

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 1998

Ypsilanti, MI

MEETING: Wednesday, January 28, 1998--7:30 p.m.

**LOCATION: The Breakey Manor (the upstairs ballroom)
125 N. Huron
Ypsilanti, Michigan
(parking is available at the Oscar Haab/Mercy Health
Building located two houses south of the Manor on Huron)**

**PROGRAM: *Decorating a Historic Interior: Balancing Accuracy
and Livability***

SPEAKER: *Gianna Jordan, ASID, Owner and Designer, Jordan Interiors*

Our January meeting topic is particularly timely, because the beginning of the new year is when many of us resolve to tackle those home decorating projects we've been putting off for months. Old house owners can find the prospect of decorating their homes especially daunting. That's because we often wish we could furnish and decorate our interiors as authentically as those we see when visiting historic house museums, when in reality few of us have the resources to do so. And with today's modern lifestyles, a totally authentic decorating scheme may not be the best solution.

However, help is on the way! Our January speaker, **Gianna Jordan**, will show us how to strike that balance between authenticity, affordability, and livability when decorating a historic home. In *Decorating a Historic Interior*, we'll learn about the differences between documented fabrics and wall coverings, interpretations, and adaptations, and the corresponding differences in cost. In addition to her slides, Gianna will bring plenty of samples of fabrics, wall coverings, and trims, so we'll be able to see and feel the different materials that are available.

With degrees in both Interior Design and Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University, Gianna Jordan is the owner of Jordan Interiors, where she provides design services to both private homeowners and house museums. A frequent lecturer, Gianna has spoken on topics ranging from *Greek Revival Interiors* to *Victorian Parlor Culture*, and she has been a regular presenter at Michigan Historic Preservation Network conferences. (This writer has had the pleasure of hearing her speak several times, including most recently at the Kempf House, where she spoke on *The History of the Bathroom: The Room Most Appreciated by the Victorians, and Least Discussed*. This last program was especially delightful, as it was an informative, yet humorous, overview of the bathroom from Roman times to today.)

(continued)

Ginna has also received several design awards, including the Ann Arbor Remodelers Home Tour Design Excellence Award, the Towsley Design Show House Award, and the Saline Historical Society Show House Designer Award. In addition, her work has been the subject of several publications, including cover articles in The Detroit News and The Ann Arbor News.

We hope you'll join us at the Breakey on January 28th for a practical program of interest to old house owners and others. There will be time for discussion with Ginna after the program, as we enjoy coffee and cookies, so have your design questions ready. As always, membership in the Foundation is not required to attend our general meetings, so bring a friend!

CITIZENS CENTER BUILDING RESTORATION

The Citizens Center Building at 133 W. Michigan Avenue, formerly the First National Bank, is undergoing a dramatic facelift, as the aluminum screening on the upper section is being removed. The building, erected in 1905, was built in the Beaux Arts style popular at the turn of the century. The brick and stone edifice was purchased within the last year or so by Louis Rome. Most YHF members know Lou as the restorer of the Parish House Inn on South Huron Street.

The bank building was covered with aluminum screening and marble panels in approximately 1965. Readers of the Old House Journal will recall that the building achieved dubious honors as the "Remuddling of the Month" back in the early 1980s.

The restoration has been partially funded with the City's Commercial Loan Program. Bravo, Lou. We can't wait to see the removal of the marble at the lower facade.

OLD YPSI HIGH CONVERSION

The old Ypsilanti High School at 210 West Cross is undergoing a "schematic design phase" to provide preliminary drawings and estimates for conversion into affordable senior housing.

The Ypsilanti School District is on the verge of a purchase agreement for the vacant property. It was built in stages from around 1914 through the 1950s.

Plans will probably call for the demolition of the pool area and the conversion of both the auditorium and gym into housing units. The potential owners, American Community Developers of Detroit, will be applying for both low income housing tax credits and historic rehabilitation tax credits, both at the federal level.

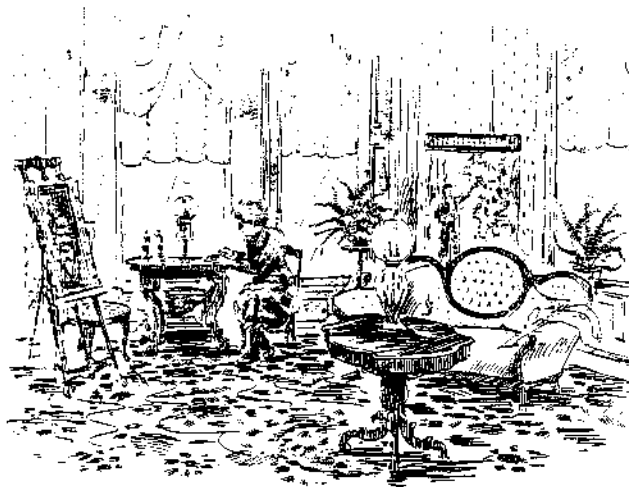


18TH ANNUAL MICHIGAN PRESERVATION CONFERENCE APRIL 3-4, 1998, IN LANSING

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network, Michigan's statewide preservation organization, presents its 18th Annual Preservation Conference on Friday and Saturday, April 3-4, 1998, in Lansing. "Of The People, By The People, For The People: Working With Government To Get The Job Done," features 40 speakers in two concurrent tracks--one track focusing on the "How To" of preservation, and the other addressing the conference theme. Friday's special events are open to the public with advance tickets and include a luncheon with keynote address by State Senator John J. H. Schwarz, M.D., a long-time advocate of historic preservation in Michigan; a late afternoon reception and presentation of the Annual Preservation Awards at the State Capitol; and a Friday evening benefit dinner dance at the Country Club of Lansing, including the announcement of the day's silent auction winners. Saturday includes the Network's Annual Meeting and laboratory tours. Conference fees go up to \$150, with discounts for Network members, single-day attendees, seniors, students, groups, and U.P. residents. For information, write M.H.P.N., P.O. Box #398, Clarkston, MI 48347-0398; fax (248)625-3010; or phone (248)625-8181.

YHF ANNOUNCES NEW TREASURER

After serving seven years as YHF treasurer, Lisa Walters has announced her plans to turn over her duties to longtime YHF member Joe Mattimoe. While Lisa will continue to act as secretary, News editor, and Home Tour Ticket chair, she is pleased to announce that Joe has agreed to serve as the Foundation's new treasurer. He will be officially elected by the general membership at the upcoming meeting.



THE DISCOVERY OF PEARL STREET

by Jack Harris

After much prodding and cajoling, your editors have finally coaxed out of former YHF Board Member Jack Harris this wonderful essay singing the praises of one of Ypsilanti's attractive residential streets. Although it is a fairly long tribute, we're confident you'll enjoy every word. And we hope that Jack will continue to contribute to us the sort of prose that only Jack can produce.

Does anyone else remember this past fall season, October in particular, as one of the most beautiful in memory? It was a season and a time to remember. Since for most of it I was attempting to recover from a bout of bronchitis, I traveled much less than usual. I now think that this was to my advantage, for instead, I discovered Pearl Street. For those of you who don't know where Pearl--my street--is, it runs just north of and parallel to our main street, Michigan Avenue, or Congress. Starting at North Huron, almost in front of the Riverside Arts Center, and running all the way west to Mansfield, it undoubtedly has the distinction of being one of the oldest streets in town. I don't know how it got its name, but if you check the maps of old American towns across the country, I think you'll find plenty of "Pearl" streets somewhere very close to Main. It's as American as apple pie.

On one of those late afternoons last October, when on my way to the supermarket, I decided to follow Pearl Street through to Mansfield, rather than swing onto Summit or cut over to Congress, as is usually done, when we head west. The air was perfect and the mellow light filtered down through the soft maples shimmering in rose-gold. I soon saw the glory of Pearl Street.

One pleasure I experienced (besides the air and the colors--so transitory) is that Pearl Street is delightfully askew. I've always been aware that we live in an askew house, in which hardly any door or window follows any classic pattern of symmetry. Everything, even the cat, is a little off-center. So, I discovered, is Pearl. Of course, it's a straight shot west up to Summit; but then the road starts to play tricks on you. At Summit you are met with a charming Greek Revival building painstakingly restored. Once there, you need to jog to the left and forward again to follow Pearl. Here the maples are particularly old and large and lean over the street in great arches. In fact, the trees suggest something of the decayed elegance of the Old South. The houses, as everywhere along Pearl, offer an eclectic mix of styles and textures--wood, brick, stucco.

