

38TH ANNUAL YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION
Historic
HOME TOUR



SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2015
NOON-5 P.M.

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38th Annual
Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
Historic HOME TOUR

- ❑ 1. 303 North Huron Street
- ❑ 2. 209 North Huron Street
- ❑ 3. 206 North Huron Street
- ❑ 4. 222 North Huron Street
- ❑ 5. 309 North Grove Street
- ❑ 6. 514 Fairview Circle
- ❑ 7. 1266 Huron River Drive



Welcome to the 38th Annual Ypsilanti Historic Home Tour. Since 1977, the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation has been pleased and proud to present one of the community's most important resources, its wealth of historic architecture. This year's homeowners and business owners have graciously agreed to open their doors so that we all may see and appreciate the results of historic preservation efforts in the Ypsilanti area. We take this opportunity to thank them. 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.



ABOUT THE *Foundation*

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation 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*, several times a year and distributes it free of charge to its membership by mail. The Foundation's Web site is www.yhf.org, and can be found on Facebook. Since 1977, the Foundation's Historic Structure Marker Awards Program has recognized more than 150 homes, businesses, churches, and other community buildings in Ypsilanti for significant historic architecture 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 go to our website www.yhf.org, or follow us on facebook.



303 North Huron Street

Towner House Foundation

The Towner House was built by Marcus Lane in 1837 in a vernacular Greek Revival style. It is a post-and-beam construction with most of the original beams still intact, and it stands on its original stone foundation.

Lane died in 1840, and in 1842 the house was sold to his brother, Charles. It then had several more owners until it was sold to Nancy Spencer Towner, widow of Ephraim Towner. Both Nancy and Ephraim had several children from previous marriages. Ephraim's youngest son, Norman Towner, married Jennette Spencer, daughter of Nancy, in May of 1854, and they moved into the home in 1858, after Nancy's death. Norman Towner became the City Clerk in 1870 and later worked as a bookkeeper. Norman and Jennette lived in the home with daughters Anna and Caroline and son Tracy. After almost 100 years of occupancy by the family, the house became known as "The Towner House." During the Towner family's residency, the house was more than doubled in size and a garage was built.

Tracy Towner was appointed to the Circuit Court as a commissioner, the youngest person to hold that position at the time. Later he became Ypsilanti's city attorney and was elected mayor in 1912. Tracy died in 1943. Neither he nor either of his sisters ever married, and the house was left to St. Luke's Episcopal Church. In 1952 the house was purchased by G. L. Stewart; he and his family lived there until 1968. It served as a rental property for four years and then was purchased by the First Presbyterian Church, which planned to raze it.

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation was formed to save the Towner House from demolition. A lease agreement was created in 1975 between the church and the foundation. After continuing to be a private residence, it became a Children's Museum in 1982. The museum ceased to exist in 1990, and the house fell into disrepair. By 1999, a consent agreement was reached between the City and the Church, calling for removal of all the additions in the back to the original structure and installation of a new roof. The Towner House LLC was formed as a nonprofit entity to maintain and repair the building.

The house's exterior is mostly restored, the interior is a shell, still in need of much repair work.



John Harrington

209 North Huron Street

John & Pattie Harrington

Built in 1921 by Edward and Jennie Quirk Cornwell, this handsome Tudor Revival Style home is distinctive, not only as an excellent example of its style but also because it represents the merger of two of Ypsilanti's most prominent families, the Quirks and the Cornwells. Both families were active in business, industry, and community affairs and resided on this street: the Quirks across the street at 304 N. Huron, and the Cornwells next door at 201 N. Huron. This house was designed primarily for entertaining since Edward and Jennie were both in their forties when they married and had no children. Many notable people were guests at the Cornwell house, including Henry Ford and Governor G. Mennen Williams, who was married to Jennie Cornwell's niece.

Because the design of the house was too large for its 80' x 170' lot, the front entrance and facade were situated facing south toward the Cornwell Mansion. It was constructed of stucco spread over wooden lath and finished using the "pebble-dash" method with wooden beams, stained dark brown in the classic Tudor Style. Many of the original plaster panels still exist. Decorative plaster panels can be seen on some of the gables and along the roofline on the south side of the house.

