

**22nd Annual
Historic
Home Tour**

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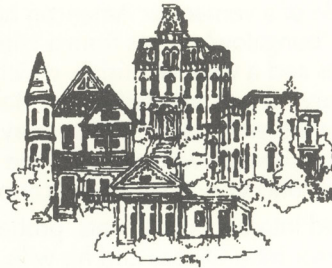
**12:00 noon
to 5:00 p.m.**

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Welcome

to the 22nd annual Ypsilanti Historic Home Tour. 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. Once again, Ypsilanti 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 them.

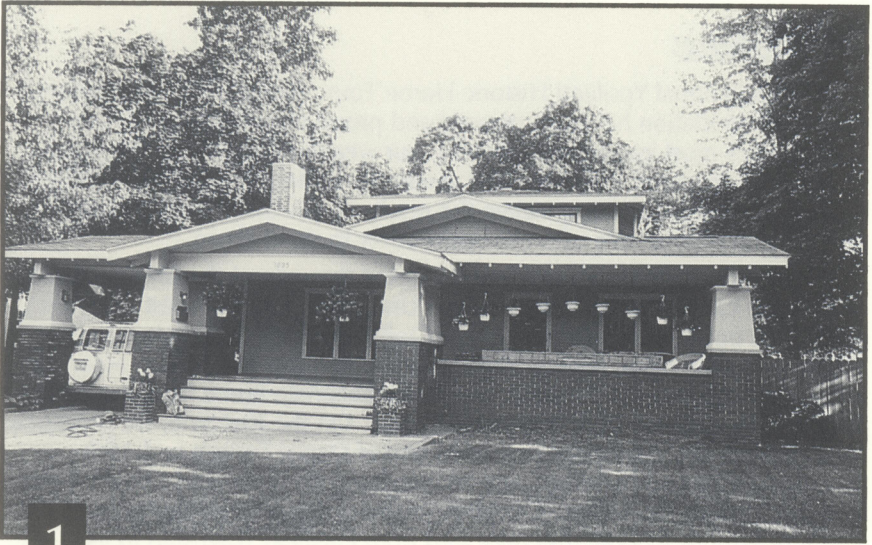
This year's tour features six properties located throughout the City, including one on the campus of Eastern Michigan University. On the West Side, we present an outstanding example of the Craftsman Bungalow Style from the 1920s, and a Georgian Revival Style home built in the late 1930s. Near the historic downtown, we present a wonderful Italianate home from the early 1870s that was saved from the wrecking ball. On the East Side, we present a spacious, loft-like apartment located in one of Depot Town's mid-19th century commercial buildings, and an imaginatively decorated Queen Anne Style home from the 1880s. Our sixth property is the Town Hall School, an 1890s one-room schoolhouse relocated from Pittsfield Township to its current site on the EMU campus in 1987. 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

1035 Washtenaw Wayne and Pat Woodside

Clara and Lafayette Spencer were the first owners, in 1927, of this outstanding example of a vernacular American house style: the Craftsman Bungalow. The word "bungalow" comes from a Hindi word for a house with low, sweeping lines and a wide verandah, which the British built in India during the 19th century. It was adapted in America, especially in California and the Midwest, in the early part of this century. This particular house is called an "airplane bungalow" because of the "cockpit," or abbreviated second story, that projects above the "wings" of its roof.

The house was divided into two apartments, probably during World War II. In 1948, EMU professor John Owens and his wife, Clara, bought the house and during their long tenure lived in one apartment and rented out the other. Chair of the foreign languages department, Professor Owens was also involved in local theater as a member of the Ypsilanti Players. It was Clara Owens who proposed the idea of bringing a Greek Theater to Ypsilanti in the mid-1960s, and the first organizational meetings for the Greek Theater were held in the house.

The house had a succession of occupants from 1974 (when the Owenses retired to Florida) until 1982. When Wayne and Pat Woodside bought the house in 1984 from the adjacent First Baptist Church, it had been vacant for two years. They set about returning their new home to a single-family residence and restoring it inside and out. Notice as you tour the rooms the many Craftsman touches: wood floors, molding, trim, and built-ins are everywhere, along with the classic beveled glass. Also on display are Pat's grandmother's crochet pieces along with Pat's own crochet, cross-stitch, and crewel projects.



