

### WELCOME

to the 43rd Annual Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation 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 churches have graciously agreed to open their doors so that we all may see and appreciate the results of historic preservation and investment efforts in our Ypsilanti community. We thank them for their generous hospitality and invite you to enjoy the tour!

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

Visitors may be asked to remove shoes. As a courtesy to our property owners, PLEASE no food or drink, smoking, pets, unsupervised children, strollers, or photography inside the properties.

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 abundance 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 the owners and proprietors of more than 150 homes, businesses, churches, and other buildings in Ypsilanti for preserving their architectural character and continuing to do sensitive maintenance. The Foundation sponsors its annual Historic Home Tour to promote Ypsilanti's architectural treasures. Proceeds from the tour fund the Marker Awards, community projects, and occasional education programs on preservation-related topics. 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.



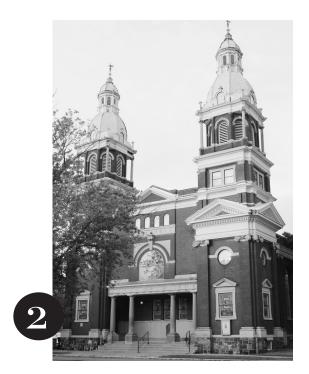
Towner House - 303 North Huron Towner House Foundation

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 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. After continuing to be a private residence, it became a children's museum in 1982 through 1990. By 1999, a consent agreement was reached between the city and church, calling for removal of all additions back to the original structure. The Towner House LLC was formed as a nonprofit entity to maintain and repair the building. In 2014 the Towner House Foundation, with the generous support of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation, purchased the house from the church, allowing for interior restoration to take place.



First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti 300 North Washington Rev. Keith Geiselman, Pastor

First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti began as a Bible study group in 1825, was chartered with the State in 1829, and called its first pastor, the Rev. Ira Weed, in 1832. Today the church maintains an active presence in the community with weekly worship, study, formation, local and global aid, and mission. In 2008 the congregation began ministries with Open Door Detroit and Westminster Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor to create the Riverside Community Meal, a nutritious meal served every Wednesday to anyone in need. In 2009 with the refurbishment and expansion of the sanctuary pipe organ, the Ypsilanti Organ Festival was created sponsoring three concerts a season. Performers are local students, national, and international artists.

The congregation also supports community groups which include: the Boy Scouts of America; weekly recovery groups since 1948; Friends-In-Deed; the Hope Clinic; Meals-on-Wheels; and SOS Crisis Housing. Local and global Christian Ministries served include: UKirk Campus Ministry at EMU; along the US-Mexican border in Douglas, AZ; Tokyo; and China.

Enjoy the 29 beautiful Tiffany windows throughout the sanctuary and building and the pipe organ by the Martin Ott Pipe Organ Company, opus 108, that sounded its first note in public in November 2008. The instrument uses pipes from the original 1897 Jardine & Sons Organ with expanded pipework and new works. Marijim Thoene, organist and director of music at First Presbyterian will be playing from 12-1 during the tour. All are welcome to hear the music!



John Taylor House – 411 North Huron Josh and Hannah McCready

While there are many surviving Italianate homes within the Ypsilanti Historic District which date between ca. 1860 and ca. 1880, this property is one of few later "High Victorian Italianate" timber structures in the city that retain their ornate, original detailing. Constructed in the 1870s, it is believed that this house and 415 N. Huron next door were built by the same talented carpenter. This house features characteristic large, overhanging eaves with ornate bracketed cornices and original clapboard siding. The large, flattened-arch windows are showcased by bracketed pediments, meticulously detailed with elegant cutout ornamentation.

Original interior features include run plaster crown mouldings and ceiling medallions, curved plaster walls and ceilings, wood single-hung windows, five-panel doors, ornate millwork and baseboards, and heart pine flooring throughout. The curved staircase leading to the second floor, while not original, was sensitively done ca. 1990 due to the original's removal ca. 1960 when the structure

served a multi-family purpose.

