


Ypsilanti Collections on Display

On the Saturday during Heritage Festival, don't forget to stop by Tom Manchester's Law Office at 206 N. Huron where several collectors will have Ypsilanti memorabilia on display. Items shown will include Ypsi bottles, maps, paper documents, and other interesting examples of Ypsilanti's history.



There will also be a display of materials provided by the Historic Preservation Program at Eastern Michigan University. A slide show of Ypsilanti's history will be shown throughout the afternoon. Make sure to drop in between noon and 6 pm on Saturday to see this neat old stuff!

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Announces September General Meeting

September 27th 7:30 p.m.
Ypsilanti Antiques Road Show
Riverside Arts Center Basement



Steve Gross, local antique dealer and auctioneer, will appraise the audience's treasures. So bring your collectibles and join us for an evening of fun and entertainment. Please limit your articles to one per person - no large furniture

James Mann Named Ypsilanti Historian

The Ypsilanti Historical Society has named James Mann Historian. Mann replaces Doris Milliman, who held the office for several years. Mann is a member of the Heritage Foundation Board of Directors.

The City Archives are open Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Towner House Update

We are making progress in the preservation of the Towner House. With the help of community businesses and individuals through donated materials, time and money this structure is being restored to its original state. Saturday and Sunday from noon until 3 p.m. during the festival, we will have the "Towner House Experts" on hand to explain the history of the house, its architectural features and discuss the restoration that is in progress. Please stop by and take a look!

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Heritage News

c/o Don Randazzo
6101 Hitchingham Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

website: www.yhf.org

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Heritage News

August 2000 "Good News Edition"

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation's 23rd Annual **Historic** Home Tour



SPECIAL EVENT

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Ypsilanti Heritage
Foundation's
23rd Annual

Historic Home Tour

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Sunday,
August 20, 2000
Noon to 5:00 p.m.

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Tickets

Advance — \$8.00
Day of Tour — \$10.00

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Advance tickets are available:

In Ypsilanti

at Quinn's Essentials,
Materials Unlimited, Haab's,
Angel Food Cafe, and
Norton-Durant Florists and Gifts

In Ann Arbor

at the John Leidy Shop and
Downtown Home and Garden

In Plymouth

at Saxton's Garden Center

•••

On Saturday, August 19th, advance tickets will also be sold from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Home Tour ticket booth, located in front of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum at 220 N. Huron Street.

On the day of the tour, tickets are full price and are available only at the Home Tour ticket booth from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

FEATURING



210 W. Cross Cross Street Village

When completed, this adaptive re-use project will contain 103 apartment homes for residents 55 years and older. Many of the original architectural elements of this historic 1916 building, formerly the Ypsilanti High School, have been preserved and incorporated into the Village's very individual and creative living spaces.



411 N. Huron Steve and Elaina Hoxie

One of the finest examples of the Italianate Style in Ypsilanti, this home, built in the 1860s, sports a very striking and truly Victorian exterior color scheme. It is once again a single family dwelling, and

its interior features a large bay window wall, a graceful curving stairway, the original crown molding, and pine floors.



209 N. Huron John and Pattie Harrington and Joe Lawrence

Built in 1921 by members of two of Ypsilanti's most prominent families, this handsome home was constructed of stucco and wooden beams, in the classic Tudor Revival Style. Its interior features include a large foyer with an ornate winding staircase, a living room with a marble fireplace and built-in leaded glass book cases, original chandeliers and sconces, and the original butler's pantry.



121 N. Huron Doug and Mary Kisor

This spectacular Italian Villa Style house, built in 1865, was the home and office of Dr. John Andrus Watling, the first college-educated dentist to practice in Michigan. It features a tall tower and an ornamented bay window on the side. Inside, rich parquet floors of walnut, oak, and butternut adorn the main living areas, and a

Home Tour continued on page 2

It Happened in Ypsilanti

1999-2000

NICE WORK!

The "**MAINSTREET**" building next door to City, Hall, which over the years has been a flour mill, a lumber yard and a restaurant, is currently undergoing a spectacular restoration! See it now and again next year when it will be a major star on Michigan Avenue!

The **OLD HIGH SCHOOL** on Cross Street, west of Depot Town, which has been undergoing a spectacular renovation, will open in September as **CROSS STREET VILLAGE** senior apartments. Their favorite old classrooms, now apartments, have been reserved by several people who once attended school here! Reports from those who have toured the building are **GLOWING!**

The old fire station on Cross at Washington now houses the **FIRE TRUCK MUSEUM**. Newly built doors have replaced the previous, inappropriate ones. Plans for a large addition to the museum are in the works. Don't miss visiting this great exhibit during Festival!

