

Heritage News

Heritage News is the newsletter of the YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION. It is published five times a year: September, November, January, March and May; and distributed, free of charge, to the membership by mail, and made available to the public at City Hall, Farmers' Market, and various business locations in the three business districts in the City.

JANUARY 1987

YPSILANTI, MI

- MEETING:** Tuesday, January 27, 1987 - 7:30 pm
- LOCATION:** The Coffee Shop, The Freight House Market Depot Town, Ypsilanti
- PROGRAM:** HOW TO GLUE A CHAIR, and other Chair Care talk
- SPEAKER:** David Saffer, Owner,
Old Brick Quality Refinishing, Ann Arbor

Who doesn't have an old chair - in the kitchen, the attic, the basement - that needs repair? Some of us, indeed, have far too many of them. We think we'll get rid of them - in a yard sale, perhaps, or just leave them on the margin for the trashman; but some romantic notion restrains us. "Got to get rid of these chairs", we say - but don't really mean it. Some have been around so long we've grown attached to them; others have stories attached to them - and we can't let go of the memories.

If you're a chair saver, this month's Heritage Foundation program is for you! Dave Saffer, an expert in putting furniture back together, no matter what the devastation, has agreed to come and talk with us - in a KIND OF SHOW AND TELL DEMONSTRATION - about the proper way to glue a chair - and perhaps make other repairs, as well. Individual questions will be welcomed.

THIS WILL BE A SHORT, UNCOMPLICATED PROGRAM, MOST ASSUREDLY WELL UNDER AN HOUR!

Incidentally, Dave used to teach in the English Department at EMU. With an M.A. from Wisconsin and all the credits for a Ph.D. except the dissertation, he decided to give it up and work with his hands. He considers one of the luckiest periods of his life the time he became owner of his own refinishing business, buying out Old Brick Antiques. Since then, he has never looked back - and you can find him daily in his shop at 500 Detroit, just across the side street from Zingerman's.

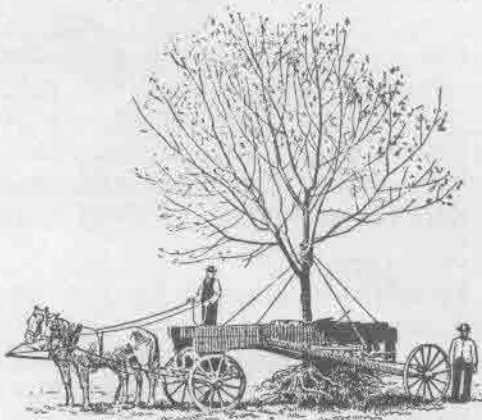
A SHORT BUSINESS MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS
will precede Dave's presentation, and ...

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED!

Join us - no charge! - and BRING A FRIEND!

DOWNTOWN ENTRANCES TO BE SPRUCED (JUNIPERED, HAWTHORNED?) UP!

All signals are "GO", come April this year, as downtown entrances get a face lift. W. J. Johnson Associates of Ann Arbor have designed new signage, logo, and - most important and impressive - landscaping at the three crucial entrances to downtown Ypsilanti. At the west entry at Michigan and Adams, there will be plantings of dwarf red-leaf dogwood, honey locusts, and juniper, with raised flower beds, both sides, in front of our library. The community fountain, too, will become the focus of a semicircular seating area, with plantings, including flowering pears and yew.



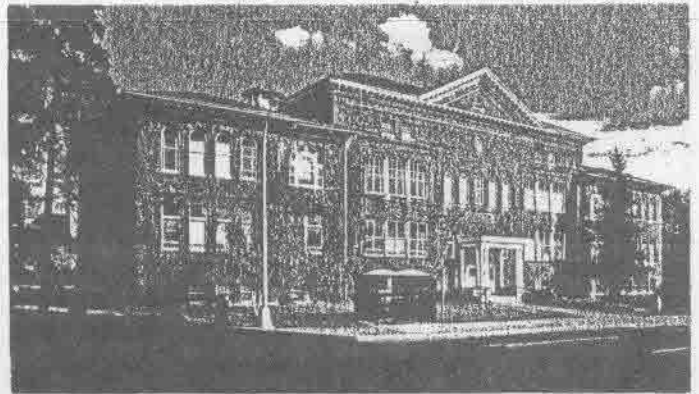
Another planting of trees, flowers, and shrubs will hide the raw parking now seen at the corner of South Huron and Ferris. Finally, the eastern gateway, the river's edge at the Mainstreet Restaurant and Materials Unlimited, will make a much stronger statement announcing your arrival in Historic Downtown Ypsilanti. There will be ground lighting of all the colorful plants and signage, welcoming you to downtown. Maintenance of these plantings will be subcontracted out to a professional firm. Sue Mosey at the Main Street office, 7 South Washington, has the plans for anyone's perusal. Thanks, Sue! ♦

CALL YOUR EDITOR! Items of interest you wish to see in the HERITAGE NEWS, call:

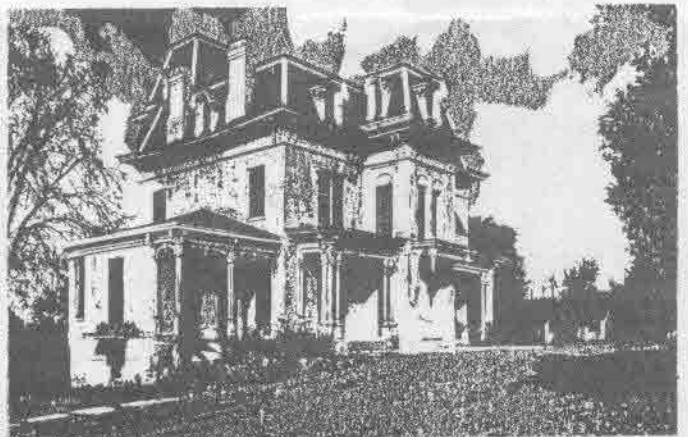
JACK HARRIS, Editor, 485-2155,
or send them, or write him at
510 Pearl, Ypsilanti, MI 48197.

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS, BOTH GREAT AND SMALL, TO ANTICIPATE IN 1987:

■ The miracle on West Cross Street: the rehabilitation of WELCH HALL. There's already a dumpster beside an open window on the west side of that venerable landmark! Louis G. Redstone & Associates of Livonia, who have done notable projects of this kind, have been selected as architects, with Ypsilanti architect Denis Schmiedeke as restoration consultant.



YHF's old friend, Jim Westfall, writes from his home in Florida that he's "glad to read that Welch Hall is to be rehabilitated. I went through the grades there - then went to Ypsi High". Wonder how many others have similar memories. Suggestion: let's have a reunion party and celebration upon completion of the Welch Hall project!



■ The GILBERT HOUSE on North Grove will also soon be the site of mighty action from the Brothers White, restorers of historic properties. (continued next page)

After five years of efforts to market the property and many more years of community efforts to save the building, the City has signed an agreement with the Whites, who are two mighty hardworking guys. Neighborhood folk will find them always there with ready smiles and friendly greetings as they proceed with their monumental task. We all owe those in City Hall, and everyone else concerned with the project, a BIG THANK YOU for the hard work and cooperation in getting this difficult project off the ground before that East Side landmark sank into the ground. Wonder of wonders - let's watch it happen it '87!

What more could we ask for in the way of Preservation Pleasures to look forward to in 1987?

■ Well, Sue Dickinson confides that the situation has never looked so promising for a breakthrough in the Rehabilitation-of-the-Depot Dream. Let's "Keep Everything Crossed", think positive, and rally behind our City in its commitment to transform the Impossible Dream into a LIVING reality! ♦

MORE GOOD THINGS IN THE OFFING...

■ The campaign is on right now at EMU to fund the building of the Martin Luther King Memorial Garden between Boone and Welch Halls, essentially where the historic fountain used to stand. Ypsilanti's liberal tradition, stretching back before the Civil War and crossing all political parties, will find a fitting statement in this proposed tribute to the great leader.