Josh and Hannah McCready have owned this property since October of 2021 and are working diligently to fully restore the structure as their family home. Since 2021, their goal has been to sensitively stabilize the envelope of the building starting with installation of a standing seam metal roof, removal and replacement of invasive HVAC, exterior painting and wood replacement, and installation of a salvage brick paver driveway and drainage.



Asa Jowe House – 220 North Huron Ypsilanti Historical Society

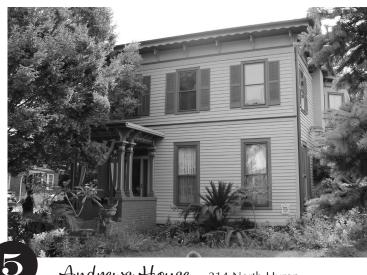
The Historic Dow House was constructed in the early Victorian Italianate-style for Mr. As Dow and his wife Minerva. In the following 163 years of its existence, the House would serve as the home for several families, as an apartment building, and as a local historical museum and archive.

Mr. Asa Dow was business partner of Daniel Lace Quirk, and after being in business with Mr. Quirk in Chicago, Mr. Dow moved to Ypsilanti where he was elected president of the First National Bank of Ypsilanti. The home was constructed for him and his wife Minerva in 1860 at what was then listed as the street address of 42 Huron Street North. On the 12th of June, 1864, his wife died from unknown reasons. She was the second person interred at Ypsilanti's Highland Cemetery. Following her death, Mr. Dow returned to Chicago.

Asa Dow sold the home to Mr. Aaron Goodrich and his wife Julia in 1865. He was the manager of the Follett House hotel and later salesman for Batchelder & Company Monument Works. Mr. and Mrs. Goodrich lived in the home for ten years before moving to Saline.

The Goodrichs sold the home to Mr. and Mrs. Lambert Barnes. Lambert Barnes would become the president of the Peninsular Paper Company. Mr. Barnes also later served as a vice president of the First National Bank of Ypsilanti and the Mayor of Ypsilanti from 1875 to 1879.

The next known owner of the home at what was then renumbered to 220 North Huron Street, was Miss Laverne Ross, who purchased the home in 1922. After purchasing the home, Miss Ross converted it into several apartments marketed to new families and students at the Michigan State Normal College (now Eastern Michigan University). The city of Ypsilanti purchased the home in May of 1966. The Historical Society moved into the house in 1973 and rented it from the city, they purchased the house in 2006.



Andrews House – 214 North Huron Cheryl Farmer

This stately Italianate house was built between 1851, when the property was deeded to grocer Frederick Andrews, and 1856, when it first appeared on the city map. It retains its characteristic Italianate features, like the elaborately detailed entryway and the low roof with wide overhanging eaves supported by decorative brackets. The bay windows and the wonderful enclosed porch on the south side that wraps around the back of the house are later additions.

In 1966, the City of Ypsilanti purchased the home from the Thompson family who had resided in the home since 1912. Like other homes on North Huron Street, it was at risk of being torn down and there was pressure from the community to salvage these historic homes. The building opened as a "Teen Center" in 1968 and it served as Washtenaw Community College from 1975 to 1979. Paul Woodside, a city firefighter, purchased the home from the city in 1979 for \$27,000. The couple had undertaken a four-year renovation that was nearly ruined by a 1984 fire.

Former Ypsilanti Mayor Cheryl Farmer purchased the home in 1988 and began renovations: removing temporary walls to open up the porch and restoring a second interior staircase to access the second floor. She had the original banister restored and the bathrooms completely redone with period fixtures. The living room had been "tudorized" with dark beams and dark woodwork, which she brightened up to better reflect the Italianate features. The original wrap around porch was enclosed and serves as a home for her many plants during the winter.

Throughout the home are paintings by her father who was a very active sailor, glass art by her sister and family furniture, including her mother's piano, and her great aunt's chandelier. The kitchen is home to a functioning 1939 stove, along with artifacts and Ypsilanti memorabilia throughout the home.



