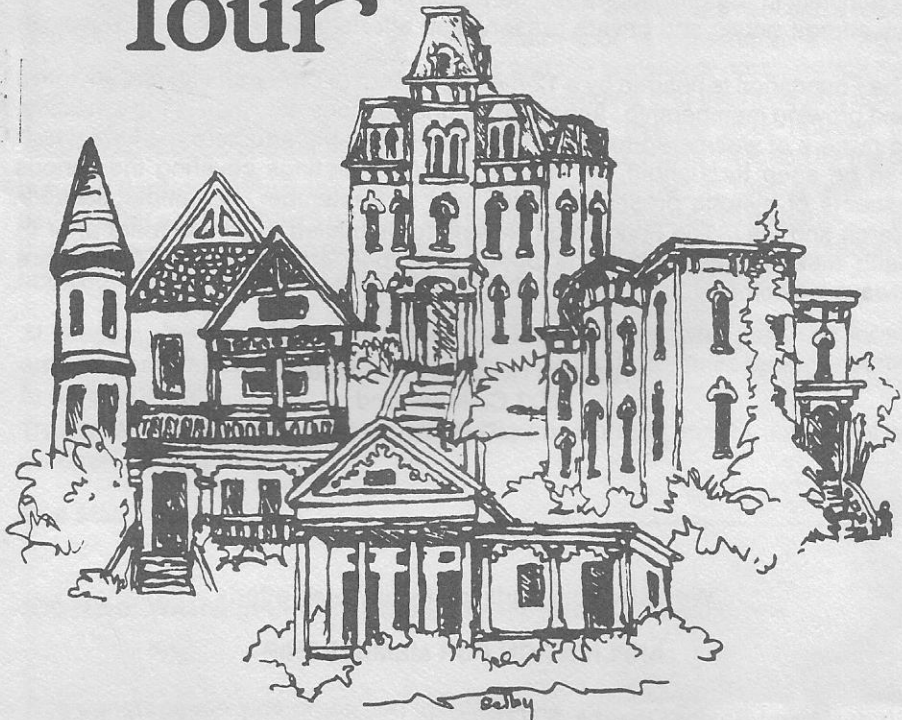


Ypsilanti Historical House Tour



August 25 & 26, 1979

sponsored by
the
Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation, a non-profit organization founded in 1974 in response to the then imminent demolition of the Towner House, is dedicated to the idea that one of Ypsilanti's greatest resources is its wealth of historic architecture which, if conserved, rehabilitated and utilized, can add immeasurably to the betterment of the whole community. The Heritage Foundation seeks to increase public understanding and appreciation of the importance of these architectural links with our past, to educate the community in the philosophy and purposes of historic preservation, to actively encourage public and private preservation efforts in whatever ways possible.

The Foundation is headed by a 12 member Board of Directors and has an active and growing membership. Important among its many activities is the awarding, to owners of well-cared-for historic properties, of the structure markers which can be seen throughout the historic district. Meetings covering the various aspects of historic preservation are held in September, November, January, March and May. The Foundation Newsletter is mailed to all members prior to each meeting. Membership is open to anyone and interested guests are always welcome!

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
1302 Collegewood
482-8989

We invite your participation in these efforts

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Students and Senior Citizens..\$3.00
Individual 10.00
Family 15.00
Contributing 25.00
Sustaining 100.00
Life 1,000.00

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Make check payable to Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
Mail to 1302 Collegewood, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Corner Cross and Washington Street – Old Ypsilanti Fire Station



In 1898 the Ypsilanti City Council decided to consolidate the city's fire departments into one centrally located fire-house. This new station, designed by E. P. Rorison, cost \$8750.00 – including the property!

The result was a handsome three story brick building with a slate roof and a tower. The main floor accommodated the horse stalls and the apparatus room – which held the steam engine and the hose and ladder wagons. The second floor housed the hayloft and the dormitory section for the on-duty fire fighters.

When the platoon system was instituted in 1926 providing a day off after each 24 hours on duty, the hayloft was converted to a kitchen. The third floor was a recreation room with a billiard table and small gym. In addition to housing the bell, the tower provided a place for draining the hoses!

At present, the Fire Station is owned by Tom Conway, who uses the former apparatus room as an antique car museum. The top floors have been converted to an apartment.

