

Yonkers Heritage Foundation



**12th ANNUAL
HISTORIC
HOME TOUR**

**A CHANCE TO
SEE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
IN PROGRESS**

**SUNDAY
AUGUST 20, 1989
12-5 p.m.**

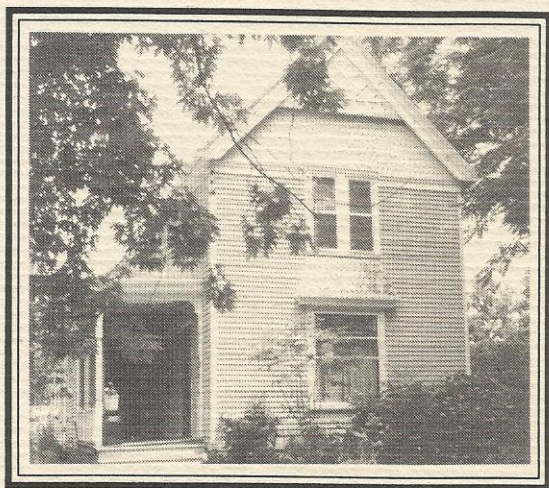
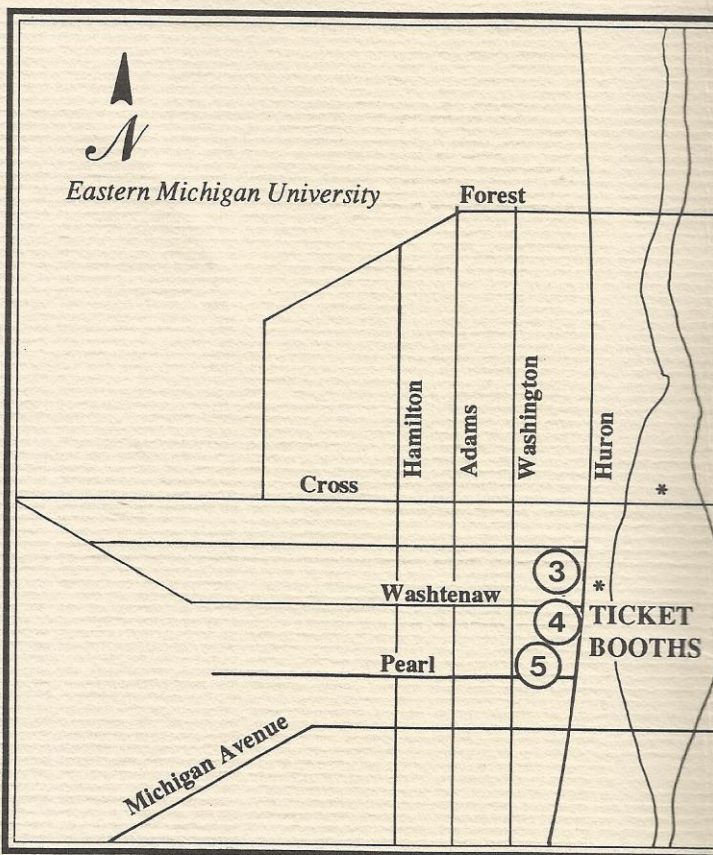
We welcome you to tour these five structures, some of the most recent renovations in Ypsilanti, to see the progress of our thriving historic community.

Included in the brochure are brief notes about other significant buildings you will pass as you walk from home to home. They assume that the tour progresses from home #1 to #5 in order; however, you are free to visit the houses in any order you wish.

