



Ypsilanti
Heritage Foundation
29th Annual

Historic HOME TOUR

Heritage Festival Event

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2006 • NOON-5 P.M.

29th ANNUAL *Historic Home Tour*

- ❑ 1. 53 S. Summit Street
- ❑ 2. 904 Pleasant Drive
- ❑ 3. 1216 Grant Street
- ❑ 4. 200 W. Michigan Avenue
- ❑ 5. 301 N. Grove Street
- ❑ 6. 600 N. River Street

About the Foundation

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation is a nonprofit 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 a

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's website is www.yhf.org. Since 1977, the Foundation's Historic Structure Marker Awards Program has recognized more than 145 homes, businesses, churches, and other community build-

ings in Ypsilanti for significant historic architec-

ture and continuing, sensitive maintenance. The annual Historic Home Tour is sponsored by the Foundation. Proceeds from the tour fund the Marker Awards, community projects, and education programs on preservation-related topics, which are held throughout the year and are open to the public. For more information on the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation or to find out about becoming a member, contact Henry Prebys, president, at 487-0595.



Welcome

Welcome to the 29th 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 historic properties located throughout the city. Enjoy the tour!

Although the structures are numbered for your convenience in the brochure, you are free to visit them in any order you wish.

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.



53 South Summit Street

Andrew and Patricia Claydon

This charming colonial bungalow, with Doric columns and two prominent eyebrow windows, was built in 1922 for Daniel B. South, a district agent for Detroit Edison. Andrew and Patricia Claydon are the seventh owners of the house. They purchased it late in 2001 from the Farres family, who owned it for more than fifty years. The Farres were once proprietors of the Tap Room; in the bar's glory days they did all the cooking for it in the basement of the house.

Patricia is a graphic designer and the owner of Ballistic Designs. Andrew is an IT guy for Washtenaw Community College. The couple own a tiny punk rock record label, Flying Bomb Records. Their sense of style and design, along with their musical influences, is evident throughout the house. An eclectic mix of contemporary and vintage mid-century modern furniture is a highlight for today's tour goers. Don't miss the Isamu Noguchi dining table, the Vernon Panton chair, and the two Aero Saarinen tulip chairs.

The Claydons collect art, from record cover pieces to works by Shepard Fairey, Takashi Murakami, J. Otto Siebold, Brandon Bird, Eddie Breen, and Mark Mothersbaugh. They also display their own personal work, including a wall-size spin-art mural.

In the nearly five years the Claydons have lived in the house, layers of wallpaper have been removed from almost every room, hardwood floors and trim cleaned, and the kitchen gutted. The couple tackled the work in the kitchen themselves, installing a wood floor and creating wood trim from scratch to match the rest of the house. The countertops were the only part of the kitchen redo they outsourced. The new kitchen, interesting art pieces, fascinating furniture mix, and grand use of color make this a wonderful addition to the 2006 historic home tour.



904 Pleasant Drive

Kathleen Dvorak

Beloved Ypsilanti schoolteacher Florence Eddy built this charming small brick home in 1931. Its high peaks exemplify the French Norman Country style, often replicated in America in the 1920s and 1930s. As the Depression came on, the romance of historic European homes prompted people to replicate them on a small scale. In 1975 Kathleen Dvorak became this well-built home's second owner.

The house's roof, windows, many of its lighting fixtures, and its built-in bookcases and mantel are original to the home. The kitchen is the only completely redesigned space. Kathleen enjoys cooking for her friends and family. Her old kitchen was a challenge, she says. She is so pleased with her renovated kitchen, completed in 2005 and designed by Kathleen herself, that she entered the design in a contest sponsored by *Metropolitan Home* magazine.

As you exit through the back door, you will notice the home's Asian-influenced interior decor continued outside in the backyard and garden. The garden was recognized as exceptional by the Ypsilanti Garden Club and included in their 2002 Tour.

Peaceful, yet perfect for parties, Kathleen has again incorporated many of her own designs, from the egg rock borders to the large deck and custom-designed garden gate.

