

*Ypsilanti
of Heritage
Foundation*

15th Annual Historic Home Tour • Sunday, Aug. 23, 1992 •

12 - 5 PM

Welcome

to our Fifteenth Annual Home Tour. The six homes and the church building on this year's tour are representative of the many beautiful historic structures to be seen in all parts of Ypsilanti. Once each year, residents graciously agree to open their doors so that we all may see and appreciate the results of the historic preservation effort. We take this opportunity to thank them. Although the structures are numbered for your convenience in the brochure, you are free to visit them in any order you wish. Enjoy the tour!

Refreshments and restroom facilities are available during the tour at the First Congregational Church, 218 N. Adams. In addition, the Church will be holding a quilt raffle.

TICKET

- 1 - 1200 Washtenaw
- 2 - 302 Elm
- 3 - 935 Pearl
- 4 - 929 Pearl
- 5 - 218 N. Adams
- 6 - 310 Maple
- 7 - 600 N. River

Adults7.00

Senior Citizens6.00

Children Under 12 . .4.00

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

NOTE: Visitors may be asked to remove shoes.





1

1200 Washtenaw
The Crickett House
Bob and Sue Crawley

The Crickett House, a beautiful English Cottage style home, was built in 1927 for Elizabeth McCrickett, a faculty member of the Michigan State Normal College, (now EMU). Elizabeth and her sister, Ethel, were long-time residents of the house. Since then, the home has seen many owners, suffered the fate of being a duplex rental property and has even been a veterinary clinic. But now with the hard work of Bob and Sue Crawley, it has the honor of being the first licensed Bed and Breakfast in the City of Ypsilanti.

This stucco clad home is designed after the rural masonry farmhouses of England and it features many of the basic elements of the English Cottage style: the steeply pitched roof with sharply pointed gable and minimal overhang at the gable ends, windows recalling the small-paned leaded casements of its English forerunners and the beautiful field stone chimney.

Although the interior has changed a great deal since Elizabeth McCrickett's time, the house is still a graceful architectural jewel. It is also fitting that it should become a Bed and Breakfast, for Elizabeth was known to all as "the teacher with the eloquent heart," and everyone was always welcome in her home.



302 Elm Will and Bea Otis

When Will and Bea Otis moved into their early 1920's "storybook" house in 1952 it was a hopeless wreck. In fact, their real estate agent advised them not to buy it! Forty years, numerous renovations and two additions later the house is a gem, showcasing Will's remarkable carpentry and photographic talents and Bea's decorating skills.

Every room in their home features furniture and "built-ins" handmade by Will out of cedar wood. The kitchen, created entirely by Will, is an efficient and pretty marvel of carefully organized space. The library/music room is ringed with his bookshelves and their son's former bedroom, now a den, has more bookshelves and a charming cabinet hiding the TV.

The Otises did extensive redecorating last year but, at the urging of their friends, left 40-year-old wallpaper on one wall of the dining room. They also retained their daughter's bedroom wallpaper from her childhood. Among their many treasures are antiques from Will's family, three English trunks (one lined with a well-preserved English newspaper from 1849) and a notable collection of old picture frames.

As you leave through their lovely screened porch, be sure to walk around the yard which is as meticulous and well-thought-out as the house.



935 Pearl Victoria Patterson

In 1922, when 935 Pearl was built, the Normal Park Subdivision was in its infancy. Prior to 1920, the western edge of town was Summit Street. Now the residence of Victoria Patterson, the house was built by Professor William H. Sherzer and his wife, Maude.

The Sherzers were leading citizens of Ypsilanti from their arrival here in the early 1890's. Professor Sherzer taught biological sciences at the Michigan State Normal College, (now EMU). He was also a founding leader of the local Boy Scout movement and Mrs. Sherzer was active in groups such as the Ypsilanti Study Club.

The house is rather difficult to characterize in terms of style. It possesses features of both the Craftsman and Prairie styles with touches of a thatched Cotswold Cottage. The wide eave overhangs, the rounded edge of the roof, the "eyebrow" attic window and the use of both stucco and brick are all distinctive features of this house. In fact, there are no other examples of this hybridized style in town.



