

41ST ANNUAL



Historic
• ARCHITECTURAL •
HOME TOUR



SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018
NOON-5 P.M.

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Welcome to the 41st 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 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 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.



965 West Cross Street

Dawn & Jason Keech

This stately Colonial Revival anchors the Normal Park neighborhood along the northern border. The house was built in 1922 for Joseph Thomas Gourley and his wife, Emma. Joseph was the president of the Ypsilanti Lumber & Coal Co. at Parson and Lincoln Streets near Depot Town. Built in the style of early Georgian Colonial homes, the house retains its characteristic features, including the strict window symmetry, a centered entry with a paneled door atop a raised step, a side porch, and the traditional color of white with green trim. The interior character of the house is largely unchanged, with original woodwork in every room, beautiful French doors, high ceilings, picture rails, and lots of natural light from the many windows throughout the home.

The house changed hands many times over the years, and in addition to the Gourleys, has been the residence for a physical education instructor at EMU (Michigan State Normal College, at the time), a Great Lakes ship captain, a local accountant, and even a religious boarding house for Servants of the Word, a local ecumenical brotherhood.

The current owners, Jason and Dawn Keech, moved into the house in November of 2016 after outgrowing their first Normal Park home on Westmoorland. As their key requirement was to remain in Normal Park, they wasted no time in grabbing up this neighborhood classic when it became available. The house required very few projects for the new homeowners, and aside from building a new patio in the backyard, they have primarily focused on making the house work for their family. The sleeping porch off the couple's bedroom was converted to a closet, and the finished third floor space serves as Dawn's office and a play area for their daughters. With the help of Carole at Salt City Antiques, they have found many furnishings that are as unique as the house itself.

While the family loves every inch of this house, some of their personal favorites include the rainbow glass collection in the dining room, sitting by the huge picture window in the living room, entertaining on the back patio, and the view of EMU and the water tower from the third floor.



Lynda Hummel

18 South Normal Street

Jeff & Elisa Guyton

This spacious home was built in 1927 in a mixture of Tudor Revival and Colonial Revival styles. The windows are new and might have been case-ment windows originally, but the peaked roof, with its steep slope, are typical of Tudor. It was designed with a classical center hall, the living room on one side and dining on the other. The house is enhanced by the surrounding trees, some of which predate its construction.

The first owners were George Millage, an insurance agent, and his wife, Hazel. They may have had difficulty maintaining this large home during the Great Depression, and by 1936 the house was vacant. From 1938 to 1948, it was the home of the Cyrus Camp family, owners of Camp Publishing in Depot Town, for which Photo Street is named. The firm did a large number of school photos and hand tints. Over the next 60 years the house was occupied by a series of families, eventually becoming a fraternity house, and in the early 2000s, a rooming house.

The present owners, Elisa and Jeff Guyton, came on the scene in 2013 and have restored the house by updating the mechanical systems and kitchen, cleaning up old paint and soil on the original woodwork, refinishing the floors, and giving new life to all areas. They are to be found in good weather either on the airy screened-in porch or in the back yard, where the new deck and play structures welcome all ages.



John Harrington

215 South Washington Street

Pace & Chantal Nielsen

215 S. Washington, a work-in-progress built between 1893 and 1894, was the home of William Kishlar, a dry goods merchant. This house, and the house next door (221 S. Washington), was built by George Kishlar, William's father, a well known carpenter and building contractor.

This grand old mansion, a fine example of Queen Anne architecture, has five bedrooms and was divided into efficiency apartments some time in the 1970s. The previous owner purchased it in 2012 with the hope of returning it to a single family home. Thus, he completely gutted the house. The current owners purchased it in this condition and are working to restore it to its previous splendor. At this time, the carriage house has been updated with new wooden doors, a new roof, and the beginnings of a fresh coat of paint. The porch has been restored, front landscaping has been put in, and the beginnings of a fresh coat of paint can be seen on the outside of the house.