Straight ahead, at the end of this long block, again you are deceived: a steeply gabled cottage tells you that the street ends there, at Elm. On the right is Hefley park, filled with colorful playground equipment for children. On the left is one of Ypsilanti's architectural treasures, a long low stucco house, designed by the Ypsilanti architect Gerganoff to resemble an English thatched cottage, with the roof rolled down at the edges to look like thatch. Once at Elm, you realize that again you must make another (and more significant) jog to recover your due westerly course up Pearl. From there, it's a straight shot, under arching oaks, maples and evergreens, to Wallace Boulevard, stopping only at Oakwood. Wallace, perhaps Ypsilanti's most elegant avenue, is especially beautiful now, since the neighborhood has ventured into public gardening, a sure sign of a community coming of age. (Did you see the islands along Wallace last summer, especially in June and July? They were like private gardens gone public.)

Just past this formal setting, however, Pearl Street takes an oblique turn, as if to surprise you. The road turns thirty-degrees to the left, and straight ahead, as you are invited down a narrower street, you see in the distance a massive oak woods. You move under the more perfect, if younger, trees that arch gracefully like some extremely long gothic nave. Ahead, you see, at first, only the great woods, then in front of it a field. Once across Owendale, you soon recognize that you are approaching our West Middle School, with its parking lot and the extensive open space around it--a bit of "countryside" in what, in reality, is already suburbia.

Now, when I return from the market, irresistibly I turn off Congress onto Mansfield and swing east onto Pearl up a little rise as I re-enter the cover of the arching trees. One Sunday late last fall, on my way home, when the air was still delicious and the leaves still mellow-gold, I stopped along the way at a yard sale. A young woman came out all smiles and we chatted.

A woman from across the street came over, and we talked about the autumn colors and how the other woman's husband wouldn't disturb the great ring of golden leaves that covered their front lawn: "It's a work of art," he claimed. And so it was. We all agreed Pearl Street was pretty special. I picked up a straw hat, covered with junk flowers, paid my dollar, and began to tear away the theatrical additions. Straw hats suggest the past.

On the way east again, I see that the smaller size of the houses gradually gives way to larger homes. Many of the houses at this end of Pearl represent the charm of the twenties and thirties and before: houses that took their inspiration from America's love affair with everything English, especially the English cottage look. Check out the great bound collections of House Beautiful, for example, on the shelves of our E.M.U. library, dating back into the early decades of this century, and you can see the source of so many of the houses along Pearl. My favorite has always been the one at the northwest corner of Wallace and Pearl, which so many of us saw on the recent Christmas Tour, with its rustic-style mortar between the bricks and the roof-line in the pagoda style.

East of Wallace, trees still dominate the landscape: some, especially the oaks, are enormous and suggest a longer history to the neighborhood. The houses, perhaps a bit larger, take on a more traditional architectural flavor: colonial, bungalow, even modern, with some English cottage as well. Look straight ahead of you, however, and you will see one of the most pleasant vistas to be found in Ypsilanti: at first you'll think you are coming to a magnificent park, but you soon realize it's really another illusion created by the major zigzag, at the juncture where the Gerganoff house stands. In fact, you are looking across the front yards of a whole row of houses that lie hidden to the right. As you approach Elm, what you see in the foreground is a low hedge of barberry, brilliant red in the fall. Beyond that are ornamental flowering trees that bloom in the spring. Over all, and well into the distance, loom two great blue spruces. At first they appear to be side-by-side, but once you make the jog at Elm you find that one is nearer and the other is two houses down, in front of Jim and Mary Baker's English cottage, that so many of us had the pleasure of seeing again on the YHF Home Tour this past year.

Before you know it, you're at Summit again. This is where the old families used to live. I will never forget a walk I once took from Ballard up Pearl with JoAnn and Worden Geer. Again, it was a late afternoon, that sort of Hawthornian time of sun setting beyond the hill. Worden could tell us stories of each and every house and the people who lived there when he delivered papers as a boy. As we passed our house, he told us he remembered from his boyhood paper delivery days the beauty of Miss Norton's peonies--peonies that still bloom in our garden each spring.

And what is to be said about the east end of Pearl? Well, much, if one had the time. Many people have no doubt already forgotten that one of the first two little brick buildings on the north side of Pearl was the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) meeting place, where veterans of the war gathered, as well as the women who served in the Woman's Relief Corps (W.R.C.). These two buildings are now splendidly restored, thanks to GarE Maxton, the efforts of Nat Edmunds, and the Historic District Commission. Across the street, of course, is one of Ypsilanti's most valuable small businesses: Congdon's Ace Hardware, itself in a historic stone and brick building. You may be surprised to hear that on the second floor of this same building, four Ann Arbor artists have set up their studios—and loving it for its wonderful light-filled rooms.

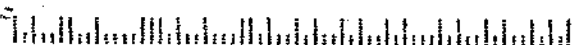
Speaking of artists at work, one of the most important new developments in Ypsilanti is taking shape at the end of Pearl, at its junction with North Huron. There stands (albeit like our cat, somewhat off center) the old Masonic Temple building (1909), which now houses the Riverside Arts Center, the umbrella for a number of cultural and entertainment groups, including PTD Productions, now in rehearsal for the February opening of the classic comedy, The Man Who Came to Dinner. The neat new little park and parking lot on the north side of the Center have replaced a tacky car wash, and soon we may have a pedestrian entry into Riverside Park. Like the rest of Ypsilanti, Pearl Street has its challenges, but also much to look forward to as we enter the twenty-first century.



The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
102 N. Wallace Blvd.
Heritage News
Lisa Mills Walters, Editor-in-Chief (485-3683)
Peg Du Fresne, Managing Editor (482-8666)
Barry La Rue, Roving Reporter



YPSILANTI HISTORIC MUSEUM
220 N. HURON ST.
YPSILANTI MI 48197



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March 1998

Ypsilanti, MI

MEETING: Wednesday, March 25, 1998--7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: The Coffee Shop at the Freighthouse
100 Rice Street
Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Michigan

PROGRAM: *If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Nafplion: Or How I Spent My Summer Vacation Re-tracing the Steps of Demetrius Ypsilanti*

SPEAKER: Cheryl Farmer, Mayor, City of Ypsilanti

In June of last year, Mayor Cheryl Farmer was part of a small contingent of local residents who went to Greece to re-establish ties with our sister city of Nafplion. Nestled beneath towering cliffs along the edge of the Aegean Sea, this ancient city is said to have been founded by Nauplios, the son of Poseidon, at a time long lost in Greek mythology.

We all know Greece as the "birthplace of democracy." Yet due to its location between three continents--Europe, Asia, and Africa--Greece has been under the domination of one or another marauding intruder for much of its history.

So too has Nafplion been under foreign domination--by Romans, Venetians, Normans, Franks, and, most recently, Turks. These foreign influences can be seen in its architecture and its language. While in Nafplion, Mayor Farmer stayed at the Xenia Hotel. "Xeno" in Greek means "stranger." This is the root word for xenophobia: fear or hatred of strangers or foreigners. Considering their history, who can blame them for coining this word?

A city with a population today of about 12,000, Nafplion played an important role in the history of General Demetrius Ypsilanti, a leader in the Greek War of Independence, and the man after whom our city is named.

The man who ties our two cities together has an interesting history. Demetrius Ypsilanti (1793-1832) was a Greek from Constantinople, born into a military family that had served the Turkish Empire. But by the early 1820's, Ypsilanti had joined the movement for independence and was helping to lead his people in their revolt against the Turks. Exploits like Ypsilanti's escape, with his entire army, from the besieged citadel of Argos brought him to the attention of many in the newly independent United States, including Judge Augustus B. Woodward. As a result, Judge Woodward proposed that the new village, founded in 1823 on the banks of the Huron River, in the Michigan Territory, be named Ypsilanti, in honor of the Greek hero.