Jennie Cornwell lived in the house until her death in December of 1959, 2 days short of her 100th birthday. The home has had a few owners since the Cornwells and was divided at one time into 13 rooms and apartments for student housing. The main part of the house is now restored as before and is the residence of John and Pattie Harrington. It features a large foyer with a winding staircase, a living room with a marble fireplace and built-in leaded glass bookcases, original chandeliers and sconces, and the original butler's pantry. Other areas of the home have been converted to 3 additional apartments. The 2-floor, 1,800 square foot apartment that includes the maid and butler's quarters and the attic will also be featured on the tour.

The property is co-owned by the Harrington's and Joseph D. Lawrence.



Lynda Hummel

206 North Huron Street

Manchester & Associates

206 N. Huron is known to local residents as the Quirk House. It was built in 1860 for Delos Showerman, a haberdasher. Subsequent owners included a Civil War officer, a professor, and the owners of several flour mills. Its most famous resident, though, was Daniel Quirk, Jr., the son of the founder of Peninsular Paper Company and the National Bank of Ypsilanti. He himself served as mayor of Ypsilanti from 1947-1952 and established the Ypsilanti Opera House.

The house is a charming blend of Italianate, Georgian, and Colonial Revival styles. In its early days, the property extended all the way to the Huron River. Beautiful terraced gardens ran across the slope of hill. There was a tennis court for the Quirks to use on lazy Sunday afternoons. Horses were housed in the carriage house out back.

Daniel Jr. and his wife, Julia, had four children. One of the children, Nancy, married G. Mennen Williams, a former governor of the state of Michigan.

The City of Ypsilanti owned the house from 1961 to 1978. When it was a municipal building, the city attorney and the Department of Parks and Recreation had offices on the second floor. The 14th Circuit Court operated out of the library addition built by Quirk in 1927. Reporters and observers sat in the balcony, watching the trials play out.

The house currently serves as the offices of Manchester & Associates, attorneys at law. The library has been preserved and looks much as it did when the Quirks resided there.



Lynda Hummel

222 North Huron Street

Lynda Hummel

This former carriage barn was added to the property of 220 N. Huron sometime between 1865 and 1895. Asa Dow, who followed Daniel Quirk to Ypsilanti, was the first to build a home on North Huron, around 1860. The home was sold in 1865 to Aaron H. Goodrich, who resided in the home, with several servants and boarders, until 1879. Lambert Barnes, a president of Peninsular Paper Company and two-term mayor, purchased the home in 1879, and his family resided there until at least 1920.

We believe that the carriage house was still used for horses and a carriage until the mid- to late-1920s. Records indicate that by 1927, the house had been turned into flats and the carriage barn was listed as an automobile garage. The home itself had been converted into apartments as early as 1922, when Laverne Ross purchased it. Records indicate that the carriage house may have first been rented in 1930 to Elsie Andrews, a librarian at the Michigan State Normal College. The Dean of Women at the college, Lydia Jones, resided in the apartment from 1931-1935. The apartment has seen many tenants during the years, most of whom stayed only a year or two. The exception was Ruth MacKenzie, the office secretary for Freeman-Bunting Agency, who resided here from 1965-1976.

The City of Ypsilanti purchased the home in 1966 with the intention of converting it into the Ypsilanti Historical Museum. The Ypsilanti Historical Society purchased the museum from the City in 2006, and the archives were stores in the carriage house from 2002-07.

Current resident Lynda Hummel has lived here since June 2004 and has personalized it with many interesting and unique "finds." As a professional photographer, she has an eye for art and enjoys the work of folk artists whom she has personally met. We think you will enjoy this re-use of an historical structure – one with an amazing view.



309 North Grove Street

*Joel Baetens &
Jessica Minor-Baetens*

The invitingly low and sprawling expanse of the soft grey and white mid century ranch owned by Joel Baetens and Jessica Minor-Baetens is atypical of the housing stock usually found in the historic east side neighborhood where Victorian-era houses abound.

