

Historic House Markers

*You can nominate a home or building
for this special award*

The time is coming again for The Heritage Foundation's *Marker Award Banquet*. At the banquet, owners of houses that meet certain criteria are recognized for their efforts and Historic Building Markers are awarded in order to publicly identify buildings of special merit.

You can nominate a home or building for this special award.

How about bringing places that you think deserve an award to the atten-

tion of the selection committee?

Here are the criteria used by the committee:

- The building is within the boundaries of the City of Ypsilanti.
- The building predates 1950 and has an identifiable architectural style.
- The building is well and **appropriately maintained** (maybe it has just been rehabilitated).

See **Marker Awards** page 3

2003 HERITAGE FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

Location: Ladies' Literary Club
218 N. Washington

Time: 7:30 p.m.



WED., JAN. 22

Scott Kunst, owner of Old House Gardens Antique Bulbs in Ann Arbor, on "Antique Bulbs: Four Seasons, Forty Centuries."

WED., MARCH 26

Ann Arbor preservation architects Mitchell & Mouat on the restoration of Ypsilanti's historic First Presbyterian Church.

WED., MAY 28

Annual 2003 Marker Awards Banquet

SUN., AUGUST 17, 2003

Historic Home Tour



The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Heritage News

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

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Board Members

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***For up-to-date information about the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
& our Historic Community visit our website at www.yhf.org***

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.

Heritage NEWS

JANUARY 2003

January

Guest speaker

SCOTT KUNST

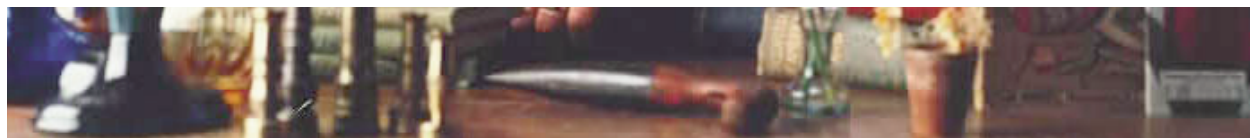
Wed. Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Ladies' Literary Club

218 N. Washington Street



Four Seasons & Forty Centuries of Heirloom Bulbs



S

cott Kunst is the owner of Old House Gardens, the country's only mail-order source devoted to heirloom flower bulbs. Since its founding in 1993, Old House Gardens' rare, tough, subtle, fragrant, and distinctive bulbs have been featured in *Fine Gardening*, *Horticulture*, *Country Living*, *Victoria*, and the *New York Times*. Recently, Scott planted some of his favorite antique bulbs with Martha Stewart on ABC's *Martha Stewart Living*.

Kunst will speak to the Heritage Foundation about *Heirloom Bulbs: Four Seasons, Forty Centuries* on Wednesday, January 22, at the Ladies' Literary Club, 218 North Washington Street, 7:30 p.m.

Please join us that evening to learn about unique, endangered, tough, and gorgeous heirloom bulbs that can enrich every garden. This lively slide lecture begins with a whirlwind history of bulbs from prehistory through the 1950s. It then focuses on a season-by-season encyclopedia of antique varieties that are still available to today's gardeners, including wild hyacinths and lilies, Aztec tuberoses, colonial daffodils, Victorian tulips and cannas, Jazz Age dahlias, and more. Old House Gardens is the country's only specialist in these astonishing living relics.

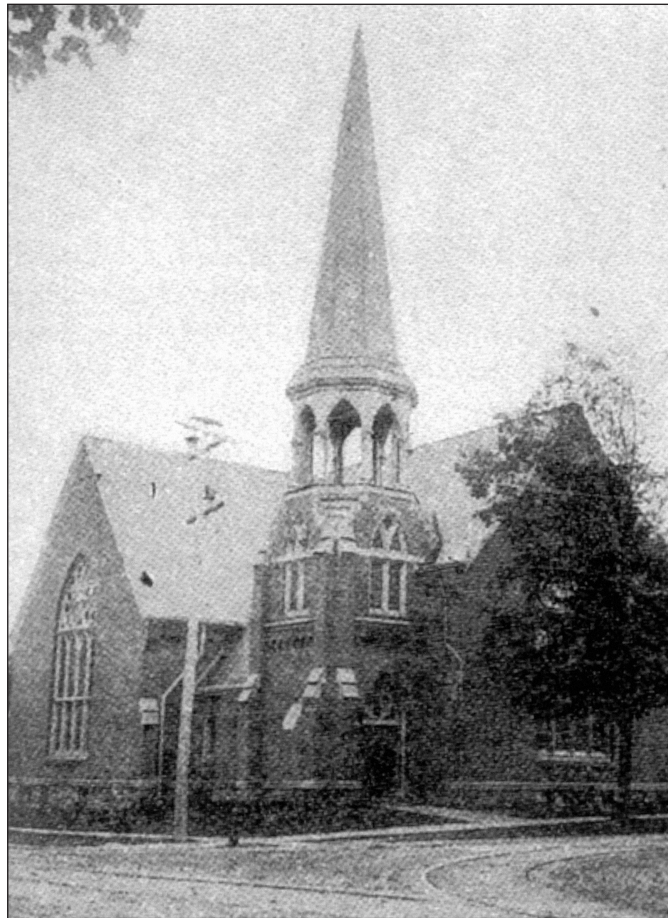
A landscape historian and preservationist, Kunst has been helping owners of historic homes and overseers of historic museums research and restore their grounds for fif-

teen years. He has taught landscape history at EMU, contributed numerous articles to *Old-House Journal*, and helped direct the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation.

Kunst, formerly a resident of Ypsilanti's historic district, today lives with his wife and sons in an 1889 Queen Anne house on Ann Arbor's Old West Side. An enthusiastic gardener, he grows historic plants in his own yard, including antique iris, peonies, pinks, mums, and—of course—spring and summer bulbs.

January is the perfect month to start thinking about your garden. Bring a friend or neighbor on January 22. As always, coffee and cookies will be served.

The First Baptist Church: A history of its buildings



By James Mann

"At four p.m. Monday afternoon," reported *The Ypsilanti Commercial* of Saturday, July 29, 1882, "a large gathering convened at the site of the new structure. The corner stone, furnished by Longbridge & Wilcox, was on hand, first quality Berea sand stone, 16x18 inches on the face, 20x28 inches on the south side. The date is cut on a fine specimen of Rogerville, (Tenn.) marble, cemented in permanently, with a partition between that and the box. The exercises, conducted by the pastor, Rev. J. Sunderland, began by singing to the tune of coronation, All Hail the power of Jeers Names. Reading of the scriptures by Rev. I. Gray."

The new structure was the First Baptist Church, and the occasion was the laying of the cornerstone. From 1884 until 1937, the tall spire of the First Baptist Church at the southeast corner of Cross and Washington streets was a local landmark. Today, there is nothing on the site to remind anyone that it once stood here.