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In her presentation, Mayor Farmer will talk about Nafplion's importance as the General's burial place and as the first city liberated from the Turks in the War. She'll also tell us about what Nafplion is like today: about its geography, its people, its culture, and everyday life in our sister city in beautiful, sun-drenched Greece.

We invite you to come and learn more about this special place through slides and a short video. Join Mayor Farmer for a painless history lesson and glimpses of structures dating back to 1100 B.C.--giving new meaning to the term "historic district"! As always, general meetings of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation are open to the public, and refreshments are served, so bring a friend and join us on March 25, at the Freighthouse Coffee Shop.

CIVIL WAR ENCAMPMENT IN DEPOT TOWN

John Delcamp, local Civil War enthusiast, is spearheading the second annual encampment in Depot Town on Saturday, April 18. YHF board member Barry LaRue will be helping to coordinate a walking tour of the Huron Street corridor. Apparently while the soldiers pitch their tents and plan their battle strategy, the ladies will be checking out our wealth of nineteenth century buildings.

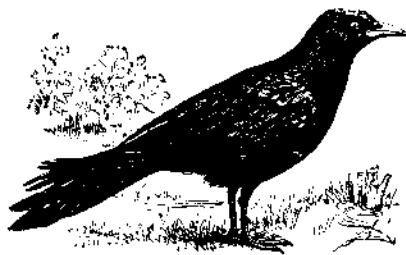
If any YHF members might be interested in assisting Barry with the tour by acting as guides, please give him a call at 482-2327 or 763-4220.

RIVERSIDE ARTS CENTER UPDATES

The Riverside Arts Center is changing the period for membership renewals. Previously it was a year from sign-up; now it will be on a calendar-year basis. Bookkeeping will be streamlined. Membership dues start at \$25 per year. Call the RAC at 480-ARTS and leave your name and number for more information.

Also, anyone interested in acting as a volunteer house tech for performance days: **WE NEED YOU!** The tasks are simple and you get to see the show for free. In fact, there are many volunteer opportunities available.

On the subject of the RAC: The replacement front entry doors and woodwork are going out to bid to be completed this spring. The "ladder" sign, toward whose restoration the YHF contributed \$500, is complete and awaiting Huron Sign's first free moment to re-erect it. The multi-colored paint scheme for the front facade will also be completed this spring. The building will be as beautiful as it was when first constructed in 1909.



BUILDING NOTES FROM YESTERYEAR

Following are news items from various Ypsilanti newspapers, dated 1866-1893. Thanks to YHF member James Mann for sharing with us the fruits of his tireless research.

January 13, 1866:

- We notice with pleasure that our fellow citizen Mr. J. F. Smith has made a great improvement in the western part of the city. He has added another story to his dwelling house on the corner of Congress and Normal streets. He has also replaced the former frame addition for one of brick and moved the frame to an adjoining lot attaching an upright and thus making another handsome dwelling. We suggest that his neighbor Mr. Klock "go and do likewise."

April 17, 1869:

- Mr. A. Smith is erecting a store on Cross street, nearly opposite the Follett House. It is a great pity that he does not carry it up at least two stories.

August 8, 1885:

- R. C. Hayton's shop, Washington street, is being improved and made more inviting by putting in a glass front.

August 13, 1891:

- A. B. Norton is laying the foundation of a house in the gully on Lowell street, and will fill up around it.
- Wm. P. Martin is remodeling and improving his house on Little Oak street.

April 14, 1892:

- The assessors are around scaring the life out of people with blank forms for sworn statements of every kind of property they possess. This is the proper method, however, but Michigan is 20 or 30 years behind neighboring states in this respect as in many other matters of municipal administration, and there'll probably be kicking and lying, before she gets used to it.
- Dr. W. R. Barton is excavating for the handsome dwelling house he will build for himself on Washington street, second south of Emmet.
- Fred Beadle is building a house upon one of the lots in Park Ridge addition, in the orchard on Hamilton street, and the one erected last fall on Madison boulevard by Chas. Beadle, will be finished off and occupied. Mr. Wardell, the Detroit auctioneer who sold the Park Ridge lots, has built a unique cottage and a barn upon the farm property at the west end of that addition, west side of Third street, and put a tenant in possession.

March 31, 1893:

- The brick house, known as the Fletcher property, situated at the junction of S. Huron and S. Washington streets, is about to be sold on contract to a woman called "Emma" who intends to start a house of ill fame. One crowd was raided there last Saturday night and were forced to leave the city, but it is evident that it will take determined work on the part of our officers to keep the property free from objectionable occupants. Whatever may be the opinion of the majority of business men as to the advisability of allowing such places to run, all unite in the determination that they shall not run where they are, a nuisance to adjacent property owners, and as our city officers take this view, no one will hereafter be allowed to use this property for such a purpose.

1997 MARKER BANQUET SCHEDULED

The YHF Board has set the date for the annual Marker Awards Banquet. We'll be honoring deserving homeowners at the Ladies' Literary Club on Thursday, May 21, at 6:30 p.m. Mark your calendars now for this social event of the season. Details will follow in the May newsletter.

MICHIGAN PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

Just a reminder of the 18th Annual Preservation Conference that we informed you about in the last newsletter, to be held on Friday and Saturday, April 3-4, in Lansing. "Of The People, By The People, For The People: Working With Government To Get The Job Done," features 40 speakers and a keynote address by State Senator John J. H. Schwarz, M. D. For more information, write to the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, P.O. Box #398, Clarkston, MI, 48347-0398; fax (248) 625-3010; or phone (248) 625-8181.



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May 1998

Ypsilanti, MI

MEETING: Wednesday, May 20, 1998--6:30 p.m.

**LOCATION: Ladies Literary Club
218 N. Washington
Ypsilanti, Michigan**

**PROGRAM: 21ST ANNUAL HISTORIC STRUCTURE
MARKER BANQUET AND AWARDS**

Whether it's due to El Nino or some other phenomenon, the spring of 1998 certainly has been exceptional! The temperatures have rarely been milder and the flowers have rarely been more beautiful than they are this spring! All in all, it's the perfect setting for our annual spring event, the Historic Structure Marker Banquet. Once again, we take the opportunity to recognize and honor deserving property owners for the work they've done on their historic buildings. Since its inception, the Marker Program has recognized more than 120 homes, businesses, and churches in Ypsilanti for their significant historic architecture and continuing, sensitive maintenance.

The following owners of buildings will be awarded Historic Structure Markers this year and will be our special guests of honor on Wednesday, May 20th, at the Ladies Literary Club:

David and Diane Quinn for their home and garage at **101 N. Wallace Blvd.**
Style: English Cottage, built 1927

Hugh and Dory Kennedy for the carriage barn behind their home at **316 N. Grove**
Style: Classic 19th Century Barn, built 1896 (with a 1930 addition)

Frank and Barbara Hale for the house at **501 W. Forest**
Style: Greek Revival Wing and Gable, built c. 1846

Joe Lawrence for the carriage barn behind his home at **212 S. Huron**
Style: Italianate, built c. 1861

Bob and Betty Miller for their home at **310 S. Huron**
Style: Italianate, built 1865 (updated c. 1930)

Since the Marker Banquet is always a very popular and well-attended event each spring, we urge you to contact one of the Banquet Chairpersons as soon as possible if you plan to attend. Call Karen Nickels at 483-8896 or Penny Schreiber at 483-5688 to R.S.V.P. and to let them know what dish you might like to bring to supplement our table. (Marker Recipients are not expected to bring a dish, since they are our special guests.)

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The evening begins with punch and hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 p.m., with dinner following at 7:15 p.m. The Marker program and presentations to recipients will follow. So do join us as we celebrate this glorious spring of 1998 and our treasure-trove of historic architecture. REMEMBER: space is limited, so call now!

1998 YPSILANTI HISTORIC HOME TOUR MOVES TO WEEKEND BEFORE HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Tour scheduled for Sunday, August 16th

After a great deal of discussion, the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Board of Directors and the Historic Home Tour Committee have decided to move the date of the 1998 Home Tour to Sunday, August 16th, during the weekend before the 1998 Ypsilanti Heritage Festival. With this change in date, the Home Tour becomes a lead-in event for the Heritage Festival, and a portion of the proceeds from the 1998 Home Tour will be donated to the Festival.