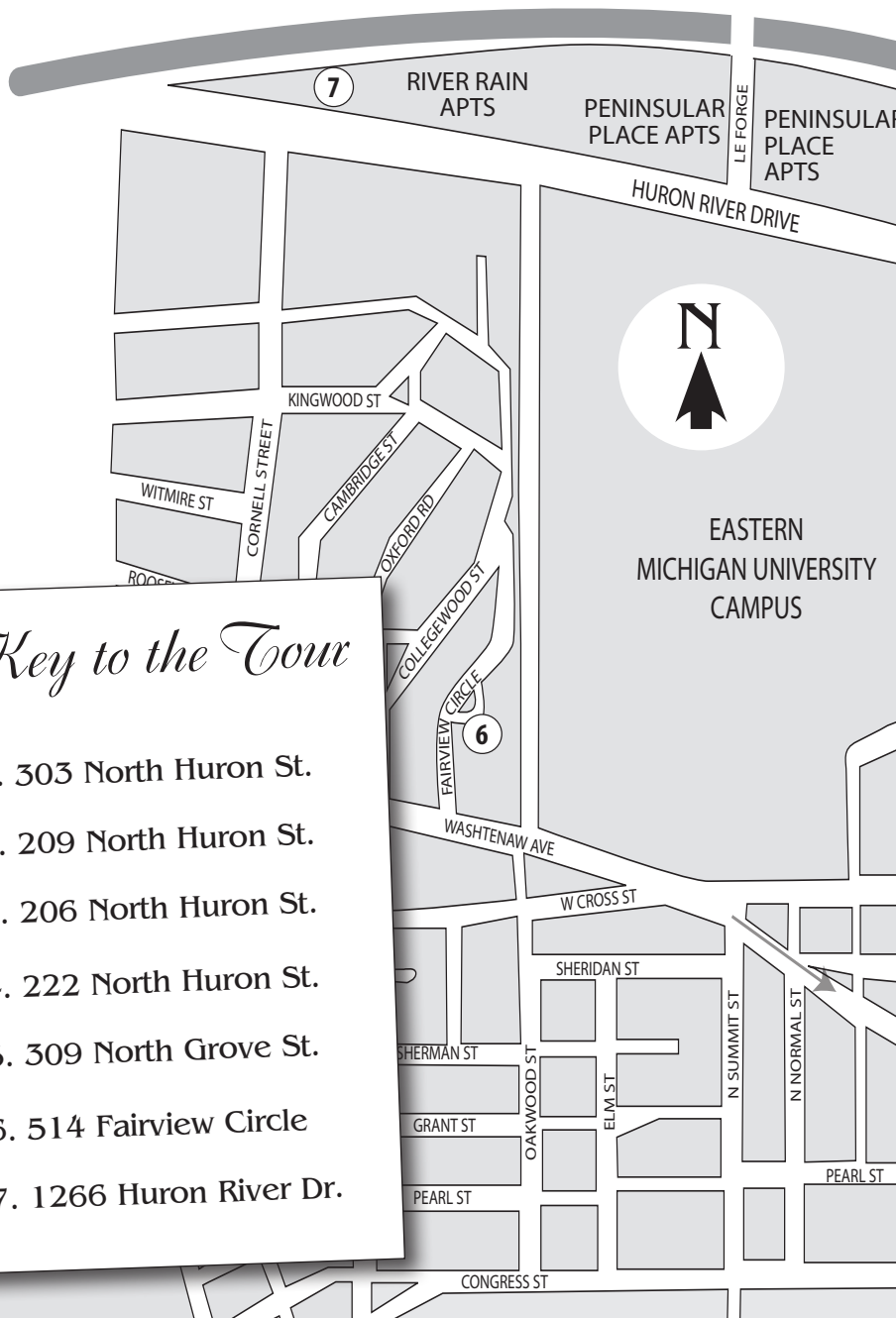
309 N. Grove was constructed in 1956 by local builder Fred Dieterle after he divided his parcel in two in order to construct a stylish “modern” ranch house for himself and his family. The lot with a Gothic residence that sits on the northwest corner of Grove and High Streets had originally extended north to the alley before Fred followed in the footsteps of his brother (another local builder), Jake Dieterle, who had recently finished a ranch for himself on West Michigan Ave just outside of town.