■ Let's anticipate another Festival of Lights in Riverside Park to make those longest evenings of 1987 sparkle with joy in Ypsilanti, an encore of this past year's stunning success!

■ A new Paint Technology Center, replacing the present one in Chicago, is now under construction at the SE corner of EMU's campus at Forest and Lowell. Let's welcome all those new staff members coming from the Windy City to the City of Lights!

■ Let's also anticipate the completion of the new water system in the city, the reconstruction of torn up streets and sidewalks, and an improved service all around.

■ Let's urge the City to consider those vacant lots spotted here and there around town and urge the powers that be to make a more concerted effort to save the best of the buildings that might otherwise be lost, either by keeping them intact and in place (our first choice) or by moving them to new sites. We have seen too many unfortunate demolitions in recent years. Let's reverse this pattern in 1987!

■ In a stunningly appropriate way, EMU will celebrate Michigan's Sesquicentennial by moving onto the campus and restoring a one room schoolhouse. It will be rehabilitated to serve as a museum of education for the oldest teachers' college west of the Alleghenies! Congratulations, EMU, and thank you!

■ Let's all work harder toward the 1987 Heritage Festival, one worthy to complement the State's Sesquicentennial Celebration.

MAKE 1987

ANOTHER YEAR OF PROGRESS IN YPSILANTI !

MARK YOUR CALENDAR & VOTE in the PRIMARY

FEBRUARY 16

The Heritage Foundation is not a political action group. Expect no official endorsement of candidates in the present race for mayor of Ypsilanti or the election of Council members. The Foundation is, rather, an educational group dedicated to historic preservation as it will best promote and enhance the welfare of the citizens of Ypsilanti. We do urge you, however, to:

CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE CANDIDATES

and

WHAT THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS,

and

THEIR POSITIONS on HISTORIC PRESERVATION

have been, and

VOTE YOUR CONSCIENCE!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IN THE YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation, founded in 1974, is a non-profit organization devoted to education about, and support of, Ypsilanti's historic resources.

Membership is \$3 for students and senior citizens, \$10 for individuals, and \$15 for families.

Please send your check, payable to the YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION, to:

MARY WARNER, Treasurer

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
510 Roosevelt
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION □ 510 Pearl □ Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

TO:

some
TREASURES
OF
YPSILANTI

sketches
by

Denis Schmiedeke



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MARCH 1987

YPSILANTI, MI

- MEETING : Tuesday, March 24, 1987 - 7:30 pm
LOCATION : The Coffee Shop, the Freight House
Depot Town, Ypsilanti
PROGRAM : PAINT, Its Evolution and Uses
SPEAKER : John A. Gordon, Director
Center for Coating Technology
Eastern Michigan University

PLANNING TO PAINT YOUR HOUSE OR BUILDING THIS SUMMER?
DOING A LITTLE SPRING REDECORATING?
WANT SOME INSPIRATION - AND EXPERT ADVICE? FREE?

This may be just the program you're looking for. Mr. Gordon is certainly an expert on the subject of paints. He comes to us with fifty years' experience in the paint business - in Berkeley and San Francisco, as well as working at Monsanto in Springfield, Massachusetts, and elsewhere across the country. When he retired in 1978, he accepted a teaching position in paint technology at the University of Missouri and, from there - to our good fortune - he came to Eastern Michigan.

JOHN GORDON KNOWS HIS SUBJECT - and he will talk with us in layman's terms about paints, their evolution from lead and oil base to the modern alternatives, what to look for and expect, the pitfalls, the reasons why one paint is better than another, and when. He will use slides to illustrate. If you have QUESTIONS, bring them!

In addition, just for fun, we will have color charts for those who haven't decided what colors to select for their next project and want some friendly advice. Bring your own charts, too, if you have them. Let's fire ourselves up for spring redecorating!

BRING A FRIEND, or three or four!

This should be a pleasant, informal, fun, but INSTRUCTIVE MEETING!

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Refreshments will be served.

YPSILANTI IS MAKING IT HAPPEN... THIS YEAR!

■ **HURON RIVER CORRIDOR FOOT BRIDGE.** Sue Dickinson, City Economic Development Specialist, reports the designs for a pedestrian bridge under the Michigan Avenue bridge, over the Huron, are underway, with April funding possible. And, why not? Why shouldn't the mighty Huron be fully accessible for public pleasure, as are so many riverfront developments in other Michigan cities and towns? Keep onto it, Sue!



■ **FOUR STAR RESTAURANT IN DEPOT TOWN?** That's what Sue Dickinson expects, when plans are finalized for the rehabilitation of Depot Town's namesake, the depot itself. Developers are negotiating with Amtrak and have executed a purchase agreement, with the help of Rep. William Ford, D-Taylor. Now the plan is to spend about two months designing the restaurant, taking care that they meet all the certification requirements of state authorities. Then, they will meet with the local Historic District Commission to review plans for the exterior. Wouldn't that be the cat's meow for Depot Town (and all Ypsilanti?). There'll be dancing in the streets down there if that becomes a reality during the state's sesquicentennial year! Realistically, however, preparation of construction plans and specifications, their approvals, and construction will stretch it well into next year at the extreme earliest.



■ **GILBERT HOUSE RENOVATION IN SIGHT.** Steve White, one of the brothers who worked out an agreement with the City to convert the Gilbert Mansion into luxury apartments, spoke with enthusiasm with Sue Dickinson recently about the progress they were making in their design plans for the building. They are hoping that work will be underway by the 1st of April! We hope so, too, guys: you have wide community support in this all-but-impossible dream! ♦

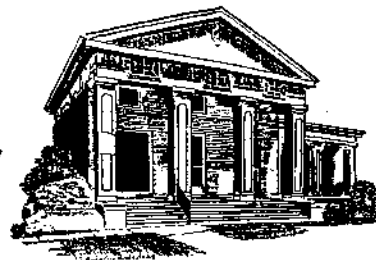
IT JUST HAPPENED IN YPSILANTI... THIS YEAR!

■ **NEW APPOINTMENTS TO YPSILANTI HDC.** With the retirements of Jack Harris and Scott Diels, two new appointments to the Ypsilanti Historic District Commission have been made by Mayor Murdock and approved by City Council. Historic District resident and preservationist carpenter, Barry LaRue, replaces Harris. Harry Terpstra, architect and Yankee Air Force enthusiast, replaces Diels. A warm welcome to them both, and much gratitude to Scott, whose quiet competence was so valuable and to Jack, an original member of the Commission, who served ably as vice-chair for nine years, will be sorely missed.

■ **YPSILANTI ON COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION.** Denis Schmiedeke, Ypsilanti architect, was recently appointed to the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission, was immediately elected Vice-Chairman, and is heading efforts in the design and production of metallic markers for significant historic structures in those areas of the county outside of incorporated towns and villages in the county.

■ **MASONIC TEMPLE SOLD TO MATERIALS UNLIMITED.** Reynold Lowe, owner of MATERIALS UNLIMITED, has purchased the vacated Masonic Temple on North Huron at the foot of Pearl and will use it for overflow of his ever expanding antiques and architectural supplies house. Who more than Reynold keeps the name of Ypsilanti in the eyes and ears of the public, both regionally and nationally? Bravo for Lowe, the Temple building, and Ypsilanti!

■ **BUILDINGS OF YPSILANTI, a sesquicentennial overview,** written by Denis Schmiedeke,



is the title of a copyrighted, limited edition manuscript of Ypsilanti architecture prepared for a volume to be entitled Buildings of Michigan which will become a component to a series of some 70 volumes entitled Buildings of the United States. This monumental undertaking is co-sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Society of Architectural Historians, and the Oxford University Press of the USA. The Michigan volume is one of the first five titles scheduled for publication and will be compiled by the Bureau of History, Michigan Department of State, and other specialists in the architectural history of the state.