2

959 Sherman Jon and Kristi Martin

This delightful Georgian Revival Style home evokes feelings of an East Coast urban row house, with quoins in projecting brick at the first story and a beautiful limestone door surround. Six-over-six windows, wooden shutters with cast iron hardware, and an uncovered front stoop hark back to the Colonial period, while the use of cement block on the second story and the lack of a wide eave overhang are in keeping with its pre-World War II construction date.

The home was built in 1937 by Henry E. Norton, a brick mason, using reclaimed brick of varying shades and colors. In 1940, it was purchased by Dr. Everett Marshall and his wife, Helen, who lived here until 1979. Dean of Academic Records and Teacher Certification at EMU for 39 years, Dr. Marshall constructed the two-room first floor addition at the back of the house, with an attached screened porch connecting to the garage. Later owners removed metal porch awnings, refinished hardwood floors, removed fluorescent light fixtures, scraped layers of paint from kitchen cabinets exposing the original pine, and decorated the interior with an Early American theme.

Current owners Jon and Kristi Martin have continued work on the house by refurbishing the bath and kitchen with tongue and groove ceilings. In 1998, they added a second story wing, opened the screened porch to the side yard, and installed a lattice-work privacy fence on the west side of the house. Their most recent project is a newly constructed arbor behind the garage, an enhancement to the garden which was begun by Everett Marshall. The years of composting done by Dr. Marshall decades before have created the rich soil which nourishes the Martin's lush garden, complete with eight varieties of peeper plants and many seasonal flowers.



3

Town Hall School West Circle Drive Eastern Michigan University Campus

Several generations of students were educated at this historic one-room school, and at least 97 teachers taught here during the 105 years that the Town Hall School was in operation. Its history is intertwined with that of the Geddes Family, who first came to this area in 1824. The first Town Hall School, a brick building, was constructed in 1852 on the Geddes Farm, when William Geddes leased land at the corner of Morgan and Thomas Roads to the Pitt (now Pittsfield) School District for a term of 99 years. The District paid six cents per year for the lease. The first building was replaced by this existing wooden schoolhouse, built in 1895 at a cost of \$677.50. From the 1880's until its doors were closed in 1957, student enrollment at this school averaged between 30 and 40 pupils, although in one year during the Depression there were only two students in attendance.

As EMU's official Sesquicentennial project and through the efforts of the Friends of Town Hall School, the schoolhouse was rescued and moved to this site. In 1987, it made the seven mile journey from Pittsfield Township to the campus, and on October 22, 1988, it was officially dedicated to the faculty and students of EMU.

Period objects inside include the cloak room with its hooks for hats and coats, the bell rope, the teacher's desk on a raised platform, and the students' desks lined up in rows. Globe lights hang from the pressed tin ceiling, a woodburning stove sits at the back of the room, and the schoolhouse's original piano stands along the wall.

Plans are underway to make the school a working museum and center for educational history where today's students and future generations can experience what it was like to live and learn in the 19th and early 20th centuries in Michigan's one-room schools.



4

212 Washtenaw Al Heezen and Wanda McGlasson

"A poster child for historic preservation" is how Al Heezen and Wanda McGlasson fondly refer to their now graciously restored home. When they purchased this home in 1986 it had been unoccupied for two years, and due to major damage and neglect it had lost most of its charm and grace. But over the past thirteen years they have replaced cornices and picture rails and reproduced original paint colors and stenciling. A more recent renovation in the 1990's, which began as a kitchen remodeling, became a three-story project when they updated the plumbing, gas, and electrical systems.

Built as a parsonage for the First Methodist Church in 1871 at a cost of \$4,000.00, the home is a wonderful example of the Italianate Style. Typical of the style, it has a low-pitched, hipped roof and extended eaves which emphasize the deep cornices set with ornate brackets. For more than 100 years it served the congregation well: first as a parsonage, then as an activity center, and finally as a home for families and groups supported by the Church. Eventually the house became a financial burden, taxing the Church's resources, and the congregation considered tearing it down. Fortunately, preservation-minded members of the congregation persuaded the Church to put the property up for sale and 212 Washtenaw was saved from the wrecking ball.

Al and Wanda give thanks to the Historic District Commission, the Heritage Foundation, members of the Methodist congregation, and their many dear friends for their support and assistance during the restoration process. But the real thanks goes to Al and Wanda, whose tireless efforts have transformed this once neglected house into a well-loved home and a source of pride for everyone in Ypsilanti.

29 E. Cross Suzanne Shaw

Suzanne Shaw lives in Depot Town in a spacious, light-filled corner apartment on the top floor of one of Ypsilanti's oldest buildings. Although Commercial Italianate is the prevalent architectural style in Depot Town, this building is best described as Federal Style, given its plain stone lintels above rectangular window openings with divided lights. Unlike some of its neighbors, this building has always sported a simple, stepped cornice.