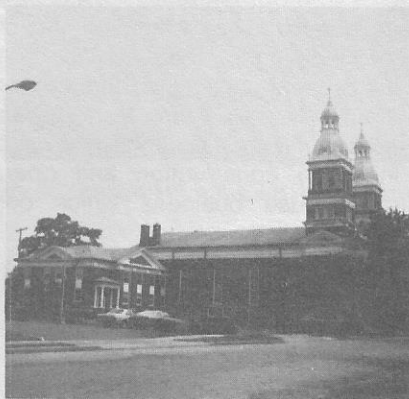
The Car Museum will be open both Saturday and Sunday, and the apartment will be open Sunday only.

See Map 1

300 North Washington – First United Presbyterian Church

This congregation was organized in 1829 and built a frame church in 1836. After a short time, a lot was purchased at Washington and Emmet Streets and construction began on the present building. It was dedicated on September 23, 1857.

In 1898, the church began a complete reconstruction program. This included building the two towers, new furniture, heating equipment, a new organ, and redecorating the building. The exterior of the church building and sanctuary have been carefully maintained through the years, with little change in appearance.



See Map 2

209 Washtenaw Avenue – First United Methodist Church



In May, 1825, the Methodist Society was organized in what is now Ypsilanti. Construction of the first church building was completed in 1835 on River Street. After growth of the congregation, land on the corner of Washington and Washtenaw Streets was donated for the construction of a new church. Although the church served the membership well by 1887 the need for remodeling or building a new church arose. The decision was to build a new one on the old site. The corner stone was laid on

September 1891. The membership is committed to maintaining the Gothic structure which features beautiful stained glass windows and high towers. The educational unit was added in 1957.

See Map 3

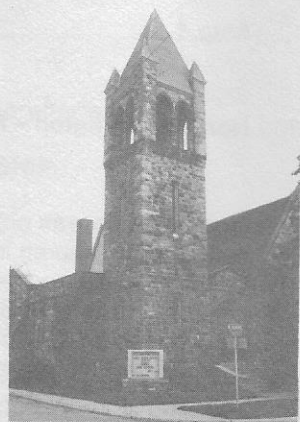
214 North Adams – First Congregational Church

The original building was constructed on this site in 1882-3. It was a smaller brick structure, portions of which can be seen on the south and east of the exterior. Most of the original structure was incorporated in the present building, constructed in 1898. The builder, Mr. Frank Norton, was a prominent citizen of Ypsilanti, who specialized in stone construction and operated a greenhouse business which continues today.

The stone for the building was quarried near Manchester and at various other locations north of Ypsilanti. The stained glass windows were originally installed by the Von Gerichton Company of Columbus, Ohio. The west window was given in memory of Professor Joseph Estabrook by some of his former students.

The congregation has recently voted to renovate the building.

See Map 4



120 North Huron – Saint Lukes Episcopal Church



This church was organized by a group of sixteen members in 1837. The first church structure was built and dedicated on July 1, 1938. By 1856, the congregation was forced to consider adding on to the old church or the building of a new structure. After they decided to build entirely new, the old structure was removed and the new edifice begun. It was completed in June of 1858 on the site of the old building. The church was designed in the plain Gothic style with a tower and spire one hundred and twenty-eight feet high. Recently, the top of the steeple was removed and the bell was placed in the courtyard.

See Map 5

206 North Huron Street – Stripp, Roberts, Manchester Law Offices

The original square center section of this house was built about 1860 by Delos Showerman. Showerman, who built several houses in Ypsilanti, sold the house soon after this and moved to Detroit. Since then, the house has been owned by several prominent Ypsilanti families. The Deubels, who lived in the house from the 1880's until they sold it to Daniel L. Quirk, Jr. in 1908, invested in the Ypsilanti flour milling business. Quirk, the son of the founder of the Peninsular Paper Co., remodeled the house slightly. In 1961 the City of Ypsilanti purchased the house to use as the site of the 14th District Court.



The original section of the house was designed in the Georgian style. Of particular interest are the balustraded hip roof, the variety of classical window styles, and the finely detailed modillions along the cornice. The north wing was added by Daniel L. Quirk in 1927 at a cost of \$25,000 and included a first floor ballroom with an exercise room above.

In January of 1979 the house was purchased by the law firm of Stripp, Roberts, Manchester, P.C. and will be used as offices for that firm.

