

20th Anniversary
Historic Home Tour

Sunday
August 17, 1997



YPSILANTI HERITAGE
FOUNDATION

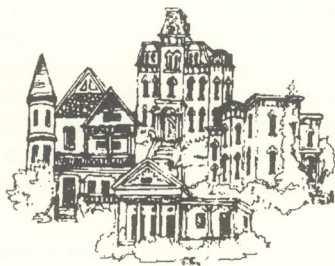
12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

Welcome

to the Ypsilanti Historic Home Tour in this our 20th Anniversary year. Since 1977, the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation has been pleased and proud to present one of our community's most important resources, our historic architecture. And since 1977, Ypsilanti area residents have graciously agreed to open their doors so that we all may see and appreciate the results of this community's historic preservation efforts. We take this opportunity to thank this year's homeowners, as well as all of those whose homes have been on tour these past twenty years.

This year we feature buildings from throughout Ypsilanti. On the West Side, we present four homes, including the Cleary House (c. 1848), Ypsilanti's only double verandah home. On the East Side, we present the magnificent Hutchinson Mansion (1902-1904), with its newly revealed ceiling mural in the foyer. And in the city center, we present an elegant multi-level apartment, in an 1870 Commercial Italianate building, whose owners enjoy the unique advantages of downtown living.

To complete the tour and to commemorate our 20th anniversary, we have a special stop: a slide program with before-and-after images that is a testament to the remarkable renaissance historic preservation has brought about in Ypsilanti over the past twenty years. Enjoy the tour!



Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Please Note:

- Although the structures are numbered for your convenience in the brochure, you are free to visit them in any order you wish.
- We suggest that tourgoers drive to each area to save time.
- Visitors may be asked to remove shoes.
- As a courtesy to the homeowners, PLEASE: no food or drink, smoking, pets, unsupervised children, strollers, or photography inside the homes.
- The ticket holder expressly assumes all responsibility for any personal injury or property damage occurring while on tour.



1

922 Pleasant Drive Paul and Penny Schreiber

In 1937, Dr. "Ted" Williamson and his wife, Phyllis, hired Ypsilanti architect H.E. Schlesinger to design their dream home at 922 Pleasant Drive. Schlesinger had worked for Smith, Hinchman, and Grylls, a Detroit architects firm, but was unemployed during the Depression. Clearly influenced by the Art Deco style then much in vogue at Cranbrook, Schlesinger created a traditional Colonial Revival brick center-entrance house with spacious rooms and striking Art Deco touches: curved walls, a one-of-a-kind metal balustrade up the stairway, and a simple, unadorned wood fireplace.

The Williamsons lived in the house for almost fifty years, raising their daughter and son and entertaining their many friends. Dr. Ted died in 1985 and Phyllis sold the house to Paul and Penny Schreiber.

The house became their dream home on first sight: they moved in with their young son and daughter and continued the Williamsons' tradition of filling the house with friends.

The house was first on tour in 1987. Since that time, the Schreibers have extensively redecorated, pulling up carpeting to reveal wood floors, installing additional oak flooring, repainting many of the rooms, replacing aluminum windows in the dining room with wood windows, and adding to their collection of informal antiques and art. Last year the kitchen was gutted, expanded, and completely remodeled. Highlights of the new kitchen include a fruit-and-vegetable tile backsplash, a plant-filled bay window, and a combination of raw cherry and painted maple cabinets. One of the great delights of the house is the large screened porch that is the focal point of the Schreiber's summer life.



911 Pearl Jim and Mary Baker

Built in 1929 for Clayton and Marjorie Alban, 911 Pearl evokes the love affair with the romantic Tudor Revival style popular early in this century. Its characteristic features include a multi-gabled facade, arched doorway, decorative brickwork, and half-timbering on the second story. Once inside, the visitor will notice that the house is outfitted in a more practical decorating style also popular at that time. A tile entryway, limestone fireplace, and decorative plaster trim in the living room relate the house to the Tudor style, while the layout of the rooms and the simplicity of detail make this a functional living space, designed with raising a family in mind.

The Albans passed the house on to their daughter, Gloria Biederwolf, in the mid-1950's, and at that time the kitchen, pantry, and dining nook were modified to accommodate her larger family. When Jim and Mary Baker acquired the home in 1967, they had little trouble adapting in to their family's lifestyle. Early on the Bakers added a beamed ceiling, bookcases and wainscoting to the den. More recently, they have enclosed the back porch, updated the kitchen, and renovated the upstairs bath. In designing these changes, the Bakers were careful to maintain the home's original Tudor character.

