was originally 190 acres and Alonzo was their oldest son. Alonzo and his wife Miranda eventually had nine children and moved to a larger farm.

The Greek Revival house has a basement of Michigan stone and an enclosed stairway to the second floor. Hand-hewn beams are visible in the basement. An addition to the house was built in the 1930's including a new kitchen on the first floor and a bedroom and bathroom on the second floor.

There is a garage built in the 1950's and a tool shed that was once an outhouse. The porch has bungalow style construction. The property has many large trees.

THE MILLER'S COTTAGE OF SLEEPY HOLLOW



The home of the early millers who ran the Steele Grist Mill, which opened for business in 1827. It was the first grist mill in Farmington Township and the only one in the southwestern part of Oakland County.

The mill was originally owned by Edward and Harman Steele and Howland Mason. Howland Mason did most of the mill work and probably built the cottage.

When John T. Little purchased the mill he renamed the hollow Pernambuco after a town in Brazil. A whole little village with a coopers' shop, soap factory and store grew up around the mill.

Later Peter Hardenburg purchased the mill. Flour from the Hardenburg mill of Pernambuco Hollow was sold in many Michigan communities. The mill was torn down in 1936, but the house still reminds Farmingtonians of a town that once existed in old Farmington Township.

Site No. 201- continued

In 1988 the house, which originally stood on the north bank of the stream (a tributary of the Rouge), was moved by the City of Farmington Hills south of the stream to allow paving of Drake Road and easing of the curve in the road.

BOORN-HALSTED HOUSE



Built around 1830 by James Boorn and his wife, Olive Pettibone Boorn, this farm remained in the family for three generations. James Boorn took out forty acres on the west side of today's Halsted Road and forty acres on the east side. He was a cobbler, ran a slaughter house, and the farm. The Boorns' daughter, Hannah, married William Halsted.

William and Hannah's son, Harvey Halsted started growing fruit on the farm after the Civil War. When his children, Charles and James Halsted, farmed the property, they specialized in Steel Red Apples.

The house has been extensively remodeled. There is a Michigan stone wall along Halsted Road.

THE PARSONAGE



This clapboard house was built ca. 1845 along the Grand River Military Road. It features a timber frame (with pegs) over a Michigan basement. The house rests on log beams with the bark still on them.

In 1893 the Lutheran Society of Clarenceville and the Johnston Society of Farmington cooperated to purchase the house for use as a parsonage for the minister which they were to share. He would conduct services one week in Clarenceville and the next in Farmington. Classes were held in the house with children from both church groups.

In 1902, the year that the Salem Evangelical Church in Farmington was built, the property was sold.

ERI PRINCE HOUSE



Caroline Prince took out 80 acres of land in Farmington for \$100 in 1827. Her husband, the Rev. Eri Prince, was a traveling missionary for the American Home Missionary Society, which brought religion to the unsettled Michigan frontier.

In 1825 a church was organized in Farmington and in 1827 Eri Prince became the minister. Rev. Prince organized churches in Southfield, Walled Lake, Birmingham, Northville, Plymouth, and South Lyon. He was Farmington Township Supervisor from 1842-44. Eri Prince was also interested in waterpower and he built a sawmill on the property.

This Michigan farmhouse c. 1835 rests on its original foundation. The west half was built ca. 1870 and the rear shed addition ca.1950, when indoor plumbing was first installed.

Toward the end of the 1800's the sawmill was converted to a cider mill. Remnants of the earthen dam at the millpond still exist.

**ELLIOTT SPRAGUE HOUSE
(ORCHARD LANE FARM)**



Built ca. 1840 as a store in Sleepy Hollow; during the 1880's the house was moved to the top of Drake Road hill and served as the farmhouse home on the Elliot Sprague farm. It was known for many years as the Orchard Lane Farm.

DRAKE HOUSE



This homestead of Theodore Francis Drake II and his wife, Emma, who raised eight children on the family acres.

The house was originally built ca. 1830 by a member of the Wixom family. Hand-hewn beams are visible in the basement.

The Drake brothers, William and Theodore, purchased the property in 1867. They farmed the acres, with the help of their sister, Esther, who kept the house.

William and Esther left and the farm went to Theodore who named Drake Road when the Edison line came through the Township in the early 1900's.

Extensive remodeling was done to the house in 1938 giving it a historic Federalist and Greek Revival style.

There is an early barn on the property.

NEHEMIAH HOYT HOUSE



Built ca. 1851 as the residence of Nehemiah Hoyt, one of the early millers at the grist mill in Pernambuco or Sleepy Hollow.