A number of reasons prompted the change of date. Over the past several years, there have been logistical problems for the Tour associated with holding it during the Festival weekend. Tourgoers have found it difficult to park their cars to get to the Tour ticket booths because of the tight parking surrounding the Festival site. They have also found it difficult to negotiate around the city to reach tour locations in the outlying neighborhoods because of street closures due to the Festival. Moving the Tour to the weekend before Festival will eliminate these problems.

Also, over the years, the Home Tour Committee has heard from many volunteers from other Festival events who express regret that they are unable to go on Home Tour because of their Festival commitments. The move will allow more members of the community who volunteer each year for the Festival to enjoy the tour and still meet their commitments to the Festival. Likewise, some of the many volunteers who work on the Home Tour each year have indicated to the Committee that they wish they could participate in other events taking place during the Festival, and this move will enable them to volunteer for other Festival events.

The Board of Directors and the Home Tour Committee see this move as a way to extend the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival, making it almost a week-long event. The move allows us to strengthen the Heritage Foundation's connection to the Festival and continue our support for this very important City-wide event.

SUMMER ARTS PROGRAM TO FEATURE DRAWING AND PAINTING IN THE YPSILANTI HISTORIC DISTRICT

A summer fine arts program for school-age children is in the works at Riverside Arts Center in downtown Ypsilanti for July 6-30, 1998. With emphasis on drawing and painting, the first program of the newly formed Riverside Arts Academy is built around exploring the city's unique 19th century Historic District. Beginning with a strong art history background, practical lessons will focus on creating drawings, paintings, and prints of Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Richardsonian Romanesque, Second Empire, and other period architecture of the Victorian era found within easy walking trips of the Center.

A different adult artist/teacher will be featured each week, and a related field trip will visit the Detroit Historical Museum and the famed Heidelberg Project.

Interested students will be asked to submit a portfolio of recent works to prove their interest and aptitude. Creative use of art materials will be emphasized throughout the Academy's presentations. In the daily curriculum, students will keep sketch books, notes, and journals, in addition to their explorations with various two-dimensional art media.

The month-long visual arts experience will be capped with an exhibition of student works and a reception at the Riverside Arts Center in August. Students will be presented with certificates of achievement and anecdotal reports of skills will be prepared for possible credit reciprocity with their schools.

Although not yet announced to the general public until a full program of student scholarships is in place, the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation and the City of Ypsilanti Parks and Recreation Department have already made substantial pledges of support, and individual contributions have been made, as well. Interested sponsors are encouraged to contact the director, Tom Dodd (482-6371).

Public announcements of the Riverside Arts Academy will be made in newspapers and school publications later this spring.

YPSILANTI COMMUNITY BAND ANNOUNCES 1998 "CONCERTS IN THE PARK" SERIES

Continuing its tradition of giving outdoor concerts during the summer months, the Ypsilanti Community Band announces its 1998 schedule of concerts in our neighborhood parks, as well as its additional outdoor performances:

Park Concerts

Thursday, June 4th	Prospect Park - 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, June 25th	Recreation Park - 7:30 p.m.*
Thursday, July 16th	Candy Cane Park - 7:30 p.m.

Other Outdoor Performances

Monday, May 25th	Yankee Air Force (Willow Run Airport) - time TBA
Sunday, June 28th	Belleville (Victory Park) - 3:00 p.m.**
Saturday, August 22nd	Ypsilanti Heritage Festival (Riverside Park) - time TBA

*annual 4th of July concert and Pie Sale

**as part of the Belleville "Music in the Park" concert series

The Community Band's outdoor concerts are great occasions to gather the family and/or friends, pack a picnic basket, and enjoy a warm summer evening at one of our historic parks. The concerts are free, but donations to the Band are, of course, gratefully accepted.

The Ypsilanti Community Choir will hold its annual **Spring Concert** on Friday, May 15, at Holy Trinity Chapel at 8:00 p.m. The concert will feature Broadway hits and songs by the incomparable Hoagy Carmichael. See you there!

YPSILANTI NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS FORM CITY-WIDE ALLIANCE

Representatives of the neighborhood associations of Ypsilanti are pleased to announce the formation of Ypsilanti Neighborhoods Organized Together, a city-wide alliance otherwise known as YNOT. This is the group's answer to the question of whether neighbors from all areas of the city can work together on common projects and issues: "Why Not?"

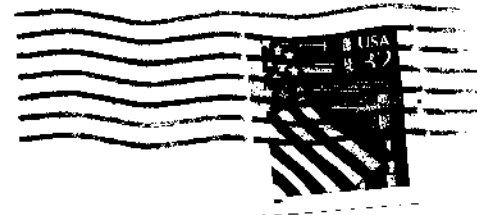
This group represents the combined efforts of members of the Normal Park Neighborhood Association (NPNA), the Ypsilanti East Side Neighborhood Association (YESNA), the Historic South Side Neighborhood Association (HSSNA), the Woods Road Association, and the Pearl Street Association. Members of these groups have met several times to exchange ideas and to discover areas of mutual concern and interest.

On May 2, the first joint project of YNOT took place as members helped with cleanup and renovation of the Riverside Arts Center. The group will also participate in the Huron River Cleanup Project on Ypsi Pride Day, May 16.

For more information, call Jim Hetzel at 483-9785 or Gary Clark at 483-6545.



The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
102 N. Wallace Blvd.
Heritage News
Lisa Mills Walters, Editor-in-Chief (485-3683)
Peg Du Fresne, Contributing Editor (482-8666)



Doris Milliman
1116 Grant St.
Ypsilanti MI 48197-4611
97-98

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 1998 ** GOOD NEWS EDITION!! ** Ypsilanti, MI

SPECIAL EVENT: YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION'S 21st ANNIVERSARY HISTORIC HOME TOUR

DATE: Sunday, August 16, 1998, Noon to 5:00 p.m.

TICKETS: Advance--\$8.00 Day of Tour--\$10.00

Advance tickets are available:

- In Ypsilanti at Materials Unlimited, Norton Durant Florists and Gifts, and Remington's by Design
- In Ann Arbor at the John Leidy Shop and the Dixboro General Store
- In Plymouth at Saxton's Garden Center

On the day of the tour, tickets are full price and are available only at the Home Tour ticket booth in front of the Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron Street.

FEATURING:

**1304 Westmoorland Blvd.
David and Jan Davis**

Built in 1949-50, this Colonial Revival Style home reflects the modern tastes beginning to take form in the second half of the 20th century. Its original interior floor plan remains unchanged, and its original finished wood details, including doors, fireplace mantel, and dining room corner cupboard, are still intact. It's the perfect setting for the owners' many interesting collections, including oak antiques, early Ypsilanti postcards, Depression glass, and antique banks and clocks.

**1206 Westmoorland
Chris Sorrick and Mary Jo Oke**

Step back in time to post-World War II America as you tour this 1949 Ranch Style home designed by architect Ward G. Swarts. Virtually unchanged since it was built, it features the distinctive wood trim of the era and beautiful ceramic tile work in its period bathroom and kitchen. Its crowning glory, however, is the current owners' extensive collection of Heywood Wakefield furniture from the 1940's and '50's.

**616 Collegewood
Fran and Harry PaDelford**

Located in the College Heights neighborhood, this petite Cape Cod Style home was built in 1938-39. One of its exterior features is a charming gazebo, while its interior features include a Vermont marble fireplace, and beautiful woodwork in Southern pine, red oak, and cherry. Decorated in Early American Style, antiques, braided rugs, and the owners' hand-built furniture create a warm, inviting living space.

**519 Fairview Circle
Delphine Parker**

A home sure to please tourgoers and garden lovers alike, this delightful little Neoclassical Cottage was built in 1941. Its exterior details include six-over-six windows and a small center entry with a stoop instead of a porch, while inside, the home's Colonial touches complement the owner's many antiques and heirlooms. An avid gardener, the owner has created beautiful shade gardens, which provide color throughout the year.

**313 E. Cross
Paul and Jill McMullen**

Built between 1880 and 1894, this quintessential Queen Anne Style home features steeply pitched gables, vertical windows, varied forms of siding, and numerous decorative additions. Rescued from near demolition in the early 1980's, it is now beautifully renovated and makes the perfect setting for the current owners' collection of family antiques. A spectacular, multi-hued exterior paint design makes this home one of Ypsilanti's most stunning "painted ladies."