Built in 1849, 29 E. Cross is believed to have been a stop on the Underground

Railroad. Leonard Chase, a 19th Century occupant of the building, was known to be active in the Railroad and supposedly hid, in the basement, slaves escaping to freedom in Canada.

Suzanne's home is blessed with all the features one expects of a venerable loft-like apartment: big windows, high ceilings, and plenty of wall space for art. The large main room is a place to work, cook, eat, and live in; a small bedroom at the back and a bathroom are the only other rooms. Note the striking effect that results from combining old with new: Suzanne's mostly modern furniture and eclectic collections, including the work of several local artists, are a nice contrast to the much older space. Suzanne is a project person who likes to keep busy, even when she is supposed to be relaxing.

Look around for buttons from Suzanne's delightful collection of antique buttons. They show up in unexpected locations, such as on lampshades and decorative boxes.

Although tourgoers will enter and leave through a front entrance on Cross Street, the apartment is also accessible from an outside back stairway that ends in that essential 20th Century space: a deck. Suzanne can sit outside and watch Farmers' Market shoppers come and go on Saturday mornings or enjoy the dusk settling over Depot Town on a summer evening.



5



310 E. Cross S. Ashleigh Dietz

Major restoration, under the creative hand of current owner S. Ashleigh Dietz, has rescued this Queen Anne Style house from years of neglect. Ashleigh bought the home in 1988, and the rescue effort was so extensive she was forced to live elsewhere for the first eight months while the gutted home was fitted with all new wiring, plumbing, insulation, and drywall. Since 1994, when this home was last on tour, she has further enhanced it by creating the inviting Victorian gardens and restoring the front and side porches.

Constructed in the 1880s, 310 E. Cross was purportedly built by the same builder responsible for other homes of the period in the surrounding neighborhood. During its long history it was home to several families until 1969, when it became an adult foster care home. By the early 1980s, time and the elements had taken their toll on the house, and it was listed as vacant in the 1982 City Directory.

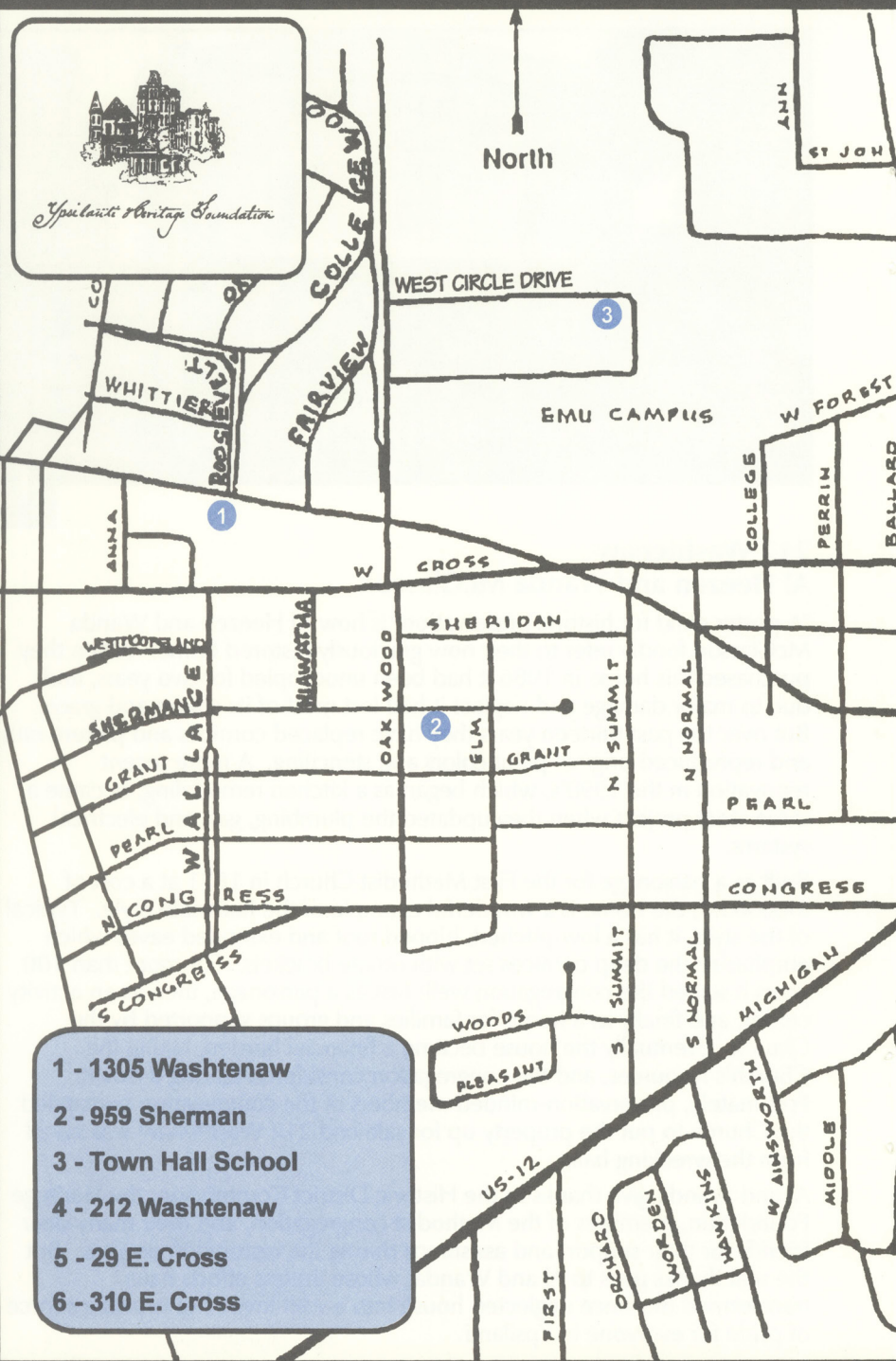
As you enter this gracious home, you step into the original dining room that has been converted to a true Victorian parlor featuring period wallpaper, cherry woodwork, and a beckoning bay window. Off the parlor, the elegant library is a statement in gold and green, with floor-to-ceiling bookshelves and a fireplace encased in complementary green marble. Ashleigh's imagination and style are evident in the decor of the second floor period bath and in her original creation of the wall paper in the first floor bath. The den is bright and welcoming in delicate blues, and the large kitchen features an ash floor and another bay window.