This is a clapboard Michigan farmhouse over a stone foundation. It has a root cellar and narrow interior stairway. Some of the original windows are in the front of the house.

DENNIS CONROY HOUSE



Built around 1850 for Dennis and Eleanore Conroy. They raised their large and interesting family in this house; Eleanore Conroy was reported to be of “Irish Royalty”.

This typical Michigan farmhouse has been extensively remodeled. The Conroys were known for their geniality.

JOHN COX HOUSE



One of the two ca. 1830 houses on the farm of John Cox when he died in 1859. This house was probably the first built.

The interior has log construction over a Michigan cellar, an interior enclosed staircase and random planking with square nails on the second floor.

There is a root cellar behind the barn with peg construction and timber frame with peg construction.

Five locust trees over two hundred years old are along the road.

ADDIS EMMETT GREEN HOUSE



Built between 1854 and 1856 by Addis Emmett Green on land purchased for him by his father, Zephaniah Green, in 1853. Zephaniah and Zerilla Green, Addis Emmett's parents, were pioneer settlers of West Bloomfield; the family farm was across Fourteen Mile Road from the house Addis Emmett Green built.

Levi Green, Revolutionary War Veteran, came west with his son and daughter-in-law, Zephaniah and Zerilla. He and his wife are buried in the North Farmington Cemetery.

Addis Emmett Green traveled to California after he was educated but returned to marry Adaline Smith of Novi. They settled in this house that he built for his bride. The house has been in the Green family for six generations. It was probably was originally a "Michigan Farmhouse" style with two enclosed staircases. The basic lumber is sawn. Extensive changes have been made to the house, including a second wing added as well as Gothic trim.

LAWRENCE SIMMONS HOUSE



This outstanding example of Gothic Revival architecture was built of split Michigan stone in 1861.

Lawrence Simmons was one of the three sons of Joshua Simmons III, a pioneer settler of Livonia. Joshua Simmons purchased the land and built homes for each of his three sons.

This house was built by Sergius P. Lyon, a “gifted” Farmington craftsman. Lyon had many talents, including carpentry and stove manufacturing. As a carpenter he constructed caskets, and thus became Farmington’s first undertaker. He was also a founder of Farmington’s Universalist Church.

Additions were made to the house by succeeding owners. The Baldwin Coonleys added to the house, including a chimney which dates to 1887.

Site No. 301 – continued

Lawrence Simmons lived in the house until 1872 when he moved on to Northville. The house, farm and land were purchased as a country estate by R.K. Floyd of Kendall Oil. Kendallwood Subdivision gets its name from Floyd's company.

The house is listed on the Michigan State Registry of Historical Places.

MYRON CRAWFORD HOUSE



The ca. 1870 Victorian farmhouse was owned by Myron and Jane Putnam Crawford.

It is a clapboard Michigan farmhouse with an enclosed staircase, and cut stone foundation. It has been extensively restored with a new garage added in 1999.

SAMUEL DAVIS HOUSE



Wealthy farmer Samuel Davis built his Victorian three-story house with beautifully carved woodwork in 1872.

Martha M. Davis, his daughter married Fred M. Warner in 1888. Warner became Michigan's first three-term governor, serving from 1905 to 1911.

It is interesting to note that from the rearview of the house, the first house is clearly identified. The exterior was substantially restored in 1999 and today the building serves as an office building, well maintained and cared for.

JOHN PETTIBONE HOUSE



Judson Pettibone carved a lot out of his parents' farm and built a house in 1861. In 1867, he sold his property to his brother John B. Pettibone. John added a front section to the house in 1875 in the Gothic style.

The gingerbread style Victorian house was sold out of the family in 1889 when John and his wife, Kate, moved to another farm.

Both John and Judson were children of Levi and Huldah Pettibone who migrated from Vermont in 1841 to Milford, where they had owned land since 1829. They came to Farmington in 1854.

From the rearview, the first house is evident. Evidence of the two houses can also be seen in the basement where the Michigan and cut stone basement are evident. There are two enclosed stairways in the house; the back one in the older section is steeper.

ELY STODGELL HOUSE



Carpenter Ely Stodgell built his Victorian house on the “Saw Mill” lot on the southeast corner of Thirteen Mile and Middlebelt Roads in 1899.

The house has since been moved to Spring Street. The old sawmill was lost to vandalism.

Serenah Stodgell kept chickens in the old “barn” and made butter that was sold in the neighborhood. Ely Stodgell was a stone mason and carpenter and kept dairy cows in the pasture on the northwest side of Middlebelt and Thirteen Mile Roads.

The Stodgells had no children. The house was well built and much of the original woodwork and hinges remain.