The addition to the **AUTOMOTIVE HERITAGE COLLECTION** and historic **MILLER MOTORS** in Depot Town is nearing completion.

RM CLASSIC CARS is a handsome and welcome improvement to Forest just east of Huron. This handsome building houses an ever changing exhibit of stunning vehicles. Watch for a surprising change to the roundtopped metal building at the rear!

315 W. CROSS — a badly deteriorated front porch has been sensitively and appropriately rebuilt. Thanks, Ken!

The metal front on **105 W. MICHIGAN** will soon come down to allow for the restoration of the 2nd and 3rd floor facades.

Did you find the new **DEPOT TOWN PARKING LOT** just east of the depot? More room for more visitors!

At **32—42 N. HURON** the false facade is gone, revealing the original stone-faced entry. New wood panels replace the inappropriate work of the 1960's.

SIDEWALK CAFES are sporting handsome iron fences! Sit awhile and admire the new ones at Aubrey's and Cady's in Depot Town. And don't miss Angel Food's sidewalk café downtown on Michigan Avenue.

ESQUIRE INTERIORS in Depot Town has installed new windows which allow enticing views of tempting merchandise.

SILVER SPOON ANTIQUES, bulging at the seams in Depot Town, has expanded to a second shop across the street — stop in!

A new state marker was installed in a recent ceremony at the historic **FREIGHTHOUSE** — looks very handsome in the herb garden at the north end of the building.

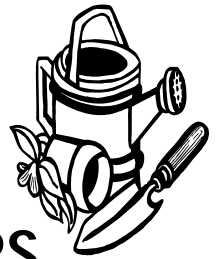
GREAT NEW PAINT JOBS

58 E. Forest, unpainted for many years, is now elegant in subtle new colors.

600 N. River, High Scope Educational Research Foundation, previously tan and brown, is exceptionally handsome now in shades of gray trimming in deep red.

204 E. Cross, once nearly invisible in all white, now boasts a beautiful, sunny four color paint scheme.

The shops called "**Tea, Thyme & Treasures**" and "**The Tea Cozy**" (where little girls love to have their birthday parties!) in Depot Town are beautifully repainted.



FLOWERS, FLOWERS, FLOWERS

They're thriving everywhere - in half barrels and window boxes, on street corners and curbsides. Don't miss the blossoms in Depot Town, and the beautiful gardens at the:

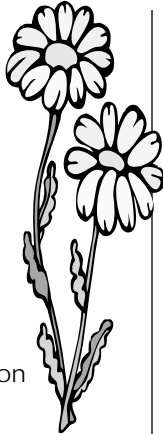
- Old Ladies Library
130 N. Huron
- AVE MARIA
W. Forest at N. Adams
- The CABOOSE in
Depot Town,

It Happened in Ypsilanti

1999-2000

the curbsides at:

- St. Luke's Church
North Huron,
- St. John's Church
West Cross,
- 213 E. Cross
- 214 N. Huron
- 202 S. Huron;



the traffic islands at:

- Washtenaw & Hamilton
- Huron & Cross,

courtesy of Mayor Cheryl Farmer and recruited helpers!

Thanks to everyone who plants and tends these beauties! Special thanks to all the apartment renters who plant flowers!

MUCH APPRECIATION

To the **YPSILANTI COURIER** for its determination to succeed and its unflinching devotion to Ypsilanti.

To **RICK FITZGERALD**, new editor of the Ypsilanti Press edition of the Ann Arbor News, for his positive and fun-to-read thoughts on this community.

To **CONGDON'S ACE HARDWARE** - where would all our projects be without them?

To the **UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE** for bringing the fascinating Postal Service museum train to Ypsilanti— it was not to be missed!

To **BARNES & BARNES** who, with quality, work and great paint jobs, ensure that their numerous rental

properties continue to improve. To **EXEMPLAR MANUFACTURING**, at the I-94 ramp on the south side of Ypsilanti, for its attractive landscaping and its numerous contributions to the community!

To **TOWNE CENTRE**, the senior high rise on Michigan Avenue at Hamilton, for keeping its grounds always tidy and attractive.

ON-GOING COMMITMENT

The City—owned **Department of Public Works historic building** on West Forest near North Huron will be rehabbed following plans recently reviewed by the Historic District Commission, thanks to the City's strong commitment to historic preservation.