The Historic Home Tour is a lead-in event of the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival, Aug. 21, 22, and 23, 1998. A portion of the proceeds from the tour will be donated to the Heritage Festival.

IT HAPPENED IN YPSILANTI IN 1997-98

The Heritage Foundation presents its **ANNUAL GOOD NEWS ISSUE**, reporting on some of the improvements that have occurred in Ypsilanti over the past year, for our own delight and that of our visitors. It also allows us an opportunity to say Thank You to all of those who have helped make this a better place to live. This News issue is the Foundation's gift to everyone who cares for and about Ypsilanti.

An article in a recent issue of the Ypsilanti Press edition of the Ann Arbor News focused on the recent rise in property investments in the city of Ypsilanti. Harry Hutchison, Ypsilanti Building Inspector, is quoted as saying, "This is a town that cares about itself." Don't we know it!



RAILROAD FREIGHTHOUSE PLAN COMPLETED

A new master plan for the Freighthouse in Depot Town has been completed and presented at a public meeting on June 11. Response has been positive to the proposals for expanded decking, improved links to Depot Town, new covered stalls on the plaza, and a new west entry. The plan's final phase calls for an additional north end building to provide public bathrooms, an information center and offices, and storage. The plan will be presented to City Council for approval in August, with funding sources undetermined but to be investigated. Facility manager Gary Urick reports that an exterior "face lift" is underway, with the building's trim being painted and the entire deck slated for staining and weatherproofing this summer. Sergeant Mike Ehr has volunteered to spearhead the latter project with a group of community volunteers. The entire community looks forward to these improvements at the Freighthouse.

The Freighthouse was also the site, this past winter/spring, of their first-ever book sale and antiques/collectibles sale. Dealers and shoppers alike had an enjoyable time, and bargains abounded! Plans are currently in place to hold these sales again, probably in the fall. Watch the September Heritage News for further information!

OLD YPSI HIGH BECOMES APARTMENTS

The Ypsilanti Community Center Building at 210 W. Cross, commonly and fondly known as "Old Ypsi High," is being developed into a senior citizen apartment building. The project calls for 99 one- and two-bedroom apartments, ranging from 700-900 square feet. The complex will also include such amenities as a beauty shop, television room, library, and exercise room. The best news for historic preservationists is that the developers are utilizing the resources of a historical consultant who will help them preserve many historical features of the building. Portions of the building will be demolished (with Historic District Commission approval), but the remainder will retain its historic appearance, enhanced by a new courtyard, fencing, and landscaping. The facade of the building will change very little, with the current windows making way for more appropriate 1920s-style windows.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

The new house at **313 High**, under construction last year, is finally occupied—gardening underway! The design, because the house was built in the Historic District, had to be compatible with other structures in the District in order to gain Historic District Commission approval.

Plans for a new house at **224 N. River** are underway, with construction slated to begin this fall.

WELCOME IMPROVEMENTS

Marino Engineering, at 301 N. Park, has the gratitude of its residential neighbors for the work done this summer to greatly improve its appearance.

DEPOT TOWN NEWS

Plans are being discussed by the owner and the Historic District Commission for the rehab and reuse of the long-abandoned **railroad depot** in Depot Town.

Architects are now designing a connecting link between the **Ypsilanti Auto Museum** and the historic Miller Motors building, to be enhanced by new lighting, fencing, and parking.

Stop by the delightful new **Tucker's Cafe** next to Miller's Ice Cream. In addition to an extensive Espresso Bar, they serve more than a dozen sandwiches, including the "Tucker Torpedo," and great desserts. It's run by John Tucker, Jr., the grandson of Preston Tucker, and is decorated with family photos and Tucker memorabilia.

The **Sidetrack** is currently undergoing expansion, which is exciting news to all of us regulars! The present bathrooms will make way for more restaurant seating and will be replaced by new bathrooms in the rear addition. All changes and additions are in keeping with the character of the original building. Congratulations to owners Linda French and Dave French on this ambitious project.

Take a stroll through **Market Alley** in Depot Town to see the newly installed historic markers, lighting, benches, and flower urns. Then walk through Depot Town to look for bricks with names you may recognize!

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENTS

The **Citizens Bank Building**, on the corner of Michigan and Washington, has been freed of its false facade, and we can now see the handsome, original structure—restoration is forthcoming.

If you haven't stopped by **Mr. Mugs** at 217 W. Michigan Avenue, check it out. Owners Steve and Ann Vorves and Kate Gleason provide a full Espresso Bar, gourmet coffee, sandwiches and soup, fresh fruit, and pastries, in a non-smoking environment. Patrons can play pool or board games or work on a jigsaw puzzle.

The library millage, which passed this spring, will provide the community with a new, state-of-the-art library in the township while still preserving our important **downtown library**. First on the agenda is repairing the stonework and replacing the roof. On your next visit to the library, stop by the **fountain** and "mini-park" next door. It's the perfect spot for people-watching or getting started on the books you just checked out.

There's a new **outdoor cafe** at bw-3, corner of Washington and Pearl—stop by!

AND OVER ON THE WEST SIDE...

The Normal Park Neighborhood Association continues to raise funds for the restoration of Recreation Park. Attendance at Rutherford Pool has reached an all-time high this year, thanks largely to recent extensive improvements, including renovation of the poolhouse, a large water slide, and a shallow area for small children. If you haven't taken advantage of our City's pool, there's still time to do so!



RIVERSIDE ARTS CENTER IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE

Certainly the work of the past year on the Riverside Arts Center is worth noting at "Good News" time. All but the new entry doors have been completed including, of course, the infamous "ladder" sign restoration which the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation contributed to. The bricks have been repointed, the window trims and cornice scraped, primed, and painted in a polychromatic scheme, and a new parking lot sign installed with details picked from the dentil molding of the cornice. All in all, the facade is quite attractive and brings out the 1909 beaux-arts quality of the building.

The Riverside Arts Center recently submitted a grant application to the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs in Lansing for funds to begin the next phase of their capital campaign. Included in this phase will be the handicapped ramp and loading entrance on the north side of the building, accessibility improvements to rest rooms, a new roof over the auditorium, and some new lighting and sound equipment. They are also working toward making the second floor available for a conference room and rehearsal hall. As always, if any of our readers are interested in donating either time or money toward the RAC to help both the arts and economic development in Ypsilanti, call Barry La Rue at 482-2327 or Joe Tiboni at 480-2787 (480-ARTS).

Ed. Note: Thank you to Barry La Rue for the above report and to all the volunteers who do so much on behalf of the Riverside Arts Center. Its transformation is another Ypsilanti success story!

GARDENS AND FLOWERS:

Flowers bloom all over downtown, the work of miracle worker Ezell Agnew, who is on the job again, planting and caring for flowers everywhere. We can't thank him enough!

A beautiful **streetside garden** has appeared on S. Huron at Ferris where no flowers bloomed before—what a wonderful surprise!

And, again, the **curbside garden** on E. Cross at Park is gloriously thriving.

Thanks to whoever planted **window boxes** on the Millworks Building on N. River.

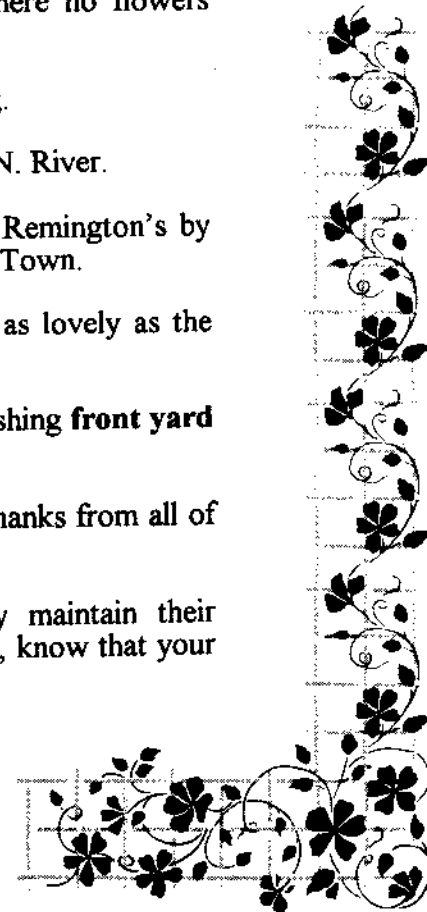
And, in Depot Town, thanks to those who tend the **window boxes** at Remington's by Design and to everyone who plants and waters **planters** all around Depot Town.