The Bakers' attention to detail and sensitive decorating, using beautiful antiques and their personal collections, will take this 1929 gem into the next century, proving that today's modern lifestyle does not require sacrificing the past.



3

24 S. Normal Sharon Guyton

The handsome Colonial Revival house at 24 S. Normal was built by Michigan State Normal College faculty member Marvin Summers Pittman in 1924-25. The Colonial Revival style is evidenced by the central front door with sidelights and the symmetrically balanced multi-pane windows. The various revival styles were popular through the first half of the century.

Marvin Pittman came to the Normal School in 1921 to take charge of rural education. He came to Ypsilanti from the West Coast, where he had been director of rural education for the Oregon State Normal School since 1912. Once in Ypsilanti, he made a name for himself in national and international education circles as a rural education innovator.

At home, Marvin Pittman was surrounded by academic neighbors. The Pittman house is one in a group of revival houses built along Normal Street between 1920 and 1930. Many of those homes originally belonged to faculty and department heads at the Normal College. Pittman lived in his house until 1934.

The home's most recent owners, Eugene and Sharon Guyton, purchased the house in 1983. They were drawn to the house by its abundant windows, which flood the rooms with sunlight and warmth. Situated on a double lot, the home's windows command a beautiful view of the yard. In recent years, following Eugene's death, this gracious house continues to be a warm home for Sharon and her three children, filled with art and music.



7 N. Normal Howard and Luanne Booth

The land on which this stately home stands was originally part of French Claim 691, which extended southwest from the Huron River for nearly two miles. It was built c. 1848 by William Cross, a farmer from New York. Sometime prior to 1862 it was sold to Frank Smith, and the Smith family lived here until 1914 when it was sold for \$3,000 to P. Roger Cleary, founder and president of Cleary College. Cleary family members resided here through World War II, when they did their patriotic duty by converting part of their home into apartments for defense workers at the Willow Run bomber plant. In 1977, the Cleary House was purchased by Howard and Luanne Booth, who have lovingly restored it, aided by blueprints found in the basement which show the original 22-room floor plan.

With its spectacular double verandah, upper porch railing, and wrought iron fence, the home resembles southern Greek Revival houses. The Booths have restored much of the classical interior woodwork around the doors and windows, as well as the decorative work on the porches and eaves. Since its last appearance on tour in 1987, the library, formerly the music room, is "dressed" in blue, with period wallpaper, a ceiling medallion, and a marble fireplace. The spacious country kitchen now has a magnificent tin ceiling, as well as a dining table that seats ten.

Although this home now boasts a modern hot tub in the garden room, it still contains several reminders of its past: the original wallpaper in the upstairs hall, the gold leaf "S" on the face of the library fireplace, and the original brass door knocker inscribed "Cleary."



5

210 W. Michigan Roy Johnston and Laura Henderson

Located in the heart of historic downtown Ypsilanti, this three story Commercial Italianate building is the gracious home of Roy Johnston and Laura Henderson. Built in 1870, it has been used for both commercial and residential purposes during its history. Early occupants were a pharmacy and a milliner's shop. In 1908, the Grinnell Brothers music store opened here and continued in business until the early 1970's. After being vacant for several years, the building was used as office and counseling quarters for government social services.

The first major restoration to the building was done by Gordon and Ann Wallace, who purchased it in 1978. The Wallaces transformed the space into a luxurious two-story apartment, and the first floor became Ann's wallpaper and decorating shop. James and Suzanne Palasek purchased the building in 1982, using the upper levels as a residence, while operating an antique shop on the first floor. In 1995, Roy Johnston and Laura Henderson purchased the property, a year after Roy was appointed as Head of the Art Department at Eastern Michigan University. Convenient to the campus, it is the perfect complement for the couple's artwork and the Asian antiques collected by Laura during her years as an antique dealer in Hong Kong. The main floor is being restored for use as retail space, the basement serves as Roy's studio and workshop, and the recently redecorated upper stories are the couple's living quarters. Unique architectural features include the three-story atrium and the deck leading from the third-floor kitchen. Complete with a hot tub and flower-filled planters, this outdoor area lends an unexpected touch of ambiance to this urban dwelling.



6

600 N. River The Hutchinson House

An Ypsilanti landmark, 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. Over the years the house has had many owners and at one point was converted into 14 apartments. Since 1975, it has been the headquarters of the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation.