Despite several changes in ownership, this cool mid century ranch has remained largely intact, the most extensive previous alterations being the kitchen, the conversion of the garage into a living room, and the addition of a three-seasons room off the rear master bedroom.

Joel and Jessica wasted no time upon purchasing the home, and in just under three years have painted the interior and exterior, repaired the porch, implemented organic landscaping to include food plants and granite stones, installed a corn-based carpet in the fireplace room, and placed energy-efficient USA-built appliances and LED lighting in the home. The couple have plans to refinish the basement with a vintage flair and install electric vehicle charging equipment: a truly forward-thinking enhancement!

Key to the Tour

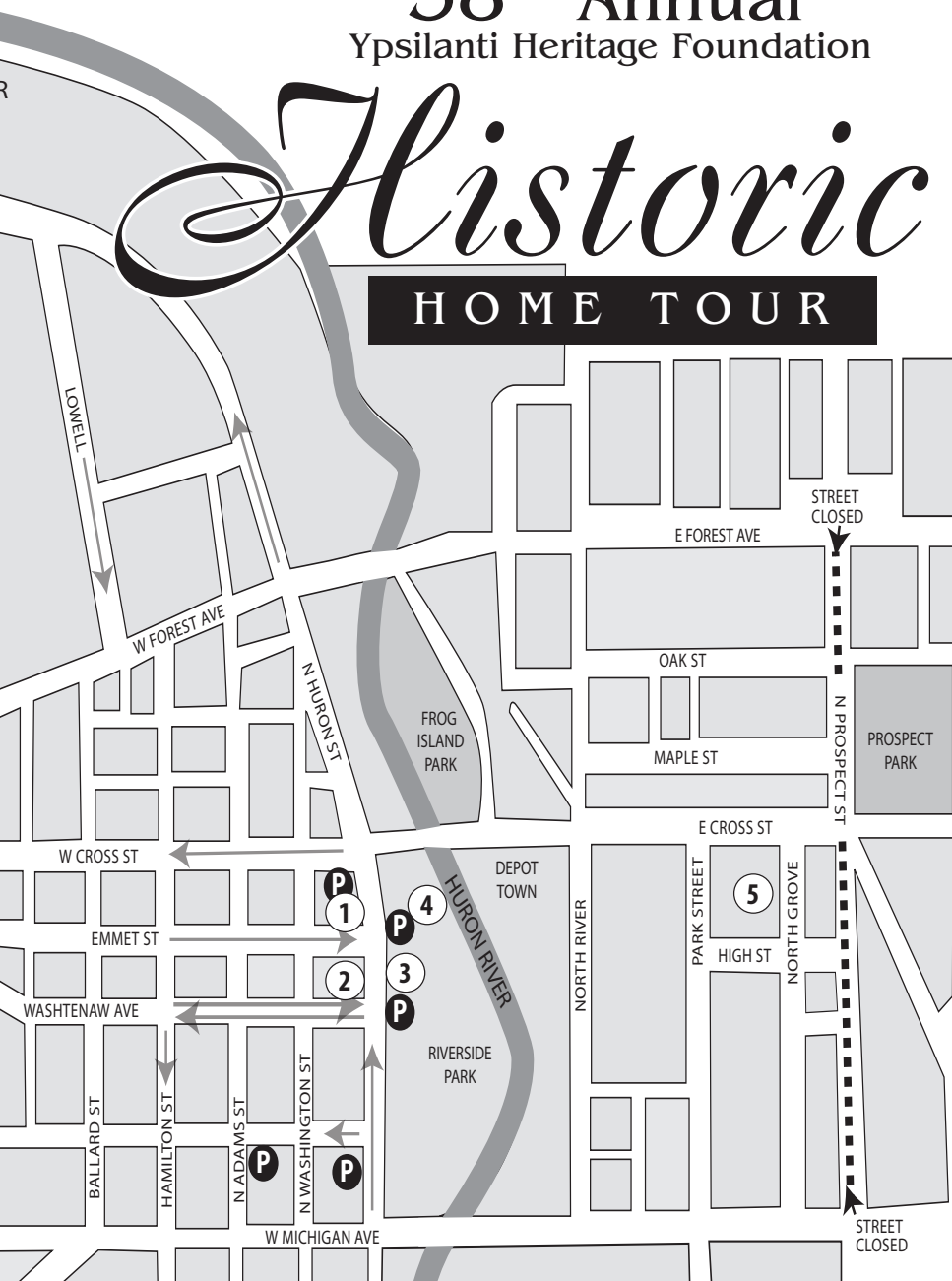
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Lynda Hummel