The Baptist Church in Ypsilanti began when Elder J. S. Twiss of Ann Arbor helped to form a society of sixteen members in 1836. The society purchased a building at 110 North River street in 1843 from the Methodists. The Methodists had used the building as a church until the floor gave way during a revival. The Baptists repaired the building and used it as their church until 1847. Lots were purchased in 1846 at Cross and Washington street, where a new church was built. This building was dedicated on June 17, 1847 and was destroyed by fire on December 28, 1849. Work on a new church was started at once, and this building was dedicated on September 4, 1850. This building was 40x80 feet, and had a large basement used for prayer and lecture room. Over time, the needs of the community outgrew

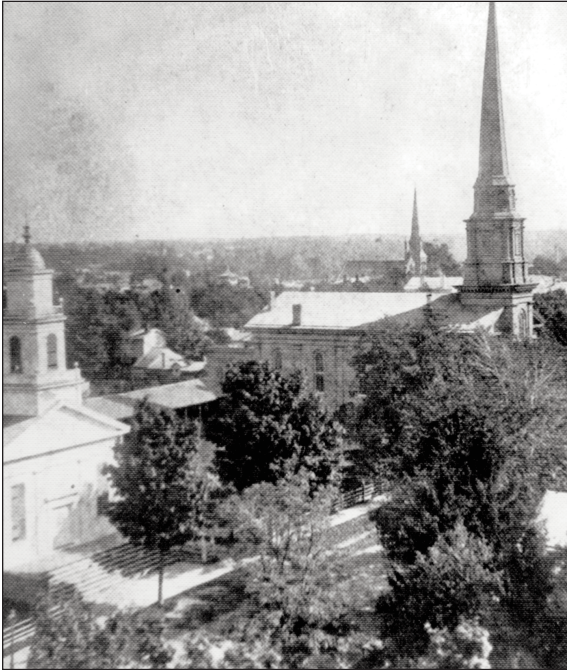
the space of the building. Consideration was given to repairing the building, but this plan was abandoned in favor of building, a new brick structure. The Building Committee entered into a contract with Henry W. Coddington for the erection of a new church on September 15, 1881.

"We made the contract after much hesitation and with feelings of great anxiety," wrote Daniel Putnam in a report of the Building Committee, published by *The Ypsilanti Commercial* on Saturday, December 16, 1882. "The building of a house of worship seemed to be the special work to which Providence was calling us as a people; but with our limited means, the success of the effort to build appeared doubtful, unless the same Providence should grant us special mercies and blessings in our labors. With such feelings, and with, as we hope, some measure of faith in God, and with some reliance upon our brethren and upon the good will of our fellow citizens outside of our own organization, the committee determined to commence the work."

The old church was removed, and the walls and roof of the new were put up dur-

ing the summer and fall of 1882. Under the terms of the contract, the church could suspend construction, if the necessary funds ran out. "Can we go on immediately and complete our work?" wrote Putnam. "It is exceedingly desirable to do so if possible. The committee are not now prepared to say whether it will be possible or not. The first thing to be done is to collect the subscriptions now incurred. The committee will not advise to move further till that is accomplished. It rests, therefore with the church and congregation to determine whether there shall be some delay, or we shall go on at once."

The question of whether or not to suspend work or continue on came up at a meeting of the Building Committee in October of 1883. "After an ample discussion,"



The First Baptist Church is located on the left, the First Presbyterian Church is on the right, both are located on North Washington Street.

reported *The Ypsilanti Commercial* of Saturday, October 27, 1883, "it was resolved to complete the church immediately, relying upon the generosity of their fellow citizens and the blessing of God upon their labors."

The decision to continue with the work appears to have been the right one, as the contractor, H. W. Coddington of Kalamazoo, proved worthy of his labor. "The plan is a very complete one," noted *The Kalamazoo Telegraph* in a story reprinted by *The Ypsilanti Commercial* on November 17, 1883, "having a large

provision in the way of committee rooms, kitchen, robbing rooms, etc., and the whole house equipped with the Ruttan system of heating and ventilation. The floor of the audience room is arranged and seated in amphitheater form, with five aisles leading down to the front. There will be three large memorial windows in the house. The portions of the plan which enable an advantageous use of attractive wood finishing are the breast work of the orchestra and organ loft behind the pulpit platform, and the spandrils. Of the latter there are three, dividing the ceiling into four panels. They are simple in effect but quite elaborate in the details of the woodwork. For these and the orchestra work the foundation is black ash, with cherry and red cedar. The grain of the pieces selected for this purpose is wonderful, making marked display. Some of the cherry after being oiled bears a close resemblance to mahogany, while the dark red cedar center pieces look like tulip wood. The natural grain of the ash and cherry and the artistic design and finish are worth going a good ways to see."

The church was cruciform in shape being 91 feet long and 61 feet wide. The structure had a 96 foot tall spire. The main audience room was 64x48 feet, and had a seating capacity of 400. The chapel was 30 1/2x25 feet, and could seat 160. The choir was 13 1/2x21, and seated 30. On each side of the chapel were rooms, each 12x12 feet. The galleries were 7 1/2x34 and seated 120. The church had a seating capacity of 710, with room for 100 extra chairs, bringing it to a total of 810.

"The Baptistry," reported *The Ypsilanti Commercial* of Saturday, February 2, 1884, "the only one saved at Ann Arbor, design of Mr. Coddington, an arrangement by which of its own accord the platform slides back, carrying the pulpit with it, uncovering the baptismal fountain."

The dedication of the new church was held on Wednesday, January 30, 1884. As part of the dedication, the contractor, H. W. Coddington, stepped forward and presented the keys to Daniel Putnam, Chairman of the Building Committee. The

Marker Awards

continued from page 4

- The grounds are maintained.
- If it is a rental property, the property has had appropriate maintenance for at least two years.
- The building has been developed sensitively.

The following example gives an idea of what is meant by "appropriate maintenance."

- The siding on the building is what was originally intended or could have been used originally. Vinyl siding on a 19th century building is never appropriate.
- The windows are original or identical to the original in size and configuration.
- Porches, railings and steps are appropriate to the period and style of the building.
- Any additions are compatible.

One-of-a-kind markers are possible in order to recognize the preservation and stabilization of a significant or high-profile building that has had a history of mistreatment. These will be selected after a case-by-case review.

If you would like to nominate a building for a Historic Marker designation send (before March 31, 2003) a very brief description of the building and its address to:

Don Randazzo
Chair, YHF Marker Committee
6101 Hitchingham Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
e-mail: drandazzo@provide.net

church had been built at a cost of \$30,000.

The building was destroyed by fire, on the morning of February 19, 1937. The slate roof caved in, and all that was left standing were the walls and the spire. All but two of the stained glass windows were lost. City workers soon after pulled down the walls and spire, as these proved to be a hazard.

Members of the congregation cleaned 83,000 bricks recovered from the ruins of the old church. These were used in the new church, which still stands at 1110 West Cross street. The bricks were not the only item recovered from the old building. The cornerstone is set in the wall of the hallway, leading to the lower level.

Heritage NEWS

March 2003

March

Guest speaker
JOHN MOUAT

Wed. March 26 • 7:30 p.m.

Ladies' Literary Club
218 N. Washington Street

Mitchell & Mouat conducted a Facility Assessment of the building and site in Spring 2000. The building was photographed and elements were evaluated for condition and safety.

After receiving the architects' assessment, the church concluded that the exterior of the building was the highest priority and would be the focus of the first phase of construction. The architects used a boom truck with a basket in winter 2001 to gain direct access to the upper reaches of one face of a tower. Masonry, woodwork, roofing, paint, windows, and stained glass were all assessed.

In summer 2001 the church retained O'Neal Construction of Ann Arbor to do the renovation work, which began in fall 2001 with the erection of extensive scaffolding that could be seen for blocks around. The project was completed in the Spring of 2002, with final painting and the ceremonial removal of the scaffolding.

The next phase of the renovation starts in mid-May, when the congregation will move out of the sanctuary. The historic organ is going to be completely rebuilt at a cost of \$400,000. The front of the sanctuary will be moved back to make the sanctuary larger and more open. Changes in the sound system and the electrical system are also planned. The congregation hopes to move back into the sanctuary in mid-October.