The Ypsilanti material comprises descriptions and histories of some 50 buildings. In addition to the buildings, historical digests are included on Highland Cemetery and EMU, as well as the city. Not all of the material will be included in the Buildings of Michigan.

The selection of buildings was based on such criteria as state of repair, integrity of style, ownership by prominent citizens, harmonious composition of several styles, or on the uniqueness of non-buildings, such as the Water Tower and the Cross Street Replacement Bridge. Badly deteriorated structures, those under current rehabilitation, and those missing significant architectural elements basic to their style were not considered. Correspondingly, those having inappropriate additions, modifications, or questionable interpretive alterations to accommodate new uses were also omitted.

(continued on next page)

Only existing structures are included. Some of the most spectacular ever built in the community have long been lost to natural disasters, fires, the wrecking ball, and insensitive "progress." What is included, however, portrays a dramatic account, chronological in order by locale, of the architectural design evolution for more than 150 years in the community.

A copy is on reserve at the Ypsilanti Historical Museum and the archives of EMU. Later, copies will be made available at the Ypsilanti Library and the Bentley Historical Collections on the Campus of the University of Michigan. ◊

MEANWHILE... THINGS ARE HAPPENING UP AT EMU, TOO!

■ **ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE UPDATE.** Hear ye! Hear ye! All those who remember, as does your editor, those early years attending the one room school, TAKE NOTE! All those who missed such a formative experience, we'll forgive you, yet HARKEN! EMU's long-standing goal to set up a one room school on the campus is about to become a reality. In fact, it will be Eastern's contribution to Michigan's Sesquicentennial Celebration.

In fact, the University has committed itself to the relocating of the old Geddes School on Morgan Road to somewhere on the central campus, site yet to be decided.

Dean Rockwell chairs the project. It has been his dream for a long while and is now doing his best to make it a reality. He has the support of the President, Mrs. Porter as Vice-Chair, along with Rich Baird. The project, however, once established, must survive on its own, supported by outside funding.

Dr. Scott Westerman, Dean of the College of Education, is also a member of the working committee. He sees it as an important adjunct to the teaching of the history of education and an important visual symbol of Eastern's tradition for excellence in that field.

Dr. Judy Williston, our Foundation Refreshments Chair and Director of Child Development at Eastern, is also an enthusiastic member, working out practical uses of it.

Mat Edmunds, Jack Harris, Scott Diels, and Dan Klenczar of Eastern's Planning and Development office, all serve on the Restoration Sub-committee, set up to protect the fabric of the building.

The structure represents a perfect example of the one room school in Michigan: clapboard with cut-stone foundation; three windows evenly spaced, on either side; centered front porch with turned posts and brackets with one simple star cut into each; a corbeled brick chimney near the back of the gable; a belfry (delapidated but restorable); and a wooden flag pole at the front edge of the gable - the flag obviously let up and down each day from a pulley attached to the front porch.

Lest we forget - the school will be an immediate, daily reminder to students and staff alike of our proud history in the field of education. It should prove a forceful tool in creating awareness of time and place, and a living teaching aid for students who will use it.

Fundraising and community support are a major concern and will continue to be until the project is fully established. Anyone who finds that this project strikes a chord of sympathy, anyone who feels that it will contribute to Ypsilanti's long-established reputation as a center for quality education, as the place which for decades sent out well-qualified young people to teach in the one room schoolhouses of Michigan and elsewhere, should think seriously about supporting THIS PROJECT.

Funding drives will soon be underway. Anyone wishing to contribute can address checks to the Development Office at Eastern, specifying that the money is for the One Room Schoolhouse Restoration Project. Also, anyone interested is welcome to attend the next committee meeting, Saturday, March 21, at 9:00 am, McKenny Union.

■ **STARKWEATHER'S NEW HANDICAP RAMP TRIUMPH OF DESIGN & CRAFTSMANSHIP.** Looking for a pleasant spring walk? Hike up to EMU's Historic District (the popular hangout for students on sun-filled days) and take a good look at the handsome new handicap access ramp that extends from the new front porch around the tower and down in the direction of Sherzer Hall. A newcomer to campus would hardly guess that anything has recently been added to the building, so well does the project blend into the original. Dan Klenczar at the Physical Plant reports that the stone (to exactly match existing) had to be 'imported' from Minnesota, but the pointing was done by a local craftsman, who matched the original pointing to perfection. Congratulations to all those involved in this essential project, proof that such a necessity can be an attraction, rather than a detraction. EMU, BE PROUD!

■ **WELCH HALL REHABILITATION, UPDATE.** As we reported in our last issue, Louis G. Redstone and Associates of Livonia have been selected as the architectural firm to rehabilitate Welch Hall. Some shoring up has been done, but the University is proceeding cautiously: since the project is federally funded, they intend to be very careful to have all plans fully approved before any major work begins. BE PATIENT! ◊

OTHER HAPPENINGS BEYOND TOWN AND CAMPUS...

■ **THE WRIGHT PEOPLE,** April 9-12, is the name of a symposium and festival celebrating the clients of Frank Lloyd Wright and the manufacturers of his designs, which will be held in Ann Arbor at the Rackham Building and at Domino's Farms.

Hosted by the College of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Michigan in conjunction with Domino's Pizza, Inc., the conference is made possible by the generosity of Thomas S. Monaghan, a lifelong disciple of Frank Lloyd Wright and owner of Domino's Pizza.

During the course of his independent career of over sixty-six years, Frank Lloyd Wright was helped enormously by a large number of perceptive and far-seeing clients, and worked closely with several prominent manufacturers, for whom he produced important designs.

This conference will bring together important residential clients and representatives of firms which commissioned him to design textiles and furniture. Both individuals and companies will discuss how they came to commission Wright and their relationships with him.

Among the clients will be Mr. & Mrs. William Palmer, of Ann Arbor; Edgar Kaufman, Jr., former owner of the world famous "FALLINGWATER," in Pennsylvania; and Steelcase, Inc., the company that fabricated the original furniture in the Johnson Wax World Headquarters in Racine, Wisconsin, and now restoring the Meyer May House in Grand Rapids.

The keynote speaker will be Vincent Scully, Jr. (Sterling professor of Art History, Yale University, and Wright authority) on Friday night at 8:00pm and will be open to the public.

In view of the current wave of interest in Frank Lloyd Wright, this conference should be of great interest to many, including the public at large.

Other program particulars may be obtained from the University of Michigan Extension Service, 764-5306.

■ **GRAND RAPIDS,** Saturday, May 16th, will be the scene of the Spring Meeting of the SAARINEN (Michigan) CHAPTER of the Society of Architectural Historians. Heritage Hill sites and the Meyer May House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1908, now nearing completion of its million dollar restoration by the Steelcase Corporation, will be the highlights of the spring fling. ◊

HERITAGE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCEMENTS...

■ MEMBERSHIP IN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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Membership is \$3 for students and senior citizens, \$10 for individuals, and \$15 for families.

Please send your check, payable to YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION, and mail it to:

Mary Warner
Secretary/Treasurer
510 Roosevelt
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

■ CALENDAR SALE!

The Heritage Foundation Engagement Calendar for 1987 has gone on sale! Price cut in half - from \$4 to \$2 - for this collector's item: THE TOWERS OF YPSILANTI, a series of photographs and descriptions of historical backgrounds and architectural features by architect and Heritage Foundation Board member, Denis Schmiedeke. Order yours today. Call 485-2155 or 482-1071.

■ ARCHITECTURAL GUIDES & SOUVENIRS MORE AVAILABLE

Penny Schreiber, new Heritage Foundation Board member, has secured new outlets for the Foundation's Guide to Ypsilanti Historic Architecture and its reproduction of a late nineteenth century Souvenir of the city. Border's Books in Ann Arbor now has them both, as well as many new locations in downtown Ypsilanti, Depot Town and the Cross Street business district. Look for them! They are both bargains! GUIDES \$1.50, SOUVENIRS \$2.