MICHAEL MARLETT-CHARLES WIXOM HOUSE



This home built ca. 1835 by pioneer farmer Michael Marlett. The Marlett home was built over a Michigan stone crawl space. It was constructed on logs with the bark still on them.

In the 1845 census the Marlett family had ten members. Michael Marlett and his wife, Mary, are buried in the West Farmington Cemetery. Michael Marlett lived to eighty years of age.

Charles Wixom, farmer, grain grower and dairyman, built the front section of this home over a split-stone basement around 1870. Charles Wixom was the son of Benjamin Wixom and grandson of Robert Wixom Sr., a pioneer settler of Farmington. He and his wife, Eliza, built the front section of the house and lived on the property until 1875.

Samuel Lamb, the youngest of the eleven children of Caleb Lamb, became the next owner. Caleb Lamb and his father Nehemiah, were Baptist ministers and early missionaries in Michigan. Six century-old maples grace the property in the front yard.

HAMILTON JONES HOUSE



Hamilton Jones, the oldest son of Novi pioneer, Samuel Jones II, purchased land in Farmington for \$25 an acre. There, in 1871, he built a house for his wife, Isabel Pettibone. The house was across the road from her family farm.

The house is constructed of solid oak lumber cut from the farm acres. Neighbors brought the teams of horses to help Hamilton Jones build his house, according to Alice Jones Bigelow, granddaughter of Hamilton Jones.

When his wife died in 1881, Hamilton Jones soon tired of farming and his son, Judson, took over the family farm after he married Dora Johnson.

In 1991, because of the proposed widening of Twelve Mile Road, the house was moved by Don McCluskey from its original site south of the road to a site north of Twelve Mile Road and slightly to the rear of the Harger House. Today it has joined a complex of three historical buildings being utilized as offices.

This house is listed on the Michigan State Registry of Historical Places.

THE HALSTED APPLE BARN



Thomas Jefferson Davis, who ran the nearby cider mill, built the barn in 1891 to store apples from the Halsted orchards, this building has exterior walls two feet thick. It was designed to be self-insulating for apple storage.

The door is wide enough to drive a team of horses and wagon through to the lower level.

Living quarters were added in 1901; a Michigan stone wall is along the road.

THE COONEY HOUSE



This Victorian house and barn has a cornerstone that is now under the chimney dating the house 1898.

The name Cooney was on the cornerstone. The house is representative of the turn of that century's country homes. Dairy farming was done here. The house has high ceilings, with woodwork and molding intact. The house and barn are frame construction.

The house was owned by Tom Tardy, a Township Supervisor, and by Earl Teeples, Farmington Township Supervisor in 1970.

WARD EAGLE HOUSE



Home of Ward Eagle, a leader of the Michigan Milk Producers Association, who went around the state of Michigan organizing farmers as members of the association.

He served as Justice of the Peace and was a member of the Farmington Township Board, including a time as Township Supervisor. He was a teacher and a farmer. His sister, Zaida Eagle, was also a teacher in the community. Neither married.

The little frame house with hand-hewn beams over a Michigan cellar also has a horse barn made of Michigan stone on the site.

The house dates to 1841 when John Trick split an acre off the farm of Samuel T. Bryan, the original settler of the land. For some reason Mr. Trick had a house and one acre in the middle of the community of large tract farms.

In 1902 the land reverted back to the Eagles, who owned the larger farm surrounding the house at that time.

In the 1950's, the Eagle School, across the road, was named for Ward Eagle because of his contributions to the community. When development came to this area of Farmington in the 1980's, the home, then on two acres of land, was integrated architecturally into a modern office complex, retaining the original house. It, with the cobblestone building which is believed to have been a blacksmith shop, were restored by Stan Finsilver; the total is now the "Ward Eagle Office Village" complex.

JOHN GLICK HOME AND POTTERY



This ca. 1870, Michigan farmhouse is now the home of John Glick and his studio, the Plum Tree Pottery. Mr. Glick is known nationally for his work. He is represented in several museum collections: the Detroit Institute of Arts, Cranbrook Art Academy, the Flint Institute of Arts, the Delaware Art Museum, the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian in Washington, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, among others. His work is in many New Zealand collections, as well as universities.

In 1977 he was honored at “American Crafts in the White House”. In 1980 he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Wayne State University, and he was Artist in Residence for the City of Farmington Hills in 1977. His work is in the Joan and Walter Mondale private collection. Mr. Glick received the Governor’s Award from the Michigan Foundation for the Arts in 1977, and the National Endowment for the Arts individual artist’s grant in 1990.