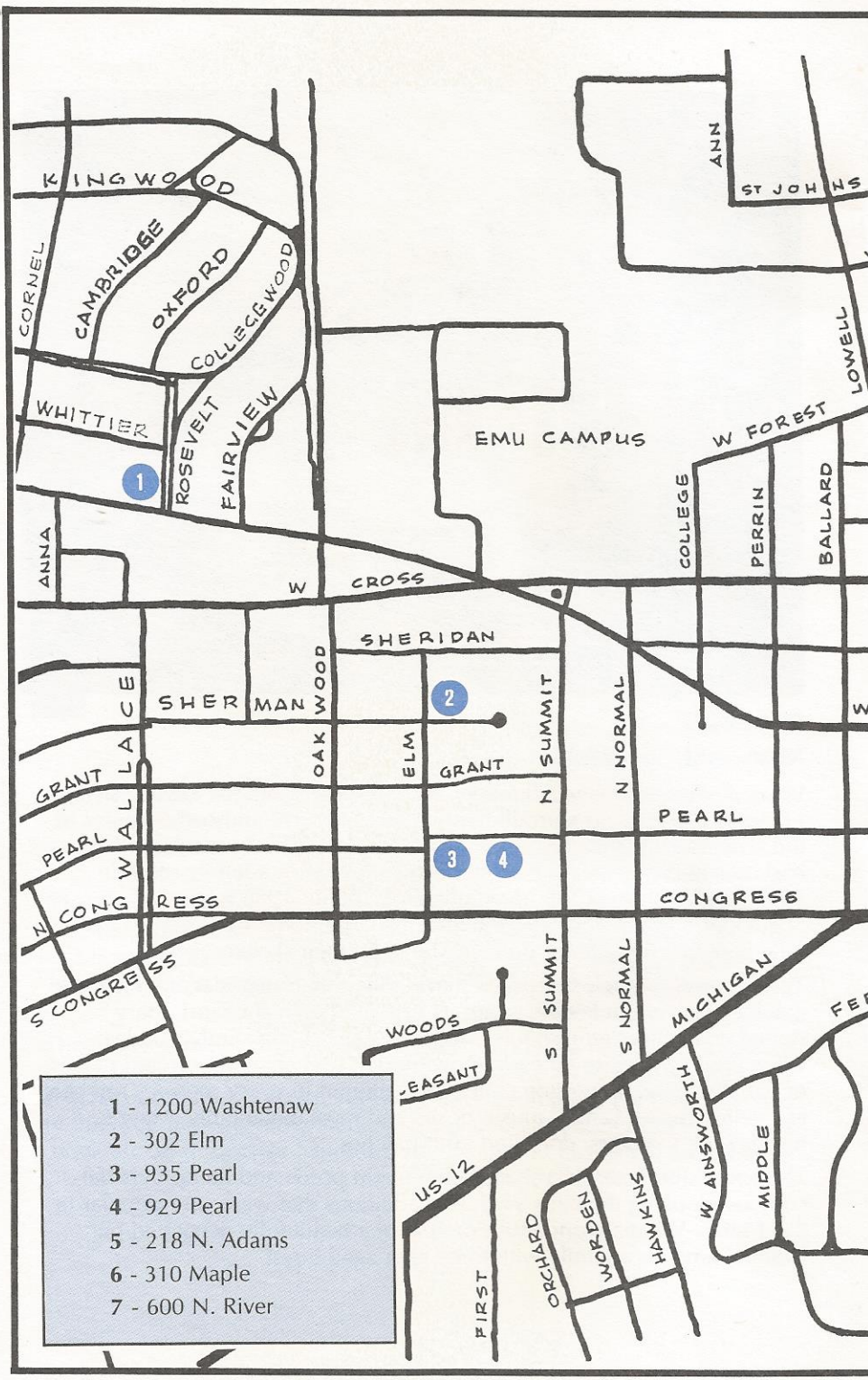
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929 Pearl Mary and Jim Streeter