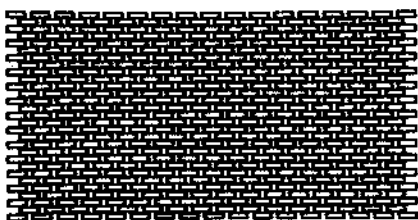
SOME THOUGHTS TO PRESERVE BY...

- Aluminum is better at wrapping food than wrapping houses.
- Attics save history.
- Wide streets in small towns are memorials to great expectations.
- If you wish to preserve a bit of nature, you simply leave it alone. If you want to preserve an old building, your work has just begun.
- Cultural continuity is not an ideal---it is an imperative.
- Vacant buildings are unfair game.
- Church bells must have made a memorable sound when civilization made no roar.
- Someone should make a study of the buildings you never look at.
- Architectural detail was developed in the days when people walked, or rode in horse drawn carriages.

- How does one determine when maintenance isn't prevention?
- The only townhouse most people can afford is in the country.
- Steeples uplift peoples.
- Through preservation, history has been raised to an environmental force.
- Professional historians and amateur historians seldom talk to each other.
- The facts of history without the lessons are only curiosities.
- Barns are barometers.
- When we favor a change, we call it development. When we don't, we call it change for change's sake.
- Given enough time, "old and worn out" becomes "historic and in need of restoration."
- Many people spend their lives looking for a hometown.

THE YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION

510 Pearl □ Ypsilanti, MI 48197



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May 1987

* * * * *

Ypsilanti, Michigan

MEETING: Wednesday, May 27, 1987 - 6:30 pm

SPECIAL EVENT: 6th ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET
13th HISTORIC STRUCTURE MARKER AWARDS PROGRAM

LOCATION: LADIES' LITERARY CLUB, 218 N. Washington

SPRING, and it's time to celebrate! After a long, mild winter (but depressing in Ypsilanti, with streets torn up with city projects and the resultant dust and dirt everywhere), it's time again to show appreciation by awarding Historic Structure Markers to those property owners who have dedicated themselves to maintaining or restoring their properties.

Don Randazzo, Chairperson, and his Marker Committee members, Bill Nickels, Jane Bird, and Denis Schmiedeke, have reviewed a long list of prospective properties for their architectural merits and maintenance standards. Maintenance is essential if a building is to survive, and the committee has been at pains to select those properties where continued maintenance has been in evidence. After careful consideration, they have presented the Heritage Foundation Board of Directors with a list of eight finalists to receive awards this year. The Board has approved, and the owners have agreed to receive markers under conditions laid down by the Foundation.

For the OWNER, then, the marker is a **BIG THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE**: for others, especially visitors to Ypsilanti, it says: **WE KNOW WE HAVE SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF!**

NOW, don't miss this most pleasant of evenings: a spring banquet in one of Ypsilanti's most historic structures, with a variety of luscious dishes laid out on the long table in the dining room. Guests will fill their plates and gather in the front room for dinner and a short program. **NO BUSINESS MEETING**, no speaker - just presentation of the Awards and slides of the eight properties.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND, MEMBER OR NOT, and you haven't as yet been called, simply pick up the phone and call our Banquet Chairperson, Dr. Judith Williston, 483-1347, and suggest what you might bring.

(Marker recipients are **NOT**, of course, expected to bring a dish, since they are our honored guests.

The OWNERS of the following properties will be awarded Historic Structure Markers and will be our very special GUESTS OF HONOR, Wednesday, May 27, 1987:

ROBERT & SUZANNE CARR,
for their residence at
1119 WEST CROSS
Built: 1926
Style: Colonial Revival

THOMAS JAMES,
for his house at
321 EAST CROSS
Built: c. 1860
Style: Carpenter Gothic

SCOTT & MARY KAY RILEY,
for their residence at
313 EAST CROSS
Built: c. 1885
Style: Queen Anne

BARRY & DIANE LARUE,
for their house at
427 NORTH HAMILTON
Built: c. 1885
Style: Queen Anne

ROSEMARY BENNETT,
for her residence at
514 FAIRVIEW
Built: 1932
Style: Period Tudor

CHRISTOPHER & LYNNE KOCHMANSKI
for their house at
916 GRANT
Built: 1927
Style: Bungalow

JACK HARRIS,
for his house at
111 PERRIN
Built: c. 1860
Style: Carpenter Gothic

YPSILANTI COMMUNITY UTILITIES AUTHORITY
for THE WATER TOWER at
the junction of Summit, Cross and
Washtenaw
Built: 1889

EMU ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE PROJECT MOVES TOWARD ITS GOAL!

Greg Schupra, Coordinator of Planned Giving, Office of Development, reports that plans are progressing nicely toward the move and renovation of the Geddes Town Hall School to the campus as Eastern's project for the Michigan Sesquicentennial, 1987. Several sites have been identified and a final decision will soon be made about placement of the building as an interpretive center for students, school children, and community groups.

Many universities around the country have already ongoing programs using a one room schoolhouse. Central Michigan University and Bowling Green University of Ohio both have school buildings set up on campus for educational uses.

Mr. Schupra reports that financial commitments are being sought, with a total goal for moving and restoration set at \$95,000. Anyone wishing to participate should call Mr. Schupra at 487-0252, or send contributions to the One Room School Project, Office of Development, 212 McKenny Union, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, 48197.

NEWS FROM THE HISTORICAL MUSEUM...

Since May is the month when many school children visit the Museum, a display of old school books and other materials from former school days is on display. Among the articles is a wooden pencil box, an abacus, a slate and slate pencil, as well as some games that might have been played. One case contains doll furniture from the 1860s and another has doll dishes and small souvenir spoons.

Some members of the Administration Committee made and delivered May baskets filled with flowers to the Gilbert Residence, much to the surprise and delight of the residents.

The Lewis House at 415 N. Huron has been restored, cleaned and painted in the areas which were damaged by the fire last year. Guests are welcome to visit, by appointment. The house was built in 1856 in the Italianate style, which was popular from 1840 to 1880. Not only is the architecture of interest, but the house contains items of furniture collected and used by the Mrs. H. B. Lewis family, who purchased the house in 1905.

...Doris Milliman, City Historian

AN YPSILANTI DISASTER !!!

The Heritage News has the reputation for printing upbeat news items on Ypsilanti, calling attention to the good things that are happening in our town, deliberately counteracting the negative image that was so pervasive ten or more years ago (and which still lingers in the minds of some, by the way). The News generally tries to 'accentuate the positive', but there is a disaster occurring in this town that cannot be overlooked: our porches are disappearing at an alarming rate - particularly outside the Historic District.

By 'disappearing' we mean that the old porches, with their seemingly unlimited variety of pillars, pilasters, railings, spindles, steps, skirting and what not, are being removed piecemeal or, worse, in one fell swoop. In their stead, we are getting the ubiquitous, ugly, raw four-by-four posts, two-by-four rails, makeshift steps, and cheap, ready-made lattice skirting.

Most noticeably, these are houses in the near westside area, outside the Historic District, from Hamilton west to Summit. This originally was the site of many professorial residences, as well as rooming houses & boarding houses (tea rooms, some were called). Now, with the prospect of the new Business School going up at the western edge of Downtown, the area is fair game for every speculator in, and out, of Ypsilanti. Drive down Ballard, for example, and you will see at least three 'new porches' - makeshift jobs of Wolmanized four-by-fours, "rough hew them how they will", as Hamlet might have put it.

At one site, you can still see the flat, wide, classic (Doric) pilasters against the wall and, then, in front, the new four-by-fours ludicrously holding up the whole thing. At other sites, no trace of the original can be found. Your editor managed to collect one of the several unusual pillars from the house at the SW corner of Ballard and Washtenaw: it now graces his back terrace. But, the rest of the porch presumably went into the enormous dumpster.