## Quirk/Cornwell House – 209 North Huron 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 fourties 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 decorative original plaster panels still exist. The 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 that included a social fraternity, High Scope and was divided at one time into 13 rooms and apartments for student housing before the Harrington's purchased it in the late 70's. 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 into 3 additional apartments.



Ballard-Breakey Mansion – 125 North Huron Roberts and Freatman

Lot #101 of the original plat of the Village of Ypsilanti has undergone many changes since first being sold by John Stewart for \$10.00, in 1827. The first simple dwelling on this land was erected by Dr. Daniel White and was expanded into a modest Federal Style home of stone and brick during Marcus Lane's ownership, 1834-1840. Arden Ballard, the next owner, began adding between 1845-1851, the Roman Doric columns that give the Breakey its grand Classical Revival Style. Roman Doric columns were quite rare in Michigan at the time they were added, as was the unusual entrance, which features two inset columns on either side.

The Roman Classical and Greek Revival conversion was a popular transformation style of the times which emulated the form of classical Roman and Greek temples. During the years 1820-1855 more houses were built in, or converted to, the Greek Revival Style than any other type in America. Enthusiasm for the style was found in both archaeological and political roots and, in the case of conversions, because of the practicality of its simple-to-add wooden elements. This home features typical interior trim of walnut and pine painted white, with the original stairway balustrade of solid walnut and a curious newel being surmounted by a spiral center with a deep inlay of mother of pearl on top.



Ballard-Breakey Mansion – 101A Washtenaw Delrhea Byrge

(continued from previous page)

Dr. James M. Hueston, a well known physician in Ypsilanti and State Senator lived in the home from the early 1890s until his death in 1914

Dr. James R. Breakey moved his family into the home in March of 1916. His son, Judge James Breakey, made his home here in 1925, adding the rear section that year, and lived here until 1966.

Since then, the house has survived the threat of demolition and has been the home of the Ypsilanti Board of Education, Ypsilanti Chamber of commerce and an in-house catering and conference center. It was later purchased by local preservation architect, Elisabeth Knibbe, for for use as her office. It was later separated into three units and sold as condos. Today the condos are owned by the law offices of Roberts and Freatman, Delrhea Byrge and John Rutherford & Rachel Cheng.

The Ballard-Breakey stands as one of the notable homes in the area and is listed in The Historic American Buildings Survey of 1936, Rexford Newcomb's Architecture of the Old Northwest and is considered a contributing home in the National Register of Historic Places.



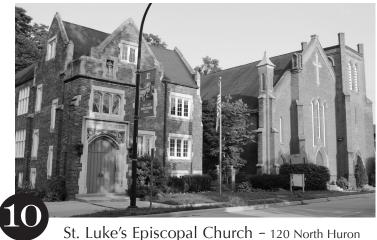
Watling House - 121 North Huron Doug and Mary Kisor

Doug and Mary Kisor's spectacular Italian Villa home was only sometimes a place that Ypsilantians looked forward to visiting. It was the home and office of Dr. John Andrees Watling and his spouse, Eunice Robinson Wright. Dr. Watling was a Professor at the University of Michigan and one of the founding members of the U of M Dental College. He was the first college-educated dentist to practice in Michigan in an era when few dentists had formal training. He graduated from the Ohio College of Dental Surgery in Cincinnati in 1860. Following graduation, he returned to Ypsilanti to set up his practice and married his wife, Eunice. Built-in 1871, the home may also have been used as his dental office before relocating his practice to 119 N. Huron.

Eunice Watling was active in the Ypsilanti Community, starting a movement to found a public library. In 1878 she helped found the Ladies Literary Club and hosted the first meeting of the local Daughters of the American Revolution at their home.

The home is an example of the Italian Villa style of architecture inspired by the villas of Tuscany. A tower, or campanile, and an irregular asymmetrical floor plan characterize the style. The home demonstrates key characteristics of the form. This example includes overhanging bracketed eaves, asymmetry, arched-topped windows, and door openings. A casket door in the living room's east wall led to a side porch. The dining room has parquet floors of walnut, oak, and cherry. A curved stair in the tower entry accesses the second floor. The tower used as a greenhouse in the winter is accessed using a ladder. Initially, a narrow second stairway existed off the dining room.