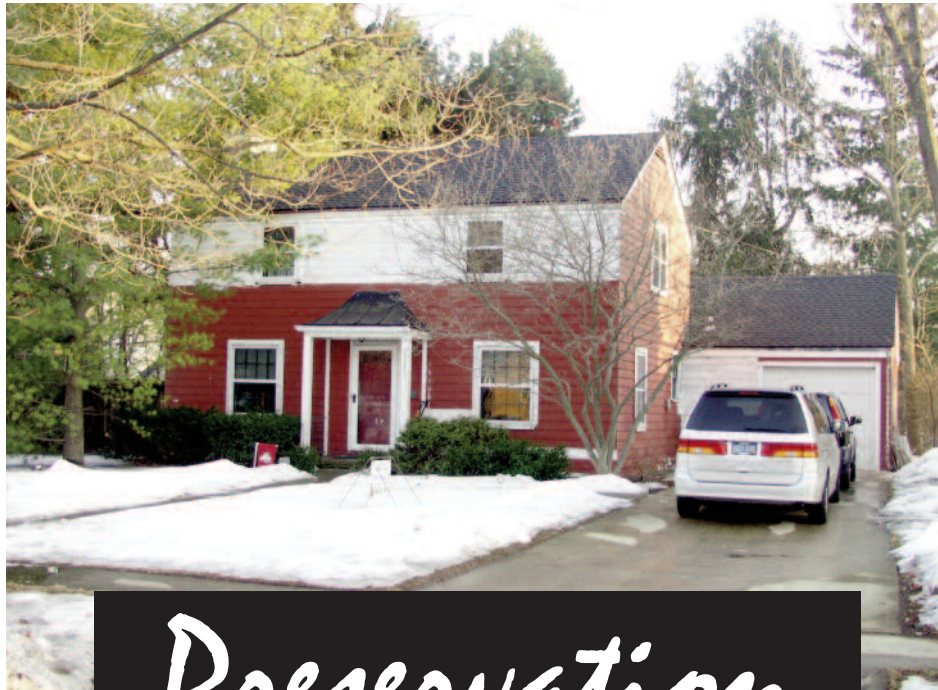
The First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti is the oldest church congregation in the city. Founded in 1829, with twelve members and two visiting ministers, the church continues to thrive 184 years later. Its beautiful historic building began to take on its current form in 1898, when work to enlarge the 1857 structure began. Detroit architect Julius Hess redesigned the church using the original sanctuary walls, and adding a double entrance with twin towers. The distinctive cupola-topped towers are reminiscent of English Baroque churches, but the interior reflects Renaissance architecture. The sanctuary is enhanced by the large rose window, made by Tiffany Company of New York. The formal dedication of the reconfigured building was held on Sunday, September 24, 1899.

Illustration by Jim Baker

J

ohn Mouat, principal in the Ann Arbor architecture firm Mitchell & Mouat, will speak to the Heritage Foundation on Wednesday evening, March 26, at 7:30, at the Ladies' Literary Club. Mouat will tell us about the renovations completed last spring to the exterior of the historic twin-towered First Presbyterian Church on the corner of North Washington and Emmet streets. A church representative and someone from Ann Arbor's O'Neal Construction may also join us that evening.

Please join us on March 26 to learn more about the continuing preservation of one of Ypsilanti's most important historic buildings. As always, coffee and cookies will be served after the meeting. The Ladies' Literary Club, at 218 North Washington Street, is on the other side of Emmet Street across from the Presbyterian Church.



Preservation

Happens Outside the Historic District

As their houses age, home owners are often tempted to purchase fake siding to avoid the high cost, time, and effort that come with exterior maintenance. Fake siding salesmen in the days of yore seduced home owners with asbestos shingles, fake brick, and aluminum. Today vinyl siding is all the rage. Unfortunately, fake siding covers up architectural details, creating a new and less interesting appearance for the house. Fake siding also hides problems present at the time of its installation or problems that develop after its installation.

Lots of houses in Ypsilanti's historic district have been restored to their earlier appearance after the removal of fake siding. Original clapboard siding on many of these houses is in excellent shape after years of being hidden away under fake siding. Check out the exciting transformation of the house on the northeast corner of Washtenaw and Hamilton, the most recent site in town where fake siding has been removed. It looks like a brand-new house.

But home owners in historic districts aren't the only ones who dream of ditching their fake siding. In 1993 Jeff and Jennifer Goulet purchased a 1939 colonial revival house on Roosevelt Boulevard in the city's College Heights neighborhood, which is not in the historic district. In the early 1960s, when

the original cedar siding was probably showing wear and tear, the house had been clad in aluminum siding. The Goulets recently hired local painting contractor Ron Rupert to remove the aluminum and paint the original cedar a deep red and evergreen, similar to the house's original colors. "Our little house was eager to be out from under all of that metal, and the original cedar clapboard is in surprisingly good shape," says Jennifer. "You can almost sense how pleased the house is with the work!" Siding removal always reveals hidden details. More than forty years after they disappeared under aluminum siding, louvered roof vents on the Goulets' house are once again visible.

Another good example of the transformative effects of fake-siding removal is the home of Paul and Penny Schreiber at 922 Pleasant Drive. The house is in the city's Woods Road subdivision, which is not in the historic district. The Schreibers are the second owners of their 1938 center-entrance brick colonial revival.

When the Schreibers bought their house in 1985, it was like a great-looking person dressed in cheap polyester. The first owners of the house had succumbed to the lure of aluminum siding in the 1950s. Extensive wood trim under eaves and windows, around the screened porch, and on the

garage wing was covered up with bland white aluminum. Worst of all, wide wood shutters had been replaced with narrow white aluminum ones. A few years after the Schreibers bought the house, they pulled off all of the aluminum. The wood trim was restored and painted white, and decorative wood molding was put back and painted a dark green. All of the aluminum shutters were replaced with wider wood shutters, and additional shutters were added to the house. The white aluminum screen door at the front was replaced with a wood screen door; both the shutters and the door were also painted a dark green.

The Schreibers love the way the outside of their house looks today. Although they've already had to repaint their trim and shutters, they wouldn't dream of redressing their handsome house in aluminum.

Thompson Building Update

Readers may be aware that this long-endangered building in Depot Town, at the corner of N. River and E. Cross, is in receivership.

We have learned from Charles Boulard, City of Ypsilanti Building Official, that for several weeks the receivers have been cleaning out the building.

So far, 38 thirty-yard dumpsters have been removed and they estimate it may take several more weeks to finish the clean out.

The work is complicated by the fact that the elevator has stopped working (it had been "jury-rigged") and the remaining junk is in the basement.

As soon as the building is cleaned out enough to allow evaluation, an engineer will be brought in to identify any immediate areas requiring shoring, stabilization, etc. to keep the building from suffering additional damage during the design process.

Once that is done and the building is empty and safe, the design and planning will begin.



Soldiers and their families pose in front of the Thompson Building during the Civil War Muster that was held in Depot Town and Riverside Park in April of 2002. This year's Muster will take place on April 20.



Civil War Muster Returns April 20



History buffs and Civil War enthusiasts will revel at the sight of a fully outfitted army marching into Depot Town, ready for battle. Each April, Ypsilanti is proud to host the Civil War Muster. Bring your family to this free event that promises to deliver a fun, educational program you won't want to miss.

Muster visitors can observe a typical day in the lives of Civil War soldiers. Visit the military encampment in Riverside Park and chat with the weary Union soldiers. Witness the thrilling spectacle of The Battle of Kolbs Farm, an accurate reenactment of the June 22, 1864 skirmish in Georgia.