The potter is the subject of many publications, as well as having written numerous articles on ceramics and of his experience as a studio potter. He has been the subject of a film by Sue Marx, as well as a video for the Detroit Institute of Art. For over twenty years he has exhibited in selected exhibitions throughout the United States.

SHERMAN-GOODENOUGH HOUSE



Palmer Sherman, a Farmington grower of seed for Ferry Morse Company, built a brick home on his farm in 1869. Palmer Sherman's home is the southeast portion of the Georgian mansion that was constructed from 1914-1930 when the Goodenoughs converted the farmhouse into their country estate. The additions were designed by architect Marcus Burrowes for Luman Goodenough, a Detroit attorney.

Included in the creation of the Georgian manor were elegant details by the talented architect who specialized in historic periods. There is Pewabic tile in one of the bathrooms. The house was a summer country home before becoming a year round residence in 1916. The outstanding talent of Marcus Burrowes has been rewarded with registration in the Michigan Registry of Historical Places.

The house is surrounded by a Michigan stone wall constructed by Farmington stone mason Henry Mahaney.

When Mrs. Goodenough died in 1967, the terms of the will provided for the home to be given to the community for community use, "provided no tax money was involved." A group of local citizens raised money for the operation of the home as a

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Community Center, and for over 20 years citizens of Farmington/Farmington Hills have been able to enjoy many social and cultural functions within the walls and grounds of this beautiful home, whose walls are redolent of a more leisurely, elegant age of horses and grooms, chauffeurs, gardeners and servants.

THE FRACTIONAL SCHOOL HOUSE



The only one-room schoolhouse in Farmington still used for school purposes, this building was constructed around 1870 on the site of an 1850 school which burned. The building is made of Michigan stone. It has some of the original windows.

A fractional school district was one that served children from more than one township; in this case Farmington and West Bloomfield. It was run by a local school board that did everything from hiring the teachers to doing the building repairs.

The one-room school went to the eighth grade, and if a youngster wanted to have further instruction, usually the local district would pay tuition to a high school in another district.

This rare stone building is listed in the Michigan Registry of Historical Places.

THE WILLIAM GATES HOUSE



Circa 1900 farmhouse built on land originally taken out from the government by Samuel Mead.

The frame house with a stone foundation has a Michigan basement that was used for storage of produce. Remodeling was done on the building in the 1935-36 period. The house has lovely woodwork.

SAMUEL LOCKE HOUSE



The Samuel Locke house was built in 1881 on land acquired in 1873 from the Chamberlain family.

Samuel Locke Sr., had property in Franklin before moving to Eleven Mile between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake after the Civil War. His Franklin property had been known as Locke Corners.

After Samuel Locke Jr., married Dora Swartz in 1882, he farmed his father's property until purchasing this farm from his parents in 1889. In this house Samuel and Dora Locke raised five children.

This Michigan farmhouse has a frame of logs and hand-hewn beams. There was once a Michigan basement for storage of farm produce.

Dora died in 1912; Samuel remarried in 1914. The farm was sold in 1916 and, with his wife Margaret, Samuel Locke Jr. moved to the village of Farmington. The farmlands became the subdivision of Pasadena Park in 1925.

LEDYARD-COWLEY HOUSE



In 1868 Ledyard and Lucinda Cowley built a new house and moved from one section of their farm to another. The first homestead was used by John Cowley.

The house they built at the juncture of Eleven Mile Road and Farmington Road was on the site of the log house that Robert Wixom Sr. had lived in when he came to Farmington in 1824.

The Wixom family of five sons and four daughters were significant in the development of Farmington in business, government and religion.

By the Victorian period, fruit and dairy farming were carried out on the local farms. The house originally had porches on the south and east side. There was a barn just east of the house. The house was clapboard originally; it was built over a split-stone foundation.

FRANKLIN COMSTOCK HOUSE



Around 1880 Franklin Comstock and his wife, Emily, built a house on a ridge overlooking a tributary of the Rouge River.

They had purchased the farm in 1869 from David Maiden who had “taken out” the land from the Government in 1827. The first farmhouse on the property had been on the present Nine Mile Road, west of Inkster Road. That house disappeared after 1872.

Comstock raised grain and sheep on his hilly farm that was well watered by the Rouge River. Mrs. Comstock’s father was Edward Grace, a merchant in Farmington Village.

The Comstock house has an enclosed staircase leading to the sloping ceiling of the second floor bedrooms. There is a Michigan cellar constructed of Michigan stone where the farm produce was once stored.

At one time horses were raised on the farm and they raced along a track which has developed into Spring Valley Drive after the Miller Rougemont Farm Subdivision was platted. The subdivision was platted by Edna and Carl Miller on August 17, 1944. Two small barns remain from the horse raising days.