This IS a disaster for our neighborhoods, for it is a makeshift device for a speculator to make a quick buck from a property, but when the tax advantages run out and the posts begin to warp and split, then who wants to buy what was once a unique structure with character & charm?

The city has an obligation to press for saving our porches! They should work with contractors and owners to preserve as much as possible of the facades and to repair only those portions that need it, often saving the speculator-owner money, while preserving the structure for future generations.

For the owner interested in restoring a lost porch to his/her property, there are a number of sources for such items as pillars, spindles, rails, etc. First, call the local lumber yards and you will be surprised to find how many items are available. Then, try the wrecking yards, such as Stan's, though these are not nearly the treasure troves they once were. For the best local artifacts, head for Materials Unlimited, Downtown Ypsilanti.

If you own an old porch and want to learn more about the history of your treasure, see "In Praise of Porches", in The Old-House Journal, August 1981, which should be available in the local library or call the YHF library at 485-2155. Concerning paint colors, for example, the authors point out that the "floor was almost always painted with battleship gray porch and deck enamel, while the boards of the ceiling were painted a light blue to enhance the illusion of sitting under the open sky". For a local example of this effect, see the porch at 111 Perrin.

You may also want to check House Beautiful for May 1987, which carries under the heading "Where to Find It" (p. 182), a list of names and addresses of firms across the country which carry appropriate exterior and interior architectural features to help you restore your house satisfactorily. For example, simply send a card for a free brochure to Haas Wood & Ivory Works, Inc. (415-421-8273), 64 Clementina, San Francisco, CA 94105, which carries balustrades, porch posts, handrails, and all manner of handmade and turned-wood products.

LET'S PLANT MORE FLOWERS & MAKE YPSILANTI
MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN EVER THIS YEAR!

LET'S PAINT MORE HOUSES IN REAL VICTORIAN
COLORS AND MAKE YPSILANTI EVEN MORE
BEAUTIFUL FOR EVEN MORE YEARS!!

TOWNER HOUSE ACTIVITIES and FUND RAISER SCHEDULED

At a recent Towner House Children's Museum Board meeting, Jerry Fouchey, Curriculum Resource Teacher for the Ypsilanti Public Schools, announced that NINE DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES are scheduled for school children during May and early June. If you are interested in having your child participate, call 482-9480. These are history-related activities for children, taught by trained specialists in the community: Ypsilanti in the Civil War, Pioneer School Life, Folk Games and Toys, History Through Drama, The Underground Railroad - these are a few of the programs offered at the Towner House.

The Board also announces that there will be a FUND RAISER, now scheduled for Thursday, June 25, for REPAIRS AND RESTORATION of the Towner House. The need is URGENT! If you want to work on this project, call Jerry at 482-9480, or Board member Jack Harris at 485-2155.

SUPPORT OUR CHILDREN'S MUSEUM NOW!!

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

The Heritage Foundation has again awarded a \$500 scholarship to an EMU student. Alike Victor, a land use major now serving as staff intern to the Historic District Commission, will be able, with the aid of this funding, to continue her work with the Commission through the summer months. She was recommended to the Foundation by Dr. Marshall McLennan, Professor of Geography and Director of the Historic Preservation Program at EMU. The Foundation Board accepted his recommendation unanimously. Congratulations, Alike!



GILBERT MANSION RENOVATION UNDERWAY!!

Your editor has had a private tour of the Gilbert Mansion and is about to sell his house and move into one of the exciting spaces that will soon be available there! Steve White, one of the two brothers who own the building and are at work on the project, tells me I can have anything from 750 to 1200 square feet, so size is not a problem.

The problem is to decide which of the variety of living spaces I should opt for. Should I live 'below stairs' in what was the basement, behind massive stone walls, with private entry directly from the back? Or should I take the South Wing of the Main Floor, just off the massive front hall, with its ornate walnut staircase? This apartment incorporates the former conservatory as its living room and shouldn't be leased to anyone who isn't good at indoor gardening. Or should I go for the North Front Suite (also off the great front hallway), with its enormous, elegantly tall windows full to the floor, flooding the room with the north light so prized by artists? Or the Kitchen Wing, with windows both north and south and an entry off the north porch? Or the imaginative space above this, with cathedral shaped ceiling, beamed down the center, and a step-up dining room, with tall French doors that just had to have been shipped from Paris to Ypsilanti in the 19th century?

Or, then again, shall I take the North Upper Wing, with two floors and a study dramatically placed in the front Tower Room, with fabulous views through great arched windows? Or the South Upper Wing, with study or intimate dining room in the Great Tower and a tiny private stairway to the Upper Tower Room itself for those special times when one wants just to be alone - or with a special friend - dreaming over, what else, Ypsilanti?

This project, however, is no longer a dream: this is a REALITY in progress! Those guys, Steve and Chris White, are putting the Gilbert Mansion back together, capitalizing on the building's unique features in a creative design by local architect, Lis Knibbe; and the sounds of saws and hammers should be music to those ears listening in the neighborhood, and indeed, in all of Ypsilanti. Steve White says they hope to start on the exterior in about three weeks and have that part looking good, if not completed, by Heritage Festival. That IS really something to look forward to, something to celebrate - a heritage, not destroyed, but saved and cherished: a great house, with a great history, recovered by two great guys! Those who did anything over the years to keep that building standing, when others had turned their backs on it, now have something to be joyful about!

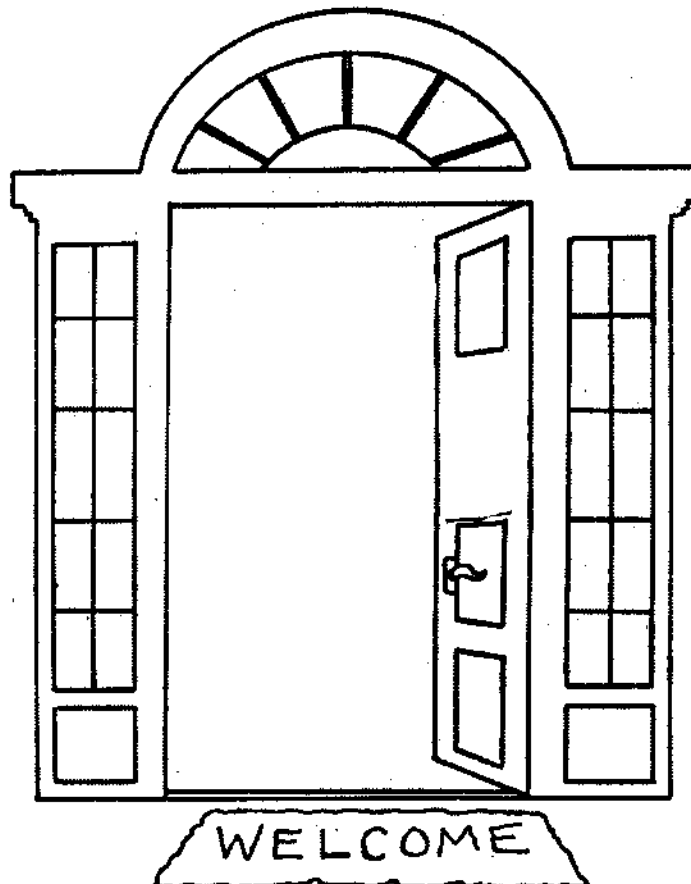
HISTORIC HOME TOUR COMING AGAIN!

The 10th Annual Heritage Foundation Historic Home Tour is getting organized, thanks to the diligent work of the chief guides' committee: Emily Brown, Betty Dodd, Diane LaRue, Peggy Rice, Penny Schreiber, Grace Sweeney and Jane Van Bolt. This year, we are pleased to add Janet Webber to the long list of community folk who volunteer their help on various tour jobs. Janet, a graphic artist, will be putting together the ticket/brochure and assisting with home owners' gifts.