The current owners plan to move into 215 as soon as they can, but right now, this is a weekend project. Still, there have been big improvements in a short amount of time. We're excited to see how this home develops and to have it back on the Home Tour when it's finished.



Lynda Hummel

733 Maus

Tasha Palmer

The seven new homes on Maus Street are part of Deborah Strong Housing, named after longtime housing advocate and former chairperson of the Ypsilanti Housing Commission. Strong lived in Ypsilanti for 30 years, serving nearly 20 years in various leadership roles on the Board of Commissioners. The development includes the rehabilitation of existing public housing as well as the construction of new affordable housing units.

Tasha Palmer and her family reside at 733 Maus, and Tasha is a member of the current housing board and an employee of the Washtenaw Intermediate School District. Her daughter has won national acclaim for her essay "What Home Means to Me," accompanied by her prolific artwork, in which she has incorporated the image of her father, who passed away last year. Tasha's eldest son is a multi-media artist working for Ward 1 Productions, a youth-driven creative media company, and the family is thriving in the living space they have occupied since its completion in 2016.

They enjoy the natural light flowing into the living room and kitchen area, the ample counter space, and convenient laundry nook off the dining room. Tasha believes that the new homes have invigorated the neighborhood, making it a desirable place to raise her family.



21 East Cross Street

Brick & Mortar Modern General Store

Sherri & Zachary Schultz

Sherri and Zachary Schultz have a love of Depot Town history and were excited when 21 E. Cross became available. They appreciate the original floors and ceiling of their space. They opened their “general store” in July 2017, less than one year ago. Sherri is one of the founding members of DIYpsi, and her passion is in finding objects that can be recycled and repurposed in artistic ways. Zachary shares the passion and enjoys creating things from salvaged materials. The store has provided them with an outlet for their creative energies. They have made most of the furniture and fixtures in their store. They have obtained materials from a non-profit called Detroit Architectural Salvage and have also salvaged material from renovations at The Riverside Arts Center. The store currently has a wide range of items for sale, and their goal is to expand to include more general items that people of the community might need and seek out locally.

The brick Italianate structure, built in 1859, was originally the Huron Hotel and came to be known as the Follett House after Benjamin Follett bought out the other owners. Follett was very active in the Ypsilanti community, having served as mayor from 1860–1861, and was responsible for the establishment of the first “safe” bank and the construction of Ypsi’s first city hall.

In the early days, the building was considered the grandest hotel on the Michigan Central Line. The hotel’s third floor included a ballroom (Follett Hall) that hosted many traveling musical and theatrical companies. There were tunnels at the rear of the building that may have been part of the Underground Railroad.

By the 1890s, however, the hotel business was failing, and as early as 1910, the first level was divided into five storefronts and the upper floors utilized for storage. The storefronts of “The Follett House” have been around since 1910 and have changed hands several times over the years, serving as home to Quinn’s Essentials, Fantasy Attic, and Compass. Sherri and Zachary believe that it may have even been the Farmers General Store at some point in the distant past.



John Harrington

409 North Adams Street

Gillian & Adam Gainsley

There is some dispute about the year the Queen Anne house at 409 North Adams Street was built: It is first mentioned in an Ypsilanti city directory in 1888, another city record states 1893, and the plaque on the house reads 1895. While the home has had as many as six owners, many original features are still intact, surviving the reconfiguration of the single-family home into a duplex in the late 1950s by its third owner.

Connie Krump purchased the duplex in 1983. When she married Jay Simcoe, a restoration carpenter, he stripped and refinished the woodwork in the entry as a wedding gift to his bride. Connie and Jay lived in the home until the mid-1990s, when they moved to Ann Arbor and maintained 409 N. Adams as a student rental for the next 18 years.