The exterior brick is soft pressed, the kind made by local brick factories. It is installed in the Flemish style and may have been put on after the house was already constructed.

THE BARN AT HERITAGE PARK

Farmington Road



This circa 1880 barn was moved from a farm on Eight Mile Road by Eleanor Spicer to serve as the cattle barn on the Spicer's farm. It has a cement block addition and a silo of reinforced concrete marked with the name Smith Silo Co., Oxford Michigan.

The barn is constructed of hand-hewn beams and some of the supports are trees with the bark still on them.

It is now part of the service area for Heritage Park.

BADE HIRED MAN'S HOUSE



Built in 1882, after the Bade family acquired the Aldrich farm, this gambrel-roofed house was used by the hired help on the Bade farm.

The Bades were part of a large German population of Farmington Township. They were successful farmers and business people in the mid to late 19th century.

This building was originally on three acres across the road from the main farmhouse and most of this property was used for grapevines.

SPRINGBROOK FARMHOUSE



Pre-1870 farmhouse which was moved from the Seeley farm across the road next to the site of the Springbrook Cheese Factory around 1900.

The property of the Springbrook Cheese Factory was leased from George Button, a Civil War Veteran, and son of John Button, last resident postmaster of North Farmington. It was purchased by Fred Warner, governor of Michigan in 1904, as one of his 13 cheese factories.

The house was probably moved by Michael Roach who owned an adjoining farm. Additions were made to the house in 1900 and in the 1920's.

There is a Michigan stone wall along the road and a 10 foot circumference maple tree in the front lawn at the road.

MARCUS BURROWES HOUSE



Marcus Burrowes was an outstanding Michigan architect in the early 1900's through the 1920's period. He made his home in Farmington on 12 acres given him from the estate of his friend, attorney Luman Goodenough.

In an era when Farmington was a desirable place for country estates, Burrowes designed and built his own home on a bluff overlooking a branch of the Rouge River.

It was built in 1924 in French Provincial style constructed of concrete block to which a stucco finish was applied. Basement windows, new to the period, offered maximum ventilation.

There are many cabinet and bookcase features in the house and some of the carpentry work was done by Burrowes himself. There are four French shallow fireplaces with tall chimneys. An additional room was designed leading out from the den, but it was never constructed. The beautiful foyer was designed for entertaining. This house is listed on the Michigan Registry of Historical Places.

EDWARD MOSEMAN HOUSE



English Cotswold style cottage built of Indiana limestone with a slate roof and solid oak woodwork. Oak doors and casement windows are part of the design on a two acre lot which has myriads of wild flowers left in a natural environment, as well as thousands of naturalized daffodils each April.

The house was designed by Marcus Burrowes. The cornerstone bears the date 1937.

The house has oak woodwork and floors, in the English manner, casement windows and foot-thick walls of Bedford (Indiana) limestone. The roof is of slate; all guttering and downspouts are of copper. A wood-door near the fireplace enables firewood to be put in from the outdoors and utilized inside. Two of the home's windows have tall rounded panes, typical of Burrowes meticulous craftsmanship. The limestone was recycled from the old Federal Building in downtown Detroit that was torn down for modern construction.

Edward Moseman, a Pontiac attorney, bought the 40 acres on which the house stood during the Depression. He was descended from a family that had owned the manor of Biddestone in the Cotswolds in England. He was recreating in America his own bit of homeland. When property taxes increased in the 1950's, he put in the

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large circle drive around the stone home and created the subdivision of Biddestone Woods.

Second owner of Biddestone was Jean McGriff Fox, mayor of Farmington Hills during 1990. Mrs. Fox served years on the Hills' Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Farmington Hills Historical Commission. She was a creator of the Hills' Historic District in 1979-80, and served many years as its chair. Mrs. Fox authored numerous historic publications, see Other Publications/Resources.

“Biddestone, “ as the house was known, was listed on the Michigan State Registry in 1991.

KIRBY WHITE HOUSE



Kirby and Alice White and their five children moved into this Federalist Revival House by 1928. Kirby White was general manager, vice-president and director of the Ferry-Morse Seed Company, which by the 1930's was the largest seed company in the United States.

The estate home was built for the Whites on five acres along Farmington Road and was designed by Marcus Burrowes who was a prominent architect in Detroit and Michigan. He designed public buildings for cities and houses for wealthy clients.

The Kirby White House has some unique architectural features. The house is supported by steel beams, unusual for houses dating from the 1920's. The Federalist-Revival style features many gables, arches and bays.

Kirby White died in June 1933 and the family moved from their country estate to Birmingham, Michigan. A series of owners for the lovely estate were executives of Ford Motor Company.