A chiropractor, Kathleen says that her "vocation is manipulating the spine, but her passion is manipulating the elements of design." The truth of this is evident throughout her lovely home and garden.



1216 Grant Street

Richard and Jenna Bacolor

Ypsilanti builders Renton and Walker built this two-story colonial in 1942 for the Falk family. Joe and Ruth Wizauer bought the home in 1970 and lived in it for thirty years. The Wizauers increased the size of the kitchen; they also added a family room and wrap-around screened porch on the first floor and a master bedroom on the second floor.

Three years ago Rich and Jenna Bacolor bought the house and moved in with their young daughter and son, Madeline and Henry. The Bacolors had an attractive wall of bookshelves built at the end of the living room, refinished the floors, flipped the dining room and the family room, and completely renovated the kitchen.

The Bacolors started out in the Normal Park neighborhood on Oakwood Street. They needed a larger house, but wanted to stay in the area. "We have very fierce feelings," says Jenna, "about living in an older home in an older neighborhood with mature trees and people who care about one another."

Jenna and Rich have created a warm and comfortable family home. "We use every room in the house," says Jenna. They display watercolors, china, and tapestries inherited from Jenna's great-aunt Martha who lived in China as a missionary for forty years. They also display old family photos and their kids' art. A family treasure is the wooden "type" tray on the family room wall from the *Royal Oak Daily Tribune*, which was owned by Jenna's family for several generations. "Everything in the type tray has meaning," Jenna says.

The Bacolor family could have moved to a beige cookie-cutter house in the suburbs with multiple bathrooms, cathedral ceilings, and huge closets. They've decided instead to bring up Madeline and Henry on a street where the houses are different sizes, ages, and styles, and where they know all of their neighbors.



