

Heritage NEWS

January 2005

Researching Your Historic Home

Do you want to find out the exact year your old house was built? Are you curious about who lived there before you moved in? On Wednesday evening, January 26, at 7:30, at the Ladies' Literary Club, James Mann is going to explain to the Heritage Foundation how to find the answers to these questions.

"There is no such thing as one-stop research," says Mann. "You have to go to different sources." In Ypsilanti, according to Mann, the best place to start is the city archives at the Historical Museum on North Huron Street. In the archives "you might find a file on your house, although it is unlikely," says Mann. But they do have old city directories, he notes, which can be invaluable.

The next place to search for information is at the city assessor's office in City Hall at the corner of Michigan Avenue and South Huron Street. The assessor's office is a treasure trove of old records that might reveal the exact date your house was built. But even these records are "not completely reliable," says Mann. He was at the assessor's office once researching an Ypsilanti house. Where the date of the house should have been written, he found the word "old" instead.

Researching old houses can lead to mysteries that serendipity eventually solves. A twin-towered farmhouse on Forest Avenue that Mann had seen in a photo disappeared from city records in the 1930s. No one seemed to know what had happened; Mann concluded that the farmhouse must have burned down. But in a conversation with a

longtime city Realtor, Mann learned that the house had stood empty for many years, finally collapsing in on itself.

James Mann grew up in a post-World War II neighborhood on Detroit's west side. He came to Ypsilanti in 1977 to study at EMU, where he earned a degree in English. "I've always enjoyed history," says Mann. He became interested in Ypsilanti history in 1992, when he realized that the hundredth anniversary of Ypsilanti's 1893 tornado was coming up. "I started researching," he says, "and I haven't quit."



January Researching Your Historic Home

by James Mann

Wed. January 26
at 7:30 p.m.

Ladies' Literary Club
218 N. Washington Street

Mann is the author of *Ypsilanti in the 20th Century*, *Footnotes in History*, *Ypsilanti: A History in Pictures*, and *Our Heritage Down by the Depot* (co-authored with Tom Dodd). He also writes a regular column on local history for the *Ypsilanti Courier*.

Please join us on January 26 at the Ladies' Literary Club to enjoy Mann's dry wit and droll storytelling (and to find out how to research your old house). As always, the public is welcome and refreshments will be served.



Our Experiences as Urban Pioneers

by Rachel F. Cuschieri-Murray

When my husband, Bryant Murray, and I bought our house on Normal Street, it had two strikes against it: the house was on EMU's Fraternity Row and it was long neglected. Perhaps these realities would not attract most homebuyers, but we decided to look at the bright side.

We had seen on TV that historic homes can be rehabilitated in only a few episodes, and we thought that living in the center of all "the action" might keep us young! Not to mention that the house was only blocks from downtown Ypsilanti, walking distance to historic Depot Town, and within sight of all the culture that EMU provides. With its large back yard and affordable price, how could we resist? That the house is a Victorian was also a plus (doesn't everyone want to own a Victorian?).

We bought the house in fall 2002 and moved in on EMU's Homecoming night. I now quote from our holiday letter of that year: "Our next door neighbors are a fraternity but they are really nice and they always invite us to their parties." My mom just shook her head.

The adventures continued from there. We encountered bats and mice, ants and spiders. We discovered water in our basement and mold around the house. People claimed to



have seen ghosts in our house (from our 2002 holiday letter: "My dad thinks that an old lady haunts our house and my brother thinks that children used to get locked in the bedroom closet. I just think the house is spooky in general.") A friend assured me that people had died in our house, and a previous owner told me that all of her children had been born in my bathtub.

Then there were the projects. There are so many projects in a 115-year-old house. And all of them are supposed to be simple. When people explain how to proceed, they always start with "All you have to do . . ." After two years of hard work, we are optimistic that we'll finish—eventually.

What do you take on when you become an Urban Pioneer? You get to fix up a house and instead of all of your friends and neighbors trying to outdo you, they say "thank you." You get to walk to work and stop along the way to buy coffee from a business that your neighbor owns. You get to live in a house that has a history and lots of good karma. You get to have neighbors that are all different shapes, sizes, ages, and creeds and you discover that you like it better that way. You get tougher and you learn a lot. Most of all, you keep busy.

In the end, taking into account all of the above, we love our new job as Urban Pioneers. As a matter of fact, we think we've found our calling!

Victorian Cottage in need of new owner

A charming Victorian cottage, restored by Jack Harris, the former president of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation, is presently up for sale by its current owner. Purchased in 1986 at state auction by then Professor Harris, Jack decided it was his responsibility to restore what was a derelict property. Jack was determined to bring back its historic charm, especially since he had to walk past the building daily on his way to the office. Of course he had no idea what he was getting into with costs or the wear and tear on his aging body. He now knows it was worth all the effort since it is looking wonderful right around the corner from where he presently lives.