The Presbyterian Church purchased the property and house in 1956. The needs of the church for religious purposes caused the house to be moved a mile south on Farmington Road in 1993.

It has been adapted to its new location and carefully maintained in the unique Federalist-Revival style architecture.

RICHARD T. CUDMORE HOUSE



This 1916 country estate was built around a 1830 farmhouse which belonged to Farmington pioneer, John Gibson.

Richard T. Cudmore was an officer of the Union Guardian Bank of Detroit, a major banking institution. He was also the treasurer of the Detroit United Railroad that had headquarters in Farmington at the turn of the century, when street cars covered the greater Detroit metropolitan area.

Cudmore brought carpenters in from Detroit to build his estate around the farmhouse that was on his land. He hired a farmer to farm the estate. In 1927 he excavated the man-made lake which is at the entrance to Woodcreek Hills subdivision.

In 1937 Hugh Dean became the owner, doing much of the interesting carpentry work now evident, including the pagoda-style porch. Local carpenter James Tolman did that work. Half a century later, Tolman did renovation work on the house.

GLEN OAKS COUNTRY CLUB



The clubhouse was probably designed by the architectural firm of Butterfield and Butterfield, in 1926. The golf course opened a year later, before the clubhouse was completed.

This was to be part of a development called the Oaklands Subdivision with country living and a country club offered. It was designed with the idea of commuting to the city for work. Isaac Bond, land owner and member of the Oakland County Road Commission, envisioned the concept of the subdivision on his Farmington farm.

The father and daughter architectural firm was unique. Emily Butterfield was the first woman architect licensed to work in the State of Michigan. Wells T. Butterfield, her father, was the first mayor of the City of Farmington. He was also a landscape architect, one of the first.

The building is the historical style of the 1920's. It was a chateau style with rough stone exterior and gabled slate roof. There are lots of nooks and crannies in the design. The main building had reinforced concrete decks. There are later additions.

This charming building looks like a little castle. It is listed on the Registry of Michigan Historical Places, and is carefully maintained by the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission.

SARAH FISHER HOME



Egyptian influence used in public building of the 1920's is seen in the original administration office and early buildings of the children's home. Fine brickwork, slate roof, limestone framing on door and windows, and carving over the entrance are used on this structure built in July, 1929.

The entrance gates at Twelve Mile and Inkster Roads are outstanding, and were restored in 1990.

SPICER HOUSE
Heritage Park on Farmington Road



The long low English Country House was designed to blend in with the landscape by talented architect Marcus Burrowes. The house was built in 1926 for attorney David Gray and his wife, Martha. It originally stood on twelve acres of land.

The house was designed with two wings; the outdoors was visible from all rooms. This design was not only beautiful, but practical, because of the cross ventilation.

David Gray died before the house was occupied and Martha Gray moved to California before the house was ever lived in. When Eleanor Goodenough married John Spicer in 1935, Mrs. Gray gave the home and property to the newlyweds. Eleanor was the daughter of Luman Goodenough, a dear friend of the Grays.

Additional acres were purchased for the farm which Eleanor Spicer ran until her death in 1982. At that time the property included 200 acres and Mrs. Spicer liked to refer to it as the only unspoiled place in Farmington Hills.

The land is now Heritage Park with this jewel of a house as its heart. The Spicer House serves as the Park's Visitor Center, with the wings modernized to serve as classrooms and meeting areas. The four historic rooms: the hall, living room with cathedral ceiling, library and dining room, serve for gatherings and displays.

LEWIS HOWARD HOUSE



Built in 1903 by Lewis Howard, the house was moved by his great grandson, Lee Cox, to a new location where it has been painstakingly restored.

The house is made of tulipwood in the Mansard style and the inside is finished with cherry woodwork. It was probably built from a plan book similar to the one used by Henry Ford to build his “honeymoon” cottage in Dearborn, at about the same period, which it resembles.

Lee Cox is related on the maternal side to the Baptist missionaries, Caleb and Nehemiah Lamb, who founded many churches and did missionary work on the Michigan frontier.

FRANK STEELE HOUSE



This 1920 cobbleshone bungalow with sleeping porch and little stone garage was built by Frank and Bertha Steele with stones from their own farm.

It was on land from the original land grant to Edward Steele, Frank's grandfather, made in 1824. Edward Steele established the first grist mill in Farmington Township and a small town, Pernambuco Hollow/Sleepy Hollow, clustered around the mill at Drake and Howard Roads.

Frank Steele was a teacher and later a principal in Detroit; the newly perfected automobile enabled him to travel from his farm in Farmington to his position in Detroit.