- 1. 323 Oak Street**
- 2. 305 Maple Street**
- 3. 209 North Huron Street**
- 4. 119 North Huron Street**
- 5. 110 Pearl Street**

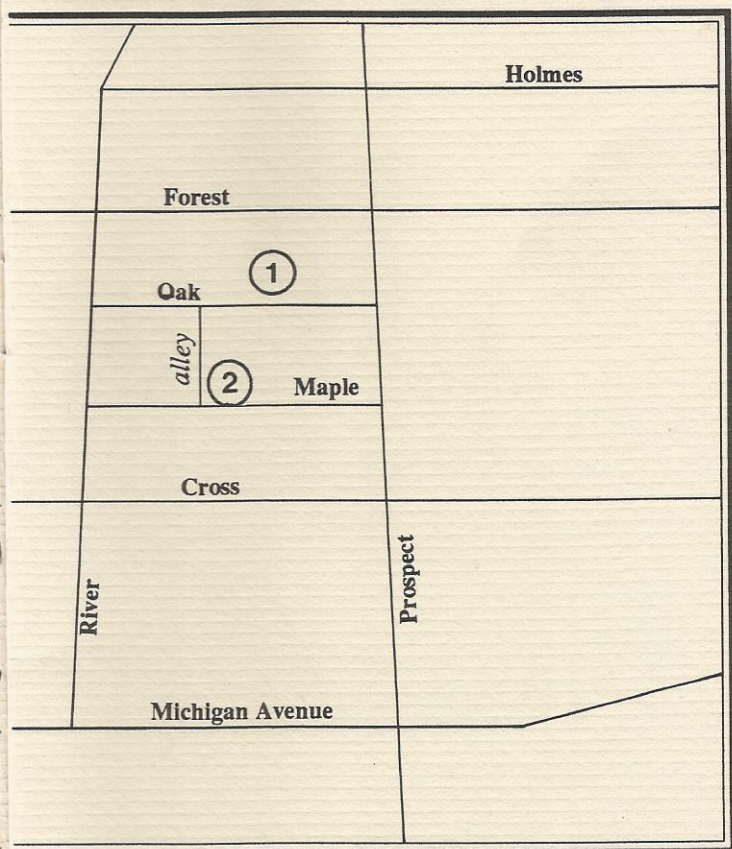
Numbers are for identification only. Homes may be toured in any order.

NOTE: Visitors may be asked to remove shoes.



323 Oak
Paul and Kathy Gunderson

Set on a graciously landscaped lot, this Queen Anne home is of the simple type owned by a modest working-class family of the late 1800's. It was built circa 1896 by Albert Seymour, an optician,



but for 60 years was better known as the home of Mrs. Louis Kemp, a good neighbor and avid gardener until her death in 1978.

Although "Queen Anne" evokes visions of turrets and balconies, the style also includes this simpler version, characterized by high-pitched gables and the variety of decorative sidings. The front-facing gable has well preserved lattice molding and crenallated shingles. The porch pediments also represent a very popular style of that time. Happily the original oak woodwork and hardware have been maintained.

Paul and Kathy Gunderson, who purchased the house in 1987, have redecorated and begun restoration of Mrs. Kemp's landscaping. They have painted and wallpapered the interior and have given the exterior a teal and rose color scheme. The new back porch overlooks the lovely picket fenced yard where Paul has spent hours removing trees and reclaiming the lawn from encroaching shrubbery. Now a graceful old home all year round, this house should again be seen in the spring when rows of tulips, daffodils, and flowering shrubs are in full bloom.



Walking Tour -

The homes on Maple and Oak Streets typify those of a working class neighborhood of the late 1800s. These houses, built in an era of plentiful materials and affordable labor, are spacious, comfortable, and increasingly valued in today's housing market.

Proceed down the alley from Oak to Maple.



305 Maple Nancy and Mark Powers

This marvelously unique house was built in 1883-85 by Brazil Damon, the freight station agent for the Michigan Central Railroad. Mr. Damon had a flair for the dramatic which was evident not only in the plantings he undertook for the Ypsilanti Depot -- 17,000 plants forming a liberty bell or 32,000 plants in a log cabin design -- but also in the design of his home.