200 West Michigan Avenue

First Floor: **J. Neil's Mongolian Grill**

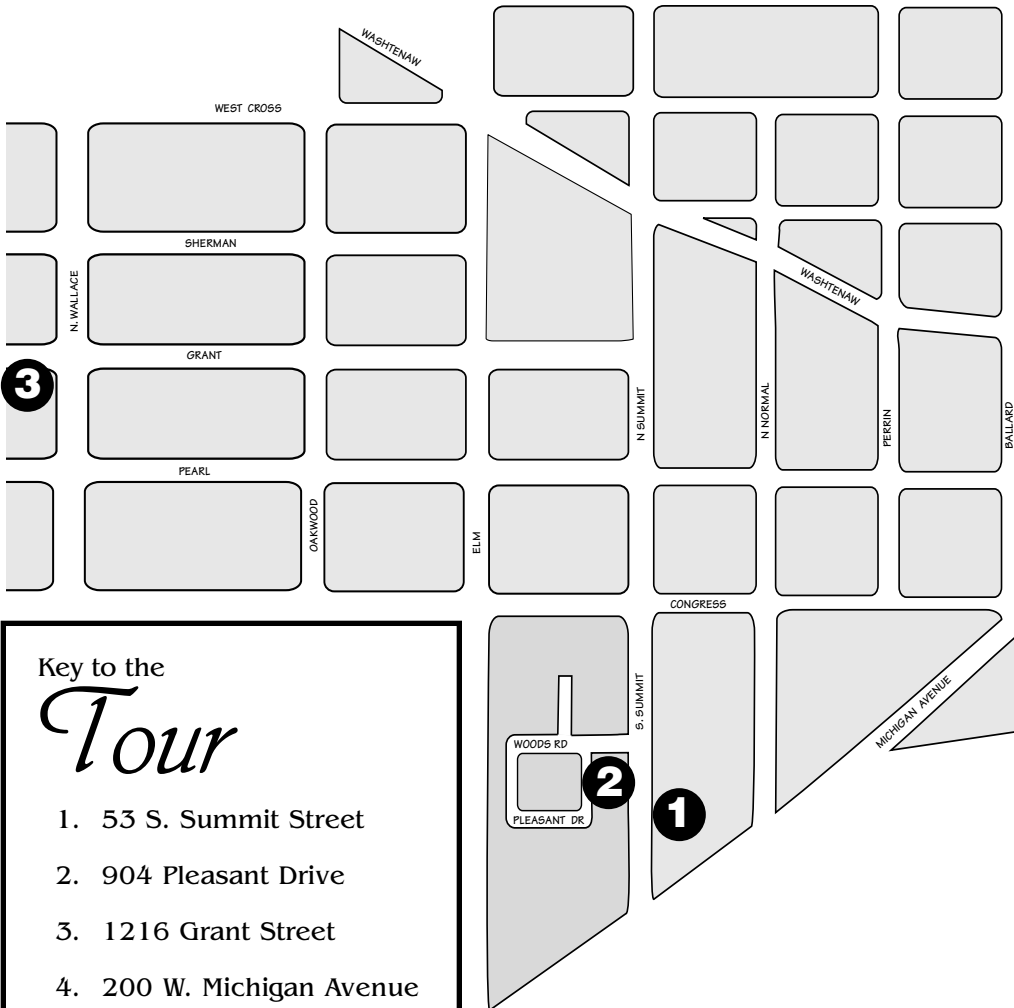
Second Floor: **The Wine Bar**

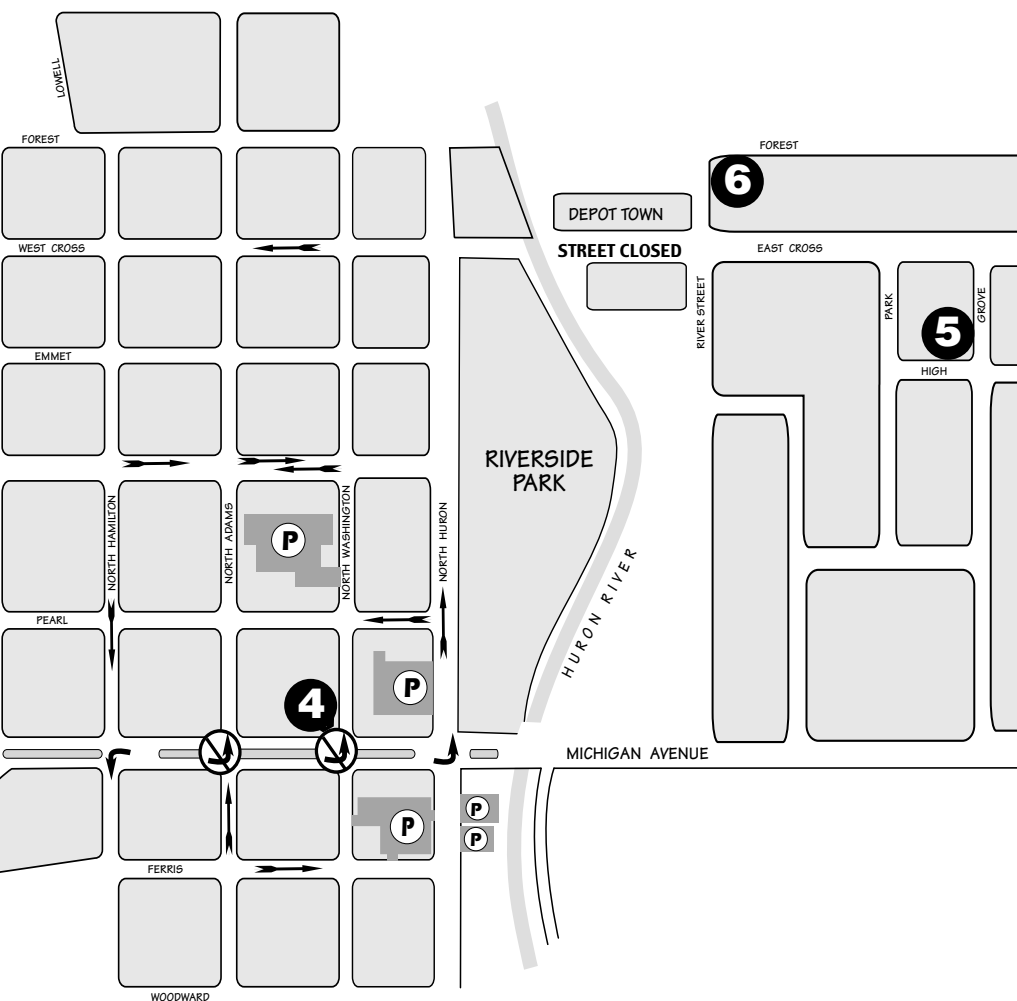
*Eric, Karen,
and Walter Maurer*

Last August many of the twelve loft apartments they renovated on the top two floors were featured on the home tour. The apartments represent Phase 1 of the building restoration. Today's tour goers will be seeing Phase 2, the first-floor and lower-level restorations.

Father and son David and Jason Curtis, who own Pub 13 & Club Divine in downtown Ypsilanti, will be opening J. Neil's Mongolian Grill in the 4,000-square-foot first-floor space before October 1; the restaurant will seat 400. The lower level's 4,000 square feet are being transformed into the Wine Bar, which will also open by October. The space is atmospheric-moody and romantic-with six brick archways, a horseshoe bar, and a fireplace.

When the Kresge store vacated 200 West Michigan Avenue in the late 1960s, the rest of downtown Ypsilanti slowly declined. The building sat vacant for fifty years. The Maurers believe that with their building now fully renovated and occupied, the remainder of downtown will follow their lead and flourish.





Your Guide to the Tour





301 North Grove Street

Joe Mattimoe and Henry Prebys

This Gothic Revival house is one of Ypsilanti's wonderful gems. Built around 1844 and originally a gymnasium on the estate of Benjamin Follett on North River Street, the house was moved several blocks to its present location by city engineer Charles Woodard in 1861. The sight of a house, trussed and on wheels, lumbering down a street is unusual in any age. Imagine the excitement this event must have caused 145 years ago.

Woodard converted the house to a residence and added a two-story wing with two side porches. Woodard's daughters, Ada and Gertrude, lived in the house until the mid-1930s. They sold it to Fred Dieterle on the condition that he restore it. In 1955 the house was sold again and a small apartment installed on the second floor of the 1863 wing.