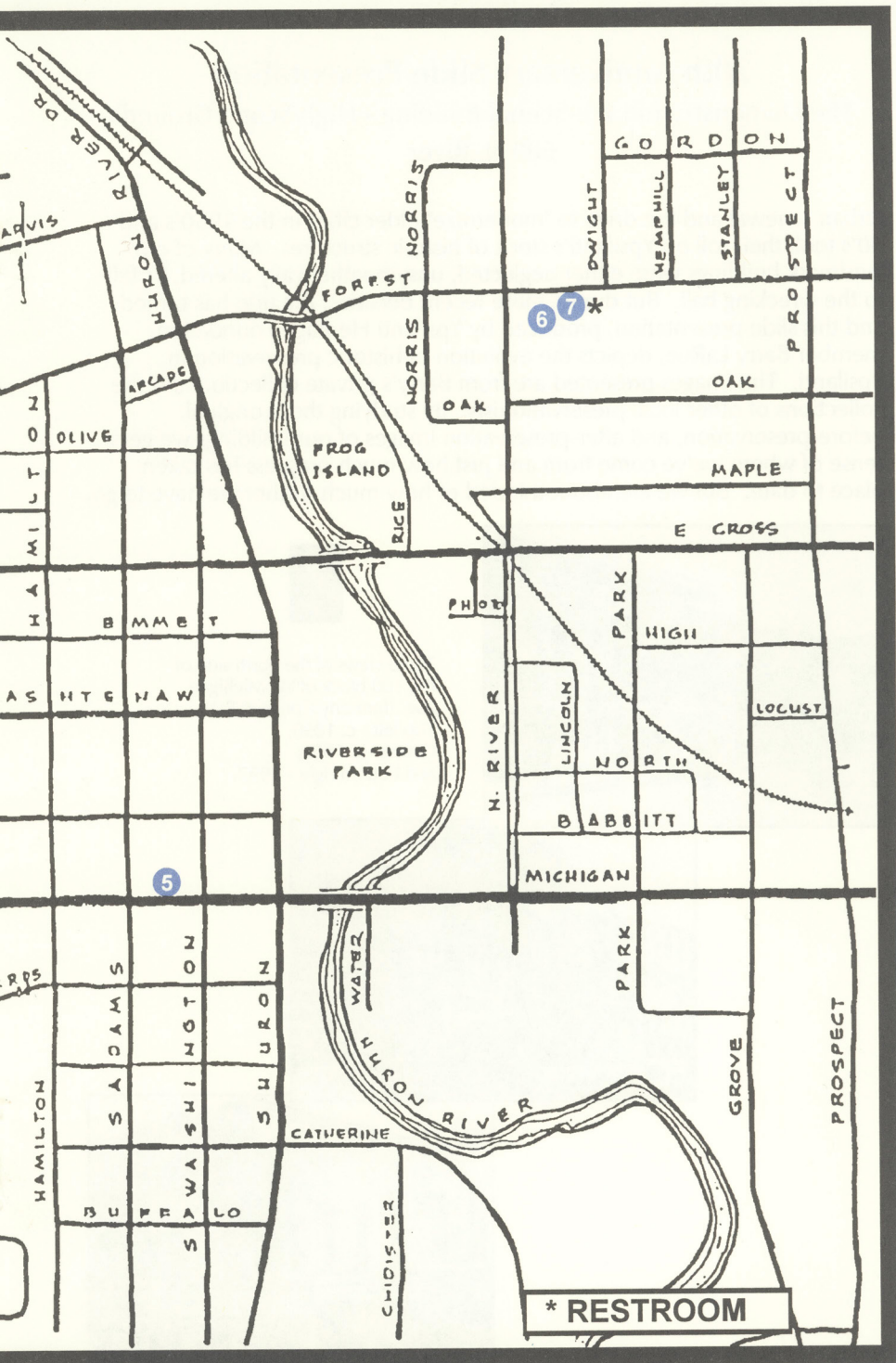
The mansion is an eclectic mix of the Queen Anne, Tudor Revival and Arts and Crafts styles of architecture. The heavy rusticated stonework at its base gives it a hint of the Richardsonian Romanesque as well. The result is a picturesque blend of towers, curves, lines, shapes and materials.