Five beautiful homes, representing structures built between 1860 and 1937, have already been chosen for the tour. The committee is choosing homes on the west and south sides of town, in order to make it easier for tour participants to get from house to house. Ypsilanti's east side, which is currently experiencing a host of renovations, will be featured in 1988.

The date of this year's tour is August 23, the last day of the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival, and tickets will again be priced at \$4, with discounts for senior citizens and children. Plan to come and bring your out-of-town friends to show them how pleasant our neighborhoods are and what extraordinary interiors are to be found behind our doors.

Better yet, have fun while you are helping to make this another successful tour by volunteering to be a guide. Call Jane Van Bolt, Tour Chair, 483-6972.



Special thanks from the Home Tour Committee
to RIVER ART WORKS for
contributing labor in the framing of
photos for last year's Tour owners!

YPSILANTI HERITAGE FESTIVAL ...

Sioux Shelton, who chairs this year's Heritage Festival, is coordinating details of events that will make up the biggest and most impressive Festival ever! Sioux and Vice-chair Ron Miller have their various committees well underway with plans. To volunteer your services to any of the projects, call the Visitors and Convention Bureau, 482-4920, NOW!

Here are only some of the dozens of exciting Festival events: the FRANZEN BROS CIRCUS and the WALLENDAS will be back! HISTORIC HOME TOUR! Beyer Hospital and Mott will sponsor the CHILDREN'S TENT, with lots of activities, and the TOWNER HOUSE will be a beehive of fun and heritage projects and amusements for children. WJR will be back again this year, broadcasting live on Saturday, with a new jet-type helicopter! Tom Monaghan will have his latest new car in the PARADE! PIONEER AND CIVIL WAR ENCAMPMENTS! St. Luke's will present a FASHION SHOW AND TEA on Saturday afternoon. ARTS AND CRAFTS! PANCAKE BREAKFASTS, BARBEQUES and CHICKEN DINNERS galore! JAZZ CONCERTS, special exhibits, esoteric patter in Depot Town pubs! Open houses all over the place - even in the WATER TOWER!

Set the dates on your calendar now -

AUGUST 21, 22, 23

YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION

510 Pearl

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Heritage News

Heritage News is the newsletter of the YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION. It is published five times a year: September, November, January, March and May; and distributed, free of charge, to the membership by mail, and made available to the public at City Hall, Farmers' Market, and various business locations in the three business districts in the City.

AUGUST 1987

* SPECIAL EDITION *

Ypsilanti, MI

THE YPSILANTI HERITAGE FESTIVAL

August 21, 22, 23

SPECIAL EVENT: 10th ANNUAL YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION HOME TOUR

DATE: Sunday, August 23, Noon to 5:00 pm

TICKETS: Adults \$4.00 - Seniors \$3.00 - Children \$2.00

Available at ticket booths in the Festival area:

1. On the Cross Street Bridge
2. In front of the Historical Museum on Huron Street

HOMES ON TOUR

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 7 North Normal | - Italianate, southern style, c. 1848 |
| 1008 Congress | - Queen Anne, c. 1865-85 |
| 922 Pleasant | - Colonial Revival, c. 1937 |
| 118 South Washington | - Queen Anne, c. 1894 |
| 221 South Washington | - Italianate, c. 1860 |
| 507 Fairview | - Period Cotswold, c. 1926 |

SEE HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN PROGRESS -

VISIT SOME OF YPSILANTI'S FASCINATING HISTORIC STRUCTURES !!

IT HAPPENED IN YPSILANTI IN 1986-87!!!

The Heritage Foundation presents its ANNUAL COPENDIUM of some of the improvements which have occurred in Ypsilanti over the past year, for our own delight and that of our Festival visitors, who enjoy seeing "what has happened" since they were here last year!

Do a drive-by right now, so you won't miss seeing a miracle taking place on North Grove (between Cross & Michigan)! As we go to press, paint colors are being tested on the front, and much of the repair work, especially in the cornices, is still visible. But the White brothers are wasting no time in their transformation of that long derelict building into luxury apartments.

Some of you may remember a series of public meetings held by the Heritage Foundation & sponsored by the Michigan Council for the Humanities in 1977-78, entitled "Five Historical-Architectural Landmarks of Ypsilanti: Community Identity and the Uses of the Past". The five buildings under study then were Becker-Stachlewitz house, Old City Hall, the Artrain building, Glover House, & the Gilbert Mansion. All but Artrain were then in serious stages of decay. The Gilbert is now the last of the five structures to have been restored and renovated over the past decade!

**THIS IS WHAT HERITAGE FESTIVAL IS ALL ABOUT - A PROUD AND HAPPY CELEBRATION OF
OUR HISTORY AND COMMUNITY IDENTITY!**

REPORT FROM DOWNTOWN:

SUE MOSEY, Main Street Project Director, we think you're wonderful! Win some, loss some: standing in the midst of all the crossfire, you get the projects going, in spite of everything. Hang in there - we love you!

The former Hollow Leg Tavern has been transformed into a classy deli, with a spacious, all white interior & new awnings, by owners Diane & Joe Mikulec, formerly of Milford. MAX'S DELICATESSEN has a bright, fresh atmosphere & bright young employees. Good sandwiches, bar service, and take-outs. A welcome addition to downtown!

ABE'S CONEY ISLAND RESTAURANT, at the other end of downtown, corner of Hamilton & Michigan and across from the proposed new EMU Business School, will soon be open. Awnings & signs are up. Look for it!

The exciting new front on the old Mack & Mack building (211-215 W. Michigan), now owned by Tom & Jean Fagan, has caused a stir. Remember the fifties metal facade? Take a look at the renovations and paint job and see if you don't like it.

Three cheers for the news that Bill Kinley of Phenix Construction has purchased the building at the corner of N. Washington and Pearl, directly across from the front of Woodruff's Grove. After the financial collapse of an earlier project underway there, this is good news: all three floors, including the basement, will become a lively mix of office and service space.

The Public Library's appearance has been enhanced greatly by the new paint on the windows which perfectly matches the bronze color of the handsome doors. And the petunias are back in the front window boxes. New little street signs

HIGH TEA AFTER HOME TOUR?

An Edwardian Fashion Show and High English Tea will be presented in the Grand Salon of St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Sat and Sun, Aug 22 and 23, at 4:00 pm (of course!). At this featured event of the Festival, you can travel back to an era of style & grace. The program features an hour and a half of authentic fashions from 1837-1910 when the Edwardian Era was at its height. Violin & piano music from the period will be featured while you enjoy your English Tea and Cakes.

Donations, \$5 at the door. St. Luke's is in the heart of the Historic District, one block north of Michigan Ave, at 120 North Huron.

ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE REPORT

Not only will EMU's Schoolhouse Committee have a booth at Festival in Riverside Park, but they'll sell T-shirts & balloons, pass out Schoolhouse brochures, & have a float in the Saturday parade! The T-shirts are great - if you'd like to be ahead of the crowd and wear one of these, either white or green (of course!), designer specials before they are copied by every couturier in Ypsilanti, you may purchase them in advance by calling Nat Edmunds, 482-5218. \$10. A reunion of former students & teachers from the Town Hall School will be held on Sun, Aug 12, 12:30 pm, at McKenny Hall. Lunch will be served. All Schoolhouse Committee members also invited. For more information &/or commitments to this project, financial or otherwise, call Greg Schupra, Development Office, EMU, 487-1387.

We hardly need tell Festival visitors about the new pedestrian tridge between Riverside Park, Frog Island & Depot Town. As we go to press, only the pilings are in, but work is scheduled for completion by Festival. Ypsilantians and visitors will have a new sensation of proximity to the waters of the mighty Huron not experienced since the days of the primitive crossings referred to in Colburn's History (1923) of the town.

