

Heritage NEWS

SUMMER 2010

33rd ANNUAL
Historic
HOME TOUR

Sunday, August 22
Noon - 5pm

HISTORIC HOUSE MARKERS AWARDED IN MAY

On Wednesday, May 26, 2010 the Heritage Foundation's Marker Award Banquet took place at the Ladies' Literary Club. At the banquet, owners of houses that meet certain criteria were recognized for their efforts and Historic Building Markers were awarded in order to publicly identify buildings of special merit.

The Heritage Foundation awarded the following homeowners historic markers for 2010.



407 E. Forest
Diana Dues
c. 1923



957 Sherman
Jonathan Grimes & Kathryn Sharp
c. 1928



1104 Pearl
Lani Chisnell
c. 1924



206 Oak
Steven Hylkema & Julia Collins
c. 1901



600 Roosevelt
Steve Upton
c. 1933



1303 Westmoorland
Nathalie Edmunds
c. 1940



118 South Washington
Steve Pierce & Maggie Brandt
c. 1893

33RD ANNUAL HISTORIC HOME TOUR SUNDAY, AUGUST 22ND



photo Griffin Reames

Since 1977, the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation has been pleased and proud to present one of our community's most important resources, our wealth of historic architecture. This year's homeowners have graciously agreed to open their doors so that we all may see and appreciate the results of historic preservation efforts in the Ypsilanti area.

This year's tour is a departure from what we have done in the past. For only the second time, we are leaving Ypsilanti for part of the tour. We are featuring four superb nineteenth-century properties three homes and a schoolhouse in Superior Township. Throughout their history, all four have had strong ties to the city of Ypsilanti. A perfect complement to these properties is a wonderful nineteenth-century home on Ypsilanti's south side. Finally, the nonprofit Corner Health Center on historic North Huron Street will be showing off its recent expansion and renovations, and tourgoers will be allowed in to see three beautifully designed modern loft apartments above the Spark East offices on Michigan Avenue.

Purchase tickets prior to the tour at Salt City Antiques, Norton's Flowers & Gifts, Haab's Restaurant, and Nelson Amos Studios, in Ypsilanti; Saxtons Garden Center, in downtown Plymouth; and Downtown Home & Garden, in Ann Arbor. On the day of the tour tickets will be available for purchase in front of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum at 220 North Huron Street and at Haab's restaurant.

If you are interested in being a tour guide for this year's event contact Jan Arps-Prundeanu. email: janarps60@gmail.com | phone: 734.834.4792

OUT BUILDINGS RECOGNIZED AT MAY EVENT

In the back yards and lanes of Ypsilanti is still to be found a fascinating collection of village barns and carriage houses. They contribute to our architectural history and to the historic character of Ypsilanti in a way no other buildings can.

In September of 2007, the Heritage Foundation began a new program of awarding Historic Structure markers to those significant buildings. Honored this year were the following village barns and carriage houses



206-210 N. Washington



216 Washington



306 Jarvis



113 Buffalo

photo Rick Leyschock

Marker Awards continued from page 1

The criteria used by the committee to select the homes for markers is as follows:

- The building is within the boundaries of the City of Ypsilanti.
- The building predates 1950 and has an identifiable architectural style.
- The building is well and appropriately maintained (maybe it has just been rehabilitated).
- The grounds are maintained.
- If it is a rental property, the property has had appropriate maintenance for at least two years.
- The building has been developed sensitively.

The following example gives an idea of what is meant by "appropriate maintenance."

- The siding on the building is what was originally intended or could have been used originally. Vinyl siding on a 19th century building is never appropriate.
- The windows are original or identical to the original in size and configuration.
- Porches, railings and steps are appropriate to the period and style of the building.
- Any additions are compatible.



JACK HARRIS, of Ypsilanti, Michigan, and Lake Ann, Michigan, died of an aortic aneurysm on April 3, 2010, in the University of Michigan Hospital ER. He was Professor Emeritus, Eastern Michigan University, and he is best known as a Shakespeare scholar, a land conservator, and a historic preservationist. Jack Harris was born in Chicago, Illinois, March 6, 1929. His parents, Arthur John and Lillian (O'Keefe) Harris, moved the family to Lake Ann when Jack was six weeks old. After graduation from Traverse City High School, Jack received his undergraduate degree from Central Michigan University. He was later awarded MA and Ph.D. degrees by the Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham, England. Jack taught English at Central Michigan University while completing his MA thesis, and, later, after earning his Ph.D., he taught at the University of Michigan and, finally, at Eastern Michigan

University, where he remained for twenty-seven years, until 1994, when he retired as Professor Emeritus. Jack had a long and distinguished career as a Shakespeare scholar. He was also an avid gardener. In 2002, the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation presented him with the Special Recognition Award for his unwavering commitment to historic preservation in the Ypsilanti community. A celebration of Jack's life was held on May 8, 2010, at 11:00 AM, at Quirk Theatre on Eastern Michigan University's campus in Ypsilanti, MI. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation, 301 N. Grove, Ypsilanti, MI, 48197 or to the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, 3860 N. Long Lake Rd., Ste. D, Traverse City, MI 49684 tel: 231.929.7911. For the full text of the obituary, more details about Professor Harris's life, please go to his web site at <http://people.emich.edu/aharris1/toc>.



Jack Harris & Cliff Larkin



The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Heritage News

209 N. Huron St.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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See you at the Home Tour - Sunday, August 22, 2010

Heritage News is the newsletter of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation. It is published five times a year: September, November, January, March and May, and distributed, free of charge, to the membership by mail, and made available to the public at City Hall, Farmers' Market and various business locations in the three business districts in the City.

Have you visited the YHF website lately? There are new features you may find interesting • www.yhf.org

SPECIAL RECOGNITION



Denis Schmeideke was given an award to recognize his contributions to Historic Preservation in Ypsilanti.

The following are part of the remarks by Hank Prebys, President of the YHF, at the 2010 Awards Banquet:

Since this is an occasion when awards are given, The Board of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation authorized a special award to be given to an individual who has demonstrated exemplary service to historic preservation in Ypsilanti. His accomplishments and involvement in historic preservation are extensive. Denis was on the board of the YHF for several years and chaired the Washtenaw County HDC. He developed and produced a guide to Ypsilanti Historic Architecture. The buildings at 119 N. Huron and 18-20 N. Washington, were rehabilitation projects of Denis's. He was a major player in the restoration and installation of the Tiffany window at the Historic Museum. He was the photographer for the Home Tours and the Marker Awards for many years and he is pushing for the nomination of Highland Cemetery to the National Park Service as a historic site. Another of his accomplishments was the design of the Cross Street Bridge.

VOLUNTEERS • NEEDED



Photo Lynda Hummel

The Demetrius Ypsilanti statue is in need of maintenance on the base. There's no skills required just a little time. If you want to volunteer contact Don Randazzo. email don@donrandazzo.com phone: 734.482.6144