For full details and a schedule of events, call the Ypsilanti Area Convention and Visitors Bureau at 734-483-4444.

10th Anniversary Celebration of One-Room Schoolhouse

The Michigan One-Room Schoolhouse Association celebrates the tenth anniversary of its founding at Eastern Michigan University on Friday, May 9, and Saturday, May 10. EMU is hosting the conference in John Porter Hall in the College of Education Building.

The Geddes Townhall School on EMU's campus will be the site of Friday evening's opening reception. Guests can see first-hand the completed restoration of a one-room schoolhouse.

Saturday sessions will be offered on a wide variety of topics, including one-room school archaeology, preservation and restoration



techniques, teaching in a one-room school today, one-room school stories from the UP, and an old-fashioned spelling bee. A slide show that documents the move of the Geddes Townhall School to the EMU campus will also be shown.

Please join us in celebrating our educational heritage. The cost for this event is \$35. For more information contact MORSA, c/o Greenmead, 20501 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48152, Attn: Sue Daniel; or check out our website: www.one-room-schools.org.

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held at
Ladies' Literary Club • 218 N. Washington, Ypsilanti
Time: 7:30 p.m.

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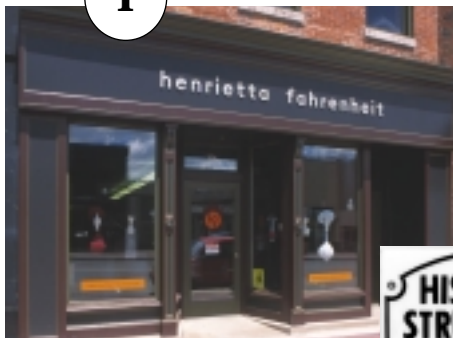
MAY 2003

2003 Historic Markers presented at May Banquet

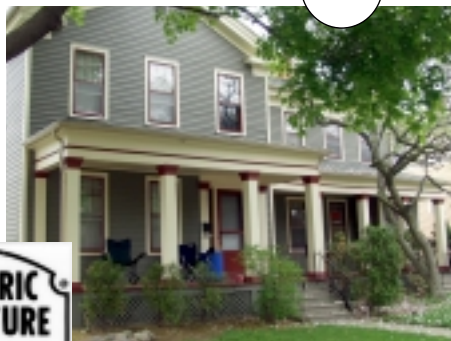
The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation would like to congratulate the 2003 Historic Marker recipients. The criteria used for awarding the marker includes the structure's architectural significance and the care and maintenance of the property.

This year the following property owners will be recognized at the Annual May Marker Banquet.

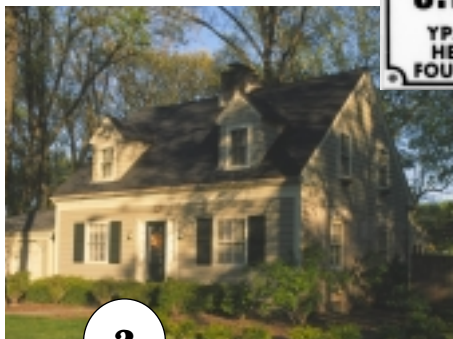
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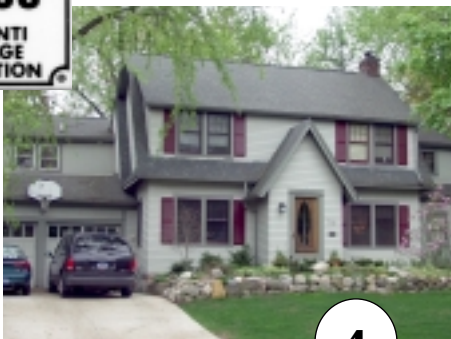
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3



4



The Ypsilanti
Heritage Foundation
cordially invites you to

The Annual Marker Banquet

on Wednesday,
May 28, 2003
at 6:30 p.m.

at the
Ladies' Literary Club
218 N. Washington Avenue
Ypsilanti

Please call
Karen Nickels at 483-8896
or Penny Schreiber at 483-5688
if you plan to attend
& let them know
what dish
you will bring to pass

1

126 W. Michigan Avenue
c. 1853 - Italianate

Owner: Joseph D. Lawrence
Business Proprietor: Jennifer Albaum

2

318 Washtenaw

c. 1890 - Greek Revival
Owners: Steve and Kathy Allen

3

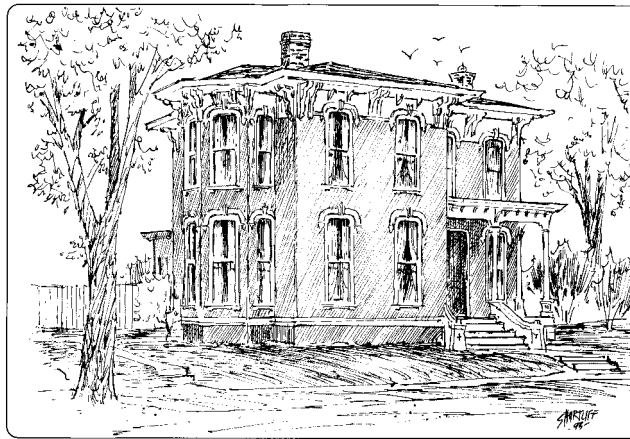
1307 Westmoorland

c. 1939 - Cape Cod
Owners: Kevin and Andrea Webber

4

702 Collegewood

c. 1926 - Dutch Colonial
Owners: Vincent and Cheryl Zuellig



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

A W A R D

presented to

Earl Greene

At the annual Awards Banquet on May 28, 2003, the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation will present its 2003 Award for Contribution to Historic Preservation to Earl Greene. His museum-quality restoration of the Wilkinson-Lewis house at 415 North Huron, is one of Ypsilanti's most significant historic structures.

In late 1989, Earl Greene bought the house from the Ypsilanti Historical Society. Earl would prove to be the rescuing angel of this beautiful house. A structure once described by Ward Swarts, a restoration architect who contributed to the formation of the Ypsilanti Historic district, as "one of the finest extant examples of eclectic Victorian/Italianate architecture in the Midwest."

Earl spared nothing in his restoration efforts. He

employed a researcher from Henry Ford Museum/Greenfield Village and the finest artisans and woodworkers to be found. In the next two years, the team accomplished near miracles.

Extraordinary decorative painting was revealed and restored. Under many coats of paint, ceiling paintings were discovered and restored. Door and window frames were found to be of a type of walnut that is now extinct.

Earl Greene is honored for his determination to restore this very significant historic house to its original glory. The quality of the preservation work he has lavished on one of Ypsilanti's most magnificent historic structures is truly remarkable and this community owes him a huge debt of gratitude.