This home is a must-see if you have ever entertained that "what if" fantasy as you stroll or drive by some neglected but potentially wonderful old home. Seeing Ashleigh's finished effort may inspire your own undertaking if the fantasy ever becomes reality.

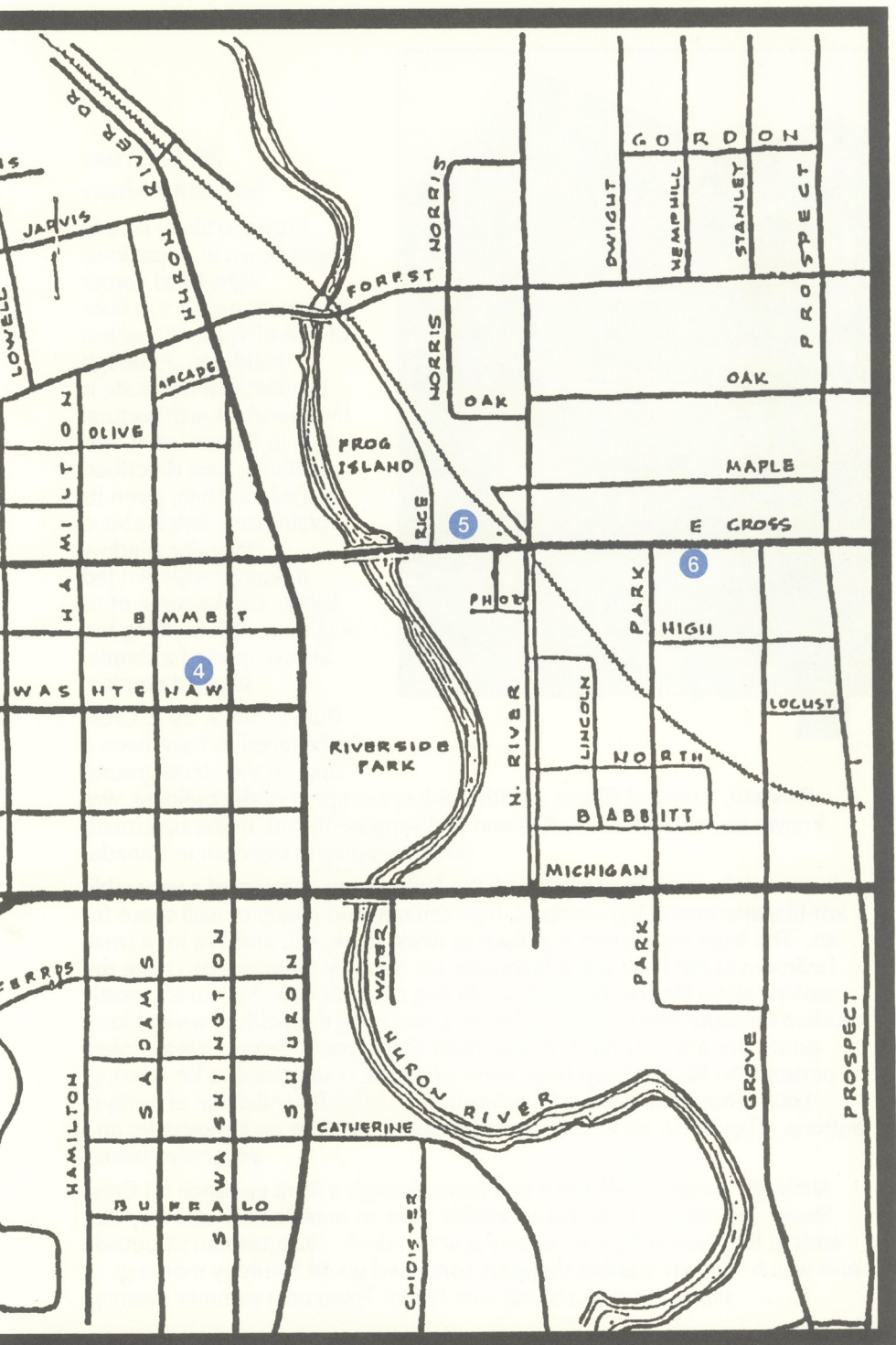


Spilanti Heritage Foundation

North



- 1 - 1305 Washtenaw
- 2 - 959 Sherman
- 3 - Town Hall School
- 4 - 212 Washtenaw
- 5 - 29 E. Cross
- 6 - 310 E. Cross



The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation,

celebrating its 25th anniversary in 1999, is a non-profit organization 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.

The Foundation publishes its newsletter, *Heritage News*, six times a year and distributes it, free of charge, to its membership by mail, and to the general public at various locations throughout the City. **The Foundation also has a website which can be reached at <http://community.mlive.com/cc/yhf>.**

Since 1977, the Foundation's Historic Structure Marker Awards Program has recognized more than 125 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 education programs on preservation-related topics. These education programs are held throughout the year and are open to the public. This year the Foundation is also pledging a portion of the tour proceeds to the restoration of "The Hiker" statue.

For more information on the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation, or to find out about becoming a member, contact Peg Du Fresne, at (734) 482-8666.