Because EMU is now urging professors and staff to buy houses closer to campus to avoid the long commutes that many have to make, Jack hopes that someone (or a couple) will take a look at 111 Perrin. It is at the center of the old west side of Ypsilanti, only ten minutes to Pray-Harold on the EMU campus. The old west side includes everything west of Ypsilanti's downtown, and from Washtenaw to Hamilton to Michigan Ave. to Summit and then to Washtenaw again.. Many of the homes are family-size and historically the neighborhood was the most likely site for a professor's home. Since Perrin Street is at the foot of the hill that runs up to Summit, the smaller houses on that street would have been built as working men's cottages. 111 Perrin is one of them —with its original carpenter's lace in the gable.

"One Eleven," as Jack calls it, has



Victorian cottage located at 111 Perrin located in Ypsilanti's historic west side.

always been a single-family home because of its small size. The building is larger on the ground floor than it is upstairs. The kitchen is on the back northwest side, with breakfast nook, window, and a door to the quaint patio and larger garden area out back. In front of the kitchen is the dining room with a large window facing north. In the front hall, a stairway rises to the upper rooms. The front door opens onto the porch, which extends across the front of the building. Off the hall to the right (on the south side) is the living room, with two large windows and one smaller; it also has French doors. A small family room is off the dining room and the bath is behind that. The entire space has maintained its original configuration, as far as we can tell.

Upstairs there is a tiny sewing room on the left and what could be an office on the right. Further along, the main bedroom is in front, with closets. The second bath is across the hall at the center, overlooking the garden, and there is another small bedroom

adjacent, also facing the garden.

There is parking for two cars along the alley on the south side. Behind this area is the original (1910?) garage used for storage. The neighborhood is made up of single-family residences, live-in landlord residences, and rental properties. There is a movement by the city to increase the number of single-family units; people are moving in. A few long-time "halfway houses" have been in the neighborhood for years. We have never had a problem with them —we think of them as part of our American landscape. Students are generally good people too; if we have a problem, we simply call the nearby police. If you are interested in more details about the house, call Bill VanderHyde, (734) 483-4752.

Harris/Larkins
510 Pearl Street • Ypsilanti, MI
48197
(734) 485-2155
e-mail: aharris1@emich.edu
Web Site:
<http://people.emich.edu/aharris1/toc>

Highland Cemetery Update

Recently, a group interested in the preservation of Starkweather Chapel at Highland Cemetery has begun to look for ways to fund the restoration of this lovely historic nineteenth-century Richardson-Romanesque building near the cemetery's entrance.

Before his death last fall, local preservationist Earl Greene challenged the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation to get involved with this gem and its Tiffany windows. Several people, including Ypsilanti architect Denis Schmiedeke, completed a preliminary review of the site and discovered that extensive work needs to be done. Preservation of the chapel will definitely be very expensive.

Placing Highland Cemetery on the National Register of Historic Places will make federal money available for preservation work. Also, if Starkweather chapel receives national recognition, private grants to help offset restoration costs will be easier to obtain.

The complex task of documenting a property for placement on the National Register is well under way, with Denis Schmiedeke spearheading the effort. The YHF has agreed to oversee donations.

Ann Arbor Questers were among the first to make a donation. The YHF board is earmarking all of the donations it receives in memory of Earl Greene for Starkweather Chapel restoration.

We are excited to be a part of the effort to help this his-

2004/2005 SCHEDULE

Meetings are at the Ladies' Literary Club
218 N. Washington Street, Ypsilanti at 7:30 p.m.
The public is welcome.

26
JANUARY **How To
Research Your Home**

23
MARCH **Painting
Your Home**

25
MAY **Annual Marker
Awards Banquet**

toric chapel survive for another hundred years. Checks made out to the YHF and earmarked for the chapel can be sent to Joe Mattimoe, YHF treasurer, 301 N. Grove, Ypsilanti 48198.

Have you visited the YHF website lately? There are new features you may find interesting • 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 and various business locations in the three business districts in the City.

See you at the General Meeting - Wednesday, January 26, 2005 at 7:30 pm

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
Board Members
Hank Prebys, President
Joe Mattimoe, Treasurer
Jan Arps
Pattie Harrington
James Mann
Bill Nickels
Don Randazzo
Jane Schmiedeke
Paul Schreiber
Penny Schreiber
Andrea Webber

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
Heritage News
c/o Don Randazzo
6101 Hitchingham Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48197



& Buying Restoring a Victorian

by Karen Maurer

What is it like to buy and restore a historic Victorian home? It is creative, fun, exciting, uplifting, memorable, depressing, expensive, scary, unrealistic, and time consuming.