110 North Park Street
Colonial Revival c.1907

Special Award
presented to
Mr. & Mrs. David Marsh
for the refurbishing
of the
"Tucker House"

The Wilkinson-Lewis House

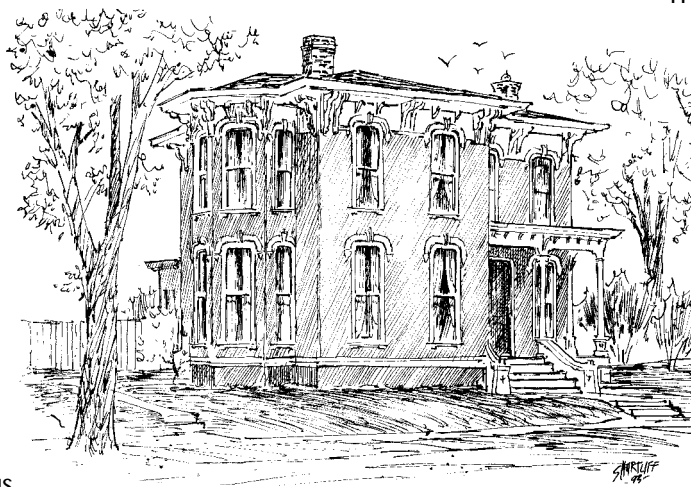
By James Mann

"One of the finest extant examples of Victorian/Italianate Architecture in the Midwest," said Ward G. Swartz, Retired Director of Architecture and Engineering Colonial Williamsburg, of the house at 415 North Huron Street; known as the Lewis House. This Italianate house was built in the 1880's by James Wilkinson, the son of a prosperous Ypsilanti businessman. The Italianate style was most popular from 1840 to 1880. The style is characterized by the gently sloping roof, deep overhanging eaves supported by prominent ornate brackets, and tall double-hung windows, each with single panes of glass.

"The house," wrote Denis C. Schmiedeke, "is atypical in the arrangement of its various forms, yet rich in Italianate details of windows, doors, hoods and cornice with elaborate, large paired eave brackets. Its wood frame construction is sided with smooth horizontal boards, unrelieved by bevel, groove or quirk, to simulate the stucco construction of a Mediterranean environment. The siding is aptly arrested at corners with a vertical, round rail to give added emphasis to wall edges. The heavy wood 'rope' trim surrounding the front porch doors and the delicate Corinthian capitals topping slender smooth porch posts are unique features. The single door on the porch, just south of the main paired front doors, is the typical 'casket' door which allowed for the carrying of a casket into the front parlor, and also permitted townsfolk to pay their last respects to the deceased without disturbing

the bereaved family. At such times, the front parlor was closed off from the rest of the house by large, double doors. Interior doors, casings, and baseboards are massive, ornate in detail and profile, and of walnut wood."

The house is called the Lewis House, because of the long occupancy by the family.



Horatio B. Lewis moved his family to Ypsilanti in 1903, from northern Michigan, into the home on the corner of Emmett and Washington Street, across from the Ladies Literary Club. He had just taken a position with a New York based company then developing land in San Diego, a province of Cuba. Mr. Lewis gave up this position in 1904, and had another position waiting for him in Ypsilanti. He returned home ill in February of 1905, and died of pneumonia within the week. He was 39 years of age. Mrs. Harriet Adelaide Lewis, who was 35 years of age, was left alone with six children to raise.

Mrs. Lewis decided to stay in Ypsilanti, to take advantage of the educational opportunities the

town offered. She was friends with Mrs. Newton and Mrs. King, who urged her to buy the house at 415 North Huron Street, then up for sale. The house had five upstairs bedrooms and was fairly cheap, so she purchased the house and the family moved in on July 1st of that year. Mrs. Lewis maintained and lived in the house until her death in 1958, at the age of 90.

The second child in the Lewis family was a daughter, Evangeline, who became the sole owner of the property on the death of her mother. She graduated from the Michigan State Normal College, now Eastern Michigan University, in 1914. She became disillusioned with teaching in the public schools, because the students just didn't seem interested in learning. A friend later told her: "You wouldn't have given up teaching, if you had taught in a private school."

During the 1920's she accepted a position with the Liggett School. "I'll never forget how I felt the first day I walked into the Liggett School. The girls were so polite, so interested and so responsive. "She retired in 1963.

Miss Lewis, she never married, later placed the house under the management of Eastern Michigan University, but neither party found satisfaction with the arrangement. Then on August 19th, 1976, her mother's wedding anniversary, she gave the house to the Ypsilanti Historical Society.

The house was later sold to Earl W. Greene, who dedicated himself to restoring the property to its pristine glory.



Ypsilanti Library Reopened in April

The city of Ypsilanti was fortunate in 1915, when the Federal Government agreed to build a new post office in the city. Designed by the post office department in Washington D.C., it was a one story building with basement covering a ground area of 5,100 feet. The building was covered with white stone, instead of brick. Although a one story building, it was as high as a two story building. The new post office was beautiful, as you can judge for yourself, because it still stands today.

This building remanded in use as the post office, until 1963 when it was renovated at a cost of \$38,813, and reopened in November of that year as the library. The library has just reopened, after undergoing a major renovation, and once again is a beautiful as it was when it opened in 1915. Stop in, and take a look!



Heritage Foundation's Annual **HISTORIC HOME TOUR**

**Sunday, August 17
Noon-5 pm**

**We are looking for volunteers
to serve as guides
for the home tour**

**call Penny Schreiber 483-5688
Jane Schmiedeke 483-0851**



The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Heritage News

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

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Board Members

Hank Prebys, President
Joe Mattimoe, Treasurer
Jennifer Albaum
Jennifer Goulet
Pattie Harrington
James Mann
Bill Nickels
Don Randazzo
Jane Schmiedeke
Paul Schreiber
Penny Schreiber

See you at the Marker Banquet - Wednesday, May 28th at 6:30 p.m.

**For up-to-date information about the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
& our Historic Community visit our website at www.yhf.org**

Heritage NEWS

AUG./SEPT. 2003
Good News Edition

Historic Home Tour 2003

Sunday, August 17 • noon - 5pm

The 26th Annual Historic Home Tour will take place on Sunday, August 17th from noon - 5pm. Advance tickets are on sale in Ypsilanti at • Haab's Restaurant, Materials Unlimited, Norton-Durant Florists & Gifts, Quinn's Essentials, Henrietta Fahrenheit, Me 'N' My Sisters, Mantis Garden Center. They are also available in Ann Arbor at John Leidy's and Downtown Home & Garden and in Plymouth at Saxtons Garden Center. Tickets are \$8.00 in advance and \$10.00 the day of the tour. On the day of the tour, tickets are available at the Home Tour ticket booth in front of the Historical Museum at 208 North Huron Street from 10 a.m. until 3 pm and Haab's on Michigan Avenue.

.....



108 North Huron Street

The lovely brick Italianate house at 108 North Huron was built in the 1850s. William B. Clarke bought the house in 1860. The Clarke family and their descendants lived there until 1934, when the house was sold and fell on hard times. Lawyers eventually leased the house for office space.

318 West Forest Avenue

The exterior of this Italianate house, probably built in 1876, has been painted a cheerful yellow. Passersby are drawn to the house—which looks both imposing and approachable—by its stately style and sunny demeanor.



318 West Forest Avenue

11 West Michigan Avenue

This year's tour revisits the Flour Mill Building in downtown Ypsilanti, recently renovated by Phoenix Contractors, Inc., and considered a landmark at the eastern gateway to the historic Michigan Avenue business district.



11 West Michigan Avenue

229 West Michigan Avenue

This old post-office building is typical of the classical revival style common to government buildings of the first half of the twentieth century. Its design owes much to the Beaux-Arts tradition prized by architects trained in Paris at the end of the nineteenth century.



229 West Michigan Avenue

122 Linden Court

Linden Court is a cul de sac of twelve homes in the Woods Road Subdivision off of Summit Street. Built in 1930 as Linden Place, all of the houses were completed by 1931.



122 Linden Court

935 Pearl Street

The house at 935 Pearl Street, with its delightful swooping roof, eyebrow window, and lovely landscaping radiates curb appeal. Built in 1922 for Professor William H. Sherzer of the Michigan State Normal College (today EMU) and his wife, Maude, the house is a combination of English Cotswold, American Prairie, and Arts and Crafts styles.