The Public Library's appearance has been enhanced greatly by the new paint on the windows which perfectly matches the bronze color of the handsome doors. And the petunias are back in the front window boxes. Now, let's start a campaign (or a garden club?) to see that boxes on the west side will be planted and, hopefully, the east side sills will someday have boxes full of flowers, too - especially now that the appearance of the little park has been so much improved by the work on the lovely little fountain.

The new downtown entryways are now well underway, with plantings in front of the library and around the fountain, at the river, & on Huron at Ferris. Not only will there be trees & flowering shrubs, but daylilies & marigolds will brighten our world all summer and fall!

will have a new sensation of proximity to the waters of the mighty Huron not experienced since the days of the primitive crossings referred to in Colburn's History (1923) of the town.

MORE FROM DOWNTOWN:

The Maxtons (formerly Greene's) at 104-106 W. Michigan, are almost finished with their facade improvements, including the replacement of the aluminum storefront windows with more historic wood-framed windows.

The sidewalk planters are looking terrific this year - probably due to paid maintenance courtesy of the Main Street Program, plants courtesy of the CBC, & the recommendations of historic landscape specialist, Scott Kunst. (The cannas are the perfect centerpieces!)

At least TWO historic cast iron fences have been installed - and in most appropriate places! - over the past year. The first is at Bill Fennel's 1840 brick house at 202 S. Huron. The second is at Howard and LuAnn Booth's majestic 1848 house at 7 N. Normal! See the latter on HOME TOUR!

The Water Tower, please note, has recently received some tender loving care, with repair and restoration work in the doorways, after vandals had damaged the handsome doors. Nice, sensitive job. Thanks again, YCUA!

All over town, handsome buildings are emerging from behind false facades and synthetic siding - each one like the unwrapping of a Christmas package - a wonderful gift to this once tired old town now coming to life again!

And flowers keep springing up everywhere! Not only is the classic beauty of the library enhanced and made more cheerful by boxes of colorful petunias, but all of North Huron seems to have blossomed, inspired, no doubt, by Chuck Soule's plantings last year at Old Town Hall!

For a drive-by joy ride of gardens, here are a few you shouldn't miss:

- Paul Searon's banks of bright geraniums and marigolds around his bungalow at 192 Oak
- the completely new garden in front of & along the alley beside the house at 112 Perrin
- the three gardens in a row on S. Summit 12, 14, and 22! (note the notable paint jobs on 12 and 22 as well!)
- again, both garden and paint job at 302 Oak - perfect Victorian setting!
- you might want to see the plantings at 515 N. Adams - and other addresses in that immediate vicinity, too.
- don't miss the magnificent gardens at 301 N. Grove (corner of High)

CONGRATULATIONS TO POLICE CHIEF HUFF and all his crew for making Ypsilanti a safer (and happier) place to work and live! Thanks, and ever thanks!

HISTORIC STRUCTURE MARKER AWARDS 1987

You might also enjoy driving by these properties, just to see the choices made this year by the Heritage Foundation in awarding property owners for their maintenance, restoration, &/or renovation of historic properties:

- 111 West Cross
Robert & Suzanne Carr
Built: 1926
Style: Colonial Revival
- 321 East Cross
Thomas James
Built: c. 1860
Style: Carpenter Gothic
- 313 East Cross
Scott & Mary Kay Riley
Built: c. 1885
Style: Queen Anne
- 427 North Hamilton
Barry & Diane LaRue
Built: c. 1885
Style: Queen Anne
- 514 Fairview
Rosemary Bennett
Built: 1932
Style: Period Tudor
- 916 Grant
Christopher & Lynne Kochmanski
Built: 1927
Style: Bungalow
- 111 Perrin
Jack Harris & Cliff Larkins
Built: c. 1860
Style: Carpenter Gothic
- The Water Tower, Cross & Summit
Ypsilanti Community Utilities
Authority
Built: 1889
Style: Late Victorian

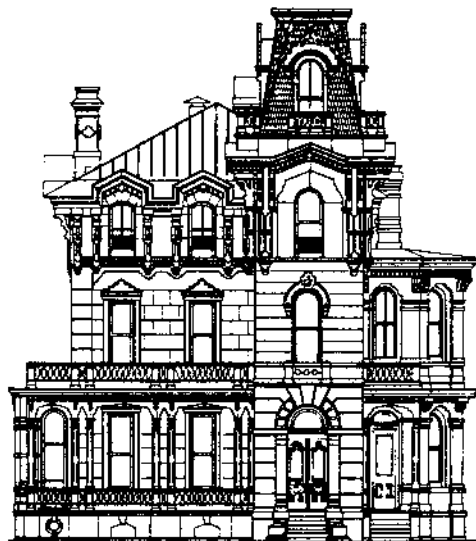
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Membership is \$10 for individuals, \$15 for families, \$3 for students and senior citizens.

Please send your check, payable to the YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION, to

Betty Randazzo, Treasurer
6101 Hitchingham
Ypsilanti, MI 48197



Joe Lawence's facade improvement at 126 W. Michigan is nearing completion. Let's remember: phony, flashy facades over quality brick buildings are always a no-no, hence and forever more.

Now watch for facade improvements at Karonias Palace on N. Washington and at Moray's Jewelers - we hope - please!

Both banks have been sold: The National Bank and the Ypsilanti Savings Bank have changed hands. Welcome, new owners, to our historic downtown!

Street and sidewalk improvements in many of the central areas of the city, in conjunction with new water lines, are a welcome improvement.

THE DEPOT, THE DEPOT, THE DEPOT: they swear work will begin soon; that it will be a first-rate restaurant; that the tower will be reconstructed and glass extensions will be added. We watch, we wait, and we **CROSS EVERYTHING!**

Meanwhile, there's new Farmers' Market parking and lighting, transforming that barren wasteland north of Depot Town into much needed passageways and parking. Take note and be glad!

CROSS STREET BUSINESS DISTRICT has a number of new establishments, including a Cottage Inn where the original Domino's used to be. Note, also, some facade improvements, especially the tremendous improvement in the row of shops along Perrin Street, behind Liquor is Quicker.

Congratulations to Alike Victor, land use major at EMU, who serves as staff intern to the Historic District Commission, for capturing the 1987 Preservation Scholarship of \$500 from the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation.

CALENDARS, SOUVENIRS, AND GUIDES

The Heritage Foundation is proud to announce its 1988 appointment calendar, which goes on sale at Heritage Festival. Designed, produced & printed in Ypsilanti, this unique calendar focuses upon a month-by-month display of some of the city's most notable windows. Both useful and beautiful, the calendar is a bargain at \$4.00.

Also available is the Foundation's **GUIDE TO YPSILANTI HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE** (\$1.50) & the reprinted **YPSILANTI SOUVENIR** (\$2.00). All three are available at the Foundation's two ticket sales booths.

In a town where miracles seem to happen monthly, the Chamber of Commerce surely wins the miracle-of-the-year award for 1987 for its move from the squat, little ugly duckling at 11 North Adams to the grandeur of the Breakey Mansion on North Huron. Let's keep our heads - but how can we help but be a little heady over this one?

"Do but look up!", as Edgar says to his father in King Lear, so might we say as we drive or walk about Ypsilanti:

- note, for example, the impressive new roof on the McGlasson-Heezen house at 212 Washtenaw, with copper flashing around the chimneys - and watch for new paint colors soon!
 - note, also, the new roof and chimney work at the historic, 1800s Greek Revival, Wardell house at 211 N. Huron.
-

VISITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Don't, for heaven's sake, overlook our many historic churches! This old town has a great history in churches alone, and they are well worth a visit. See all you can of their glory!