Thanks always to **HIGH SCOPE EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION** for its faithful maintenance of its spectacular structure at 600 N. River.

Again a wheelbarrow of thanks to **EZELL AGNEW** who tirelessly keeps downtown streets free of litter and the multitude of downtown plantings looking wonderful!



Always, thanks to those **BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS** who work so hard to keep Downtown and Depot Town looking good and thriving.

A big round of applause to the **CITY OF YPSILANTI**: our police force, fire fighters, city manager, city department heads, city employees, mayor & city council, and boards & commissions!

SPECIAL THANKS to all those folks who quietly and faithfully maintain their properties — who sweep and water, pick up and plant, repair and paint. If we missed mentioning any of you, know that without your effort Ypsilanti wouldn't be the great place it is!

www.yhf.org



Heritage Foundation Website

If you haven't visited our website yet, please do!

The easy-to-remember address is www.yhf.org.

To date, nearly 1400 visitors have viewed the site, with a current daily average of 20 visitors.

Membership In The Foundation

*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, Household \$15,
Contributing \$25, Sustaining \$100,
Life \$1000.

HELP MAKE HISTORY!

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Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Board Members

- Hank Prebys, President
- Lisa Mills Walters, Secretary
- Joe Mattimoe, Treasurer
- Pattie Harrington
- Rick Leyschock
- James Mann
- Megan McCann
- Bill Nickels
- Don Randazzo
- Jane Schmiedeke
- Penny Schreiber

Home Tour

from page 1

circular stair provides access to
the lookout chamber at the
tower's peak.



119 N. Huron

Blake Hayes and Mary Seelhorst

Completed in 1892, this building
was the dental clinic for Dr. John
Andrus Watling. Its facade of red
and gray sandstone exhibits details
of classic Romanesque Style, popu-
larized by Henry Hobson
Richardson. The interior features
floors of ash and yellow pine, two
strikingly detailed oak and glazed-
tile fireplace mantels, and a stenciled
Art Nouveau frieze designed
using decorative elements from
the building itself.



**214 N. Huron
Cheryl Farmer**

A stately Italianate, built between
1851 and 1856, this home features
an elaborately detailed entryway
and low roof with wide overhang-
ing eaves supported by decora-
tive brackets. Outside, lovely front
gardens complement the classic
lines of the house, while inside, old
city maps and artwork by local
artists are on display.



52 E. Cross

Bill Labedski and Linda Yohn

Unlike other Commercial Italianate
buildings in Depot Town, this struc-
ture, built c.1870, has a distinctive,
arched lower cornice line. It fea-
tures the round top windows typi-
cal of its style and beautiful cast
iron posts within the storefront
facade. Shown as a work-in-
progress, on tour will be the cur-
rent owners' first floor business and
their unique, light-filled, two-story
residence above.

• • •

*The Historic Home Tour
is an event of the
Ypsilanti Heritage Festival,
Aug. 18, 19, and 20, 2000.
A portion of the proceeds
from this year's tour
has been pledged
to the restoration
of the Towner House.*

• • •



Heritage News is the newsletter of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation. It is published six times a year: August, 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.

More 1999-2000 Ypsilanti Highlights

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One of the highlights of the past year for the Heritage Foundation was the winning of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network's annual award in the city government category. YHF Board Member Jane Schmiedeke nominated our city for this honor; it is the first time a city has ever won the award.

The nomination materials supplied by Jane told of Ypsilanti's 25-year journey toward the awareness of historic preservation that Ypsilanti enjoys today. Jane closed her nomination with the words: "Never was a city more deserving of recognition for its accomplishments in, and contributions to, historic preservation." The awards committee knew, as we do, that Jane was right!

...

In addition to honoring our Marker Award recipients this year, the Foundation gave a special thank-you at the Marker Banquet to long-time Ypsilanti preservationists Tom Dodd and Ricky Balkam. Both have been catalysts in helping the community, and especially its youth, understand the importance of historic buildings. Thanks again to Ricky and Tom!

...

New Ypsilantians Steve Pierce and Maggie Brandt have purchased both the Kresge Building on Michigan Avenue and the Glover Mansion, which they will be turning back into a private residence. We can't wait to see the improvements that are sure to take place. Welcome, Steve and Maggie!

...

The City of Ypsilanti has been granted \$3,728,000 as part of the State of Michigan Waterfront Development Program in order to acquire 39 downtown parcels. Ypsi is also participating in a proposal with the Washtenaw Development Council that will allow the city to be a campus in the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti State Technology Parks Program.