The house was completed in 1920, with Amos Otis doing the carpentry and Fred Schampter doing the stone work. The old farm is now in the Old Homestead subdivision.

EDWARD BEALS HOUSE



This Arts and Crafts House with English Tudor influence is an Emily Butterfield design. (Butterfield, of Farmington, was Michigan's first woman architect.)

The house was completed in 1926 for Edward E. Beals, who was president of the Great Lakes Land Corporation of Ohio, which established the Oaklands subdivision in 1925 at Thirteen Mile and Orchard Lake Roads.

Edward and Irene Beals lived in the house from 1926-1936. The house is stucco and the roof was once tile. The basement is cement block and there are numerous built-in cupboards in the kitchen and the bedrooms. Many of the original lighting fixtures remain.

The lot is wooded. The little garage matches the house. There was once a putting green just south of the house, in the subdivision that stressed small country estates.

THE MODEL HOUSE FOR OAKLANDS SUBDIVISION



This Arts and Crafts house designed by Emily Butterfield reflected the “latest” in heating and plumbing for the 1920’s. It was advertised in September 1925, as an ideal small estate in Farmington Township.

This house had a tennis court and garden. The ocean-wave roof is unusual, and the multi-layer roof is still the original. In 1964 a dinette, family room, two bedrooms and a bath was added.

HENRY C. BACH HOUSE



Henry C. Bach was vice-president and chief salesman of the Oakland Land Development Company when he built himself a home in the Oaklands subdivision in 1926.

The house was a Butterfield and Butterfield design. It had a wood frame exterior and plaster walls. There was a little of the Japanese influence in this colonial design.

Much of the original landscaping has been restored by Dr. William Rintelmann, owner in 1989.

The framing and original roof of the house belonged to a tool shed on the Bond farm. It was moved to the foundation on Ardmore when the house was built. The roof section goes back to 1900. Additions have been made to the rear of the house.

On the original six-lot parcel the Bach's raised nursery stock trees.

JAMES F. CAIN HOUSE



A four-square design with Colonial revival details, this small “estate” house with sidewalks to other early models was located prominently in Pasadena Park subdivision.

This house is typical of a 1925 luxury design. Economic conditions of the Great Depression halted the development of the subdivision until after World War II so no more models like this were constructed.

James F. Cain, the builder and developer of Pasadena Park lived here with his wife Genevieve and three children for about ten years. Hollywood Drive became Holly Hill when Pasadena Park was reorganized.

Other unusual features are the basement, which was constructed of brick, and the Pewabic tile in the upstairs bathroom.

PASADENA PARK BUNGALOW



The Bungalow took many forms as it was adapted to the early Twentieth Century lifestyle. This Tudor Revival Bungalow was one of the models in Pasadena Park subdivision platted in 1925 by James F. Cain; six houses were built in 1925 and 1926. This house is an excellent example of this evolving architectural style.

The glamour of movies was incorporated into the subdivision through the street names. Allison was formerly Arlington Drive, Holly Hill Road was Hollywood.

The technology of electricity, indoor plumbing and heating plus a community well and gravel streets made an early subdivision designed for the above-average homeowner.

SPICER HOUSE STABLES/CHAUFFEUR QUARTERS



This building served as a stable, garage, and chauffeur's quarters and was designed by architect Marcus Burrowes for Luman Goodenough about 1916.

In the early years of the 20th Century, wealthy attorney Luman Goodenough was able to live in the country and be transported to his office in the city by automobiles that were housed here. The chauffeur lived in this building and the horses that the Goodenoughs enjoyed riding about their farm were stabled here.

Later, Mrs. Eleanor Spicer, Goodenough's daughter, turned most of the estate into a working farm. She kept her horses here and used the other buildings in this service complex for the farmer who worked the land.

The building is now part of the service area for Heritage Park.

EDWARD CHENE HOUSE



Built in 1927 for Edward and Evelyn Chene, this colonial revival home has original windows, original shingle siding, original plumbing fixtures, wood floor and coved ceilings. The house is situated on an acre lot. There are beautiful oak trees in the front yard and the first Christmas tree in the house was planted in the back yard and still growing.

Edward Chene was from the pioneer Chene family of Detroit. He was an insurance salesman.

This house was one of the early homes of Oaklands subdivision. It was designed by Emily Butterfield, the first woman licensed to practice architecture in Michigan. Emily worked with her father in the firm of Butterfield and Butterfield. They were architects for this early planned community.

There are two additions to the house; the one on the south was post World War II, and the addition to the east was built in 1981.

FRED GOULD HOUSE



This Colonial Bungalow is an Emily Butterfield design. She was the first woman licensed architect in Michigan.