As builders and architects of the Victorian era strove to break away from classical designs, they sometimes created forms not previously seen in the United States. This innovation led to such creations as the octagon house and, here, a cruciform house. Its wings extend at right angles with a tower at the center, the whole offset at a 45 degree angle to the street. The various types of shingles and gable trim are in keeping with popular styles of the time.

Over the years, the house has lost much of its ornamentation, the original porch rails, and most sadly its lovely cherry stairway from the hall when it was converted into apartments. Fortunately, recent owners have halted the decline, painting the outside its present pleasing blue and grey, and reconditioning the interior with fresh walls and new carpeting. The Powers, who purchased the

home in 1988, are continuing the restoration. Their charming apartment, furnished with family momentos, antiques, and collectibles, is filled with light from every direction in this ingeniously designed home.

Walking Tour -

After turning left from Maple onto River Street, you pass three Greek Revival houses, c. 1840, which served as officers' quarters during the Civil War. The Thompson Block (1860), on the corner of Cross and River, quartered regular troops; later, it served as a carriage factory.

Next, walk through Depot Town, a commercial district built between 1850 and 1870, which, just 15 years ago, was dilapidated and desolate. Through the efforts of imaginative individual renovators, Depot Town has been transformed into a bustling combination of residences and businesses.

Turning left onto Huron Street, you view a streetscape that spans the architecture of 100 years, from Ypsilanti's settlement to the 1920s. Until the 1930s, it was our most fashionable address.

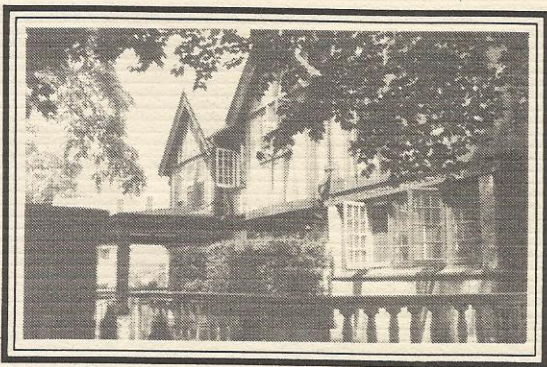
304 N. Huron - a magnificent Second Empire style, built c. 1860 by Daniel L. Quirk Sr., a founder of First National Bank, Peninsular Paper Co., and many other local enterprises.

220 N. Huron - built in 1860 by Asa Dow, a partner in Ypsilanti Woolens Co. and the First National Bank. A graceful Italianate style, it is now the Historical Museum.

303 N. Huron - Towner House, now a children's museum, was built in 1837 by Marcus Lane, an attorney. It was occupied by the Towner family from the 1850s to 1950s.

211 N. Huron - built in 1848 in the Federal style, most popular after the Revolutionary War. It originally faced Huron but Mrs. James Deubel had it turned to build the house at 213 for her daughter, Mrs. W. Bruce Cameron, around 1920.

206 N. Huron - the Showerman family arrived by wagon in 1834; son Delos was able to build this home in 1860. Daniel L. Quirk Jr., thespian and bon vivant, lived here during the early 20th Century.



209 North Huron Street
Kathleen Horn & Christopher Cook

This impressive Tudor house was designed circa 1922 by Edward Cornwell for himself and wife Jennie Quirk Cornwell, daughter of Daniel L. Quirk. Mr. Quirk was a founder of the First National Bank and the Peninsular Paper Co., and both the Quirk and Cornwell families are prominent in the history of Ypsilanti business, industry, and community affairs.

The Tudor style, so popular during the 1920's, mimicked closely the brick and stone exteriors seen on English prototypes of the 16th and 17th centuries. Note the decorative half-timbering (especially the delightful carving on the vergeboards), stucco veneer walls, multi-paned casement windows, seven steeply pitched gables, and the fabulous stone balustrade before the entry.