Inside, Hutchinson chose materials from throughout the world for his 33-room dwelling and included many unique features, such as 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 castle in Germany. Ornately carved woods of several varieties decorate mantels, beams, columns, and wainscoting, while plaster rosettes and moldings beautify the ceilings of the mansion's rooms and elegant brass hardware adorns the doors.

The Hutchinson House was last on tour in 1992. Since then, during routine maintenance, High/Scope staff discovered a previously unknown decorative painting on the domed ceiling of the foyer. Carefully uncovered by EMU art restoration students, the 15' x 20' mural was done in oil paint and aluminum leaf on canvas and plaster. A Graeco-Roman motif of cherubs and vines, it is scheduled for a complete restoration.

- 1 - 922 PLEASANT DRIVE
- 2 - 911 PEARL
- 3 - 24 S. NORMAL
- 4 - 7 N. NORMAL
- 5 - 210 W. MICHIGAN
- 6 - 600 N. RIVER
- 7 - 600 N. RIVER





* RESTROOM

20th Anniversary Slide Presentation

The Demonstration Pre-School Building - High/Scope Grounds 600 N. River

Urban renewal and the drive to "modernize" older cities in the 1950's and 60's took their toll on Ypsilanti's stock of historic structures. Many of our landmark buildings were either neglected, unsympathetically altered, or fell to the wrecking ball. But during more recent decades, the tide has turned and this slide presentation, produced by Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation member Barry LaRue, depicts the evolution of historic preservation in Ypsilanti. The images presented are from Barry's private collection and the collections of other local preservationists. By studying these original, before-preservation, and after-preservation images of our buildings we get a sense of where we've come from and just how much progress has taken place to date. But we are also reminded of how much further we have to go.



7

Three views of the north side of the 100 block of W. Michigan Ave. (formerly Congress St.):
Top left - c. 1890,
Center - c. 1980,
and bottom right - 1997.



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. The Foundation seeks to increase public understanding and appreciation of these architectural links with our past, and works to promote the conservation, rehabilitation and utilization of these important community assets.

Since 1977, the Foundation's Historic Structure Marker Awards Program has recognized more than 115 homes, businesses, and churches in Ypsilanti for their significant historic architecture and continuing, sensitive maintenance. The annual Ypsilanti Historic Home Tour is sponsored by the Foundation, and proceeds from the tour fund an annual scholarship, the Marker Awards, and educational programs on preservation-related topics. These programs are held throughout the year and are open to the public.

In addition, a portion of the proceeds from this year's tour has been pledged by the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation to the Hutchinson House Ceiling Mural Restoration Project.

Home Tour Committee:

Peg Du Fresne, Chair; Amy Beckett, Sharon Beckett, Jonnie Bryant, Julie Fisher, Jennifer Goulet, Scotty James, Nancie Loppnow, Mary Ann McDonald, Barbara Saxton, Penny Schreiber, Grace Sweeney, and Jane Van Bolt.

Ticket Sales: Eric Walters and Lisa Mills Walters

Research: Barry LaRue

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

To **Huron Valley Printing & Imaging**, 1775 Washtenaw, Ypsilanti — 485-4550, for the printing of this year's Home Tour poster and direct mail piece.

To **Judi Monaghan** for the management of our mailing list.

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

To **Kim Clarke** for additional writing and editing and **Lisa Mills Walters** for additional editing and proofing.

And to all of our **volunteer ticket sellers and guides**.

Design and Art Production for the brochure, poster, direct mail piece, and ad by **Carolyn McKeever** — 483-4256

Diane Brown — (517) 592-8708

Brochure and Commemorative Photos by **Rick Katon**

Brochure Printing by **McNaughton & Gunn, Inc.** — 429-5411

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation and the Home Tour Committee would like to thank our corporate underwriters, sponsors, and patrons whose generosity and support make this tour possible.

Corporate Underwriters

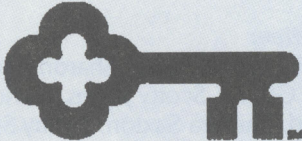


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John Gawlas

Council Member
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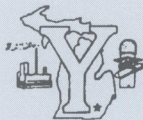
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1977 - 1997
20th
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Ypsilanti Historic
Home Tour

TICKET

- 1 - 922 Pleasant Drive
- 2 - 911 Pearl
- 3 - 24 S. Normal
- 4 - 7 N. Normal
- 5 - 210 W. Michigan
- 6 - 600 N. River
- 7 - 600 N. River

Adults	\$8.00
Senior Citizens	\$7.00
Children Under 12	\$5.00