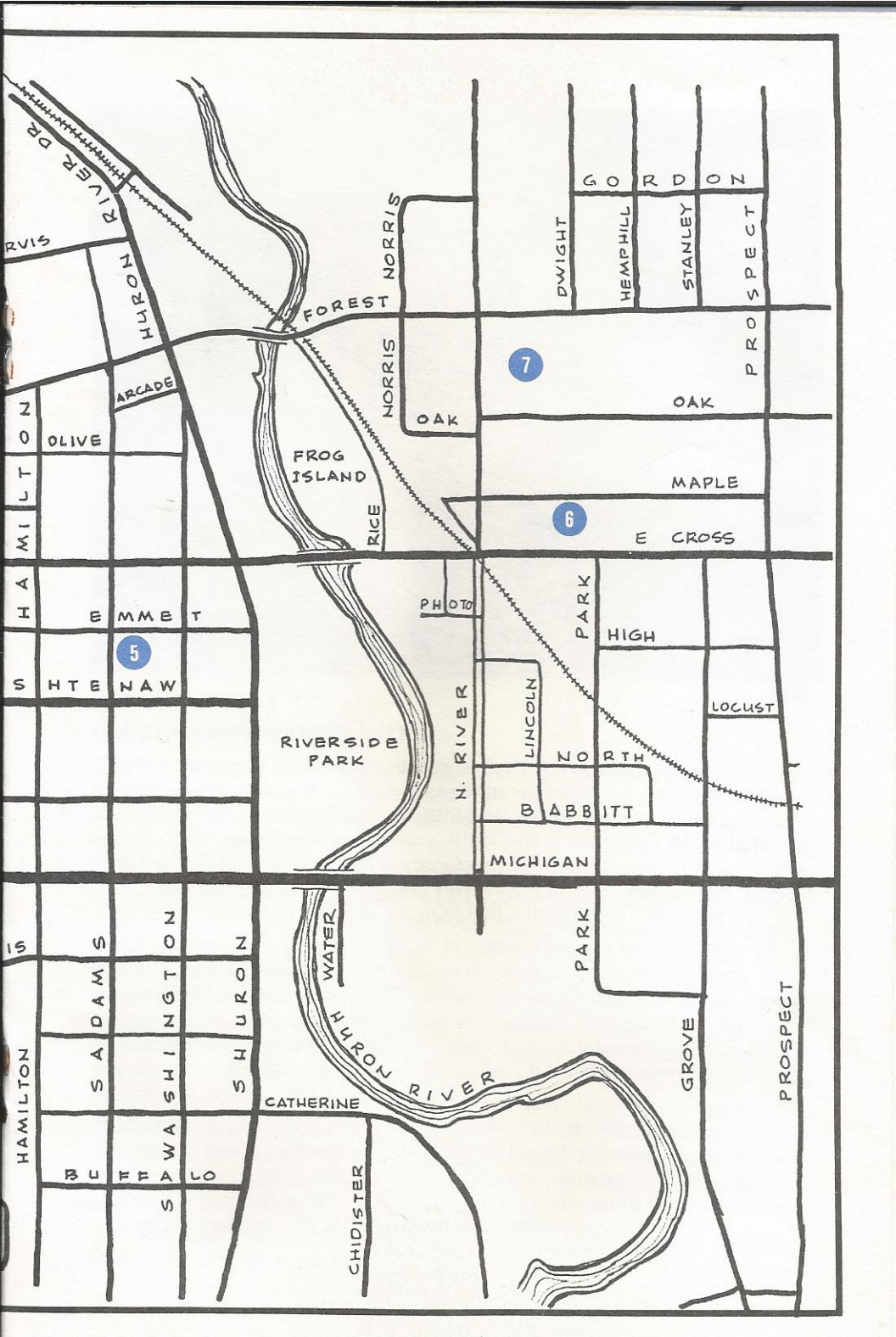
When Robert and Irene Schrepper built this neat Colonial Revival style home in 1924, it was surrounded by cornfields. The only other house in the area was the Sherzers', (935 Pearl, also on tour), from whom they had bought the property. Except for the addition of a family room in 1940, the family kept the home unchanged until 1988 when Mrs. Schrepper, age 89, sold it to the Streeters. The home had been so carefully kept that the interior doors all retained their skeleton keys.