...

YHF Board Member and City Council member Bill Nickels brings to our attention an article in the Real Estate section of the June 25, 2000, edition of the Detroit Free Press. The article focuses on new developments with "neotraditional" homes. One of these new developments is planned for Pittsfield Township. According to writer Judy Rose, "The goal is to create homey neighborhoods where kids can walk to the corner for ice cream, where old folks mix naturally with young ones, and where the shops you need are clustered nearby....some of the ideas include narrower streets, smaller yards, garages approached from the rear, not the front, and a mixture of people, houses, and businesses that's more like an older small town."

...

Aren't we lucky that we already live in an older small town!



City Hall Complete

The Ypsilanti City Hall is finally done! After moving to the former Ypsilanti Savings Bank building in the late 1970s, the facade has been brought back to its pre-1966 appearance.

Throughout the late 1970s and the decade of the 80s various proposals and studies were conducted as to the feasibility of rehabbing the "new" city hall. It wasn't until the 1991 Quinn-Evans study that there was the will to move forward with this ambitious, but necessary, project.

Through a federally funded "ISTEA" grant in 1993 the alumi-num screening (known around here as the Cheese Grater") was removed. The upper facade was repaired and appropriate windows installed.

Due to budget constraints, the lower facade with its rusticated stone and limestone trimming was left in a very unsightly condition. In mid 1998 the final phase of the restoration was approved and work was completed this July.

The structure sports only about two thirds of the original exterior surface. The 1888 Mason and Rice designed building had its highly pitched slate roof removed around 1940.

A rededication ceremony will take place right after the end of the Heritage Festival parade on Saturday, July 19th. All preservation minded Ypsilantians are urged to attend and honor this long awaited and beautifully executed project!

*Thanks to Council member Barry LaRue
for the City Hall update*

• *Mark Your Calendars* •

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
September General Meeting

Ypsilanti
Antiques
Road Show
September 27th - 7:30 p.m.

At the Riverside Arts Center Basement



Steve Gross, local antique dealer and auctioneer, will appraise the audience's treasures. So bring your collectibles and join us for an evening of fun and entertainment. Please limit your articles to one per person - no large furniture please.

See You There!

RIVERSIDE ARTS CENTER

by Barry LaRue

The Riverside Arts Center is concluding the work we did as part of our most recent grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs. The loading dock on the north side is complete as are the two handicapped accessible restrooms on the main floor. Our heating and air conditioning have been upgraded and the second floor meeting spaces are almost complete.

We were disappointed to have been notified recently that our application for funding from the Arts and Quality of Life grant program was not successful. We are meeting with decision makers at the state level to explore our options for future opportunities.

It looks like the Riverside West Park Link improvement will not be breaking ground until spring. That will provide a lit stair system down the riverbank to Riverside Park and create a ramp up to our new loading dock. Landscaping, brickwork and Greek columns are all part of the new park and will really dress up the north side of the Center!

On a bittersweet note: Our Business Manager Larry Newhouse has "retired" to take a full time job teaching and managing gallery space at the Art Department at EMU. While filling Larry's shoes will be tough we wish him the best in his new pursuit and trust that we can count on him as a returning member of our Operations Board.

As always, we are looking for volunteers that may want to help paint, clean, mow the side yard or any of a myriad of tasks we have at the Center. Please let Barry LaRue (482-2327) or Jim Baker (482-4750) know of your interest.

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Heritage News



c/o Don Randazzo
6101 Hitchingham Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

website: www.yhf.org

Heritage NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2000



23rd
Annual

Historic Home Tour Kicks Off the Millennium in Style!

A fantastic slate of historic properties, together with picture-perfect weather, resulted in quite possibly the best Historic Home Tour ever! More than 850 people turned out for the 2000 tour, held on Sunday, August 20th.

On behalf of the Home Tour Committee, I would like to thank the owners of this year's wonderful group of properties for graciously making them available: American Community Developers for Cross Street Village; Steve and Elaina Hoxie, 411 N. Huron; John and Pattie Harrington and Joe Lawrence, 209 N. Huron; Doug and Mary Kisor, 121 N. Huron; Blake Hayes and Mary Seelhorst, 119 N. Huron; Cheryl Farmer, 214 N. Huron; and Bill Labedski and Linda Yohn, 52 E. Cross.