Modifications removed many of the home's architectural features. Examples of these lost details are evident in the photos on display.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church – 120 North Huron Rev. Taylor Vines-Lowe

The church was founded as St. James's Church in 1830, it reorganized as St. Luke's in 1837. It was one of the six founding parishes of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan. The congregation acquired the North Huron Street property in 1837 and the current church was designed by Anderson & Jordan of Detroit and built in 1858 at a cost of \$15,000.

It is one of the oldest Gothic Revival churches in Michigan, a style that was popular in Ypsilanti from 1830 to 1870. Gothic features include the pointed arches over the entrance, the steep pitched roof and the rectangular shapes. It is built of soft "Chicago" red brick. Exterior architectural elements which appear to be stone are brick, coated with mortar. In 1928, the Church House, designed by Lancelot Sukert of the Detroit Scarab Club, was added, at a cost of \$71,000. The Parish House was added in 1956 and provided office space, classroom, meeting space and a kitchen.

The Church sanctuary includes many features that were provided in memory of its members. The choir stalls, rails and brass gate were installed in 1916 in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Quirk. Many of the stained glass windows, a highlight of the sanctuary, were also memorials. They include: The Quirk Window, over the altar, in memory of Julia Trowbridge Quirk; the Gilbert Window, in memory of Alice H. Gilbert; the Towner Window in memory of the Towner family who resided at 303 North Huron, and the Watling Window, in memory of John Andrews Watling and Eunice Wright Watling.

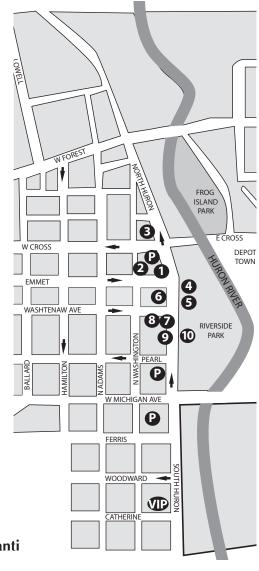
Over the years, the church has enjoyed a close relationship with Eastern Michigan University. Native American leader, Andrew Blackbird worshipped at St. Luke's when he was a student. In the 1880s, University president John Mahelm Barry Sill ministered to the congregation, donating the communion table that is still used to this day.

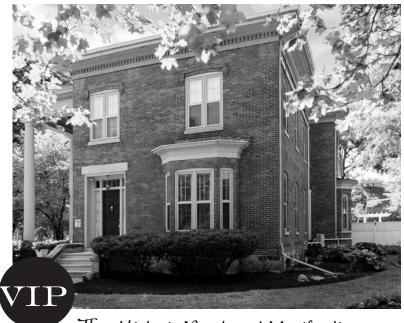
For almost 200 years, St. Luke's has been a vital part of the Ypsilanti community. They are rightfully proud of their history and their conservation of the church building. They are also proud of their progressiveness and inclusiveness ordaining women as clergy and the first to ordain openly gay people as bishops. "These doors are open to all!"

## YOUR GUIDE TO THE TOUR

- 1.**Towner House** 303 N. Huron registration & tour
- 2. First Presbyterian
  Church
  300 N. Washington
  pipe organ concert
  12-1 and tour
- 3.**Josh & Hannah McCready**411 N. Huron
- 4. **Asa Dow House**Ypsilanti Historical
  Society
  220 N. Huron
- 5. **Cheryl Farmer** 214 N. Huron
- 6. John & Pattie Harrington 209 N. Huron
- 7. **Roberts & Freatman** 125 N. Huron
- 8. **Delrhea Byrge** 101A Washtenaw
- 9. **Doug & Mary Kisor** 121 N. Huron
- 10. **St. Luke's Episcopal Church**120 N. Huron
  VIP