514 Fairview Circle

John Bailey

This regal English Tudor was built in 1932 by William Lewis, an employee of the Michigan Ladder Company, and his wife, Lena. Marie Goodnow became the second owner in the 1940s, marrying Thomas Burns in 1953 and becoming a widow three years later. After her death in 1965, Robert and Rosemary Bailey bought the home. Their son, local attorney John Bailey, purchased it from his mother's estate in 1999.

John's mother, Rosemary, had quite an eye when it came to furnishing this quality home. She inherited many beautiful antiques from her Illinois father, who claimed to be the largest hog farmer in the country. Rosemary also worked at Treasure Mart in Ann Arbor during the early 1970s, adding to her collections with a discerning eye. John has continued the tradition, acquiring "finds" from estate sales and such.

Tourgoers will appreciate the exquisite exterior brickwork with dark "clinker" bricks jutting out everywhere. John and his brother used to scale the house as if it were a modern-day climbing wall, using the bricks as footholds. Although the home was extremely well constructed, John has upgraded the kitchen and always has a few projects he is working on throughout the home.

To add an element of intrigue, John has placed three common items in each room of the house. See if you can spot them as you make your way through. And don't be surprised if you get a wink from the curved, raised-eyebrow dormer over a front exterior window on your way out.



Lynda Hummel

Starkweather Farmhouse — 1266 Huron River Drive

Ron Rupert

In March of 1841, John and Mary Ann Starkweather moved to Ypsilanti, where John bought 160 acres on the Huron River and began farming. Records indicate that by 1874, he had 400 acres of land. Starkweather kept abreast of all the latest farming techniques, and his orchard was the finest in the state during the mid-century years. The grain production per acre was high. He also raised horses, and a racecourse was maintained on the farm.

John and Mary Ann lived in the house on the farm for 34 years. In 1875, they retired from farming and moved into the city to a brick Italianate house at 130 North Huron, where John Starkweather died in 1883.

The Starkweathers are both buried in Ypsilanti's Highland Cemetery, just north of another of Mary Ann's gifts to the city, the Starkweather Chapel, a memorial to her husband.

The Starkweather farmhouse exhibits features typical of Greek Revival architecture. Its form consists of a rectangular block of two stories with a front-facing shallow gable roof underlined by a heavy entablature (cornice, frieze, architrave) with large frieze boards and returns. The original roofline and architectural trim remain. The original window and door openings maintain their original size, proportions, and rhythm.

The current owner, Ron Rupert, has been restoring the farmhouse to its original state. He has completed extensive work including tuckpointing of the chimneys and removal of the stucco exterior and the 1950s additions. He has also repaired the original zinc roof, repaired or replaced some of the original cedar lap siding, and replaced the windows with six-over-six double-pane wood windows. The west and south porches were also restored to their original design, replicating original columns and dentil moldings. The home was then painted in its original color scheme. Ron's current project is preserving the interior architectural features including the spiral staircase, the tulip wood floors, the original doors and hardware, door and window trim moldings, and some light fixtures. He has also refurbished two of the three apartments to be used as rental units.

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- ≈ All of the homeowners, volunteer guides, and ticket sellers
- ≈ Lisa Walters, for editing the home tour booklet
- ≈ Lynda Hummel, for her outstanding photography
- ≈ Pattie Harrington, for her terrific design of the home tour booklet and poster
- ≈ Jan Arps-Prundeanu, for recruiting sponsors for the home tour booklet
- ≈ Haab's Restaurant, Salt City Antiques, and Materials Unlimited, in downtown Ypsilanti; Nelson Amos Studio, in Depot Town; Norton's Flowers and Gifts, on Washtenaw Avenue; and Downtown Home and Garden, in Ann Arbor, for selling tickets before the day of the tour

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Saturday, September 26, 2015

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