We would also like to acknowledge our volunteer guides and ticket sellers who, as usual, came through for us with their 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, James Mann, Hank Prebys, and Lisa Walters for their help in researching Home Tour properties.

To Carolyn McKeever and Diane Brown, we say "thank you" for their creative design and art production for this year's brochure, poster, direct mail piece, and ad. 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 graced the homes on tour; Serv-All Printing for their donation of printing services for the poster; the Ann Arbor News for giving us complimentary advertising space; and McNaughton & Gunn, Inc. for their very generous donation of printing services for the brochure.

Every year, we cap off the Home Tour with what has become one of the best parties of the season! A very special thank-you to Rick and Carol Leyshock, our hosts for this year's post-tour party, and to the party team of Bill and Karen Nickels, Barbara and Alan Saxton, Rick and Carol Leyshock, and Paul Schreiber who, once again, put together a wonderful event!

Finally, my personal thanks go out to the members of the Home Tour Committee: Ricky Balkam, Jonnie Bryant, Kyle Bunton, Nancy Chapman, Carol Cramer, Jennifer Goulet, Tamara Kutter, Nancie Loppnow, Mary Ann McDonald, Pamela Newhouse, Mary Nickson, Barbara Saxton, and Edie Sherman. 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, 23rd Annual
Historic Home Tour

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Board Members

Hank Prebys, President
 Lisa Mills Walters, Secretary
 Joe Mattimoe, Treasurer
 Jennifer Goulet
 Pattie Harrington
 Rick Leyschok
 Megan McCann
 Bill Nickels
 Don Randazzo
 Jane Schmiedeke
 Penny Schreiber

Goulet named Director

Jennifer Goulet was named Downtown/Depot Town Development Authorities Director, for the city of Ypsilanti, in August of this year. She will be overseeing many projects in the city including the Water Street redevelopment and the Tech Zone designation project. Her past experience as the City's Community and Economic Development Director bring the knowledge and initiative to this position to benefit the entire community.



Towner House

Update



Good things are taking place at the corner of Emmet and North Huron streets. The Towner House Maintenance Committee with volunteer community members have been donating their Saturday mornings to the preservation of the Towner House. Phase One of the project, stabilizing the exterior, includes painting, roofing the front porch, rebuilding the windows, adding siding to the back of the house and rebuilding the doors. Most of these objectives have been met. The remaining objective before the onset of winter is to have the back siding installed and painted. The Towner House Maintenance Committee wants to thank everyone who

has donated to this project. Without community help this landmark would disappear.



Additional fund raising events are scheduled in the future to help raise money for the preservation and restoration of the Towner House.

Don Randazzo installs a lock on the back door of the Towner house.

Thanks to These Contributors

-
- Absopure
- Acme Glass
- Astro Roofing
- City of Ypsilanti
- Congdon's Ace Hardware
- Don Randazzo Home Inspection
- Festival of Foods
- First Presbyterian Church
- Haab's Restaurant
- Harrington's Prepress Express
- Jim Baker
- Kinko's
- Lakes Radiator
- Lowes
- Mayor, Cheryl Farmer
- Phi Sigma Pi Honors Fraternity
- Quinn Studios
- Tom Manchester
- Wicked Mickey's
- X-press Printing Company
- Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
- &
- the many community volunteers who have donated their time



Have lunch or dinner at Haab's on Sunday, September 24th and 10% of the day's sales will be donated to the Towner House Restoration Project

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.

The Illustrated Preservationist

From YHF member Tom Dodd comes this very interesting anecdote...

I was exiting St. Joe's Hospital today and noticed a young couple in front of me at the front entry. He was holding her arm as they approached the curb. Beneath his black tank top I could see a panoply of elegant tattoos. The back of his left shoulder showed a fine line drawing of a Second Empire Style house.

As I overtook them, I touched his arm and said something to the effect that I had never seen nineteenth century architecture in the form of a tattoo before. As he turned, I could see he was blind and it further reinforced my recent observation that people with tattoos have them for others to see, not so much for themselves.

He pointed out that the design was "the Ypsi Boys & Girls Club," and, sure enough, closer inspection showed broken windows and cob webs worked into the design—much in the manner of a kid's Halloween drawing. He went on to tell me that it was called "The Gilbert Mansion" and he used to attend there when he was younger.

Before I could think of being politically correct, I asked him if he had "seen" it recently and he noted that he was blind. With a minimum of falling all over myself, I told him I was fascinated with his choice of a tattoo and proud of him for showing it so prominently.