The Newton of Ypsilanti 220 S. Huron





The Historic Newton of Ypsilanti 220 South Huron

#### Allison Anastasio & Chuck Bultman

For our VIP after-site, we are excited to offer the talents and hospitality of Chef Allison Anastasio along with her co-owner Chuck. Sit back and enjoy the ambiance of the garden courtyard at the Newton as Chef Allison and her staff provide a special bicenntenial cocktail/mocktail and light snacks while you relax after the tour. As an added feature local musicians and art will be in the garden for your enjoyment. In order to provide the best service possible, the Inn will not be available to tour inside. We hope to share the Inn as a tour home in the future. The "Historic Inn and Gathering Place" has three suites available for overnight stays and also offers opportunities both public and private events. For more information regarding the offerings at the Inn visit their website at www.thenewtonofypsilanti.com and social media at @thenewtonofypsi.

#### History of the Inn

This circa 1870 Victorian Italianate house was built by H. P. Glover for Samuel Barnard, vice president of Ypsilanti's Peninsular Paper Company. Charles Newton, chief buyer for Henry Ford's Greenfield Village, owned the house from the late 1920s into the 1940s. Newton changed the exterior, adding Roman Doric columns, and its current style now veers toward classical revival. Newton also installed an authentic early-eighteenth century Connecticut kitchen and tavern in the basement. Henry Ford visited the house many times.

#### ARCHITECTURAL GLOSSARY

ARCHITRAVE: essentially a formal-

ized beam or lintel, it is the lowest of the three main parts of an entablature

BALUSTER: upright support in a balustrade; it may be a square, circular, turned or an ornamented bar or rod, very small in thickness as in a stair balustrade; it can be miniature columns or it can

as in a stair balustrade; it can be miniature columns or it can be bellied, bulb-type column with base, shaft and capital.

**CAPITAL:** head or topmost member of a collonette, column, pilaster, pier, etc..,

defined by distinct architectural treatment and often ornamented

**CARTOUCHE:** carved element resembling a sheet of parchment with its ends or corners rolled usually carrying an inscription.

**CASEMENT:** window frame, hinged to pivot and hung vertically.

**CORBEL:** projection from the face of the wall, consisting of a block built into the wall, supporting any super incumbent load such as and arch, beam, parapet, truss.

CORINTHIAN COLUMN: one of three

Greek columns, distinguished by a bell-shaped capital with rows of acanthus leaves and a continuous frieze.

**CORNICE**: crowning,

projecting molded horizontal top of a building or some part of a building such as a pedestal, wall or column.

**CUPOLA:** a dome of relatively small size, especially when forming part of a minor or decorative element of a larger building.

**DENTIL:** small block forming one of a long horizontal series, closely set, under cornices.

DORIC COLUMN: one of three Greek columns,
distinguished by low proportions, a shaft without
a base

-DORMER: projecting framed structure, set

vertically on the rafters of a pitched roof with its own roof, sides and

window set vertically in the front.

ENTABLATURE:

horizontal mass of material carried on

columns and pilasters. (see Architrave)

**EYEBROW:** a low dormer, with no sides, on a pitched roof, with a curved

front roof line.

**FACADE:** external face of a building, especially the front.

FANLIGHT: glazed light (glass) over a door, often with a semi-circular or other type of curved

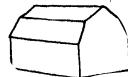
top, with radiating glazing bars suggesting the shape of an open fan.

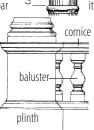
**FRIEZE:** a horizontal area, plain or decorated, below the cornice and above the picture rail on a wall or the architrave (lintel or beam) on a column, window or entry.

GABLE: the end of a ridged roof cut off at its extremity in a vertical plane together with the

triangular expanse of wall from the level of the eaves to the apex of the roof.

**GAMBREL ROOF:** a roof whose ends are cut off in a vertical plane and whose sides have two slopes.



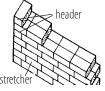


ARCHITRAVE FRIEZE CORNICE



**GROTESQUE:** a decorative work, fantastic in the shaping and combination of forms, combining human and animal figures with scrolls.