This house was built in 1925 in Oakland subdivision, a planned community which is still being completed in 2000.

The house is typical of bungalow design with much symmetry in each of the rooms. The Butterfield Bungalows are two stories rather than the traditional one or one and a half. The basement is cement block and there are some original windows upstairs.

Fred Gould was a director of the Great Lakes Land Corporation. The Great Lakes Land Corporation created the planned development on the farm of Isaac Bond, an early Farmington Township Supervisor, farm machinery salesman and Oakland Highway Commissioner. Isaac Bond was the organizer of the Great Lakes Land Corporation. Fred Gould was a salesman. His family was prominent in Owasso, Michigan.

There are additions to the back of the house and the garage was constructed in 1970. The lot has beautiful mature trees.

ARCHIBALD JONES HOUSE



Archibald Jones was treasurer for the Great Lakes Land Corporation. This company was the promoter for Oaklands Subdivision, a planned community in the 1920's in Farmington Township.

This house was constructed in 1925 and was an Emily Butterfield design. It is a Tudor Bungalow with some original windows, wood floors and coved ceilings.

The setting on a dirt road is very pastoral. The original lot has been split twice but still retains several large trees.

Wendell Brown owned the house for a number of years. Brown, an attorney, helped write laws that enable libraries throughout Michigan to share their facilities across municipal boundaries.

EAST FARMINGTON CEMETERY
(The Utley Burying-ground)



In 1824 Sanford M. Utley came west with his family, including two sons, Peleg and George. His wife, Patience, fell off the wagon when they arrived in July; two months later on September 26, 1824, she was buried on Peleg's farm.

The section of the Utley farm, where Patience was buried, became Farmington's first cemetery. Hers was the first death in the township.

The cemetery was maintained by the East Farmington Cemetery Association with a group called the Mystic Workers taking care of the cemetery with various fund raising activities and their own labor.

The cemetery is now maintained by the City of Farmington Hills. It is listed on the Michigan Registry of Historical Places.

WEST FARMINGTON CEMETERY



This cemetery was established in 1835 on the grounds of the Baptist Church that once stood there. The church is now gone. When the congregation disbanded, the church moved to the Palacky farm on Twelve Mile on May 4, 1938.

The cemetery was maintained by local families who established a group called the Willing Workers. They raised money and maintained the cemetery. It is now the property of the City of Farmington Hills.

This pioneer cemetery is listed on the Michigan State Registry of Historical Places.

NORTH FARMINGTON CEMETERY
(The Wolcott Cemetery)



Incorporated in March, 1837 by Chauncey D. Wolcott, Orange Culver and John H. Button, this cemetery was in what was then the Village of North Farmington. The first interment was that of a young girl.

The association was reincorporated in 1874. The cemetery is still privately operated, and has been supported by fund raisers and private maintenance.

A veteran from every war in which our country has ever fought is buried in this cemetery. The oldest veteran grave is that of Levi Green, a Revolutionary War veteran.

The cemetery is listed on the Michigan State Registry of Historical Places.

OTHER RESOURCES/PUBLICATIONS

The documents listed below are available at the local library or for purchase at the Farmington Hills City Hall Treasury Department.

Publications:

More than a Tavern: 150 years of Botsford Inn by Jean Fox

I Went to the People: Fred M. Warner, Progressive Governor (Michigan, 1905-11)
by Jean Fox

A Farmington Childhood, Watercolors of Lillian Drake Avery by Jean Fox and
John B. Cameron

Farmington Centennial Families by Jean Fox

Farmington Junction: A Trolley History by Brian Golden

Guide to Historical Markers in Farmington Hills by Brian Golden

Heritage Homes of Farmington (2nd edition) by Ruth Moehlman

The History of Farmington by Lee Peel

The Religious History of Farmington by Stella Strye

History of Farmington Township to 1877 (anniversary edition) by John Willyard

From Ice Age to Space Search: The Natural History of Farmington, various
contributors

Monographs:

Farmington Area Cemeteries by Kathryn Briggs

The Workers Camp: Communism Comes to Farmington by James Dermody

P. Dean Warner of Farmington (Farmington's first mayor) by Jean Fox

Marcus Burrowes, English Revival Architect by Jean Fox

Tracking the Underground Railroad by Jean Fox

The Howards of Farmington, Letters from 1860 by Jean Fox

Memories of North Farmington by Clyde Graham

History of the Farmington Post Office by Erika Peckham

Frederick Maltby Warner by Adam Ellis/Paul Romine

The Old Mill (formerly in Farmington Hills Sleepy Hollow) by Frank Steele