I only regret that I did not get his name, but this young man is certainly carrying the ethic of historic preservation in Ypsilanti to a new and different audience.



City Hall

Rededication



Mayor, Cheryl Farmer proudly rededicates the City Hall Building at One South Huron Street after nine years of design, removal and restoration.

The ceremony took place right after the Heritage Festival parade on Saturday, August 19th. Many preservation minded Ypsilantians attended the event. Now that the long awaited and beautifully executed project is complete. The marker that was awarded to the city in May, at the annual Heritage Foundation Awards Banquet, will be placed on the structure.



Ypsilanti City Council Members pose in front of the newly rededicated City Hall building. From left to right, Council representatives Bill Nichols, and Barry LaRue, Mayor Pro-Tem, Terry McDonald, Mayor, Cheryl Farmer, Council representatives Ronnie Peterson, Trudy Swanson and John Gawlas.

1887

Ypsilanti Savings Bank organizers hired Mason and Rice architectural firm to design their building at One South Huron Street



1940

The roof was flattened to allow for more square footage of useable space.

1966

The brick facade was covered with aluminum screen and marble panels. Referred to as the "cheese grater".

1976

The City of Ypsilanti purchased the bank building.

1991

Funds for the current restoration were authorized by the City.



Holiday events

November 19, Sunday, 2 p.m.
The Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra performs works by Mendelssohn and Bach. Holy Trinity Chapel. 480-4579.

November 16-19 and 23-25, 8 p.m. PTD Productions presents Noel Coward's "Hay Fever" at the Riverside Arts Center. 483-7345.

December 1, 2, 7, 8, and 9 at 8 p.m.; Dec 3 at 2:30 pm. EMU Theatre presents A Christmas Carol. Quirk Theatre, EMU. 487-1221.

December 3, Sunday, 7 p.m. Lessons and Carols. EMU Choirs and Campus Ministries present seasonal songs and readings in the King's College tradition. Pease Auditorium. 487-2255.

December 5, Tuesday, 8 p.m. EMU Collegium Concert. Music for choral and instrumental ensembles of the 17th and 18th centuries. Holy Trinity Chapel. 487-2255.

December 7, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Ypsilanti Community Choir and Barnhill Band annual Christmas concert. Pease Auditorium. 483-7192.

December 10, Sunday, 1:00-6:00 p.m. Annual Tour of Holiday Homes of Historic Ypsilanti. Proceeds to benefit Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels. Advanced tickets available at Quinn's Essentials and Me 'n' My Sisters in Depot Town, Haabs Restaurant in downtown Ypsilanti and Cartys Music on Hewitt Road in Ypsilanti. Day of the event tickets will be available at the Ypsilanti Ladies' Literary Club.

December 7-17, Orpheus Productions presents "Parked" at the Riverside Arts Center. 971-5545.

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The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Heritage News

c/o Don Randazzo
6101 Hitchingham Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48197



Heritage NEWS

NOVEMBER 2000

Shackman to speak on history of western Washtenaw county

On Tuesday evening, November 28, at 7:30 at the United Methodist Church of Ypsilanti, Grace Shackman will present a talk and slide show about the historic western Washtenaw County towns of Saline, Chelsea, Dexter, and Manchester to the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation.

Shackman is well known in this area as a researcher and writer on local history. Since 1981 she has been a regular contributor to the Ann Arbor Observer, where she is best known to readers for her "Then & Now" articles about Ann Arbor's past. Shackman is also fascinated by the history of western Washtenaw County towns. Her interest was sparked when she worked as a reporter for the Chelsea Standard

and the Dexter Leader for several years in the late 1980s. After that she served as a county commissioner for eight years and her knowledge of those towns increased. A few years ago when she began writing for the Community Observer, a new magazine covering western Washtenaw County that is published by the Ann Arbor Observer Company, she decided she had accumulated enough information to create a slide show about the historic towns of Chelsea, Dexter, Manchester, and Saline.

The public is invited to come and hear Grace's talk. She will answer questions afterwards. As always, refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Holiday Homes Tour set for Sunday, December 10th

If you enjoyed the Christmas Home Tour last year, you're looking forward to going again! If you missed it last year, you have a delightful treat in store on Sunday, December 10, 1:00 to 6:00. Five private homes and a church, all wonderfully decorated for the holidays, as well as a refreshment stop at the Ladies Literary Club - it's all yours to enjoy on this year's tour. Take a friend, take a neighbor, take your family! Advance tickets, \$10, will be available at Quinn's Essentials and Me n' My Sister's Country Store in Depot Town, Haab's Restaurant in downtown Ypsilanti and Carty's Music store on Hewitt Road in Ypsilanti. Tickets will be available the day of the tour, \$12.50, at the



Ladies' Literary Club. Tour proceeds are again destined for Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels.