My husband, Eric, and I own several historic homes near the EMU campus. The house we own and live in with our five children used to be a duplex. At the time we bought it, we had been planning to move into a four-unit house and turn it into a single-family home.

One day Eric was on the phone with his aunt. At the time, she owned a large Victorian near us. He hung up the phone and told me to get the kids ready to take a walk to see her house; it is one that I had heard many horror stories about. I didn't think I would be interested in living in the house but I knew I had to entertain the idea.

We put the kids in their stroller and set off. When we arrived at the house, my initial reaction was "WOW." I felt an immediate emotional connection to it, and I remember saying "I don't even need to see the inside, let's buy it."

It has been six and a half years since I spoke those words.

Our 1850s Victorian now has a new roof and a new exterior paint job. Many doors have been taken out and others put back in. We had the porch lifted because it had started to sink. All of the walls have been painted, the hardwood floors re-sanded and varnished, ceiling molding added,



Home of Eric and Karen Mauer, located at 35 South Summit. Another spectacular example of Ron Rupert's exterior

two bathrooms redone (with two more to go), new carpet laid in two rooms, and an addition built off of our bedroom. We tore out an extra kitchen and we have a new back porch, a new dormer, and a new three-car garage. And we still have a lot more to do.

In the 1930s a couple with eight children lived in our house. I like to sit in my living room and visualize that family playing hide and seek, building

tree houses in the backyard, eating dinner together, listening to music in the living room, and reading books. I often wonder, "How different can they be from us?" I'm sure our circumstances are similar.

My 16-year-old daughter Charlotte recently invited ten friends over for a birthday party. They said they were scared to be in our house, remarking on all of the ghosts from the past who probably live with us. I

Heritage NEWS

March 2005

March Meeting

Painting Your Historic Home

by Ron Rupert

Wed. March 23
at 7:30 p.m.

Ladies' Literary Club
218 N. Washington Street

Painting Your Historic Home

On Wednesday evening, March 23, please join us at the Ladies' Literary Club, 218 North Washington Street, 7:30, for Painting Old Victorian Homes, a fascinating talk and slide show by house painter extraordinaire Ron Rupert.

Rupert, whose painting business is called Home Services Ltd., says he will take his talk from "I want to paint my house" through all the problems along the way. He is going to discuss (and bring samples of) different woods, types of paint, and how to repair paint problems. Rupert paints both house interiors and exteriors and will address and take questions on either subject. He uses Sherwin-Williams paint and will bring with him the current color palette for Victorian houses.

A tour of Ypsilanti quickly turns up spectacular examples of Rupert's exterior work: the Queen Anne home of Eric and Karen Maurer, at 35 South Summit; the Glover Mansion, at 118 South Washington, owned and beautifully restored by Steve Pierce and Maggie Brandt; and the vividly painted Victorian, at 114 North Normal, in the process of being transformed into an elegant home by Rachel Cuschieri-Murray and Bryant Murray.

Rupert grew up in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh. He started painting houses in college to earn money. In 1967 he came to Michigan to teach in Plymouth. Pretty soon, says Rupert, "I was painting the principal's house." Painting remained



Glover Mansion, located at 118 South Washington Street, owned by Steve Pierce and Maggie Brandt.

his second job until Plymouth teachers went on strike in 1969. After that, he painted full time.

In 1996 Rupert moved to Ypsilanti's historic district to be near the old houses of Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor, which

are the heart of his business. We are fortunate to have this passionate master craftsman in our community. Don't miss this program on March 23. As always, refreshments will be served and the public is welcome.



Photo by Denis Schmiedeke

or work.

have never felt scared here. This house is filled with positive energy and our family feels welcome here.

I am very passionate about Victorian houses, restoration projects, the city of Ypsilanti, and rebuilding old houses instead of putting up new ones in modern subdivisions. I am proud to be a part of the restoration of the historic Ypsilanti community.

If I had known six years ago all the time, effort, and money Eric and I

would be investing in the restoration of 35 South Summit, I still would have done it. Our old Victorian has character and it is steeped in history. I cannot imagine living anywhere else. Restoring this house has brought such joy to our family and to our community.

I believe the Maurer family was meant to occupy this house and I think that we will be living here for a long time.

• PRESERVATION CONFERENCE IN EAST LANSING •

Governor Jennifer Granholm is honorary chair of "THINK BIG: Preservation Creates Cool," the twenty-fifth annual Michigan Historic Preservation Network preservation conference to be held over three days, April 14 to 16, in East Lansing.