The Methodist Church landscaping at the Washington Street front is as lovely as the plantings on the Washtenaw Street side.

Across the street, at 203 N. Washington, take a minute to enjoy the flourishing **front yard garden**.

The Ladies Library on North Huron at Washtenaw is BLOOMING—thanks from all of us who so often go that way.

SPECIAL THANKS to all those folks who quietly and faithfully maintain their properties. Your efforts keep Ypsilanti looking good! If we missed you, know that your work is still much appreciated.





**PREVIEW OF COMING ATTRACTIONS:
THE 1998/99 YHF GENERAL MEETING PROGRAMS**

Tuesday, September 29, 7:30 p.m., The Town Hall Schoolhouse, EMU Campus
Teaching Kids About Historic Preservation: Two Approaches
Rochelle Balkam and Tom Dodd

We are pleased to open our 1998/99 program series with a joint presentation by two educators who are helping to develop tomorrow's preservationists. Rochelle (Ricky) Balkam, Social Studies Resource Teacher for the Ypsilanti Public Schools, will talk to us about its Community History Project and how the program is presenting history and historic preservation to students through social studies projects, writing camps, walking tours, and other activities. Joining Ricky is Tom Dodd, teacher of art, journalism, and 19th Century architecture at Ann Arbor's Community High School, who will tell us about the 1998 Riverside Arts Center Academy, held this summer at the Riverside Arts Center, where students explored Ypsilanti's historic district through drawing, painting, and other media. Ricky and Tom will bring examples of their students' work to the Town Hall School, a unique yet fitting setting for this program.

Wednesday, November 18, 7:30 p.m., Location TBA
The Underground Railroad
Dr. Charles Lindquist and A. P. Marshall

Records of the Michigan Anti-Slavery Society, organized in Adrian in 1853, indicate that the strength of this organization seemed to be in Lenawee, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties. At our November meeting, Dr. Charles Lindquist, Curator of the Lenawee Historical Museum, will introduce us to the men and women from Lenawee County and the city of Adrian who were involved in the effort to aid fugitive slaves. Joining him will be A. P. Marshall, local author and Ypsilanti's unofficial historian of Black history, who will shed light on the people of Washtenaw County and Ypsilanti who ran stations on the Underground Railroad.

Wednesday, January 27, 7:30 p.m., The Freighthouse Coffee Shop, Depot Town
The Mystery of the Ypsilanti Underwear Lady & Other Tales of Ypsilanti's Lost Heritage
James Mann

The Starkweather Fountain, the Opera House, the Normal School Gymnasium, and the famous 18-foot-high painted lady who once graced the Ypsilanti Underwear Factory Building...where are they now? Gone, but thanks to our January speaker, James Mann, not entirely forgotten. James, a YHF member and regular contributor to the Heritage News, is also a research writer who has been investigating Ypsilanti history since 1992. James will tell us not only about the several 19th Century structures which, because of fire, tornado, or ignorance, are lost to us forever, but also about the people who lived and worked in them and the role of each in the history of Ypsilanti. So join us for some strange and interesting tales!



Wednesday, March 24, 7:30 p.m., The Ladies Literary Club
The Greek Revival Style in Southeastern Michigan
Mary M. Culver

We wrap up our 1998/99 calendar with a look at the Greek Revival Style of architecture, its origins, history, and diagnostic features, all within the contexts of American expansion and southeastern Michigan's settlement. Our guide will be Mary M. Culver, local preservationist and noted speaker on the subject, who describes the Greek Revival Style as her "most favorite topic!" An advocate for the rescue of the Towner House, Mary also works as a planner and consultant in adapting historic resources to today's uses. Mary's March slide presentation, featuring a variety of local examples of the Greek Revival Style, takes place in a particularly appropriate venue, the Ladies Literary Club!

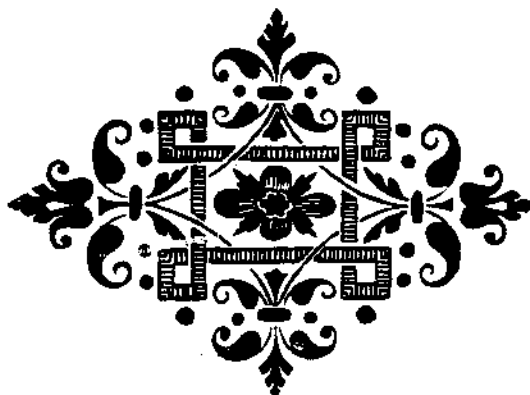
Mark your calendars with these dates! As always, general meetings of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation are open to the public, and refreshments are provided.

TREASURE FOUND!

Recently, YHF board member Barry La Rue was approached by a co-worker at the University of Michigan about a box of glass photographic negatives that were found in an attic on Liberty Street in Ann Arbor. The photos were taken by the Weinmann family of South Huron Street between 1898 and 1907. Barry has taken a representative sample to Precision Photographics for archival negatives and contact prints. There are very rare shots of downtown Ypsilanti, the interior of the Weinmann-Matthews Drug Store when it was on North Huron (the spot now occupied by the Corner Health Center), the Davis and Kishlar Department Store, and the front of the Occidental Hotel. This is a great find, which will be donated soon to the Bentley Historical Collection at the University of Michigan.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO MAKES YPSILANTI A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE: OUR POLICE FORCE, FIRE FIGHTERS, BUILDING INSPECTORS, CITY MANAGER, CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE PROUD TO BE FROM YPSILANTI.

Always, thanks to those **business organizations** who work so hard to keep Downtown and Depot Town looking good and thriving, including the **DDA, CBC, DTA, DTDDA, and the Mainstreet Project.**



Heritage Foundation Board Members:

Don Randazzo, President
Barry La Rue, Vice-President
Lisa Mills Walters, Secretary
Joe Mattimoe, Treasurer
Peg Du Fresne
Rick Leyshock
Bill Nickels
Hank Prebys
Jane Schmiedeke
Penny Schreiber



MEMBERSHIP IN THE FOUNDATION

REMEMBER: dues are due in October. If you are a dues paying member now, you should receive your billing soon. If you would like to join the Foundation, send your check, payable to the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation, to Joe Mattimoe, YHF Treasurer, 301 N. Grove, Ypsilanti, MI 48198. Individuals: \$10; Family: \$15; Contributing: \$25; Sustaining: \$100; Life: \$1000. **HELP MAKE HISTORY!**

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Heritage News

102 N. Wallace Blvd.

Editor: Lisa Mills Walters (485-3683)

Staff Writer: Peg Du Fresne

Guest Writers: Jane Schmiedeke, Barry La Rue, and Gary Urick



Ypsilanti Historic Museum
220 N. Huron St.
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September 1998

Ypsilanti, MI

MEETING: Tuesday, September 29, 1998--7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: The Town Hall Schoolhouse, EMU Campus
(across from Bowen Fieldhouse--see directions next page)

PROGRAM: *Teaching Kids About Historic Preservation: Two Approaches*

SPEAKERS: Rochelle Balkam and Tom Dodd, Local Educators

According to our mission statement, one of the goals of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation is to increase the public's understanding and appreciation of our many historic buildings, those architectural links with our past. And in recent years, we've become aware of the particular importance of presenting the benefits of historic preservation to young people. With this in mind, we are pleased to open our 1998/99 program series with a joint presentation by two educators who are helping to develop tomorrow's preservationists today.

At our September meeting, **Rochelle (Ricky) Balkam**, Social Studies Resource Teacher for the Ypsilanti Public Schools, will talk to us about its Community History Project. The impetus for the Community History Project was an \$80,000 grant from the NEH, and twenty teachers working in cooperation with Dr. Martha Erwin, from Eastern Michigan University, developed its model projects on community genealogy, history, and architecture. This unique program presents history and historic preservation to students at the elementary, middle, and high school levels through social studies projects, writing camps, walking tours, the performing arts, and other activities. In the past, the Heritage Foundation has provided financial support to the Community History Project through the donation of Historic Home Tour proceeds.