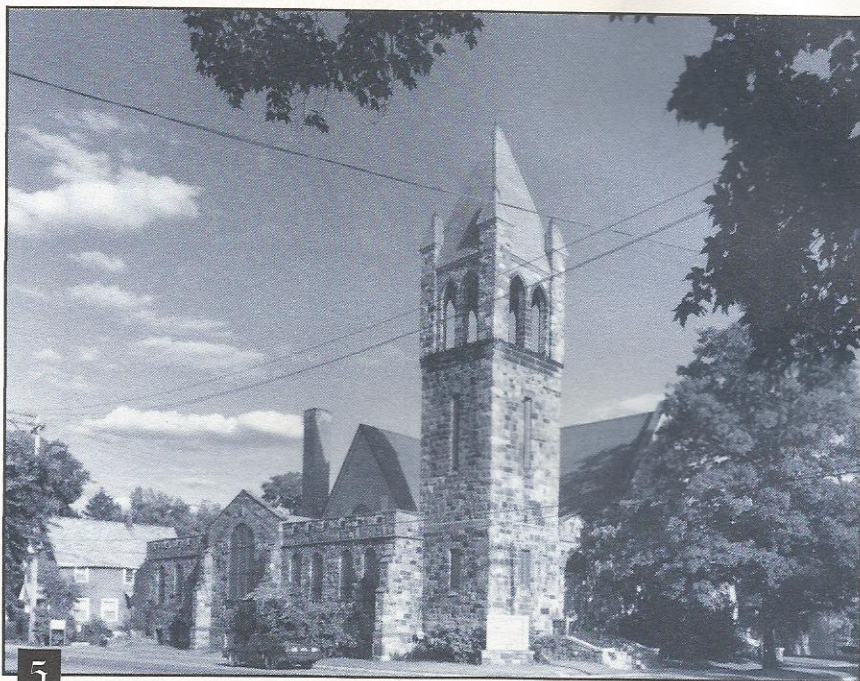
The Streeters, in their four years, have added their own decorating to the gracious interior, in keeping with its Colonial Revival charm. Mary started collecting "refinishable" antiques on a young family's budget when their boys were little and now they have many fine restored pieces of oak and pine. Interesting collections abound in every room — rug beaters, yellow ware, Santas, music boxes and most delightfully, Mary's needlework samplers, dolls and quilt patches.

The house also features a shady screened-in porch and an upstairs balcony overlooking the back yard, two additions that were very popular in the 1920's. What a wonderful example of a beautifully decorated but livable home for a family with three teen-aged boys!



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218 N. Adams First Congregational Church

Established in 1881, the First Congregational Church began as a simple brick structure and portions of the original building can still be seen at the rear and southeast corner. In 1898, a second building campaign culminated in the fieldstone Neo-Gothic exterior we see today. Stone for the church was quarried near Manchester, then brought to Ypsilanti by Frank Norton, the builder. The architect who designed the tower, the church interior and other distinctive features was W. Butterfield of Detroit.

In 1898, stained glass windows, designed by the Von Gehricton Company of Columbus, Ohio, were installed. The west window, facing Adams street, was placed in memory of Professor Joseph Estabrook by his pupils. Professor Estabrook, an active member of the congregation, served first as superintendent of Ypsilanti schools and then as president of Michigan Normal School, (Eastern Michigan University). A tracker organ was added in 1905 and is still in use.

This is a church which cherishes its history and the original cornerstone has been preserved in the south vestibule. Rather than move the church to a suburban location, the congregation has elected to stay at Adams street to minister to the central city community and to be an active bridge between town and gown.



6

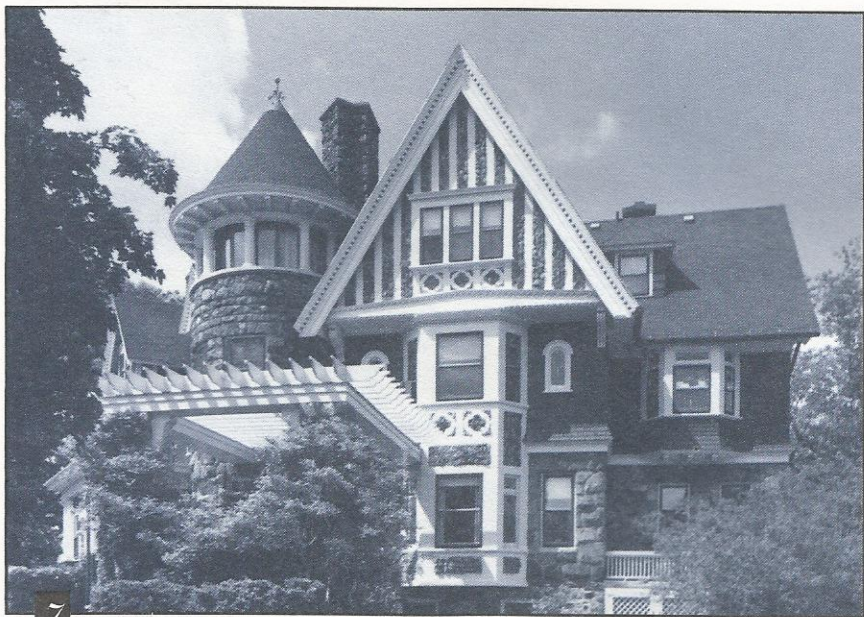
310 Maple Brad and Pam Clark

The late Italianate house at 310 Maple was built in 1890 by H.M. Spaulding, a carpenter and first resident. Over the years, the house was severely abused by many owners; its interior heavily damaged and all woodwork removed. Exterior decorative trim was stripped from the building in preparation for the installation of asphalt and aluminum siding.