November Meeting

Tuesday, November 28

at 7:30 at the

United Methodist Church
of Ypsilanti

209 Washtenaw Avenue

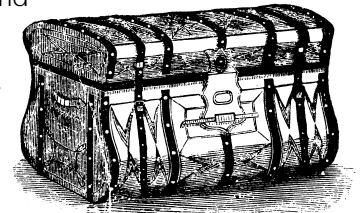
What Will We Find in Grandma's Trunk?

With the Grandma's Trunk project, the Heritage Foundation will take the past into the classroom. Kids will get the opportunity to see and touch items a traveling family from the 1800s might have owned.

The Foundation is recreating traveling trunks, or suitcases, with clothing and personal items such as hairbrushes and combs and

other, more unusual, pieces to illustrate to the children the differences—

and similarities—between families from the past and those in the present.



The trunks will be delivered to area elementary schools, along with full descriptions of the items contained within. Each school will host the trunks for a period of time before they are sent on to the next school, giving teachers and children the chance to discuss the trunks and the family that might have owned them. Topics of discussion can include anything from the technological developments that have made traveling a much less expensive and time-consuming activity to changes in fashion.

The Henry Ford Museum at Greenfield Village has donated two 1800s vintage traveling trunks to the project. Now, we are searching for items to fill our trunks. Specifically, the foundation is looking for clothing items, small toys and games, and personal hygiene products.

If anyone has items they feel are appropriate to the project and are interested in donating or loaning them, please call Megan McCann at 484-6548.

Membership In The Foundation

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 |
| Household | \$15 |
| Contributing | \$25 |
| Sustaining | \$100 |
| Life | \$1000 |

HELP MAKE HISTORY!

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New Paint Job Proves Popular!

It may be due to the fact that it stood derelict and forlorn for so many years, becoming almost part of the background along Huron Street, but the new, multi-colored paint job the Towner House now sports has certainly gained a lot of attention. And most of it is overwhelmingly positive. In fact, one admirer has described it as "a little jewel box of a house!"

Completed this past summer, the paint job was part of the first phase of the Towner House Preservation Project. Towner House Foundation board members selected the colors with advice from fellow board member Elizabeth VanderMark, an architect intern with the firm of Elisabeth Knibbe Architects. Liz prepared the color renderings that helped the board decide on the paint scheme and that were submitted to the Ypsilanti Historic District Commission for review and approval.

The HDC hesitated a little before approving a multi-colored paint scheme. They cited the fact that, in their original state, Greek Revival houses were almost always painted white since their owners sought to emulate the white temples of classical Greece. (In an ironic twist, more recent scholarship has revealed that the Greek temples were not always white. Research has revealed tiny fragments of colored pigment on the temples, so the Towner House's paint scheme may not be so inappropriate, after all.) In any event, the HDC did sign off on the paint scheme and the work went forward.

Enthusiasm for the new paint scheme has resulted in some amusing anecdotes. THF board member Betty Randazzo reports that during a Saturday workday at the house, following the paint job, a woman pulled her car into the nearby Presbyterian Church lot, jumped out, and ran towards the house shouting, "That's my color! That's my color!" It turns out the paint color used on the siding was exactly what she was looking for for her own house. So, Betty gave her the information she needed about the paint and sent her on her merry way.

Mayor Cheryl Farmer, a Towner House neighbor, has her own paint story that

occurred recently. Cheryl, who always keeps a watchful eye on the house, happened to see two people crouched down near one of the walls. Curious, she walked towards the house and as she came closer noticed that they were in that position because they were comparing paint samples with the color on the siding!

It seems the once nondescript little Towner House may be setting a new trend in exterior paint schemes. So, for those of you who may be interested, the following paint colors were used on the house: the siding is Georgian Green Stone; the trim areas are Victorian White Wash; the window sashes and doors are Early American Shutter Green; and once they're repaired, the porch floor and skirting will be painted in Victorian Slate. Most of the paint for the Towner House was donated by Lowes, from their own line of paints. The Towner House Foundation would once again like to thank Lowes for this generous donation.

It's been said that "clothes make the man." Apparently, that's true about paint on houses, too!