The focus of the conference is community revitalization and how historic preservation enhances Granholm's Cool Cities Initiative. Thursday and Friday topics will include tax incentives, the economic benefits of historic preservation, and construction training for homeowners doing hands-on work with historic properties.

Saturday sessions will feature training for historic district commissioners, for historic district study committees, and for property owners facing the challenges of historic windows and painting. Many special activities are also planned, including tours of historic areas in Lansing and East Lansing and on the MSU campus.

Anyone interested in attending this conference can request a brochure from the MHPN at www.mhpn.org; or you can fax or e-mail MHPN (517 371-9090 or info@mhpn.org).

Conference fees range from \$45 to \$265 for members; the cost to join MHPN is \$35.

YHF Donations Benefit Community

Since last September the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Board has donated a total of \$3,500 to the following area organizations:

Ypsilanti Historical Society: **\$100** in memory of Dr. William Edmunds

Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum: **\$200**

Yankee Air Museum Recovery Fund: **\$500**

U-M Bentley Historical Library: **\$100**

Ypsilanti Freighthouse Restoration: **\$1,000**

Towner House Foundation: **\$1,100**

Riverside Park: **\$500**

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The public is welcome.

23
MARCH

**Painting
Your Historic Home**

25
MAY

**Annual Marker
Awards Banquet**

21
AUGUST

**Historic
Home Tour**

Interested in Joining the Heritage Foundation?

There are applications available on our website
www.yhf.org

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Preview of the 2005 Marker Homes



321 High Street
c.1939 – American Vernacular



1120 Pearl Street
c.1928 – Colonial Revival



109 North Street
c.1850 – Craftsman

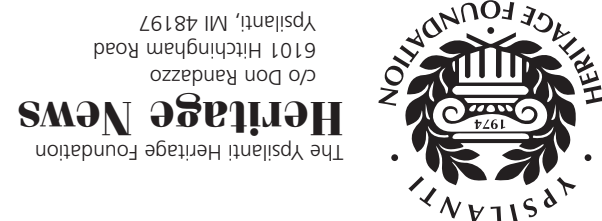


101 East Forest Avenue
c.1873 –Italianate

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See you at the Marker Banquet - Wednesday, May 25 at 6:30 p.m.



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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Brett Lenart
Pattie Harrington
Bill Nickels
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Paul Schreiber
Penny Schreiber
Andrea Webber

Heritage NEWS

MAY 2005

2005



Historic Markers

presented at the

May Banquet

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation would like to congratulate the 2005 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 Awards Banquet:

Pam Hamblin
109 North Street

•

Jill Dieterle
321 High Street

•

James & Diane Reppke
1120 Pearl Street

•

Robert & Janice Anschuetz
101 East Forest Avenue

The Ypsilanti
Heritage Foundation
cordially invites you to

The Annual Awards Banquet

on Wednesday,
May 25, 2005
6:30 p.m.

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

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

Historic Home Tour set for Sunday August 21st

Mark your calendars for the annual Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Historic Home Tour. Held every August on the Sunday of the Heritage Festival, the tour this year features five private homes, some of the exciting loft apartments newly renovated on Michigan Avenue, and Bombadill's Cafe, also on Michigan Avenue. A sneak preview of the home tour properties will conclude the Marker Awards program on May 25.



703 Cambridge Road, Maxe and Terry Obermeyer



217 West Michigan Avenue,
Bombadill's Cafe, Peter Rinehart, owner



306 South Huron Street, Diana Green



310 South Huron Street, Betty Two and Robert Miller



1206 Westmoorland Road, Kathy and Michael Bodary



702 Collegewood Drive, Vince and Cheryl Zuellig



200-208 West Michigan Avenue, West Michigan Lofts,
Karen, Eric, and Walter Maurer, George Fotiadis, and Stewart Beal

Heritage NEWS

AUG./SEPT. 2005

GOOD NEWS EDITION

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation presents its

2005 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!

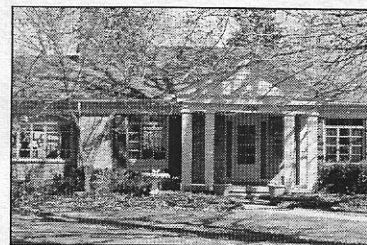


306 South Huron Street

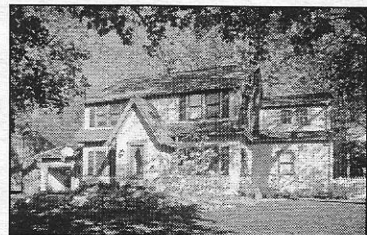
Historic Home Tour 2005

Sunday, August 21 ■ noon - 5pm

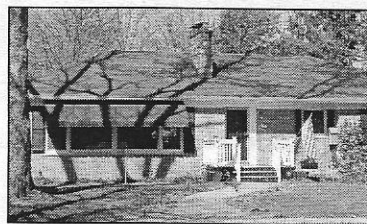
The 28th Annual Historic Home Tour will take place on Sunday, August 21st from noon - 5pm. Advance tickets are on sale in Ypsilanti at Haab's Restaurant, Norton-Durant Florists & Gifts and Quinn's Essentials, they are also available in Ann Arbor at Downtown Home & Garden. Tickets are \$8.00 in advance 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.