After Mrs. Cornwell's death in 1959, the home was used at different times as a fraternity house, offices, and then as eight apartments. Today it is divided into five apartments and has been restored to much of its former glory. Home tour visitors will tour the apartment of Christopher Cook and Kathleen Horn. The home's many fine features, such as the original mica light fixtures in the hallways, the marble fireplace in the living room, and the stunning dining room where Henry Ford once dined, are now enriched by Kathy and Chris's antiques, oriental rugs, and family heirlooms. This home is again one of Ypsilanti's true architectural treasures.

Walking Tour -

As you continue down Huron Street, be sure to notice:

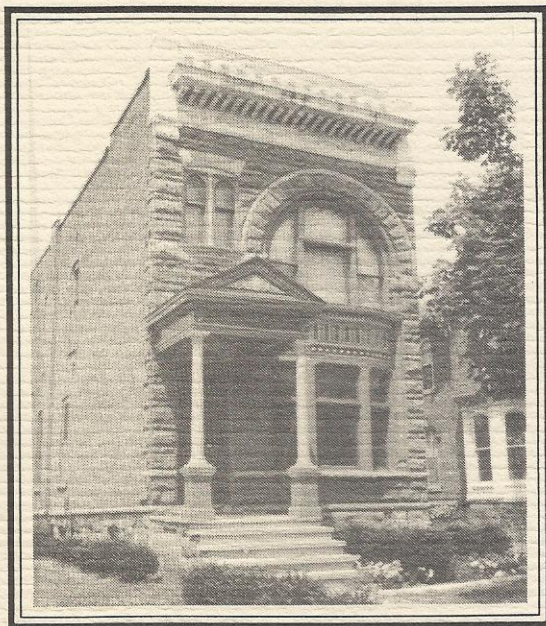
201 N. Huron - built in 1883 by Cornelius Cornwell, mayor (1886), banker, and owner of the Cornwell Paper Mill. Reportedly, it was the largest brick house between Detroit and Chicago at the time.

Imagine it with its original elaborate Queen Anne porch and entry.

130 N. Huron - this handsome, square Italianate (1858), was purchased by the Starkweather family in 1875 and donated as a library in 1890. It was used as the library until the 1960s.

125 N. Huron - a majestic Greek Revival built by Arden S. Ballard in 1830, it is perhaps the oldest surviving house in Ypsilanti. Ballard opened Eagle Flouring Mills in 1839, was founder of the Bank of Ypsilanti, and mayor in 1859.

121 N. Huron - an Italian Villa style house, it was built in 1865 by Dr. John Watling as a residence, with a dental office in the front rooms.



119 North Huron
Denis Schmiedeke and Jane Bird

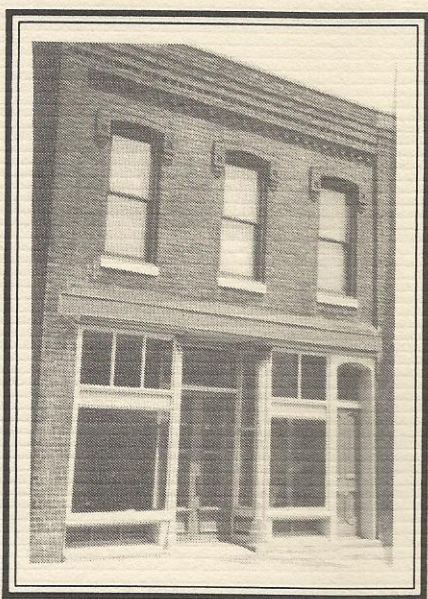
This handsome Richardsonian Romanesque building was built in 1892 as the dental office of Dr. John Watling, co-founder of the School of Dentistry at the University of Michigan, who moved his practice from his beautiful Italian Villa house next door. The facade of red and gray sandstone exhibits carved details in stone in the manner popularized by Boston architect H. H. Richardson and the tall, two-story arched

window is also typical of the style. Details borrowed from other styles of the period include the tall parapet, the stamped metal cornice, and the frieze below, encrusted with festooned swags.