There are still onions among the orchids - nobody knows that better than we do. BUT, next year, again, there will be fewer onions and more orchids! Come back and see us then!! We love having you here and your annual visit is a wonderful incentive for us to "get ready for company"! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

LOOKING FOR A PERFECT EXAMPLE of a renovated and restored commercial building? Take a look at the two-story brick structure, late 19th century for sure, at 306 N. River, behind the one-story row of businesses just south of the Food Co-op. Owners Mike Huizenga and Dave Wheeler have done an exemplary job on the windows and brickwork of the exterior. Note in particular the window replacements - new wood frames, designed to FIT THE SPACE! Also, plenty of excellent brickwork, including a new cornice. Note, too, the traditional doors on the carriage entrance. Foundation Board member Don Randazzo, restoration carpenter at Greenfield Village, did that handsome work. Upstairs are the beautifully finished and colorful offices of the Utilities Instrumentation Service.

To everyone who has tucked petunias, marigolds, impatiens and zinnias into alleys, window boxes, hanging baskets, and wonderful little nooks and crannies all over town - THANK YOU!

Our new FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS at Christmas time delighted us and all our visitors. Come to see Riverside Park when next the snow falls!

Heritage News

Heritage News is the newsletter of the YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION. It is published five times a year: September, November, January, March and May; and distributed, free of charge, to the membership by mail, and made available to the public at City Hall, Farmers' Market, and various business locations in the three business districts in the City.

AUGUST 1987

* SPECIAL EDITION *

Ypsilanti, MI

THE YPSILANTI HERITAGE FESTIVAL August 21, 22, 23

SPECIAL EVENT: 10th ANNUAL YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION HOME TOUR

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HOMES ON TOUR

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SEE HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN PROGRESS -

VISIT SOME OF YPSILANTI'S FASCINATING HISTORIC STRUCTURES !!

The Foundation has been discussing the idea of a calendar focusing on architectural details for some time now, since it is often the details of historic buildings that make them so fascinating. We believe that, if we can encourage people to SEE these distinctive details, we will help to awaken public interest in historic preservation.

The YHF, therefore, is proud to announce its 1988 appointment calendar, a major addition to the historical records of Ypsilanti. Designed, produced and printed by artists and artisans who live and work here, the calendar focuses on a month-by-month display of one of the most distinctive features of our historic buildings, WINDOWS.

This year's calendar has many features worth noting. First is the alternation of calendar pages with picture pages; that is, any one page is either calendar or photos, on both sides. This means that anyone wanting to save the photographs can do so, while easily removing the used calendar pages.

The photographs themselves are all of major historic structures in the community; they are of intense clarity, spread over the full page, with only minimum notations indicating date of construction, name, location, owner and/or architect if known.

The calendar pages are simple in design, dusty gray in color, with every inch of space possible left open for notes, as most people want in an appointment calendar. Everything is printed on high quality paper, with a spiral binding.

The calendar is largely the work of local architect & photographer, Denis Schmiedeke.

The Foundation believes that this calendar will not only be attractive to the growing number of people who appreciate Ypsilanti's heritage - people who work here, live here, or simply visit - but it will also be of increasing value to local historians & students of architecture. It should prove a unique gift for friends & relatives, here & away, as well as a conversation piece for all of us. The \$4 cost is well below the general market price for a calendar of this quality.

Orders, large and small, may be had from our Sales Representative, Penny Schreiber, member of the Board. Write to her at 922 Pleasant, or call 483-5688.

ALSO AVAILABLE AT SEVERAL LOCAL BUSINESSES
IN ANN ARBOR AND YPSILANTI!

With our usual good luck, Sunday dawned sunny & beautiful for the 10th Annual Historic Home Tour. This year our chief fundraiser drew a crowd of almost 400, plus plus another hundred or so guides, ticket sellers, & other working participants. Ticket holders were treated to a view of six beautifully decorated homes, ranging in date from 1848 to 1937.

We were pleased to show two major historic structures on the South Side; three homes of enormous variety of architectural styles in the Normal/Congress/Pleasant Drive area on the West Side; & one charming English one charming English cottage style home in the Collegewood area - each with its own distinctive character, expressing the individual taste of its owners.

A GREAT BIG THANKS from the Heritage Foundation Board to all of the people who made this tour possible:

The home owners: Michael Lynn & Debra Lonergan, Paul & Penny Schreiber, Howard & LuAnn Booth, Carol & Richard Leyshock, Jinx Newton & Nick Easton, and the staff of The Child & Family Service of Washtenaw County;

The chief guides for making all arrangements for each home and for writing the brochure descriptions:

Emily Brown, Peggy Rice, Bettie Dodd, Grace Sweeney, Penny Schreiber, Diane LaRue, and Judy Apple;

To Norton's Flowers for the beautiful arrangements in each house;

To Connie Crump for securing donors who carried most of the cost of printing the brochure/ticket;

To Denis Schmiedeke for taking the brochure photos;

To Karen & Bill Nickels for taking the responsibility for ticket sales, set-up & removal of our Festival booths, and a host of related responsibilities;

& to the many guides & ticket sellers without whom the tour would not be possible! We appreciate the contribution that each of you made and look forward to another successful year in 1988!

THANKS, AND EVER THANKS!

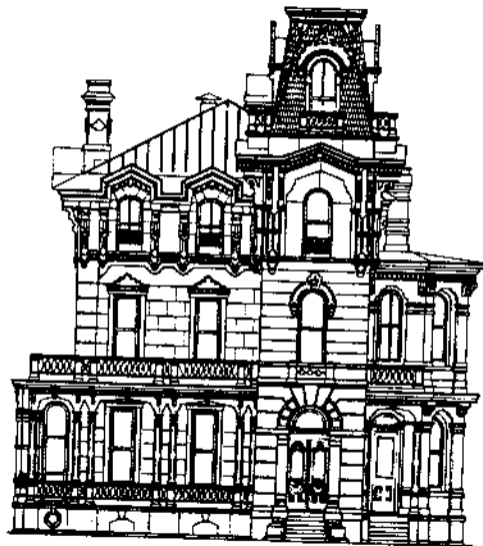
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6101 Hitchingham
Ypsilanti, MI 48197



Joe Lawrence's facade improvement at 126 W. Michigan is nearing completion. Let's remember: phony, flashy facades over quality brick buildings are always a no-no, hence and forever more.

Now watch for facade improvements at Karonias Palace on N. Washington and at Moray's Jewelers - we hope - please!

Both banks have been sold: The National Bank and the Ypsilanti Savings Bank have changed hands. Welcome, new owners, to our historic downtown!

Street and sidewalk improvements in many of the central areas of the city, in conjunction with new water lines, are a welcome improvement.

THE DEPOT, THE DEPOT, THE DEPOT: they swear work will begin soon; that it will be a first-rate restaurant; that the tower will be reconstructed and glass extensions will be added. We watch, we wait, and we **CROSS EVERYTHING!**

Meanwhile, there's new Farmers' Market parking and lighting, transforming that barren wasteland north of Depot Town into much needed passageways and parking. Take note and be glad!

CROSS STREET BUSINESS DISTRICT has a number of new establishments, including a Cottage Inn where the original Domino's used to be. Note, also, some facade improvements, especially the tremendous improvement in the row of shops along Perrin Street, behind Liquor is Quicker.

Congratulations to Alike Victor, land use major at EMU, who serves as staff intern to the Historic District Commission, for capturing the 1987 Preservation Scholarship of \$500 from the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation.

CALENDARS, SOUVENIRS, AND GUIDES

The Heritage Foundation is proud to announce its 1988 appointment calendar, which goes on sale at Heritage Festival. Designed, produced & printed in Ypsilanti, this unique calendar focuses upon a month-by-month display of some of the city's most notable windows. Both useful and beautiful, the calendar is a bargain at \$4.00.

Also available is the Foundation's **GUIDE TO YPSILANTI HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE** (\$1.50) & the reprinted **YPSILANTI SOUVENIR** (\$2.00). All three are available at the Foundation's two ticket sales booths.