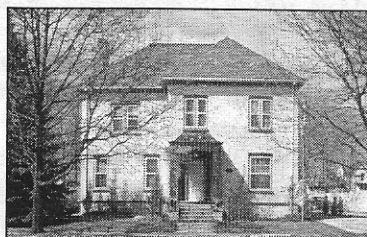
1206 Westmoorland Road



702 Collegewood Drive



703 Cambridge Road



310 South Huron Street



West Michigan Lofts
200-208 West Michigan Avenue



Bombadill's
Neighborhood Coffee House
217 West Michigan Avenue

Good News in Ypsilanti

OK, we admit we are feeling a little puffed up about a couple of things!

The **Orphan Car Show**, held in Riverside Park once a year, was found to be one of best 20 car shows in the country by the **New York Times**. In a column entitled "A Season to Celebrate Cars" with the subtitle "The Offbeat", car events in California, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Nevada, and Michigan were described as musts for car buffs. And Ypsilanti's Orphan Car Show was one of those!

GO Magazine listed the **Sidetrack's burger** as one of best 20 in the country! Well, we all knew that, but it's great to have it recognized!

And **USA Today** rated the **Michigan Beer Fest**, that is held annually in Riverside Park as one of the top 20 Beer Festivals as well.

Thanks To

Barnes & Barnes, exemplary owners of many student rental houses, for appropriate rehabs, beautiful multi-color paint jobs and even landscaping. What a great difference you make in a college town!

and to **Peter Rinehart** of **Bombadill's Coffee House**, on Michigan next to the Library, for a beautiful rehab and for his commitment and contributions to the community.

Big Improvements

Last year, in the Good News issue, we told you that the **Kresge building** on Michigan at Washington was in the beginning stages of rehab. This year, we can tell you that several of the 20 new loft apartments are on this year's Home Tour on Sunday, August 21.

The long-abused bank building on Michigan at Washington, now occupied by **Citizens Bank**, is under restoration. The handsome building re-emerged when the 1960s false facade was removed

and the limestone at the street level, hacked off when the false facade was installed, is now being replaced. A HUGE improvement downtown!

19 N. Hamilton was stripped of aluminum siding and the original wood siding underneath was repaired and painted – looking great!

The very popular **Tower Inn**, on West Cross opposite Eastern Michigan University, has made several exterior improvements and is looking very fresh and inviting.

New

Would you believe it possible to find an exact replica of the c.1875 fence that once bordered your house? The owners of **101 E. Forest**, armed with an old photo, not only found it still available, but had installed it in their side yard. Very, very handsome!

And, in the same neighborhood, **Matt & Rene Greff**, owners of Arbor Brewing in Ann Arbor, are planning to establish a **microbrewery in the old Motor Wheel building** on Forest at Norris. A microbrewery allows beer to be sold to wholesalers and also to be sold on the premises and for take-out. Plans are for a limited menu served to about 65 customers in the cafe and 100 to 125 in the beer garden.

Standard Printing, long a fixture in Depot Town, has moved one block east, next door to the Auto Museum, into the long vacant MESC (Michigan Employment Security Commission) building. Stop in and take a look! **The Gifted Basket** will be opening in their old location. Thanks Harringtons, for cleaning up the property and staying right where we can find you!

A handsome, new fence encircles **120 North Adams**, the only Prairie style house in the Historic District.

Paint

A bit of explanation about paint colors: Paint colors in the Historic District must be approved by the Historic District Commission. Unlike HDCs in other communities, the Ypsilanti HDC does not insist on historically accurate colors because it believes that property owners who are lavishing effort and money on their buildings should have some fun with their

Cofounder of the Heritage Foundation Receives 2005 Celebration of Women Award

Jane Bird Schmiedeke, cofounder of the Heritage Foundation, author of Ypsilanti's Historic District Ordinance, and longtime chair of the Historic District Commission, is a recipient of the 2005 Celebration of Women Award. The Celebration honors women volunteers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in community service in Washtenaw County.

On Tuesday, June 14, Celebration of Women recognized Jane and three other women for their valued contributions to our community. The evening featured a reception, dinner, and awards ceremony at the Michigan League.