Joining Ricky is **Tom Dodd**, teacher of art, journalism, and 19th Century architecture at Ann Arbor's Community High School, who will tell us about the 1998 Riverside Arts Academy. Held this summer at the Riverside Arts Center, the theme of this first Academy was exploring Ypsilanti's historic district through drawing, painting, and other media, and the Heritage Foundation was one of the Academy's sponsors. Tom, one of four faculty members and the team leader, will talk about the development of the Academy, its admission procedure which required students to present portfolios, the high level of parental participation in daily critiques and activities, the various field trips the students took to Highland Cemetery, the Detroit Historical Museum, the Heidelberg Project, and the Pewabic Pottery, among other locations, and the month-long exhibition of students' work which wrapped up this very successful program.

(continued)

According to Tom, "How can we possibly go wrong with students who are highly motivated to learn more about 'old buildings' and with parents who care deeply about their children's progress?" We don't think we can go wrong, either, and the future of historic preservation looks bright with great programs out there like the ones Ricky and Tom will talk to us about on the 29th! So join us at the Town Hall Schoolhouse. Ricky and Tom will bring examples of their students' work, there'll be plenty of refreshments, and, as always, membership is not required!

Directions to the Town Hall School: Take Washtenaw to Oakwood, at the southwest corner of EMU's campus. Take Oakwood north to West Circle Drive and turn right; Town Hall School is on the south side of the drive. If you wish to park in the structure, its entrance, Structure Drive, is one block north of West Circle. If you need further directions, call Lisa Walters at 485-3683.

THE BOB-LO BOATS REVISITED

Regular readers of Heritage News may recall that the restoration of one of the historic Bob-Lo boats, the steamer *Columbia*, was the subject of our November 1996 general meeting program. Built in 1902, the *Columbia* was the oldest operating passenger steamer in the nation when she was taken out of service in 1991. She is now owned by The Steamer Columbia Foundation.

We recently received an announcement of a special program and cruise that will benefit the *Columbia* restoration and thought we'd pass the information on to you. On Saturday, September 26th, the Steamer Columbia Foundation and the Saarinen Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians are sponsoring "Architecture Afloat & The Bob-Lo Boats Revisited."

The day's activities begin at 9:30 a.m. at The Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle, with Steamer Columbia Foundation President William M. Worden's slide presentation, "A History of Bob-Lo and Its Steamers." Passengers will then board the Diamond Jack River Tours' *Diamond Queen*, at the dock near the Dossin Museum, for a cruise down the Detroit River that includes a complimentary buffet luncheon and a cash bar. The *Diamond Queen's* destination is Ecorse, Michigan, where those on board will be able to view the former Bob-Lo Company's steamships *S. S. Columbia* and *S. S. Sainte Claire* from the cruise ship. Along the way, passengers will see downtown Detroit's skyline and the Great Lakes and ocean freighters which ply the Detroit River portion of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

The return trip will take passengers along the Canadian shore from Sandwich to the new casino in Windsor and past old Walkerville's famed Hiram Walker Distilleries. At 3:00 p.m., the *Diamond Queen* returns to the Dossin Museum, where passengers will hear noted marine historian Gordon Bugbee and Bill Worden give a slide presentation titled "Architecture Afloat." Gordon and Bill will discuss the blend of architecture and technology represented by the great sidewheel steamers designed by naval architect Frank E. Kirby, and their elegant interiors which were designed by architect Louis E. Keil, both of whom were Detroiters.

Tickets for "Architecture Afloat & The Bob-Lo Boats Revisited" are \$39. Because space is limited, you are advised to order early. To order tickets using VISA or MasterCard, or for more information, call (313) 499-3466 between 12:00 noon and 8:00 p.m. To order by mail, send payment to Architecture Afloat, Steamer Columbia Foundation, P.O. Box 43232, Detroit, MI 48243. Make checks payable to Saarinen (Michigan) Chapter, SAH.

DATE CHANGE PROVES SUCCESSFUL FOR 1998 HISTORIC HOME TOUR

More than 400 people turned out for the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation's 21st Annual Historic Home Tour on Sunday, August 16. We didn't know what kind of attendance to expect this year, since we moved the tour date to the Sunday before the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival. Although this number is down somewhat from recent years, we made a good showing for the first tour on the new date, and feedback on the date change has been overwhelmingly favorable. In addition, we met our fundraising goal for 1998, which enables us to continue our support of the Foundation's ongoing programs.

On behalf of the Home Tour Committee, I would like to thank the owners of this year's wonderful group of homes for graciously making their properties available: David and Jan Davis, 1304 Westmoorland Blvd.; Chris Sorrick and Mary Jo Oke, 1206 Westmoorland Blvd.; Fran and Harry PaDelford, 616 Collegewood; Delphine Parker, 519 Fairview Circle; and Paul and Jill McMullen, 313 E. Cross.

We would also like to acknowledge our volunteer guides and ticket sellers who, as usual, came through for us with their cooperation, hard work, and support. We thank you all! Special thanks go out once again to Lisa and Eric Walters, our very hard-working Ticket Chairs. To Lisa we also say "thank you" for her help in editing and proofreading this year's brochure. A special thank you goes out to Rick Katon for his brochure, publicity, and commemorative photographs; to Judi Monaghan for the management of our mailing list; and to Barry La Rue, not only for his slide presentation on historic preservation but also for his help in researching Home Tour properties. We also wish to acknowledge and thank Michael Harper for the matting and framing of this year's commemorative photos, Norton Durant Florists for the lovely floral arrangements which grace the homes on tour, and McNaughton & Gumm, Inc. for their very generous donation of printing services for the brochure.

This year we wish to make special mention of and thank Carolyn McKeever, Diane Brown, and the many area artists who all lent their creativity to our unique 1998 Home Tour poster. Thanks, also, to Mark and Julie Fisher, our hosts for this year's post-tour party, and to the party team of Rick and Carol Leyshock, Barbara and Alan Saxton, Bill and Karen Nickels, and Al Heezen who, once again, put together a wonderful event!

Finally, my personal thanks go out to the members of the Home Tour Committee: Jonnie Bryant, Kyle Bunton, Julie Fisher, Jennifer Goulet, Scotty James, Rick Katon, Nancie Loppnow, Mary Ann McDonald, Diane Quinn, Barbara Saxton, Penny Schreiber, Grace Sweeney, and Jane Van Bolt. These individuals are responsible for locating and selecting the homes on tour. They also serve as chief guides, help with soliciting financial support for the tour, and organize and train the volunteer guides. **CONGRATULATIONS, GROUP, AND THANKS TO YOU ALL!**

Peg Du Fresne
Chair, 21st Anniversary Historic Home Tour



GARDEN NEWS (OLD AND NEW)

First, the new news: City staff tell us that they have approved the request of Sandy Hoag and Charlotte Repholz to bring back the "Old Gardens" of Depot Town. They plan to begin putting gardens throughout the boulevards on River Street, from Cross to Michigan, in September, to promote tourism.

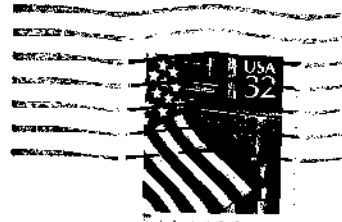
This news reminded us of some articles we received from YHF member and *researcher extraordinaire* James Mann. From the August 13, 1891, *Ypsilantian*:

"The landscape gardens of the Michigan Central, at the Depot here, are well worthy of mention among the improvements of the season. The large variety and profusion of flowering plants, and the tasteful manner in which they are arranged, attract the notice of passengers and visitors, and reflect much credit upon those to whose taste and enterprise we are indebted for it. We wish the public need not be so excluded from a view of it. Mr. Damon announces that all ladies taking passage on Trains Nos. 40, 2, and 3, receive bouquets from the garden."

And from *The Ypsilantian* the following April 14, 1892:

"The Michigan Central will commence immediately the construction of a greenhouse at the west end of their garden here, for propagating plants for Depot Gardens along the line from Detroit to Kalamazoo. The house will be 60 feet long, and will be in charge of the present gardener, John Laidlaw, who will distribute the plants to the various stations, and lay out and plant their gardens. The garden at this station will be employed in the production of the train bouquets which proved so popular last year, and which will be distributed on a much larger scale this year. Station Agent Damon has that in charge, and expects to distribute 60,000 bouquets this season."