See Map 6

304 North Huron Street – Old Town Hall Realty



This great, elaborately detailed example of Second Empire architecture is the climax of the entire North Huron Street vista. The center front tower rises majestically four flights above the entrance. The mansard roof, the key to the Second Empire styling, is of multi-colored slate with elaborate dormer windows. Interior details include a fine staircase, walnut woodwork, and ornamental plaster ceiling reliefs. The double front doors are set with matching panes of finely cut and etched glass.

The house was built around 1860 by Daniel L. Quirk, Jr., one of Ypsilanti's most prominent citizens and a founder in such enterprises as the Peninsular Paper Co., the city's gas plant, the First National Bank, and the Ypsilanti Wollen Manufacturing Co. The house and land adjacent to it were given to the city by the Quirk children as a memorial to their father.

The Quirk home served as Ypsilanti's City Hall until 1978 when it was sold to Roy Gourlay and Dale Hooker. They are currently in the process of restoring the exterior and interior and converting it for use as offices by the Old Town Hall Realty Co. and other businesses.

See Map 7

220 North Huron, Barnes-Ross House (Historical Museum)

Asa Dow built this house in 1860. Dan Quirk, Sr. and Asa Dow were partners in the Ypsi Wool Co. Together, with Cornwell, they organized the First National Bank of Ypsilanti. This fine brick building is a handsome example of the Italianate style, echoing familiar Renaissance features. The front facade reveals two sections, the more prominent of which displays three upper windows and a lower bay beside the finely carved porch and entrance; the other section, set back, has but two windows above and below and a well ornamented veranda. A conservatory bay window is at the south.



The house was later owned by Lambert Barnes, Peninsular Paper Co. president and mayor. The house is presently owned by the City of Ypsilanti and houses the Historical Museum.

See Map 8

218 North Washington Street – Ladies Literary Club



Although this house is known as the William H. Davis House, it was probably built by local architect, Arden Ballard, in 1842. Ballard never lived in the house, and instead sold it to William and Sarah Ann Davis. The house rapidly went through a succession of owners before being purchased by a widow, Mary Brown Grant, and her son, Edward, in 1851. The Ladies Literary Club purchased the home from Edward's family in 1914.

This handsome building, brick with wood trim, is an excellent example of the Greek Revival Style as it was interpreted in Michigan. Firstly, many of the exterior details were achieved with tilted sawed board rather than with molding. Secondly, the thick, square, Greek Doric columns used here are a **local adaptation** of the thick, round, Greek Doric columns illustrated in builder's handbooks for antebellum Greek Revival houses. The jigsawed woodwork on the pediment and porch are Gothic Revival and were added later along with other Victorian features.

In 1972 this house became the first in Ypsilanti to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Sites.

See Map 9

210 West Michigan Avenue – Wallace Residence

This three-story Italianate commercial property in the center of the downtown business district was built in 1873. It was, at the turn of the century, a milliner's shop. The second floor was probably the milliner's living quarters and the third floor a "poor man's" apartment. From 1905 until the early 1970's Grinnell's music store was located here.

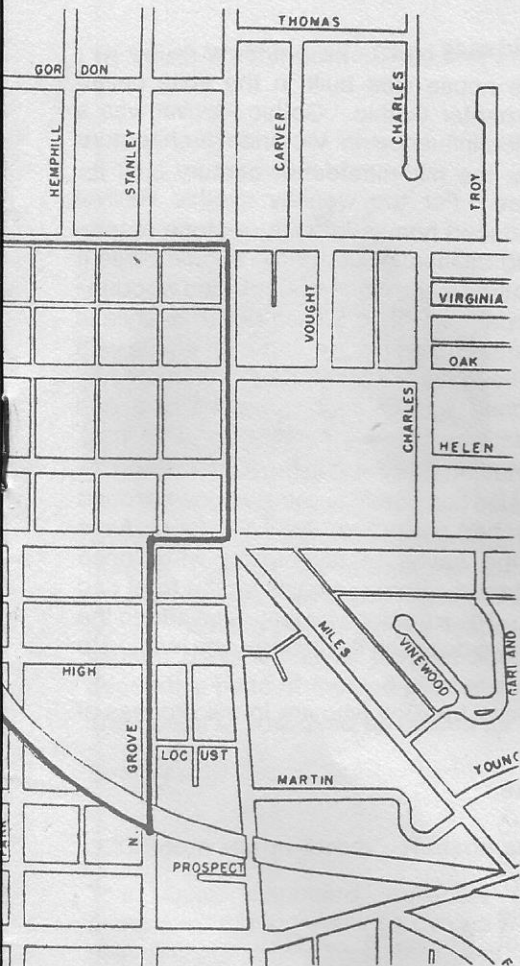
By the time Gordon and Ann Wallace purchased the building in May of 1978 it had suffered through being divided into many small offices without any regard for the integrity of the building, the plaster moldings, or the woodwork. Intent on converting the building into a townhouse residence, the Wallaces removed 125 truck-loads of old plaster, partitions, and other debris via a chute down the back stairs. Within a year they created as residence that is a luxurious blend of modern space and design and antique and contemporary building materials. Among the outstanding features are the original maple flooring, the central skylight, the stairway uniting the second and third floors, and the rear deck.