This house's luckiest day came in 1979 when Joe Mattimoe discovered it. Joe began his love affair with the house by having the chimneys rebuilt, the exterior painted, the poplar floors refinished, several layers of wallpaper removed, and extensive plasterwork done.

More than twenty-five years later, the house and the splendid gardens that now surround it remain works in progress. Joe and Hank are always adding to their remarkable collection of antiques and objets d'art or having a side of the house painted or creating a new garden bed outside. One pales at any attempt to describe all of the marvels that await inside. To lightly scratch the surface, think Jugtown pottery, very old painted furniture, tramp art, and a Plexiglas coffee table and modern sofa facing the decoratively painted slate fireplace. Tour goers will love ascending the unique winding staircase to see the second-story Gothic windows from the inside. And be sure to notice how well the European-style modern kitchen and bathroom fit with the house's mid-nineteenth-century feel.



600 North River Street

The Hutchinson House

High Scope Education Research Foundation

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. One of the great mansions in the state of Michigan, it 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 thirty-three-room single-family home. He added many unique features, including an indoor pool (now capped), a two-story ballroom with an orchestra loft, one of the first elevators in the country, and a dining room that is a replica of one in Kaiser Wilhelm's mansion in Germany. Ornately carved woods decorate mantels, beams, columns, wainscoting, and window and door frames.

Plaster rosettes and moldings beautify the ceilings in several 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. Almost all of the floors are of hardwood.

Over the years the house has had many owners; at one point it was converted into fourteen apartments. Fortunately, the remodeling was done carefully and did not destroy the basic design of the structure. Since 1975 the Hutchinson House has been the headquarters of the High Scope Education Research Foundation. The foundation has done a wonderful job of maintaining both the house and its beautifully landscaped grounds.

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