More recently, a pair of builders briefly owned and stabilized the home, making it once again a single family dwelling. They then sold it to Brad and Pam Clark, the present owners, in 1988. The Clarks began the tedious process of retrieving what remained of the original fabric of the house and reconstructing missing exterior details. Off came the synthetic siding to expose the original clapboard. Damaged wooden friezes were rebuilt and missing decorative window hoods were built, matching one unearthed in the basement.

The interior contains rooms decorated with well-chosen colors and wallpapers, occasional antiques, framed antique prints and attractive window treatments. The spacious backyard is now graced with flower beds, rebuilt fences and gates which duplicate the quarter-circle gate also discovered in the basement.

The rescue of 310 is an example of the change taking place all along Maple as residents work to return it to a charming and livable street.



7

600 N. River The Hutchinson House

The Hutchinson House was built for Shelley Byron Hutchinson, founder of the S&H Green Stamp business. Construction began in 1902 and was completed in 1904. The mansion is an eclectic mix of the Queen Anne, Tudor Revival and Arts and Crafts styles of architecture. The heavy rusticated stonework at its base gives it a hint of the Richardsonian Romanesque style as well. The result is a picturesque blend of towers, curves, lines, shapes and materials.

Hutchinson chose materials from throughout the world for his 33-room, single-family dwelling and included many unique features, including an indoor pool (now capped), a two-story ballroom with an orchestra loft, one of the country's earliest elevators and a dining room that is a replica of one in Kaiser Wilhelm's mansion in Germany. Ornately carved woods of several varieties decorate mantels, beams, columns, wainscoting and window and door frames.

Plaster rosettes and moldings beautify the ceilings of several of the mansion's rooms and elegant brass hardware adorns the doors. Brass fixtures and original basins, tubs and light fixtures are present in bathrooms. Imported ceramic tiles are found in the kitchen, a serving room and three bedrooms. All of the floors, except for the lowest level, are of hardwood.

Over the years the house has had many owners and at one point was converted into 14 apartments. Fortunately, the remodeling was done carefully and did not destroy the basic design of the building. Since 1975, the Hutchinson House has been the headquarters of the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation.

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation,

a non-profit organization founded in 1974, 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 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 purpose of historic preservation, to actively engage in historic preservation projects and to encourage public and private preservation efforts in whatever ways possible.

Proceeds from the Foundation's Historic Home Tours fund an annual scholarship which allows an intern to assist the Ypsilanti Historic District Commission during the summer months. Proceeds also support the historic structure marker program and preservations programs throughout the year.

The ticket holder expressly assumes all responsibility for any personal injury or property damage occurring while on home tour.

Home Tour Committee:

Peg Du Fresne, Chairman; Jonnie Bryant, Lorelei Crawford, Kim Koch, Diane LaRue, Mary Ann McDonald, Emily Jean McFadden, Penny Schreiber, Grace Sweeney and Jane Van Bolt.

Ticket Sales: Karen Nickels, William Nickels

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation extends sincere thanks . . .

To the Archives of the **Ypsilanti Historical Museum** for information useful in the preparation of this brochure.

To **Norton's Florists and Gift Shops**, 2900 Washtenaw, Ypsilanti — 434-0020, for their beautiful arrangements which grace the homes of this year's tour.

To **Sara Watson Reeside** — 225-7977, for the design of this year's Home Tour poster and postcard.

To **Sprentall's Picture Framing** — 995-4415, for the framing of the commemorative photos.

And to all of the **volunteer guides** on this year's tour.

Brochure Production by **Carolyn McKeever** — 483-4256

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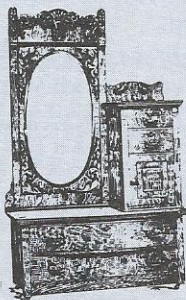
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