See Map 10



- 1.
- *2.
- **3.
- *4.
- **5.
- **6.
- 7.
- 8.



Old Ypsilanti Fire Station
 West Cross (apartment open Sunday only)
 Presbyterian Church
 300 N. Washington (12 - 5 P.M.)
 First United Methodist Church
 209 Washtenaw
 First Congregational Church
 214 N. Adams
 St. Luke's Episcopal Church
 120 N. Huron
 Tripp, Roberts, Manchester Law Offices
 206 N. Huron
 Old Town Hall Realty
 304 N. Huron
 Ypsilanti Historical Museum
 220 N. Huron

9. Ladies Literary Club
218 N. Washington
- *10. Wallace Apartment
210 W. Michigan
- **11. VanBolt House
410 N. Huron
- **12. Towner House
303 N. Huron
- *13. Child & Family Service
118 So. Washington
- *14. Moore House
302 So. Huron
- *15. Littlejohn House
109 Catherine
16. Sesquicentennial Hall
130 N. Huron
- **17. Hutchinson House
600 N. River
- **18. Swaine House
101 East Forest
- *19. St. John's Catholic Church
410 W. Cross (hours 2-5 only)
- *20. Lewis' Garden
313 N. River
- *21. Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church
410 S. Adams

* Saturday Only
 ** Sunday Only

Saturday Hours 10 A.M. - 5 P.M.
 Sunday Hours 12 A.M. - 5 P.M.

410 North Huron Street – VanBolt Residence



This house was built in the style called Carpenter Gothic. Gothic Revival was a major influence in Victorian architecture from the mid-nineteenth century until its close. For the wealthy, Gothic Revival produced homes in brick or stone resembling castles; while for the middle class it resulted in the more modest - and wooden - Carpenter Gothic Structure. This style is characterized by a rectangular shape with the long facade facing the street, a steeply pitched roof, a high gable or two, and usually a porch the length of the front.

Often when more room was needed, an addition was made in the back to form a T-shape as can be seen here. This house also has gothic arched windows around the door to the balcony and a gothic arched pattern on the front door. As is typical of Carpenter Gothic houses, the eaves of this house were once embellished with elaborately cut gingerbread. Some remains on the front and side porches. The house was once owned by a doctor who may have added the front entrance way so that he could have two doors on the inside – one leading to his office and one to his home.

The house is now owned by John and Jane VanBolt who are in the process of restoring it. See Map 11

303 North Huron Street- Towner House

Marcus Lane, an attorney, is thought to have built this cottage in 1837 on land he purchased ten years earlier for \$45.00. It is one of the earliest Greek Revival style houses in Ypsilanti and an excellent example of the early Greek Revival style in Michigan. The classic proportions, low-pitched roof, and the returned cornices displayed by the Towner House are elements typical of the Greek Revival style. The early date of the structure is emphasized by the simplicity of the structure.



In 1851 the house was purchased by Nancy Towner, widow of Major Ephraim Towner who fought in the War of 1812. The Towner family retained possession of the house for 100 years. Under their tenure the house was enlarged several times. The Original house included just the front rectangular section with three rooms below and two above.

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation rescued the Towner House from imminent demolition in 1974 and continues to raise money for its preservation and restoration.

See Map 12

118 South Washington - Child and Family Services (Glover House)



The 1880's were a period of industrial boom for Ypsilanti manufacturers. Many spent their wealth on sumptuous new homes. This grey-shingled mansion built between 1893-95 by H.P. Glover, is one such example. Glover, a manufacturer and local dry goods merchant, made his fortune by forming a partnership with Enoch Bowling to produce a perspiration-proof dress stay. Soon their business, the Ypsilanti Dress Stay Manufacturing Co., was employing 170 girls, and their annual payroll topped \$30,000.