Adam Gainsley and Gillian Ream Gainsley bought the home from Connie and Jay in 2014, when Gillian was 7½ months pregnant with their first child. Considering this their “forever” home, the Gainsleys have undertaken a number of updates (with some much-appreciated help from their parents), including updating the kitchen floor, tiling the bathrooms, tuck-pointing the foundation, leveling the basement floor, and adding new insulation. Visitors will enjoy the many graceful elements throughout this elegant home, as well as hearing plans for future restoration.

Special mention goes to Kim Clarke, who wrote a research paper that provided valuable background on this home. The paper is on file at the Ypsilanti Historical Society Archives.



Highland Cemetery - North River Street

Starkweather Chapel

This year's recipient of Home Tour proceeds

The Starkweather Chapel in the Highland Cemetery was designed by George Dewitt Mason and Zachariah Rice of Detroit in the late 19th century Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style and it was dedicated in 1889. The Chapel was the gift of Mary Ann Newberry Starkweather, niece of Chicago entrepreneur and philanthropist, John Newberry. The windows are by the Tiffany Glass Company. Long out of use, the building and its ornaments and contents have fallen into a state of serious disrepair. Barry LaRue, a Highland Cemetery Board Member and longtime preservationist, has taken on the challenge of organizing the restoration of the chapel. So far many emergency repairs have been made to protect the structure and its contents. The next large restoration will be the replacement of the roof with tiles that are similar to the original tile roof. if you are interested in contributing to the restoration of Starkweather Chapel see the online GoFundMe page or contact Barry LaRue by email blarue@umich.edu.

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jbarr@barrlawfirm.com

Dan Duchene, J.D.
dduchene@barrlawfirm.com

...

Jesse O'Jack, J.D.

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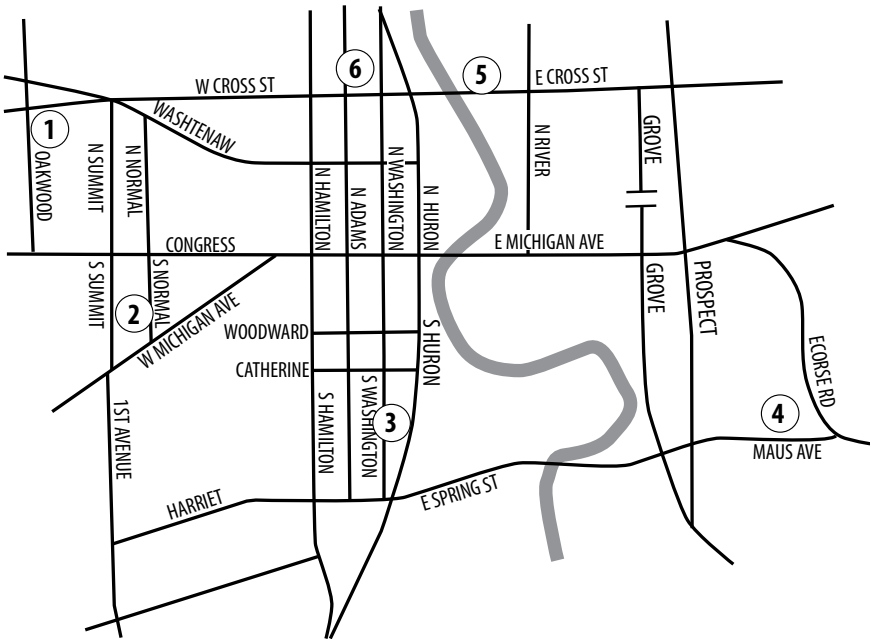
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- ≈ The homeowners, volunteer guides, and ticket sellers
- ≈ Lisa Walters, for editing the home tour booklet
- ≈ Lynda Hummel and John Harrington for their photography
- ≈ Jan Arps-Prundeanu, for recruiting sponsors for the home tour booklet
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- ≈ Ypsilanti Freighthouse, for hosting the Home Tour after-party

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

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- ☐ 2. 18 South Normal
- ☐ 3. 215 S. Washington St.
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