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 Wastenaw, Ypsilanti - 434-0020, for their beautiful arrangements which grace the homes on tour.

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

To **Michael Harper** — 482-6602, for the framing of the commemorative photos.

To **Lisa Mills Walters** for additional editing and proofing.

To the **many artists** who have lent their creativity to our 1999 poster.

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

Home Tour Committee:

Peg Du Fresne, Chair; Rochelle Balkam, Jonnie Bryant, Kyle Bunton, Nancy Chapman, Jennifer Goulet, Scotty James, Nancie Loppnow, Mary Nickson, Diane Quinn, Barbara Saxton, Penny Schreiber, Edie Sherman, and Jane Van Bolt

Ticket Sales: Eric Walters and Lisa Mills Walters

Research: Barry LaRue, James Mann, and Lisa Mills Walters

Design and Art Production for the brochure, poster, direct mail piece, and ad by **Carolyn McKeever** — 483-4256 **Diane Brown** — (517) 592-8708

Photography 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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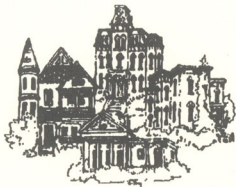
Mary Nickson

Diane and David Quinn

Barbara and Alan Saxton

Eric and Lisa Walters, Normal Park Neighborhood Assoc.

Notes



YpsiLanti Heritage Foundation

Ticket Prices:

\$10.00 Day of Tour

\$ 8.00 in Advance

TICKET

- 1 - 1305 Washtenaw
- 2 - 959 Sherman
- 3 - Town Hall School
- 4 - 212 Washtenaw
- 5 - 29 E. Cross
- 6 - 310 E. Cross

1999