Inside, woodwork was stripped, floors cleaned of layers of asphalt tile and sticky black mastic, windows repaired or replaced, missing woodwork milled to match and the box bays rebuilt. The stolen fireplace mantel was even intercepted enroute to Tennessee. Outside, a landscaped parking area replaced the previous wasteland and appropriate colors enhance the building's handsome decorative trim.

Now, for the first time in its history, the first floor serves as living quarters and displays a lively mixture of old and new, period and contemporary. Dr. Watling's former operatories are now a home office. The front living/bedroom with its period fireplace is circled by a newly stenciled Art Nouveau frieze, whose design elements were derived from the building itself.

And so, this historic building begins a new life just three years before its 100th birthday, beautiful and useful once again.



110 Pearl
(G.A.R. Hall)
Chris and Gary Maxton

After languishing in disrepair for decades, the G.A.R. Hall is at last receiving the attention due this historic meeting hall.

From the end of the Civil War to well into the 20th century, the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) was

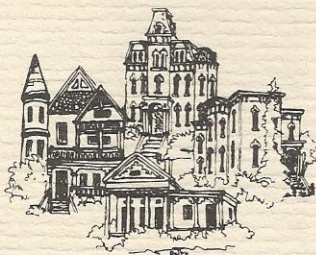
the most important veterans' organization in the country. It was a major political force in the 1870s and 1880s, and served as well as a social focus for the community. The Ypsilanti chapter of the G.A.R. took possession of this building in 1910 and met here until the death of its last member in 1937.

Little is known of the builder and original use of the building, although at various times prior to 1910 the space was occupied by a tin shop, a plumbing shop and a patent medicine store. It was constructed (circa 1870-1880) in the style of an Italianate commercial building, as evidenced by its rounded second story windows and characteristic storefront. The restored storefront is a rare example, as it has retained its original double doors, transom, and cast iron columns. The extensive restoration by its present owners, Gary and Chris Maxton, has adapted this important old structure for commercial and residential use, enabling it to survive with grace in this new era.

As a very special addition to the tour, Mr. Gary Carpenter and The Boys of '98 will re-enact a public exhibition of military memorabilia from the "War of the Rebellion" and Spanish-American War, just as it might have occurred here in 1910. The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation extends its warmest thanks to this wonderful group.



This is an exciting growth area for Ypsilanti. The Maxtons own and plan to restore the building which adjoins the G.A.R. Hall, and restoration is also planned for the Italianate residence at 105 N. Huron. Plans for the neighborhood also include the building of the Oscar Haab Health Facility on the vacant lot in the rear. What was once an under-utilized area will become a vital part of our community.



Home Tour Committee: Jane VanBolt, Chairman
Emily Brown, Constance Crump, Bettie Dodd, Kim Koch,
Diane LaRue, Karen Nickels, William Nickels, Penny Schreiber,
Susan Schwartzenburger, and Grace Sweeney.

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation extends sincere thanks to those whose generosity has made possible the printing of this brochure . . .

Coldwell Banker Old Town Hall Realty
300 N. Huron • 485-7600

University Publications
Eastern Michigan University

John N. Kirkendall, Attny.
Ypsilanti Savings Bank Building • 482-7168

Linda Klenczar Design Associates
300 N. Huron • 482-3960

Materials Unlimited
2 West Michigan • 483-6980

Don & Betty Randazzo

Video Images, Inc.
3875 Packard Rd., Ann Arbor • 971-3535

Ypsi Cycle
118 West Michigan • 485-8070

An Anonymous Friend

To the **Archives of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum** for information useful in the preparation of this brochure and to:

Norton's Florist
2900 Washtenaw - 434-0020

Whose beautiful arrangements grace the homes of this year's tour.

Photos by
Constance Crump

TICKET

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 323 Oak |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 305 Maple |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 209 North Huron |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 119 North Huron |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 110 Pearl |

Adults	\$6.00
Senior Citizens	5.00
Children Under 12	4.00