The event not only honors special women but also supports three organizations which, through their missions, add to our community in very positive ways:

Great Lakes Performing Artist Associates, the Teen Parent Center, and the Women's Health Resource Center of the University of Michigan Health System.



Jane Bird Schmiedeke, award recipient, with long time friend Nathalie Edmunds.

paint colors. So, some paint jobs are historically accurate, some are not. Some of the properties below are in the District, some are not. All are worth a look!

119 S. Washington, at Woodward
108 North, between River & Lincoln
126 N. Adams, at Washtenaw
46-48-50 E. Cross, in Depot Town
211 Woodward, between Washington & Adams

Flowers

Folks downtown are enjoying the new little garden at Trojan Cleaners at Pearl and North Adams. Front yard gardens are multiplying like rabbits and they're brightening every neighborhood! Thanks to the volunteers who rescued plants from the path of bulldozers working in the South Huron Street parking lot and replanted them at Ballard and Michigan Avenue. The downtown planters are simply beautiful – thanks to the volunteers who planted them. Depot Town is awash in flowers – wonderful!

Water Street

The City and the original developer of this project recently parted ways. A number of new potential developers have indicated their intention to submit proposals which the developer selection committee will soon begin reviewing.

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 and Commissions!

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

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 left by storms.

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!

Don't miss visiting Ypsilanti's Museums

FIRE EQUIPMENT MUSEUM

West Cross Street
between Huron and Washington,

AUTO HERITAGE MUSEUM

East Cross at North River,

HISTORICAL MUSEUM

North Huron just south of West Cross

*Yes! I would like support preservation
and become a member of the
Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation.*

Please check the appropriate box & return with your
check to: Joe Mattimoe, YHF Treasurer
301 N. Grove, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

- | | |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Students & Seniors | \$5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime | \$1,000 |

Please ask me to help with:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home Tour | <input type="checkbox"/> Ticket Sales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marker Banquet | <input type="checkbox"/> Lecture Series |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

2005/2006 SCHEDULE

Meetings are held at the Ladies' Literary Club, 218 N.
Washington Street, Ypsilanti at 7:30p.m. The public is welcome.

28
SEPTEMBER
**Historic Preservation
Before & After**
Eric & Karen Mauer

16
NOVEMBER
**Historic Preservation of
Public Buildings**
Lincoln Poley

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"After the Fire"
Ed & Bonnie Penet & Pam Hamblin

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Historic Gardens
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**Annual
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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.

See you at the General Meeting - Wednesday, September 28, 2005 at 7:30 pm

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
Board Members
Hank Prebys, President
Joe Mattimoe, Treasurer
Jan Arps-Prundeanu
Pattie Harrington
Brett Lenart
Bill Nickels
Don Randazzo
Jane Schmiedeke
Paul Schreiber
Penny Schreiber
Andrea Webber

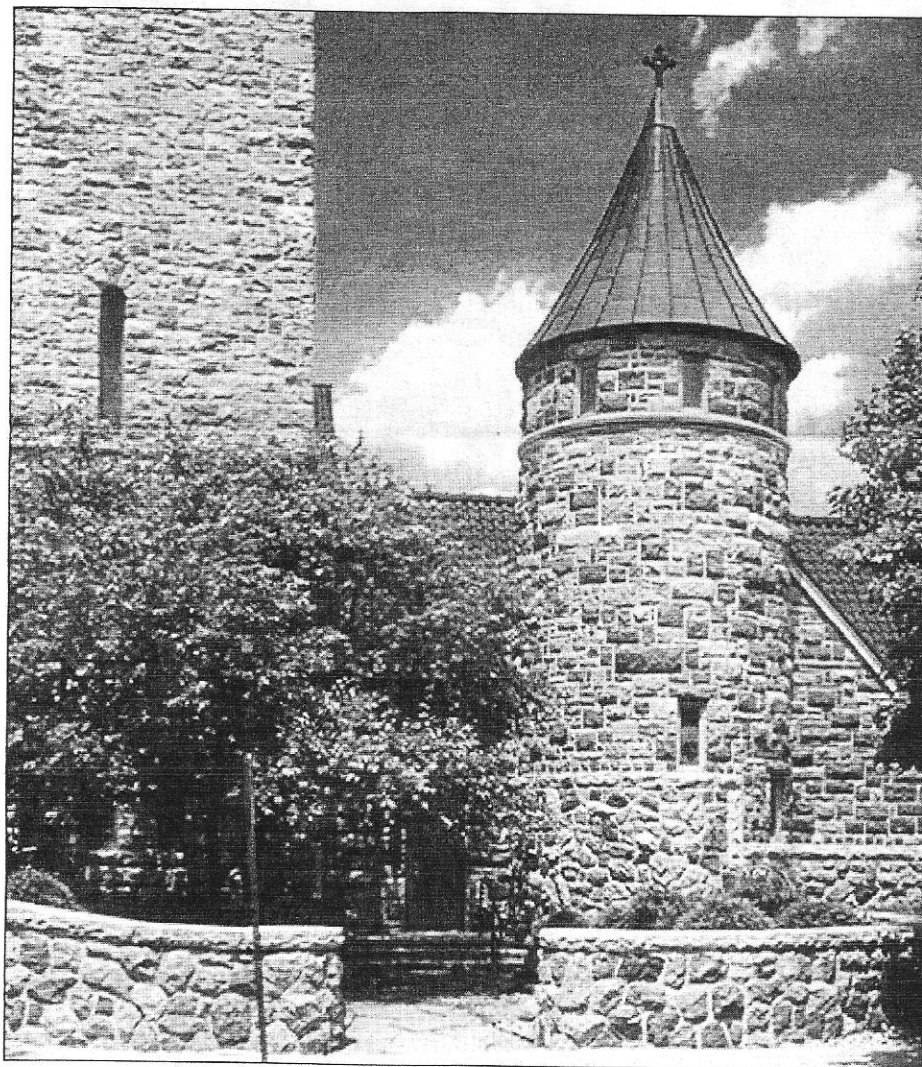
The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
Heritage News
c/o Don Randazzo
6101 Hitchingham Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48197