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November 1998

Ypsilanti, MI

MEETING: Wednesday, November 18, 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Ypsilanti Historical Museum
220 N. Huron Street
Ypsilanti

PROGRAM: *A Tale of Two Cities: Adrian and Ypsilanti and the Underground Railroad*

SPEAKERS: Dr. Charles Lindquist and A. P. Marshall

Records of the Michigan Anti-Slavery Society, organized in Adrian in 1853, indicate that the strength of this organization was in Lenawee, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties. It is also known that prior to and during the Civil War, the cities of Adrian and Ypsilanti became important stops on the Underground Railroad. This well-organized effort by abolitionists and other sympathetic community members aided fugitive slaves on their perilous flights to Detroit, and other places of crossing, into Canada, "the Promised Land." The part these two cities played in this effort is the subject of our November general meeting presentation, and we are indeed fortunate to have as speakers two noted historians, **Dr. Charles Lindquist and A. P. Marshall**, who will shed light on the men and women who ran stations on the Underground Railroad in Adrian and Ypsilanti, respectively.

Born and reared in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Charles Lindquist attended the University of Michigan where he received his B.A., and later his Ph.D., in history. He taught history at Adrian College full-time from 1967 to 1972, and later part-time from 1985 to 1995. Since 1974, he has been employed full-time as the Curator of the Lenawee County Historical Museum. Dr. Lindquist's publications include *A History of the Commercial Savings Bank, Lenawee County: A Heritage of Pride and Promise, Lenawee Reflections,* and *Lenawee in World War II*. His upcoming project is *Social Reform in Lenawee Before the Civil War*, which will focus on the anti-slavery and temperance movements between the 1830s and 1861. In addition, he has written numerous articles on local history over the past ten years for Adrian's Daily Telegram newspaper.

Albert P. Marshall was born in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and later moved to Kansas City, Missouri. He received his B.A. from Lincoln University, in Jefferson City, Missouri, and then enrolled in the University of Illinois Library School. A librarian by profession, Mr. Marshall has headed the libraries at Lincoln University and Winston-Salem (NC) State Teachers College. Drafted during World War II, he entered the United States Coast Guard, where he says his most satisfactory assignment was "the building of a library on the Troop Transport to which I was assigned." Following the war, he continued his library career, eventually becoming Director of Libraries at Eastern Michigan University in 1969. Since his retirement in 1980, A. P. Marshall has become known as Ypsilanti's unofficial historian of Black History, and his published works include *Unconquered Souls: The History of the African American in Ypsilanti, The "Real McCoy" of Ypsilanti, Helen*

Walker McAndrew: Ypsilanti's Lady Frontier Doctor, and The Four Horsemen of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Between them, our two speakers possess a wealth of knowledge on the Underground Railroad in Michigan, so you won't want to miss what promises to be a highly informative program. Please join us on Wednesday the 18th as we learn about this important chapter in our state's history. As always, membership is not required, so bring a friend. Refreshments will be served, along with plenty of good company and lively discussion with our speakers.

RIVERSIDE ARTS CENTER NEWS

The Riverside Arts Center was the recipient of an \$81,500 grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs. This is the first phase of a major capital campaign. Some of the projects that this grant will fund include replacing the auditorium roof, making rest rooms handicapped accessible, creating a backstage loading dock and handicapped ramp on the north side of the building, and a few other items to increase the comfort and technical capabilities of the center. The grant needs to be matched 50/50 with local sources such as municipalities, foundations, and corporations. If any YHF members have ideas or contacts regarding local funding sources, please call Barry La Rue at 482-2327.

A work detail at the RAC in early October resulted in smoothing out the flooring in the north portion of the second floor to provide for overflow rehearsal space. The eventual plan will be for Al Walters Heating to extend duct work at that level and create both permanent rehearsal space and office/meeting rooms. Volunteers will also be meeting at the RAC on Sunday, November 8, at 9:00 a.m. for another work day; hope to see you there!

If you'd like to get involved with the Riverside, please contact Lisa Walters, our new membership chair, so that your name can be added to our mailing list.

GOOD NEWS TIDBITS

It's not August, but good news happens year 'round in Ypsilanti and sometimes we can't wait to share it.

The City Council has recently approved the restoration of the outside of City Hall at 1 S. Huron St. We hope this crucial corner of our city will soon start to look as good as so many of the other restored buildings downtown.

Eric, Karen, and Walter Maurer have bought the Victorian home at 35 S. Summit and will be occupying it as a single family residence.

The new Master Plan for the Freighthouse in Depot Town has been approved by City Council. These improvements will turn the Freighthouse into a real showplace.

While property values in all of Ypsilanti are rising, houses in the historic district are reportedly the subjects of bidding wars and are selling for more than the asking prices.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Due to popular demand, we've decided to again list some of the many events scheduled to take place in Ypsilanti during the upcoming holiday season. Call the numbers provided for more information.

November 7, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.: Used Book Sale, Ypsilanti Farmers' Market. 483-1480.

November 7, 4:00 p.m.: Orchestra Concert, Pease Auditorium at EMU. Faculty members perform Beethoven's Triple Concerto with the EMU Symphony Orchestra. Free admission. 487-2255.

November 10, 8:00 p.m.: Faculty Voice Recital, Alexander Recital Hall, EMU. Free admission. 487-2255.

November 14: Holiday Artist Market, Ypsilanti Farmers' market. 483-1480.

November 15, 4:00 p.m.: "Measure for Measure" men's chorus benefit concert to help put the pipes back in Pease. Tickets: 487-1221.

November 18, 8:00 p.m.: "Surprise Symphony" at Pease Auditorium. Performances by the EMU Chamber Orchestra and other chamber ensembles. Free admission.

November 20 and 21, 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.: Holiday Bazaar at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 410 W. Cross. Fresh baked goods, crafts, country store, and more.

November 21 and 22 and December 4 and 5: *Ghost of the River House*, Quirk Theatre, Eastern Michigan University. Call 487-1221.

November 22, 12-4 p.m.: Sunday Economy Bazaar—everything \$10 or less. Farmers' Market. 483-1480.

December 1, 8:00 p.m.: Collegium Concert, Holy Trinity Chapel. Anthony Iannaccone leads the Collegium Ensemble in choral and instrumental music of the 17th and 18th centuries. Free admission.

December 5: Holiday Bazaar at the Farmers' Market. Arts, crafts, gifts, baked goods, wreaths, music, coffee, and more. Call 483-1480.

December 5 and 6, 3:00 p.m.: Ypsilanti Area Dancers' production of *The Nutcracker Ballet* at Ypsilanti High School. Special appearance by YHF member Rick Katon. Call the Randazzo Dance Studio at 482-6131.

December 6, 2:30 and 5:00 p.m.: Lessons and Carols. EMU Choirs and Campus Ministries celebrate the season with readings and song. First United Methodist Church, 209 Washtenaw. Free admission. Call 487-2255.

December 5 and 6: 2nd Annual Victorian Christmas Weekend in Depot Town.

(continued)

December 6, 1:00-6:00: Tour of Holiday Homes of Historic Ypsilanti, featuring seven residences decorated in holiday themes. To benefit Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels and Depot Town Historic Preservation. Tickets go on sale Nov. 10 at Remington's by Design. Call 485-2164.

December 10, 7:30 p.m.: The Ypsilanti Community Band and Choir Annual Holiday Concert, Pease Auditorium. Free admission. Call 483-7192.

December 10-13 and December 17-19, 8:00 p.m.: *A Tuna Christmas*, presented by P.T.D. Productions at the Riverside Arts Center. Call 483-7345 for more information.

December 11, 8:00 p.m.: EMU Women's Chorus Concert. A musical salute to the season. Holy Trinity Chapel. Free admission.

December 11, 12, and 19, 8:00 p.m. and December 12, 13, 19, and 20 at 2:30 p.m.: *The Gifts of the Magi*, Sponberg Theatre, Eastern Michigan University. Call 487-1221.

December 12 and 19, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.: Santa Claus at the Farmers' Market. Call 483-1480.

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