935 Pearl Street

September
**Collecting
Inkwell**
by Mary Baker

Wed. Sept. 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Ladies' Literary Club
218 N. Washington Street

Good News in Ypsilanti

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation presents its

2003 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 Festival visitors. It's also a chance to say Thank You to everyone who cares for and about Ypsilanti!

•••••

"It Happened in Ypsilanti"

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation awarded **HISTORIC STRUCTURE MARKERS** this year to:



1. 126 West Michigan, Joseph D. Lawrence & Jennifer Albaum
2. 1307 Westmoorland, Kevin & Andrea Webber
3. 316-318 Washtenaw, Steve & Kathy Allen
4. 702 Collegewood, Vincent & Cheryl Zuellig



• Nice Work •

Up on the East Side, at **320 EAST CROSS**, the removal of aluminum siding and metal porch posts, the construction of appropriate wood posts and a beautiful paint job has returned a c. 1850 Greek Revival to a delighted neighborhood.

At **330 MAPLE**, a new front porch will soon make it tempting to sit a spell and watch the world (well, at least the neighborhood) go by.

And good-looking second-story additions are taking shape at **308 MAPLE** and **402 EAST CROSS**.

The fire-damaged Queen Anne house at **306 N.**

ADAMS is being repaired, enlarged and gaining an appropriate front porch.

The historic village barn at the rear of **206 NORTH HURON** was reroofed last fall. Will painting be the next improvement?

• Major Rehab Jobs • undertaken this year

Don't miss a visit to the **downtown LIBRARY!** Months of work while the Library was closed have resulted in a stunning interior and much improved circulation (no pun intended!)



The much-abused building at **208 W. MICHIGAN** has been sold to Peter Beal of J. C. Beal Construction

and restoration will soon begin.

And, next door at 210 W. MICHIGAN, another rehab is about to start.

One of downtown's worst eyesores disappeared when **31-33 S. HURON** underwent a major reconstruction and now presents a handsome new front for H&B Bookkeeping.

Across the street, at **8-14 S. HURON**, major structural work is preparing the way for a storefront reconstruction.

At **306 South Huron**, an inappropriate porch enclosure was removed, the original open porch skillfully reconstructed and the house painted in deep, rich colors. It has probably never looked better!

The long-abused, pre-Civil War **THOMPSON BUILDING** in Depot Town has been emptied of a many-years accumulation of stuff (over 40 construction dumpsters full!). An engineering firm has completed its inspection of the building and submitted its report and recommendations, and an architectural firm has begun work on the rehab plans.

Work has begun at **52 E. CROSS** in Depot Town on the

reconstruction of the storefront. Formerly occupied by the sign shop, Vital Signs, which has moved to Lincoln Street, the space will soon be occupied by BirdBrain, dealing in upscale furnishings for home and garden.

A handsome awning now shelters the rear patio at the **SIDETRACK**, where a piano player holds forth.

Lighted arbors make evening drinking and dining more festive at **CADY'S** and **AUBREE'S**.

• Flowers •

DEPOT TOWN is in bloom with beautiful hanging baskets and big pots everywhere - what a difference flowers make!

The **MICHIGAN AVENUE PLANTERS** are overflowing with purple and pink. Many thanks to Tom Grant of Margolis Nursery for the great care he gives the plantings.

FLOWERS are thriving everywhere in half barrels and window boxes, on street corners and curbsides. Thanks to everyone who plants and tends these beauties! Special thanks to all the apartment dwellers who plant flowers!

The commercial Italianate building at **108 WEST MICHIGAN** got a whole new lease on life with great new paint colors.

You think your paint job is big? Consider what confronts the crew of painters at the **GILBERT MANSION** at 227 North Grove!! Three stories, two towers, three paint colors and countless details - week after week after week!

Demolitions began earlier this summer in preparation for the construction of the new, much-anticipated **WATER STREET** neighborhood of condominiums. More coming - stay tuned!

Strolling on North Huron Street? At the **RIVERSIDE ARTS CENTER**, step



beneath the beautiful new pergola, onto the brick-paved plaza and down the handsome staircase into Riverside Park. Designed to link downtown and Depot Town,

this construction enhances the park as well as both commercial districts. Ypsilanti's first **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE** was beautiful in its place of honor on the new plaza.

AGAIN, thank you to the **SIDETRACK** for the enormous lighted tree in the courtyard at Christmas.

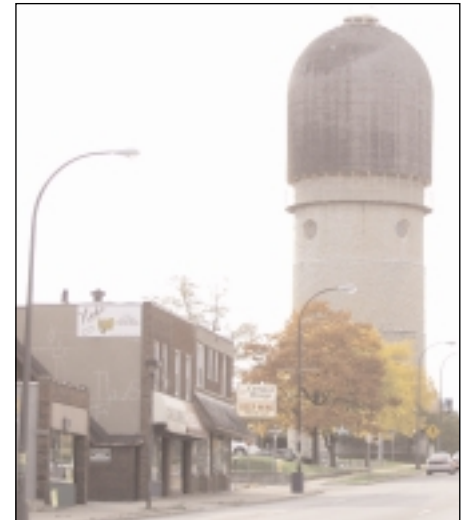
More and bigger green and white **HISTORIC DISTRICT SIGNS** were added this year on top of street signs. Every intersection within the Historic District and on the perimeter is now identified.

The **VW FESTIVAL**, held at Auburn Hills for 16 years, moved to Ypsilanti this year and drew crowds to Riverside Park on a gorgeous weekend. Come back - we enjoyed having you!

• Outside the Historic District •

The Ypsilanti **WATER TOWER** got a new roof this spring. Few of us will ever see the tower encased in scaffolding again since this roof

is to last for 50 years. Thanks to YCUA (Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority) for the great care lavished on this historic structure and for the lights which circle the Water Tower during the winter holidays.



STREETS. Streets, beautiful streets! Last year, residents on the east side of town gladly put up with dirt, dust, closed streets and blocked driveways as the city replaced water mains and sewer pipes and completely rebuilt streets in one phase of a 4-year project. This year, folks on the west side of town are looking past the mess and forward to new, smooth pavement - such a temptation for roller skates and skateboards!

Again, many thanks to the road workers who are competent, efficient, helpful and friendly.



Don't miss visiting Ypsilanti museums: the **FIRE EQUIPMENT MUSEUM** on Cross Street between Huron and Washington, the **AUTO HERITAGE MUSEUM** on Cross at North River, the **HISTORICAL MUSEUM** on North

Huron just south of Cross, and the **YANKEE AIR FORCE** at Willow Run Airport.

• Thanks •

To everyone who works to make Ypsilanti a better place to live: police, fire fighters, city manager, city department heads, city employees, Mayor and City Council, Boards & Commissions.

What a great bunch! They've never been better!

Thanks also to the Department of Public Works for great service year-round, for SUPER snow removal and for never missing their scheduled rounds even during the chaos of street repair.

And **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 you, know that without your effort Ypsilanti wouldn't be the great place it is.

2003-2004 HERITAGE FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

Location: Ladies' Literary Club • 218 N. Washington • Time: 7:30 p.m.