**HEADERS AND STRETCHERS:** a header is a brick laid with its longer dimension



buried within the wall the smaller face exposed; a stretcher is a brick laid with its longer dimension

exposed and the smaller face abutting the next brick.
HIP ROOF: a roof with sloping ends and sides.
IONIC COLUMN: one of three Greek columns, distinguished by its

Greek columns, distinguished by its slender proportions and the distinctive volutes (spiral scroll-like

ornament) on its capitals.

**LIGHT:** aperture through which daylight may pass, such as a pane or panes of glass.

**LINTEL:** beam over an aperture (e.g., door, window) carrying the wall above and spanning between the iambs.

#### MANSARD ROOF:

a form of roof, the lower slope of which

approaches the vertical

and usually contains dormer windows, while the upper slope is nearly flat.

MODILLION: one of a series of ornamental blocks, larger than a dentil, or modillion brackets placed under a cornice on a

brackets placed under a comice of column or building.

**MULLION:** most commonly a glazing bar in a window sash (narrow pieces separating panes of glass in windows).

**ORIEL:** a large bay window protruding from the naked wall on an upper story.

#### PALLADIAN WINDOW:

tripartite window, consisting of a central opening with a semi-circular arch over it, springing from horizontal bars supported by two



columns or pilasters, flanking narrower flat top openings on either side. (Doors or blind architectural features may also have the Palladian motif.)

PARAPET: low wall or barrier at the edge of a balcony, bridge, roof, terrace or anywhere there is a drop and therefore a danger of persons falling.

PORT-COCHERE: doorway to a house or court,

**PORT-COCHERE:** doorway to a house or court, often very grand, large enough to permit wheeled vehicles to enter from the street.

PEDIMENT: low pitched triangular gable, following the roof slopes over a portico or facade, formed with angle cornices (often found over



main entries, dormers and windows).

**PILASTER:** a faux column, flat not circular, attached to a wall from which it projects only slightly. A pilaster serves no structural purpose and is used for architectural decorative reasons.

**PORTICO:** any covered area where one may walk or walk through, consisting of a series of columns at regular intervals supporting a roof, normally attached as a colonnaded porch to a building but sometimes forming a separate structure.

**QUOIN:** one of the dressed stones used to dress and strengthen the corner of a building.

**SIDE LIGHT:** small narrow window set to the side of a door or window.

TUSCAN COLUMN: pertaining to the classical (Roman or Renaissance) order with a plain (not fluted) column, a ring-shaped capital and a frieze resembling the Doric.

VERGEBOARDS (a.k.a.

bargeboards): decorative trim making an inverted V beneath the eaves of steep gables.

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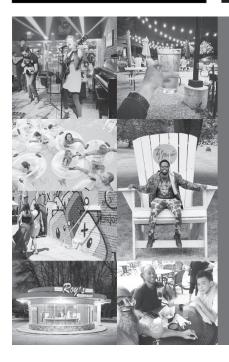
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#### THANK YOU

Our sincere thanks to . . .

- Our homeowners, business owners, and volunteer guides.
- Norton's Flowers & Gifts, for their annual support of the tour, providing stunning and unique floral arrangements for the properties on today's tour. www.nortonsflowers.com
- Rosy Dawn Gardens owned by the Quackenbush family for supplying the beautiful coleus plants to the tour homes. rosydawngardens.com
- The Newton of Ypsilanti for hosting the VIP event.
- John Harrington for his photography.
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- Pattie Harrington for coordinating the printing of promotional materials and the design of the tour book.
- A special thanks to Clifford Larkins for his very generous donation of \$1000 to the Towner House Foundation. In memory of the late Jack Harris and his preservation efforts in Ypsilanti.

#### HOME TOUR COMMITTEE

**Tour Committee:** Jan Arps-Prundeanu

Pattie Harrington Delrhea Byrge Stephan Szumko Ruth DuFresne

**Chief Tour Guides:** Jan Arps-Prundeanu

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