Heritage NEWS

NOVEMBER 2005

Lincoln Poley Discusses the Historic Preservation of Public Buildings



St. Thomas Church in Ann Arbor, one of many of Lincoln Poley's preservation projects.

Please join us on Wednesday evening, November 16, 7:30 p.m., at the Ladies' Literary Club, 218 North Washington Street, for a talk and combined slide show and Power Point presentation by noted local preservation architect Lincoln

Poley. Well known for his many church and courthouse restorations, Poley will be focusing on two recent Ypsilanti projects, the sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church and the sanctuary and addition to St. John the

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218 N. Washington Street
Ypsilanti

Baptist Catholic Church. He will be also be showing us at least eight of his other projects, including his restoration of the 1904 Chelsea District Courthouse.

In the late 1970s, Poley launched his independent practice by taking on the restoration of the 1904 Marquette County Courthouse in the Upper Peninsula, famous as the setting for Otto Preminger's 1959 movie *Anatomy of a Murder* starring Jimmy Stewart, Lee Remick, and George C. Scott. We can count on finding out more about this fascinating historic building, and his renovation of it, from Poley.

Since Poley's move to Ann Arbor twenty years ago, he has rehabilitated landmark structures throughout southeastern Michigan. Among his other notable projects are the remarkable exterior additions to the 1896-99 Richardsonian Romanesque St. Thomas Church in Ann Arbor and the recovery of its historic chancel and the restoration of churches in Jackson and Plymouth.

As an architect, Poley specializes in both historic preservation and contemporary design. His work in modern architecture reveals a subtle but related continuum of history that preservationists will recognize and appreciate.

This promises to be an exciting and absorbing evening. After Poley's talk, coffee and cookies will be served. As always, the public is welcome.



The Starkweather Farmhouse

In the nineteenth century Mary Ann and John Starkweather were prominent Ypsilanti citizens. Their legacy is continuing into the twenty-first century.

In 1841 John and Mary Ann bought a farm on Huron River Drive, moving into the 1840 Greek Revival House on the property. The couple lived in the house for thirty-four years, retiring from farming in 1875 and moving into the city to 130 North Huron (today known as the "Ladies Library").

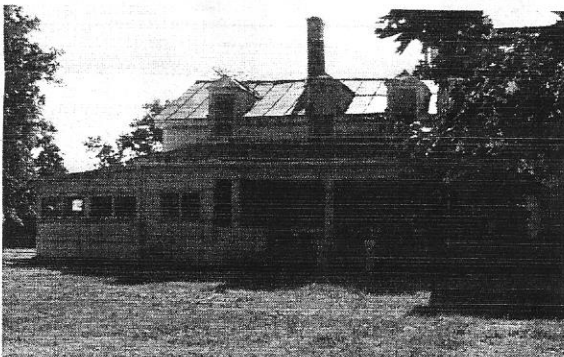
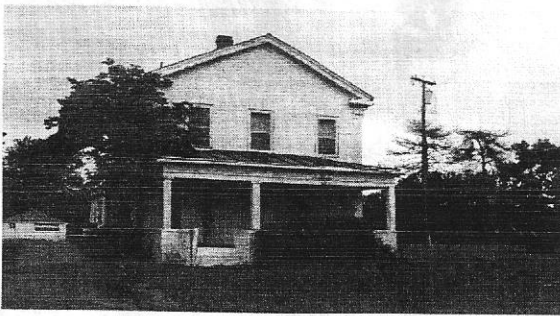
Drive along Huron River Drive and notice the Starkweather House (its address is 1226). After sitting vacant for many years, the house was threatened with demolition in 2003. Ypsilanti City Council appointed a Historic District Study Committee on August 2, 2004, asking it to report on the feasibility of providing legal protection for the Starkweather house. On May 3, 2005, with passage of Resolution 2005-16, city council creat-