WED., SEPT. 24, 2003:

"Collecting Inkwells: Mary and Jim Baker's Inkwell Collection,"
Mary Baker

WED., NOV. 19, 2003:

"The History of Printing,"
John Harrington, co-owner Standard Printing

WED., JAN. 28, 2004:

"Albert Kahn, Master of American Industrial Architecture,"
Sally Bund, assistant archivist architectural collections,
U-M Bentley Historical Library

WED., MARCH 24, 2004:

"So Faux So Good," Get an overview of the past, present and future of Faux Finishing from local Decorative painters Randy and Kathy Fettes. Plus, a demonstration of their most popular Faux Finish techniques, including architectural stenciling. Learn to transform your own walls from plain, to a richly glazed patina with the help of these classic decorative painting effects.

WED., MAY 26, 2004: Annual Marker Awards Banquet

SUN. AUGUST 15, 2004: 27th Annual Historic Home Tour



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See you at the September Meeting, Wednesday September 24, 7:30 pm

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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.

visit our website at www.yhf.org

Heritage NEWS

NOVEMBER 2003

November

Guest speaker
John Harrington
co-owner of
Standard Printing Company
Wed. Nov. 19 at 7:30 p.m.
Ladies' Literary Club
218 N. Washington Street



History of Printing

One of a series of 24 oil paintings on the history for the graphic arts by artist Robert B. Thom, commissioned by the Paper Division of Kimberly Clark Corporation.

On Wednesday evening, November 19, 7:30, John Harrington, co-owner of Standard Printing in Depot Town, will speak to the Heritage Foundation on the History of Printing.

John started in the printing business in 1967, when he became a pressman at General Motors. Since that time, he has worked as a press operator at a number of large printing plants, conducted seminars for the American Newspaper Publishers Association, and managed the color-advertising production department for the Houston Chronicle. Early in his career he taught printing for six years at Ypsilanti High School. In 2002, he and his wife,

Pattie, purchased Standard Printing.

John is bringing printing artifacts to illustrate his November 19 talk, which he describes as "show and tell." According to John, printing didn't change much from the time German Johannes Gutenberg invented movable type in the fifteenth century until the 1950s, when offset printing became much faster and more cost effective. Offset printing had been invented several hundred years earlier, also by a German, but it was used only for fine art printing. Offset printing had been too slow, says John, for other types of printed materials.

The next change in printing occurred in the

mid-1980s, when computers began to be used for layout and typesetting. Today because of modern computer technology, it is possible for a small print shop like Standard to turn around a job of 1,000 copies or less in thirty minutes. John is going to tailor his talk to the audience that evening. "I can do an hour on the old stuff," he says, "or I can concentrate on where we are today and where we are going."

Please join us on November 19 at the Ladies' Literary Club, 218 North Washington Street, to learn more about the history of printing. As always, refreshments will be served.

Motor Cities-Automobile National Heritage Area

Have you noticed the US National Park Service logo in front of Jack Miller's car museum on East Cross Street? Along with Yosemite and Yellowstone national parks, travelers can have their park-system passport stamped here in Ypsilanti to show that they have visited our part of the national park system.

Motor Cities-Automobile National Heritage Area (ANHA) in southeastern Michigan is one of more than twenty National Heritage Areas included in the national park system. ANHA is headquartered in Detroit at Stroh's River Place and includes nine hubs, or centers, that visitors are directed to when they travel to southeastern Michigan to learn about automotive history. Ypsilanti's car museum at Cross and River streets is the gateway for the Ypsilanti hub. Visitors to our car museum are greeted by a

National Park Service kiosk describing the other eight hubs and the attractions they may visit while they are in Ypsilanti. Local auto-related attractions include the Fire Museum, the Yankee Air Force Museum, the Chick Inn, Bill's Drive Inn, the Preston Tucker House, and the Bomber Restaurant.

Ypsilanti's car museum now attracts 10,000 people a year and visitors have traveled from fifteen foreign countries. A tour of Miller Motors, an authentic 1930s car dealership, is a trip back in time. Curator Jack Miller, a walking automotive encyclopedia, is happy to answer visitors' questions.

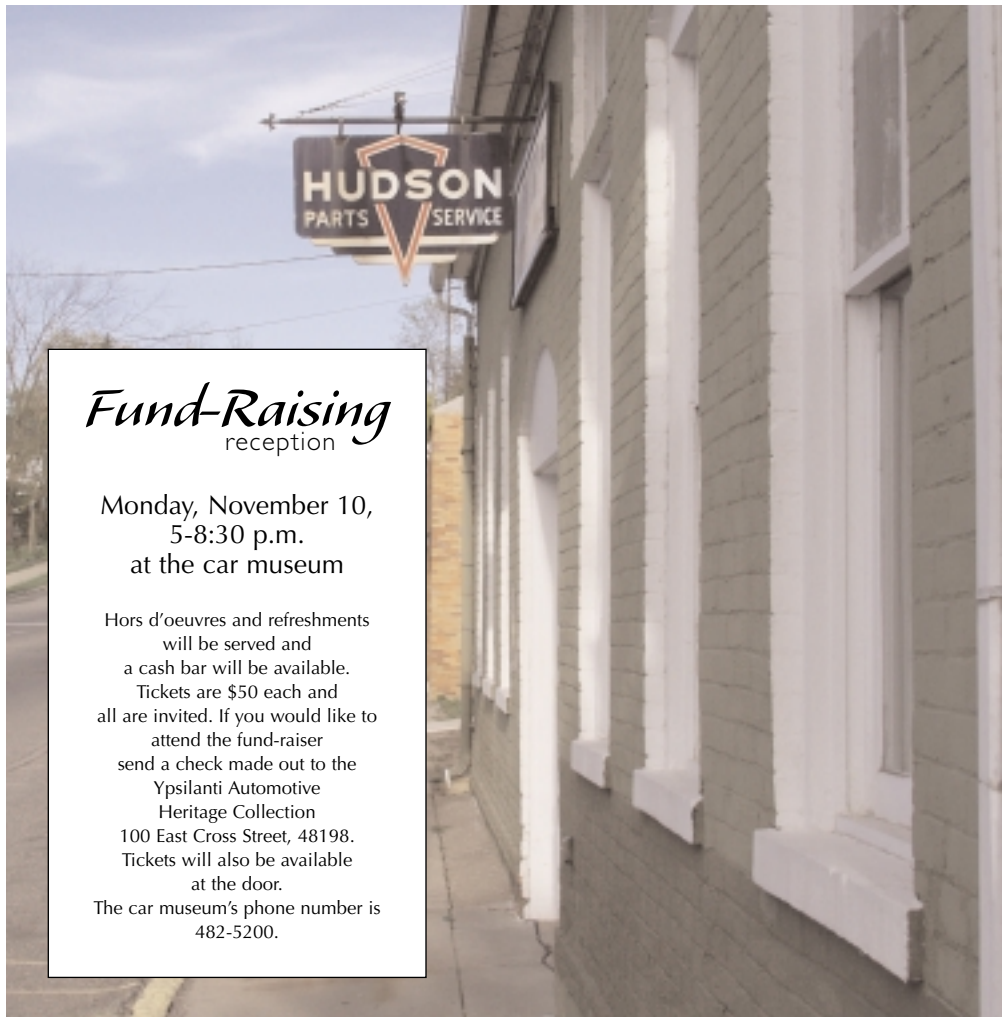
Visit ANHA on-line at
www.autoheritage.org.



Tucker homestead, 110 Park Street, recently renovated by Marsh Plating.

Tucker, Preston Thomas Jr.