To construct his mansion Glover spent \$32,000 and employed craftsmen from Europe. Oak, birdseye maple, ash, butternut, and sycamore are among the eight different woods beautifully highlighted with hand-rubbed finishes found in the house. Among the other fine features of this house are curved, leaded and stained glass windows, parquet floors, and slate roof, five fireplaces, and a decorative band of molded plaster swags encircling the tower.

The house is now used as offices for Child and Family Services.

See Map 13

320 South Huron Street - Hudson and Moore Residence

This white, clapboard, Italianate style home, built of long-enduring cyprus wood, has under gone many changes and additions. The back rectangular frame section of the house was originally a story and a half, and it predates the introduction of the Italianate style in Michigan. It was built in 1838 by Abraham Craddock, a prominent grocer and president of the Village of Ypsilanti in 1843.

Evidence indicates that sometime during the 1850's the square, two-story front section and the Italianate detail was added. A detail map of Ypsilanti in 1856 shows the two-story addition, the original rectangular section, and a barn in back of the house. During the Twentieth Century, a garage was added to the rear of the house, the roof was raised on the story and a half section, and a front porch was removed.



The house is now owned and occupied by Barbara Hudson and Tom Moore.

See Map 14

109 Catherine – Littejohn Residence



Appearances can be deceiving! This small Italianate style house was once the carriage barn for the residence at 302 South Huron Street. It was built about 1850 and converted to a residence during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. In 1901 it was first separated from the property at 302 South Huron and sold as a residence, although it has been converted several years prior to that.

The present owner John Littlejohn, was presented with an historical Structure Marker Award by the Heritage Foundation for his efforts to preserve the house.

See Map 15

103 North Huron Street – Sesquicentennial Hall

Although it was built as a residence by Edwin Mills in 1858, this handsome, square Italianate building has not been used as a residence for nearly ninety years. In 1875 the Starkweathers purchased the home and moved into it from their farm outside of town. Mr. Starkweather was an assistant to the Rev. John D. Pierce, Michigan's first State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Shortly after the move into town Mr. Starkweather died, but Mrs. Starkweather continued to live in the house until 1890, when she donated it to the Ladies Library Association to be used as a library. The building continued to be the city's library until the library re-located down town.



Among the impressive features of this building are the rose-toned brick, the well-proportioned eaves with their classic molding and prominent paired brackets, the pedimented entrance way, and the many windowed belvedere which crowns the building. A Romanesque arch frames the entrance way, and its rounded form is repeated in the second story arched windows with hood molds, and also in the windows of the belvedere.

Sesquicentennial Hall has recently been purchased by Tom Durant who plans to restore it and convert it for residential or office use.

See Map 16

600 North River, Hutchinson House:



Byron Shelley Hutchinson founder of the S&H Green Stamp business built this outstanding "Robber Baron" Queen Anne style mansion in 1902. It is one of the most unique houses of this period in the state. It originally contained 33 rooms, an indoor swimming pool, a ballroom with orchestra loft, and one of the country's earliest elevators. Most of the ornate leaded stained glass windows, carved woodwork and plaster molding remain. The detailing of both the interior and exterior is borrowed from many styles and periods following the

wishes of the owner, who was raised in the house at 509 N. River.

The house had been divided into 14 apartments when the high/Scope foundation purchased it in 1975. The Foundation is now restoring this landmark as their world headquarters.

See Map 17

101 East Forest - Swaine House

The Swaine House was built in 1873 by Frederick John Swaine who came from England in 1866. Six years later he purchased an active malt business situated in the former Peek Street School house. Using the most modern machinery of his day, Swaine prospered, enlarged the malt business, and built a new house next to it for his bride, Eliza George, and her mother.

