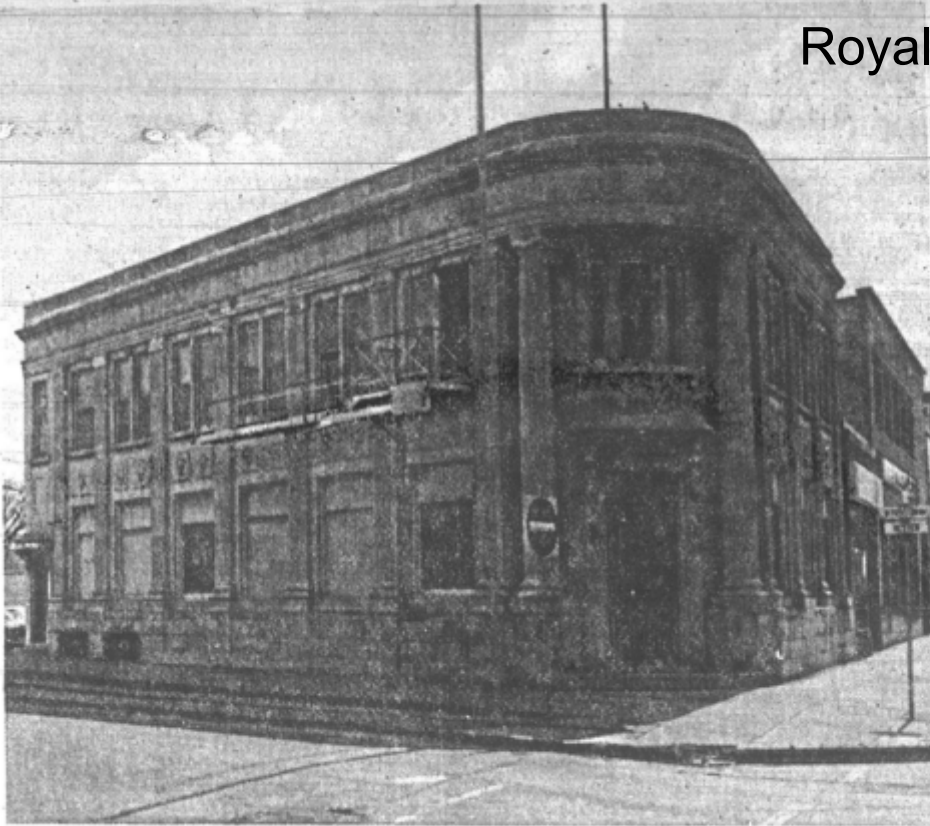
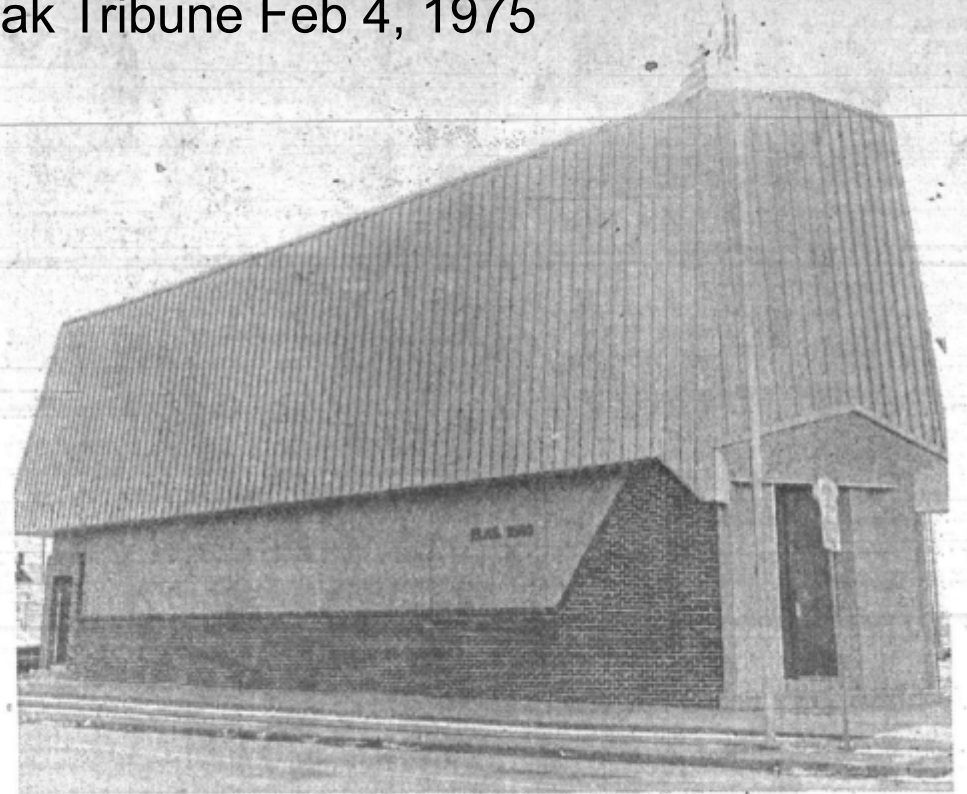


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The Ferndale Elks Club at Woodward and Vester as it appeared a year ago. It was once a bank.



A modern design composed of a yellow steel roof, brick and stone covers all traces of the club's former appearance. (Tribune Photo)

## Renovated Eyesore Draws Raves, and Patrons, for Ferndale Elks

by THOMAS B. SCOTT  
Tribune Staff Reporter

The Ferndale Elks considered moving out of "the oldest looking building in the City" more than a year ago, but decided instead to give it a complete face-lift.

Now the members are finding that their renovated building at Woodward and Vester is drawing compliments — and patrons.

"The renovation has increased attendance among members considerably and drawn more people from other Elks lodges," said James McDonald, an active member for five years. "I'd guess overall attendance is up about 15 per cent."

McDonald said the club is also attracting greater numbers

of groups who rent the upstairs hall for weddings and parties. "Those are up substantially, I'd guess about 25-30 per cent," he said.

The work began a year ago and was completed in December at a cost of approximately \$50,000. Construction crews transformed the building, a grey, cement-faced former bank, into a modern, streamlined structure of yellow steel, brick and sandy-colored stone.

The building was constructed in 1920 and served as the American State Bank until the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge 1588 took it over 30 years ago, according to members.

All traces of two of the building's more noticeable features, a second-story fire escape on the Vester side and long classical columns flanking the entrance, were removed during the face-lift.

McDonald said, "We renovated it mainly because it was an eyesore. We're proud of our club and we wanted to do our part to improve the building's appearance and enhance the image of Ferndale.

"We're definitely happy with it now . . . It was the oldest looking thing in the City."

McDonald said the Elks considered moving to a new headquarters rather than attempt the large renovation project.

McDonald said. "We looked around the City, but when we found nothing suitable available, we just decided to fix up the old joint."

The work also extended to the interior, although the club was never closed during the alterations. Inside are new drapes, carpet, bar equipment and tables.

David Benson, the lodge's exalted ruler, credits the success of the project to Earl Young, a member of the Board of Trustees, who "supervised" the work of the architect and contractor.

Michael A. Boggio, a Southfield architect, designed the alterations and Stenback Construction Co., Ferndale, performed the work.

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