Peg Du Fresne
 Towner House Foundation Board

Towner House update

If you're in the neighborhood – take a detour and drive down Emmet street. The Towner house now has clapboard siding on the back of the house, where additional structures had previously been removed. The windows for the back of the house will be in place soon. Don Randazzo rebuilt the back windows, from donated windows of the same period, to match the rest of the windows in the house.

The Towner House Foundation held an ice cream social at the Weaver's Antique Fire Museum in October. The committee would like to thank the Weaver's and John Tucker for their assistance in the event, as well as those who attended.

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.

Special Care of

Antique Glass & Ceramics



will preserve them
for generations

While The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation has always been focused on historic buildings, many members are interested in antiques as well. I

thought that it might be interesting to some to review some of the do's and don'ts in caring for one's collections or for that matter, the piece of glass or silver inherited from Great Aunt Maude. Looking over a series of "Care And Preservation" articles that are available from the Conservation Department of Henry Ford Museum, I've decided to excerpt a few interesting and useful tidbits for the Newsletter. (The complete documents may be downloaded from the Henry Ford Museum web site [www.hfmgv.org] or for a nominal charge, the museum's Conservation Department can mail them to you.

Glass and ceramic objects can be maintained for years of use and enjoyment provided that some basic care and attention is given to their preservation. The first step in the care of collections is to understand and minimize or eliminate conditions that can cause damage. The second step is to follow some basic guidelines for care, handling and cleaning.

Glass and ceramics are among the most durable antique collectibles. Breakage is by far the most common form of damage that occurs to both. Improper use, display, cleaning or repair can cause additional damage in the form of stains and discoloration. In rare instances, poor manufacture or harsh environmental conditions lead to degradation.

Porous, unglazed or cracked ceramics can develop stains as a result of being soaked in water during cleaning and the absorption of food, soil from potted plants or rust from contact with metal can also stain. The use of inappropriate or poor quality adhesives and paints during repair can also result in irreversible discoloration. Antique ceramic dishes should never be heated beyond room temperature. Elevated temperatures can cause darkening of already existing stains and sudden changes in temperature can promote the development of cracks and breaks. The same advice holds true for glass, particularly cut glass.

In rare instances, a damaging condition called "weeping glass" occurs. "Weeping glass" describe actual droplets of moisture that form on the surface of a glass object. These droplets of moisture can leach out unstable components of the glass producing an alkaline solution. If these alkaline droplets remain on the surface of the glass for a long peri-

od of time, the surface will develop of fine network of cracks. This phenomenon is referred to as "crizzling." Both weeping and crizzling are believed to be the result of improper formulation during glass manufacture.

What can you do to protect your stuff? Well, for starters, the use of spring-type metal plate hangers should be avoided. These hangers place a great deal of stress on objects and can lead to the development of cracks. Better to use plastic or painted wood plate stands that allow the object to rest at a tilted angle. (They're available at places like Michael's Crafts and Per 1.) Always use two hands when lifting or moving objects. Never lift objects by their handles or spouts. This is particularly important if the object has previously been repaired. Even the best repairs can not restore the structural strength to a broken ceramic or glass item.

When cleaning antique ceramics, remember that they often are decorated with fragile paint or gilding which can be easily removed with harsh cleaning solutions. Test in a small area to see if the method you plan on using seems to do damage. Use only diluted solutions and soft cloths during cleaning. Never soak ceramics in any liquid. Soaking and uneven drying can lead to staining. This is particularly a problem in items that are chipped or scratched or have cracked glazes. And a final warning, dishwashers should never be used to clean antique ceramics or glass pieces. Instead use mild detergents in water (a 1% solution.) If you really want to get serious, you can also use ethanol and water (1 to 1) applied with cotton balls or Q-tips. The piece can be rinsed using distilled water applied with a dampened cloth.

Glass can be cleaned in much the same way and you have the additional option of using dilute ammonia as a cleaner.

Repair of ceramics can be complicated. If the item is valuable, leave it to a professional conservator. The wrong adhesive can permanently stain. Glass too can be damaged by the wrong adhesives. Generally, epoxy is used but epoxy discolors in sunlight. The fine repair job that you do today, my come back to haunt you as a yellow line tomorrow. A special formulation, called Hxtal is used at the HFM because it is relatively light stable.

Finally, damage to your glass and ceramics can be minimized by avoiding extremes in temperature and humidity during storage. Keep objects away from heat sources like furnace vents, fire places, direct sunlight and unvented, internally lit display cases. Basements and attics may also cause problems.

Henry J. Prebys
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