Preston Thomas Tucker Jr. son of the legendary carmaker Preston T. Tucker and Vera Tucker, died Sunday, October 12, 2003. Born May 19, 1925 in Detroit, MI, he was 78. During his life, Tucker enjoyed professional success, a loving family, and many varied experiences. Following World War II service in the U.S. Navy, Tucker began his career working for his father, automaker Preston Tucker, creator of the '48 Tucker Torpedo. He served on the board of directors of the Tucker Corporation and its subsidiary, championed development of the car's transmission, and acted as right-hand man and confidant to his father. During the 1950's, Tucker and his young family moved to Missouri where he worked on development of the rocket engines powering the early space program. In 1967, Preston Tucker joined Motorola in Phoenix, AZ, as an engineering manager. During his 38-year tenure with the company, Tucker served in many various managerial and executive roles in facilities and engineering before retiring in 1995. Preston Tucker earned his B.S. in Industrial Engineering Management from the University of Michigan and an M.B.A. from Drury College. He was a Mason and Shriner, and a member of Phi Gamma Delta and many professional associations in engineering, plant management, and racing mechanics. Preston was also an avid golfer and hunter and enjoyed both sports with professional colleagues and his family. Tucker died in his home in Scottsdale, AZ, following an extended convalescence as a result of cardiac difficulties and the complications of diabetes. Preston Tucker is survived by Shirley, his wife of 55 years, and his four children and three grandchildren: Preston III, Lindsay Chapman and her husband, Bill, and daughters, Chelsea and Alyx, Kenton and his wife, DeshaRae, and son, Dakota, and Clayton and his betrothed, Jennifer Medley. All are residents of Scottsdale. Tucker is also survived by his sisters, Shirley Hozier of Sun City West, AZ, Marilyn McAndrew of Ypsilanti, MI, and Murrieta CA, and his youngest brother, John Tucker of Long Beach, CA. He was preceded in death by his brother, Noble Tucker.



Fund-Raising reception

Monday, November 10,
5-8:30 p.m.
at the car museum

Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments
will be served and
a cash bar will be available.

Tickets are \$50 each and
all are invited. If you would like to
attend the fund-raiser
send a check made out to the
Ypsilanti Automotive
Heritage Collection
100 East Cross Street, 48198.
Tickets will also be available
at the door.

The car museum's phone number is
482-5200.

Starkweather Chapel

HIGHLAND CEMETERY

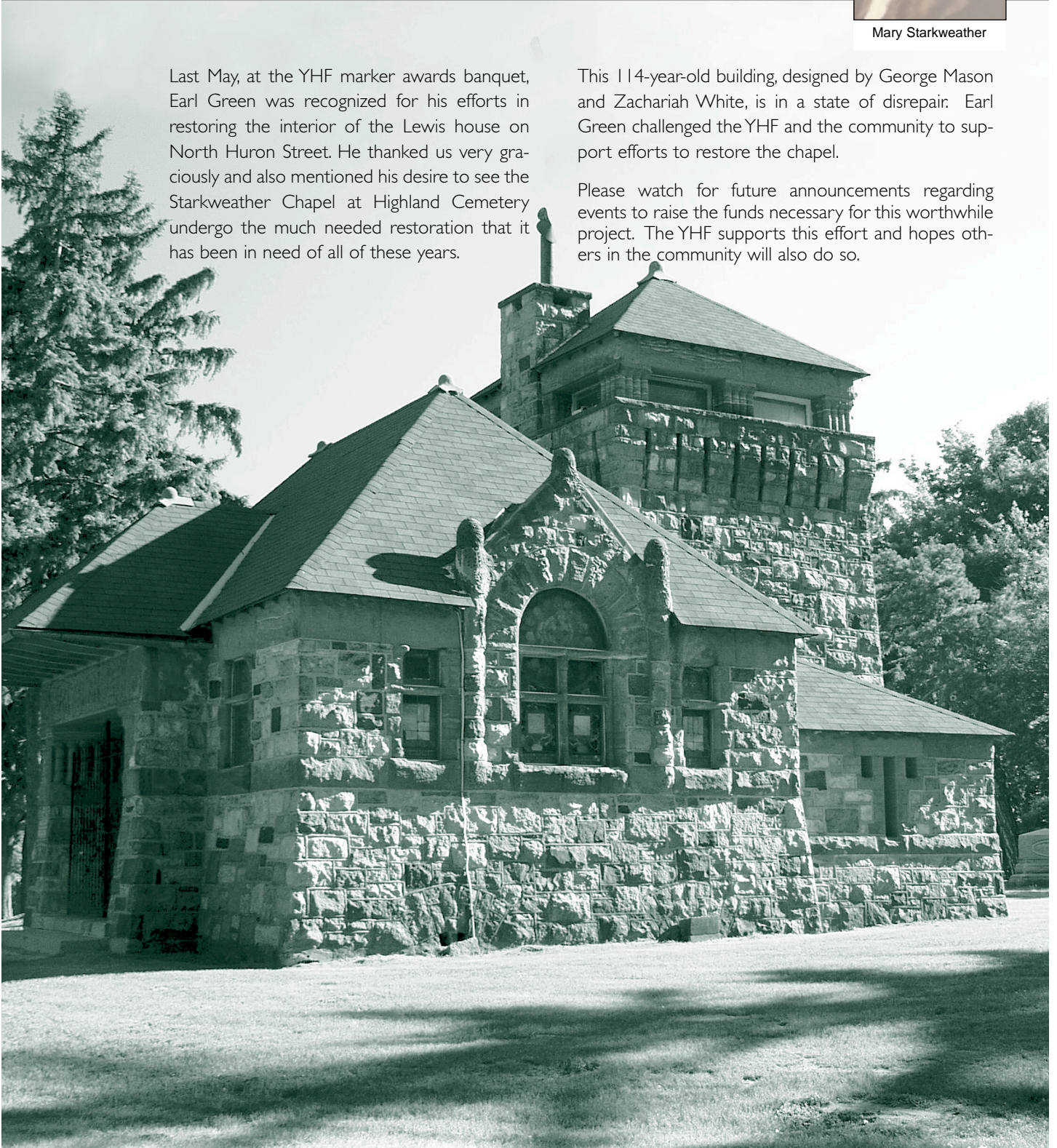


Mary Starkweather

Last May, at the YHF marker awards banquet, Earl Green was recognized for his efforts in restoring the interior of the Lewis house on North Huron Street. He thanked us very graciously and also mentioned his desire to see the Starkweather Chapel at Highland Cemetery undergo the much needed restoration that it has been in need of all of these years.

This 114-year-old building, designed by George Mason and Zachariah White, is in a state of disrepair. Earl Green challenged the YHF and the community to support efforts to restore the chapel.

Please watch for future announcements regarding events to raise the funds necessary for this worthwhile project. The YHF supports this effort and hopes others in the community will also do so.





The Ypsilanti community is deeply thankful to the late Paul "Skip" Ungrodt for contributing his legendary energy along with quite a lot of the funds to create our local car museum. His death last January left the museum without a spiritual and financial leader. The museum has reorganized under the leadership of new board chair Joe Kelly. Kelly grew up in the Normal Park neighborhood across from Recreation Park. He moved south, did well, founded a car museum in the Carolinas, and has continued to consider Ypsilanti home. The new sixteen-member board includes Bill Chapin (grandson of the founder of Hudson Motor Company) and Howard Weaver (fire museum founder).

The first big step on the way to financial stability for the car museum is a fund-raising reception scheduled for Monday, November 10, 5-8:30 p.m. at the car museum. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served and a cash bar will be available. Tickets are \$50 each and all are invited. If you would like to attend the fund-raiser send a check made out to the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Collection to 100 East Cross Street, 48198. Tickets will also be available at the door. The car museum's phone number is 482-5200.



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