ed the Starkweather Historic District. Today this wonderful 165-year-old historic farmhouse is its own historic district.

When you drive by notice that the stucco has been removed, exposing the original clapboard siding. That stucco kept the original siding in great shape! The house is now for sale.

John Starkweather married Mary Ann Newberry in Detroit on June 5, 1839. Two years later, in 1841, he was appointed by Governor Stevens T. Mason as Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction under Superintendent of Public Instruction John Pierce. The land Starkweather bought on the river in 1841 totaled 160 acres. By 1873 he had increased his holdings to 400 acres.

A handwritten, unsigned, and undated note found in the Historical Society Archives states that "By 1846, John Starkweather had cleared the land and



These three photos above were taken prior to the renovation.

made it ready for the planting of extensive orchards. In 1868, he was recognized by the State Agricultural Society for having the best orchard in the state."

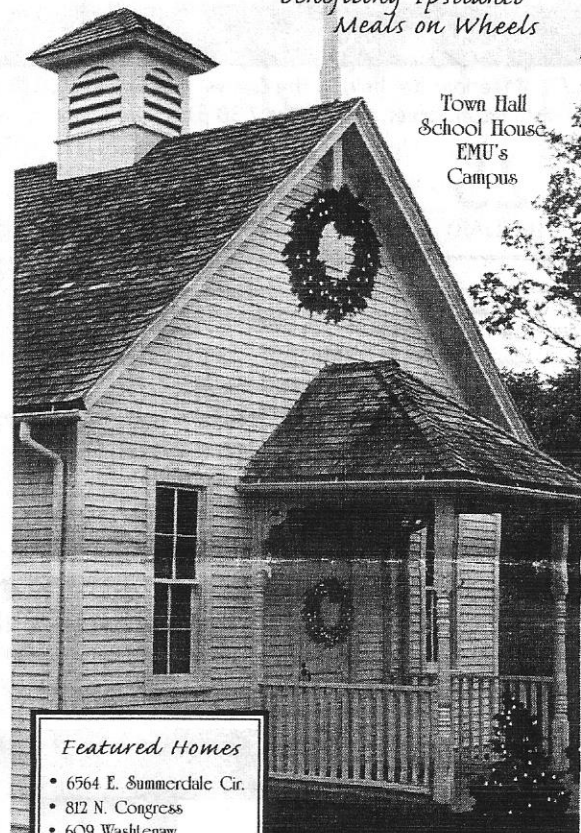
John died in the house at 130 North Huron Street in 1883. Mary Ann Starkweather outlived him by fourteen years, dying on September 24, 1897, at the age of 78. On the day of her funeral, Ypsilanti's mayor closed city buildings from 2 to 4 p.m. Mary Ann is buried in Highland Cemetery just behind Starkweather Chapel, which she had built to honor and remember her husband.

Historic Ypsilanti's 9th Annual

Holiday Homes TOUR

*Benefiting Ypsilanti
Meals on Wheels*

Town Hall
School House
EMU's
Campus



Featured Homes

- 6564 E. Summerdale Cir.
- 812 N. Congress
- 609 Washtenaw
- 310 South Huron
- School House
- EMU's campus
- 703 Cambridge
- 220 South Huron

SUNDAY,
DEC. 4, 2005
NOON-5:30 P.M.

ADVANCE TICKETS - \$15.00

YPSILANTI • Mantis Garden Supply • Quinn's Essentials

• Haab's • Eleven-West

ANN ARBOR • JOHN LEEY SHOP

or by calling Meals on Wheels 734 487-9669

DAY OF TOUR TICKETS - \$20.00

Available at Haab's & Mantis Garden Supply



2005/2006 SCHEDULE

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Yes! I would like to support preservation and become a member of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation.

Please check the appropriate box and return with your check to:

Joe Mattimoe, YHF Treasurer
301 N. Grove, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

- ☐ Students & Seniors \$5
- ☐ Individual \$10
- ☐ Family \$15
- ☐ Contributing \$25
- ☐ Supporting \$50
- ☐ Sustaining \$100
- ☐ Lifetime \$1,000

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