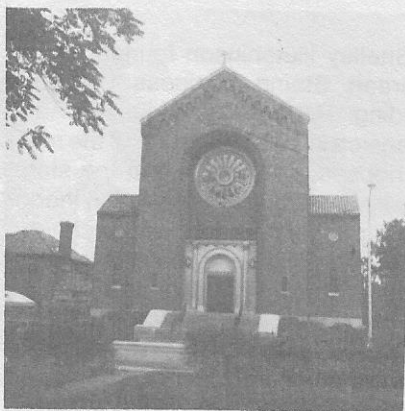


The double-brick, wing and gable, Victorian Italianate home sits on a stone foundation and has a full basement. A curved stairway with a black walnut bannister rises from a central hallway to the second floor. The stairway was built by David Edwards, reputed to be the best fabricator of such luxury appointments at that time. On the first floor there are three plaster ceiling reliefs and two fireplaces. The round-arched windows with hood molds on the front of the house are a renaissance Italianate detail.

The house is presently occupied by the Anscheutz family who purchased it after the deaths of Frederick Swaine's daughters, Florence and Jessie.

See Map 18

Saint John's Church – 410 West Cross Street



Prior to the founding of this parish in 1844, Ypsilanti Catholics were regularly visited by priests from St. Patrick's near Whitmore Lake and St. Thomas's in Ann Arbor.

The first church was a frame structure built on this site in 1845. The basement of the third, and present, church building was completed in 1924 and was used for services for a number of years. The present church and rectory were completed and dedicated in 1933.

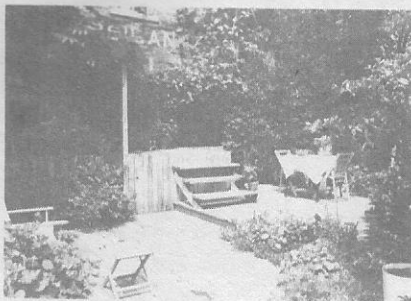
Italian artist Frank Maglia executed the murals and the decorative ceiling in the 1940's. The stained glass windows are of French glass and depict various scenes from the life of Jesus.

The sanctuary renovation was done in 1969. Renovation of the basement hall was completed in 1976.

See Map 19

312 North River – Warren Lewis' Garden

Although clearly shown on an 1856 map under the name S.W. Shafer, this mid-nineteenth century industrial building has been more commonly associated with the Ferrier brothers, stone masons and machinists, who came from Detroit to build the First Presbyterian Church (1854-5). The building was long used as a foundry for flour and paper mill machinery. Warren Lewis, designer-decorator for J. L. Hudson Co., has made his home in the north wing of the building for the past eight years and has



created out of the coal yard at the back one of the most delightful townhouse gardens to be found anywhere. Visitors descend into the garden from an outside balcony off the second story kitchen. Vines and other vegetation have been used effectively even on the stairway to shut out the distracting world that lies just beyond. Below, bamboo-covered walls, small flowering plants, and shrubs create a fantasy world of escape. A vine-canopied pool, built snugly into one corner against the building, tempts the visitors, as the sounds of falling waters from the intricate circulation system muffle noises from outside. Only the powerful rush and roar of the trains that pass day and night interrupts the tranquility of this very private world.

See Map 20

Brown Chapel, African Methodist Episcopal Church – 410 South Adams



In 1853 two local women began holding Methodist services alternating from home to home. This congregation eventually became the local branch of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. During these early years, a member of the congregation donated a parcel of land at the corner of Buffalo and South Adams Streets for a church building site.

Construction of the present church structure began in 1897. This gothic structure was completed in 1904. The

original gas lighting has been replaced, and the main entrance has been moved from South Adams to Buffalo Street. The names enshrined on the stained glass windows are of members who were active at the time of the construction.

See Map 21

Special Thanks to:

- 1 Foster Fletcher and the Ypsilanti Historical Archives
- 2 All the guides, property owners, ticket sellers, and many others who helped make this tour possible

Notices:

- 1 Due to unforeseen circumstances the Artrain Building will not be open
- 2 Please, no smoking, pets, or unattended children will be allowed in tour buildings

Special Events

1. Ladies Literary Club: Slide Show on Ypsilanti's Historic District and Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Exhibit. Saturday and Sunday
2. Presbyterian Church: Sesquicentennial Display and Ice cream social. Saturday
3. Congregational Church: Music, Arts and Crafts. Saturday
4. St. Luke's Church: Huron Valley Rose Society Rose Show. Sunday
5. Swaine House (101 E. Forest Ave.): Exhibit of Indian Artifacts, Exhibit on Peck Street Primary School. Sunday
6. Sesquicentennial Hall: Exhibit on Preservation Techniques. Saturday and Sunday

Ypsilanti Historical House Tour
Sponsored by the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation