

Heritage NEWS

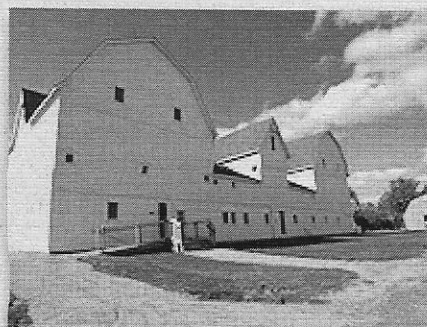
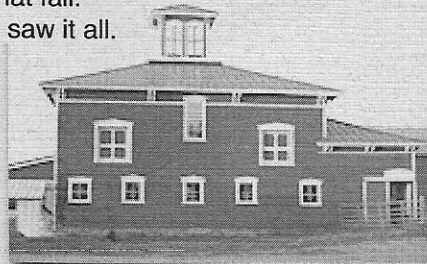


January 2013



From "The People, Yes," by Carl Sandburg:

For sixty years the pine lumber barn
had held cows, horses, hay, harness, tools, junk
amid the prairie winds...
and the corn crops came and went, plows and wagon
and hands milked, hands husked and harnessed
and held the leather reins of horse teams
in dust and dog days,
in late fall sleet 'til the work was done that fall.
And the barn was a witness, stood and saw it all.



Michigan Barns from the MBPN website:

Above: Wright Barn, Pottenville

Top right: Ellis Barn, Springfield Township

Bottom right: Sovis Barn, Ovid

Next General Meeting

BARN AGAIN

Steve Stier, president,
Michigan Barn
Preservation Network

7:30 p.m. Wednesday

23 January 2013

at the Ladies' Literary Club
218 N. Washington St.
The public is invited

Barns are economic resources and symbols of our agriculture heritage. They are attractive images on the landscape. The Michigan Barn Preservation Network is committed to rehabilitation of barns for agricultural, commercial, residential, and public uses. MBPN membership supports efforts to establish knowledge and resources for barn rehabilitation and to establish an endowment for barn rehabilitation.



The Michigan Barn Preservation Network is an active state-wide organization of barn owners and enthusiasts. MBPN fosters sharing of barn experiences, hosts an annual conference, publishes a regular newsletter, recognizes barn rehabilitation and education successes, helps identify speakers for programs, and assists in identifying rehabilitation information.

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MBPN is a member of:

- National Barn Alliance (NBA)
- Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN)
- National Trust for Historic Preservation



Interior of a reclaimed barn

Michigan Barn and Farmstead Survey

—Steve Stier, Michigan Barn Preservation Network

We are witnessing an explosive growth of suburban and exurban development in many parts of Michigan. Subdivisions, shopping centers, and golf courses are leapfrogging far into the countryside, extending the depth and scale of the rural-urban fringe. The loss of farms and their stately barns in Michigan mirrors a nationwide process. While preservationists recognize that not all buildings of historic merit can be saved, we fight to save representative examples so that present and future generations can visually experience these buildings and the life ways they represent.

The Michigan Barn and Farmstead Survey provides Michigan communities with an opportunity to engage in the preservation process and learn about architectural survey methods in an enjoyable community-service experience. It is important to survey and document buildings in order to preserve a record of their existence and their visual character.

Identifying historic and cultural resources also can be the first step toward preservation. Participating in the barn survey can help community members take the next steps toward preserving and using the barns in their area for continued agricultural use, educational activities, business and tourism opportunities, and other purposes.

The Michigan Barn and Farmstead Survey provides a standard survey method and a common nomenclature for Michigan barn architectural features that can be expanded for use elsewhere. Already, surveys in other states are adapting the Michigan Barn and Farmstead Survey as the basis of their own state surveys.

The Michigan State University Museum, MATRIX: The Center for Humane Arts, Letters, and Social Sciences Online, the National Barn Alliance and other preservation programs are beginning a project to collaborate with barn survey efforts across the country to build an national online barn and farmstead database.



From “A Barn is More Than a Building. It is a Shrine to Our Agrarian Past,”
by Jim Doherty,
Smithsonian Magazine, August 1989

The first thing you notice is the tremendous amount of space. A barn feels a lot like a church inside. Even a small one seems big because when you stand between the haylofts and look up, your view of the roof is unobstructed, save for the massive timbers that support it.

The next thing you notice is the smell—hay and manure, for sure, and perhaps, depending on the time of year, a whiff of apples or freshly split cordwood.

Something happens to the quality of light in a barn. Remember? It becomes softer, richer; it takes on the warmth of the beams.

If there are horses or cattle in the building, you can hear them moving around and sense their alert presence. On a clear winter night, with moonlight flooding in through the open doors, you may also sense the presence of others who have been in the barn before you, the generations of families who worked in it and cherished it, the neighbors and craftsman who helped raise it a century or more ago.

Ypsilanti's village barns and carriage houses recognized for their historical significance

The first Heritage Foundation markers for barns were awarded in 1984; another in 1998. Since then, barns have been awarded markers in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011.



"Carriage houses and wagon sheds were once as commonly encountered in the country and villages as garages are today. Even in the city, there had to be a place to store the buggy or delivery wagon.

Such buildings were commonly set apart from the house and were roomy enough to provide stabling for horses and storage for harnesses and feed. The buildings varied greatly in execution, from the humble open wagon shed to elegant quarters for stylish carriages intended only for the transport of people. Most rural and village buildings were of simple wood-frame construction and greatly resembled cow barns, although built on a smaller scale. Ample provision was usually made for turn-around space, and running water was often piped in so that vehicles could be washed down after heavy use. The everyday farmer or mechanic wanted only a utilitarian space and often used it for storing grain or equipment as well. Gentlemen farmers and more affluent city dwellers frequently built brick, stone, or fanciful wood carriage houses of considerable distinction."

- Lawrence Grow, 'Country Architecture'

For many years, the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation has annually awarded Historic Structure markers to owners of significant houses and commercial buildings. The number of those markers in the community is now well over 100.

In 1990, the Foundation issued its 15th annual engagement calendar, which featured 12 village barns and carriage houses. The cover of that calendar stated: "In the back yards and lanes of Ypsilanti is still to be found a fascinating collection of village barns and carriage houses. They contribute to the historic character of Ypsilanti in a way no other buildings can. Now is the time to appreciate and preserve those remaining."

The Heritage Foundation wishes to bring attention to these significant structures, to further the community's appreciation of the contribution they make to our architectural history, and to encourage their preservation.

At its 2011 annual marker awards dinner, the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation recognized some of those historical and architectural treasures still found in out-of-the-way places where, if you listened carefully, one could still hear the sound of horses' hooves and the rumble of wagon wheels. The Heritage Foundation was pleased to award Historic Structure markers to the owners of several significant village barns and carriage houses.

How you gonna keep 'em Down on the Farm

After they've heard gags like these?

- Why do chicken coops always have two doors? If they had four doors, they'd be chicken SEDANS!

- Farmers earn a meager celery, come home beet and just want to read the pepper, turn-ip the covers, en-dive into bed!

Unique historic Michigan barns saved

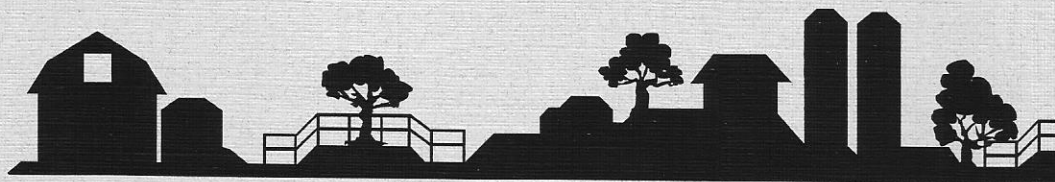


The Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum is located in Tuscola County near the Village of Gagetown. The vision for restoration began in the minds of a few neighbors who did not want to see such an awesome structure and piece of agricultural history destroyed. And so began the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn organization.

Richard and Linda Mueller's Loeb Barn at Charlevoix received the Outstanding Preservation Practices award in 2009



The 1923 Haven Hill Barn at the former Edsel Ford estate in Highland Recreation Area, White Lake Township. Ford's plan was to construct a self-sufficient retreat as a diversion from the hustle and bustle of city life - a retreat that was more convenient than a lengthy drive north. It has served as a ski resort, conference center, and concert venue. Friends of the Highland Recreation Area (FOHRA) are actively committed to restoring the giant barn.



Rural barn revival afoot in Washtenaw County

By Tracy E. Davis, M Live on July 04, 2009

A collection of farm buildings clustered by Plymouth Road gleams in the early summer sun with fresh red paint, newly leveled floors and sparkling trim. At a glance, you might never know the barns and outbuildings of the historic Staebler Farm are a century or more old.

That's because the buildings have just been extensively rehabilitated and restored in order to preserve them for use teaching the public about regional agricultural history.

They were purchased by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Department for an agricultural interpretive center and working farm.

"This will be an example of Michigan's agricultural heritage, one people don't get to see as much any more," said Bob Tetens, director of the parks department, as he watched workers put the finishing touches on the buildings early last month.

The extensive work to preserve the buildings, performed by barn preservationist Ken Brock, is increasingly an exception to the typical fate of the iconic agricultural structures that smatter the southeastern Michigan landscape, especially in growth areas such as Ann Arbor.

Once a victim of development pressures, old farm buildings are now falling prey to neglect, decay and age. Increasingly, they're located on parcels that have been subdivided, where new owners have no use for the structures or can't afford to maintain an aging building with a massive roof. In other cases, say historic barn preservationists, farmers have replaced barns with newer, lower maintenance pole barns and left the big gambrel-roofed clas-

sics to the weeds and rain.

"It's hard for farmers," said Tim Wiles of Howell, who restores barns. "If it isn't being used and it costs money to maintain, there are other priorities."

Brock, of Brock and Associates of Plymouth, said that while the work is painstaking and the barns are disappearing, he gets plenty of work from people anxious to preserve their buildings. He's done \$2 million worth of work in the last several years, he said.

"This is a big thing right now, to save these barns," Brock said.

It's difficult to quantify how many historic farm buildings have been lost, and how many still exist.

The question is the subject of an ongoing, township-by-township survey by the Michigan State University Museum.

"Most people will recognize there is a trend, and a decline," said LuAnne Kozma, survey coordinator. "We are losing so many farmstead buildings. The survey's purpose is to document what we have right now, so communities can be better prepared to save the ones they have." The value of cataloging these classic barns -- usually painted red because paint with ferrous oxide, or red tint, was the least expensive back in the day -- lies in the connection to community roots and traditional food-raising practices, something that may well attract more interest in the local food movement and community-supported agriculture.

"They have been disappearing at an alarming rate," said Kathy Holtz of Ann Arbor, who serves on the board of the Michigan Barn Preservation Network. The network and similar organizations

offer tips and informational resources for those who want to save their barn.

Some owners have found ways to adapt barns for storage or party space; others have turned barns into homes.

"There is quite an effort going on out there," Holtz said. "The main problem, of course, is the money."

Don Staebler, the last of the Staebler family to run the farm and live there, is 99 and still lives on site under the terms of a lifelong lease the county arranged when it bought the 100-acre property in 2000. The county is gathering video recordings of interviews with him about the history of the farm and buildings, and how they were used. The farm was established in 1835.

The collection of buildings dates from between the late 19th century and the mid- to early-20th century, and includes a hay barn, a pig house, a large two-story dairy barn, a corn crib, horse barn, well house, milk house and silo.

The county will also utilize the fields and ponds on the property for recreation, and will establish a historic marker where American Indian artifacts were found in a back field.

"The Michigan Barn Preservation Network is delighted with (the project)," said Holtz, noting that the Plymouth Road area is a historic corridor with a number of landmark buildings.

"That option to sell the property to the county and make it a beautiful working farm where people can learn is great."

"The barns themselves I consider beautiful," she added. "And they're a statement to our agricultural past. It's sad to see that go away. Kids don't know where our food comes from."

BARN AGAIN!

The National Trust for Historic Preservation's BARN AGAIN! Program helps farmers and ranchers find ways to maintain and use historic barns and agricultural buildings as part of modern agricultural production. Created and managed in partnership with **Successful Farming** magazine, the BARN AGAIN! Program offers publications on technical issues, organized educational workshops and recognized good stewardship through an Awards Program.

The BARN AGAIN! Program...

- Promotes the preservation and practical use of older barns for today's farming needs
- Provides practical, up-to-date information and technical assistance to barn owners
- Presents annual awards for excellence in barn rehabilitation and farm and ranch preservation
- Demonstrates that preserving sturdy old farm buildings can be very economical when compared to new construction
- Assists local groups in planning BARN AGAIN! workshops and training sessions
- Works with large and small acreage owners to more effectively use their older farm buildings
- Advocates for barn preservation funding on the federal, state and local level
- Becomes a national resource for thousands of people concerned with the future of America's rural heritage



A red barn in Ohio

How many historic barns are there?

The data is in. For the first time ever, the official U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Census of Agriculture included a question that asked farm and ranch owners across the country: do you have a barn that was built prior to 1960? According to results released earlier this year, a total of 664,264 farm and ranch owners said "yes." That's about a third of all agricultural producers.

Which states have the most old barns?

The results of the recent Census of Agriculture include some surprises about where older barns are located. For example, the state with the most farms reporting pre-1960 barns is not Iowa, nor Wisconsin, nor Pennsylvania. It is Texas. (OK, maybe this isn't really a surprise.)

Below is a ranking of the top ten states where the most farmers or ranchers said they have a barn built prior to 1960.

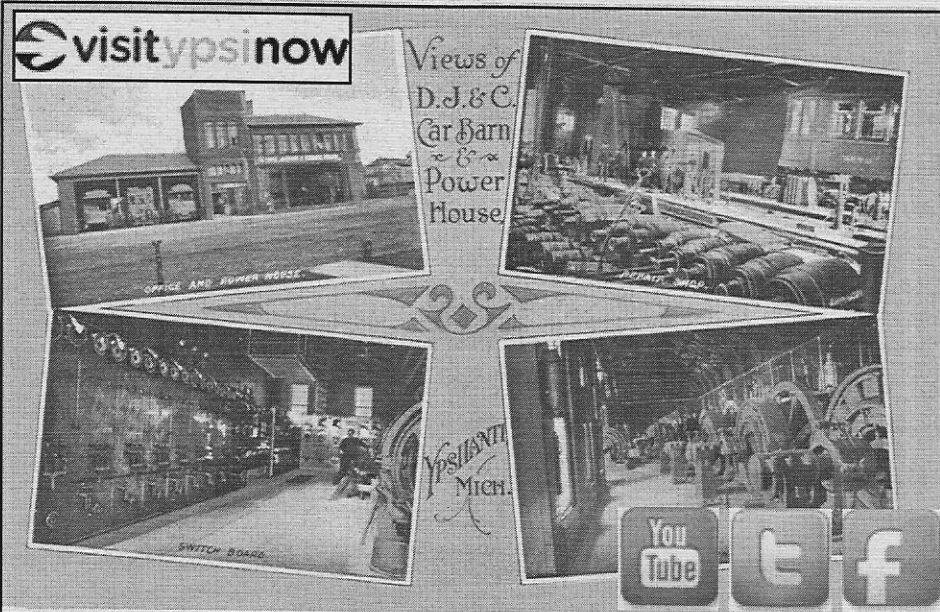
Texas: 51,236 farms or ranches reporting at least one barn built before 1960
Missouri: 36,007
Wisconsin: 35,386
Kentucky: 35,224
Iowa: 34,224
Ohio: 33,762
Pennsylvania: 29,321
Tennessee: 27,555
Minnesota: 27,165
Illinois: 25,767

Looking at these statistics, one might argue that larger states will always come out on top of the list. What about a top ten list that takes into account total land area? Here's a ranking of states when the results are calculated by the number of agricultural properties with barns built before 1960 per square mile.

Kentucky: 0.89 farms or ranches with pre-1960 barns, for every square mile
Ohio: 0.82
Tennessee: 0.67
Pennsylvania: 0.65
Wisconsin: 0.65
Indiana: 0.63
Iowa: 0.61
Maryland: 0.53
Missouri: 0.52
Illinois: 0.46

From National Trust for Historic Preservation:
Census of Historic Barns in the United States

With this ranking in mind, it is particularly appropriate that Kentucky was the site of this year's national **Heritage Barn Conference**, organized by the **National Barn Alliance** in partnership with local hosts **Preservation Kentucky** and the **Kentucky Heritage Council**.



This Ypsilanti Convention & Visitor Bureau post card shows a different kind of "barn" from Our Town

Facebook is abuzz over vintage Ypsi postcards

Visit Ypsilanti began posting on its Facebook page back in May. Historic and iconic images like the Edison Office Building delight and excite the history buffs as well as the novice and spark conversations of days past in our fair City. Every Wednesday morning, a new postcard is shared with details (if they are available) of the post date, person who sent it, and the message. More than 45 vintage Ypsilanti postcards have been posted so far and they have become one of the most anticipated features on the Visit Ypsilanti Facebook page. A few local collectors including Bill Nickels and Lisa Mills Walters have shared their personal collections with Visit Ypsilanti. As an Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation member, you'll want to check out Visit Ypsilanti and see the historic places you recognize and love from another time. -Ypsilanti CVB

The Farmer's Daughter? Who remembers Dinah Shore's "Sweet Violets"?

There once was a farmer who took a young miss
In back of the barn where he gave her a lecture
On horses and chickens and eggs
And told her that she had such beautiful
Manners that suited a girl of her charms
A girl that he wanted to take in his
Washing and ironing and then if she did
They could get married and raise lots of

Sweet violets
Sweeter than the roses
Covered all over from head to toe
Covered all over with sweet violets



From "My Antonia,"

by Willa Cather, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1918

It was eleven o'clock when I at last took my bag and some blankets and started for the barn with the boys. Their mother came to the door with us, and we tarried for a moment to look out at the white slope of the corral and the two ponds asleep in the moonlight, and the long sweep of the pasture under the star-sprinkled sky.

The boys told me to choose my own place in the haymow, and I lay down before a big window, left open in warm weather, that looked out into the stars. Ambrosch and Leo cuddled up in a hay-cave, back under the eaves, and lay giggling and whispering. They tickled each other and tossed and tumbled in the hay; and then, all at once, as if they had been shot, they were still. There was hardly a minute between giggles and bland slumber.

I lay awake for a long while, until the slow-moving moon passed my window on its way up the heavens. I was thinking about Antonia and her children; about Anna's solicitude for her, Ambrosch's grave affection, Leo's jealous, animal little love. That moment, when they all came tumbling out of the cave into the light, was a sight any man might have come far to see. Antonia had always been one to leave images in the mind that did not fade -- that grew stronger with time...



Become a Member

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation encourages both private and public preservation efforts.

Join today and learn about what we have to offer!

Visit the website at www.yhf.org to enter your name and address.

Mail it along with a check for the appropriate amount to our Membership Chair.

Our membership year runs from January-December.

Make checks payable to: **Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation**

c/o Claudia Pettit • 945 Sheridan • Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Annual Membership Categories

Students & Seniors	\$5
Individual	\$10
Family	\$20
(2 or more @ same address)	
Supporting	\$50
Sustaining	\$100
Lifetime	\$1000

Tour the barns in Bridgewater, Manchester, and Sharon Townships

*Washtenaw County's
Award-Winning Heritage Tours!*

The **Washtenaw County Heritage Tourism Map Project** offers four distinct themed driving routes to guide visitors and locals through the County's cities, villages, and rural areas. The project serves to celebrate the region's rich heritage and highlights a variety of historic and cultural resources.

On the **German Heritage Tour**, tourists may venture onto the back roads of Freedom, Lodi, and Scio townships to witness a landscape dotted with traditional farmsteads associated with the State's largest and first German settlement. They may follow the **Historic Barns Tour** through Bridgewater, Manchester, and Sharon townships to see examples of nineteenth and twentieth century structures associated with one of the region's strongest industries: agriculture. Those interested in **Greek Revival Architecture** may choose from the North Tour, South Tour, or selected stops in western Washtenaw County to view the style as expressed through a range of building materials (from fired and adobe brick to wood siding to cobblestone) and a variety of forms typical from the early settlement through the post-Civil War periods. Finally, those interested in the local history of northeastern Washtenaw County may enjoy the **Esek Pray Trail** along Ann Arbor-Plymouth Road as it travels through Superior Township. This tour features a variety of exceptional nineteenth century residences, one-room schoolhouses, and other resources all tied to the family of Esek Pray, a founding leader of the State of Michigan, and his contemporaries.

The Heritage Tourism Map Project is funded in part by a Certified Local Government grant from the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office and supported by several local partners, including the Ann Arbor Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Ypsilanti Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Saline Chamber of Commerce, Saline Area Historical Society, Washtenaw County Historical Consortium, and the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County. For more information, please contact Melissa Milton-Pung, Washtenaw County Project Manager, at miltonpungm@ewashtenaw.org or (734) 222-6878.

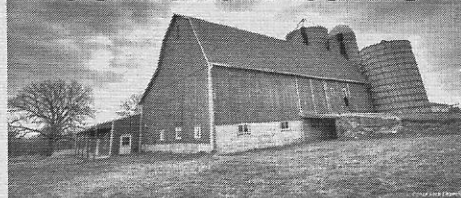


Historic Barns: Working Assets for Sustainable Farms,

is available from the National Trust. Written by Michigan small farmer and author Edward Hoogterp, this publication describes how older and historic barns can provide practical benefits to one of the most exciting and fastest-growing segments of the rural economy – sustainable agriculture. Using several case studies, the publication explains how historic barns can meet important functional, economic and marketing needs of sustainable producers.

Michigan's biggest barn was once in Ypsilanti, where the Paint Creek Crossing shopping center now stands on Whittaker Road. What is purported to be the largest barn extant in Washtenaw County has been pin-pointed on Michigan Avenue, just east of Rustic Glen Golf Club, near Clinton at Willow Road.

Photo club tours Washtenaw barns



Fourteen photos showed up at Manchester High School on November 10 for a Michigan Photo Adventures historic barn tour. Their artistic record of the event and the barns can be seen at www.meetup.com/Michigan-Photo-Adventures/events/89972852/

The tour took them to two dozen historic barns, with particular interest in the barn quilts in the Manchester area. The tour was limited to just eighteen photographers in six vehicles.

With sufficient interest, the club will plan future tours of historic barns and quilts in Alcona and Osceola Counties in Michigan, as well as Kankakee County Illinois.

See their web site at meetup.com/Michigan-Photo-Adventures

"Destruction,"
by James Hearst, from
"Snake in the Strawberries,"
Iowa State University Press, 1979

The barn stood for shelter on squared corners with a tight roof until the wind sucked it up and spit it out in a shambles of splintered boards. I tried to salvage the ruins. While I pulled the nails and sorted out split studding, citizens of the barnyard clustered around—pigeons fluttered where once the ridge pole hung, sparrows frisked through broken window frames—let me sweat over the collapse of order.

I lit my pipe and tossed the match toward the tumbled hay and let chance decide if it lived or went out. The flame caught, winked among the stems, then tongued the air until the draft formed a chimney and the fire went mad.

I leaned against a corner post, the roar of the fire like music, the lunge of its appetite now beyond control.



The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Heritage News

Claudia Pettit
945 Sheridan
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

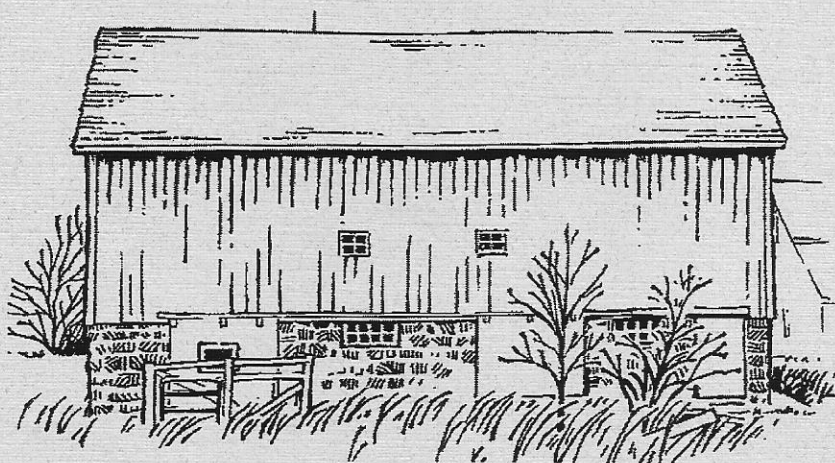
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*Dedicated to the belief that one of Ypsilanti's
greatest resources is its historic architecture*

See you at the General Meeting - Wednesday, 23 January, at 7:30 p.m.

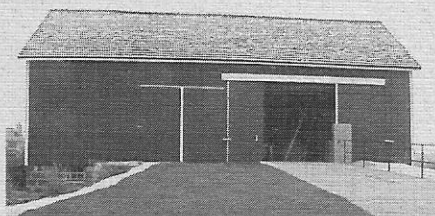
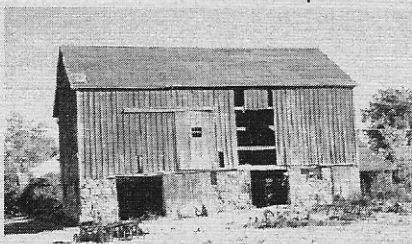
Heritage News is the newsletter of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation. It is published five times a year: September, November, January, March, and May; and distributed, free of charge to the membership by mail, and made available to the public at various business locations in the City.



Langford & Lydia Sutherland's 1834 barn, 797 Textile Road, Ann Arbor, MI

Michigan Barn of the Year Award 2007

The Sutherland-Wilson Farm Museum was the first property listed in the Pittsfield Charter Township Historic District Ordinance created in 2012.



Before & After: The Sutherland-Wilson Big Barn

2013 SCHEDULE

Meetings are held at the Ladies' Literary Club,

23
JANUARY
**Steve Stier, president,
Michigan Barn
Preservation Network**

20
MARCH
TBA

22
MAY
Annual Marker Awards Banquet

Heritage NEWS



March 2013

Bringing the Bentley to Ypsilanti!

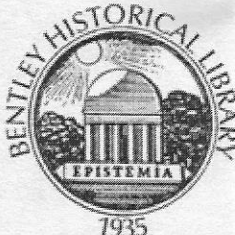
Mountain/Mohammed **Welcome!**

We are pleased that you have found the library of potential use for your research. The Bentley Historical Library is open without fee to all researchers regardless of academic or professional affiliation. The library, as a repository of historical manuscripts, archives, photographs, maps, and printed works on the history of Michigan, serves two main purposes. First, we collect this documentation to ensure its availability and preservation for generations to come. Secondly, we encourage its use by people interested in Michigan's past.

Sometimes our commitment to the first purpose limits our capacity to respond to the second. Therefore, while using our holdings in the reading room, researchers are asked to observe the regulations [see page four], which have been established to create an atmosphere conducive to research while ensuring the continued preservation of the collections. Thank you for acquainting yourself with our reading room procedures.

History can be as interesting as it is important. The staff of the Bentley Library hopes your visits here will be worthwhile and productive. Please do not hesitate to seek assistance from our staff at any time.

-Francis X. Blouin,
Director since 1981



The Bentley Historical Library was established in 1935 by the University of Michigan Regents to carry out two functions:

- to serve as the official archives of the University
- to document the history of the state of Michigan and the activities of its people, organizations and voluntary associations.

Originally sharing space with the Clements Library and then moving to the basement of the Rackham Building, the library moved to its current building in 1972. The library is comprised of four divisions: the Michigan Historical Collections, the University Archives and Records Program, Digital Curation and Access and Reference Services.

The library also manages the historic Detroit Observatory.

Some six decades after its founding, the library has amassed extensive holdings on the history of the state and the university, including more than 30,000 linear feet of archives and manuscripts, 57,000 printed volumes, 1.5 million photographs and other visual materials, and over 10,000 maps. The library's holdings are consulted by Michigan's citizens, the university's students, faculty, staff, alumni and administrators, scholars from across the nation and around the world, and others interested in the history of the state and the university.

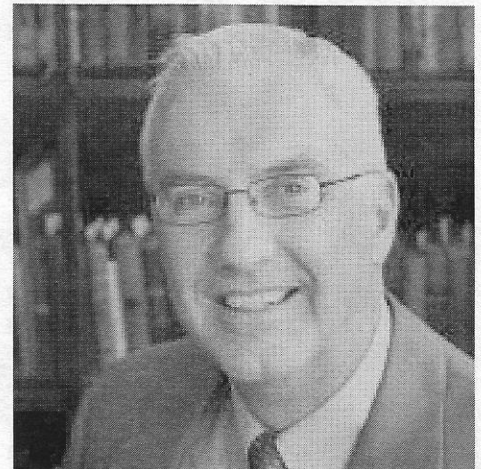
"We lay aside letters to read them again, and at last we destroy them out of discretion, and so disappears the most beautiful, the most immediate breath of life, irrecoverable for ourselves and for others."

-Goethe

Next Public Program:
Francis X. Blouin,
director,
University of Michigan

Bentley Historical Library

7:30 p.m. Wednesday
20 March 2013
at the Ladies' Literary Club
218 N. Washington St.
The public is invited



Fran Blouin, Director, Bentley Historical Library,
Professor of Information, School of Information and
Professor of History, College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

A Day in the Life of an Archivist

Today the Bentley Historical Library is made up of three divisions:

- the Michigan Historical Collections (MHC) which documents Michigan and Michigan's people
- the University Archives and Records Program (UARP) which serves as the University of Michigan archives
- Reference and Access Services, which assists reading room researchers and remote researchers in answering their questions.

First, the staff members of MHC and UARP bring the papers, records, photographs, maps, audiovisual material, architectural drawings, etc. into the building, arrange them in a usable order (if necessary), re-folder and re-box them in acid-free folders and boxes (if necessary), describe the material in a finding aid, and create a catalog record for MIRLYN -(Michigan Research Library Network).

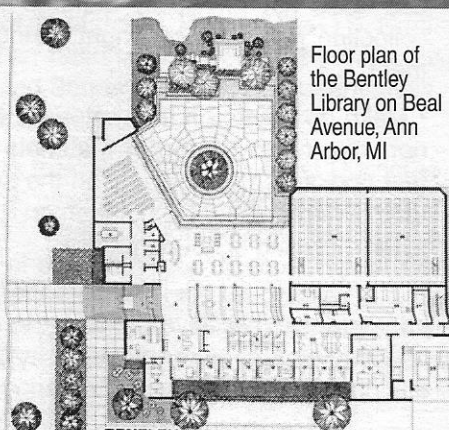
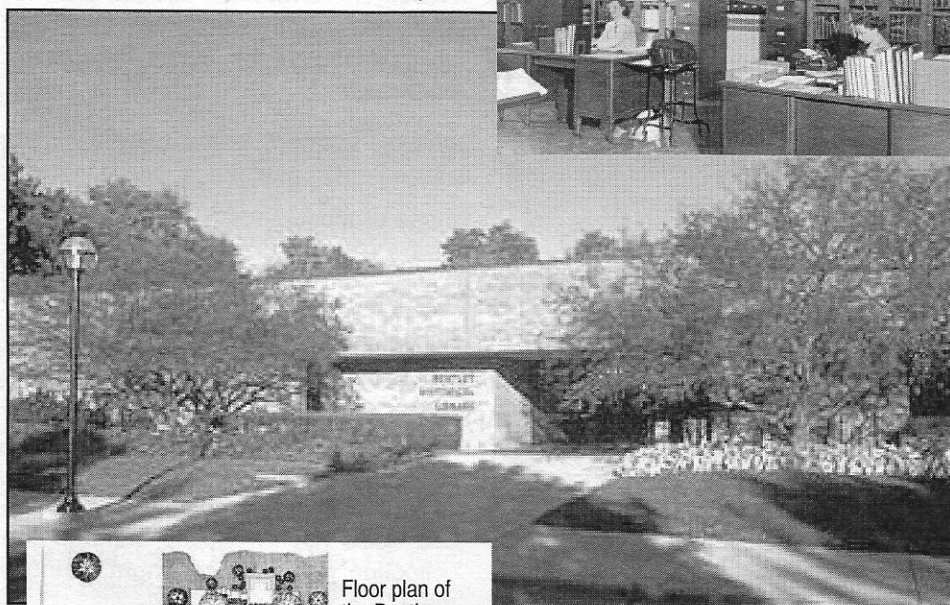
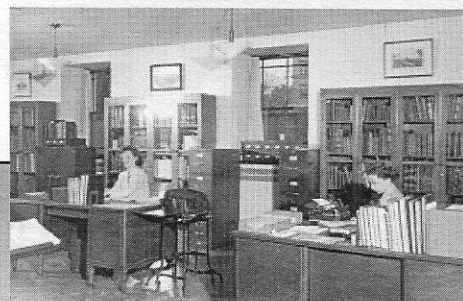
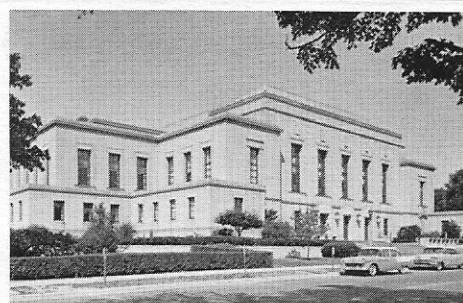
The Reference and Access Services staff not only help researchers with their research strategies, teach them to use the various research tools, i.e. MIRLYN, finding aids, subject guides and indexes, and digital publications, but also provide orientations to classes and groups throughout the campus, community, and state to help familiarize them with the resources of the library. The photographs below show staff and former staff performing some of these tasks.

The original iteration of the Michigan Historical Collection was housed in UM's Rackham Building

Jane Lemish and Julia Lathrop in the Michigan Historical Collection's Reading Room in the Rackham Building

The Bentley Historical Library today, on UM's North Campus

2010 banner celebrating the Bentley's 75th year



Floor plan of the Bentley Historical Library on Beal Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI

Directions to the Bentley:

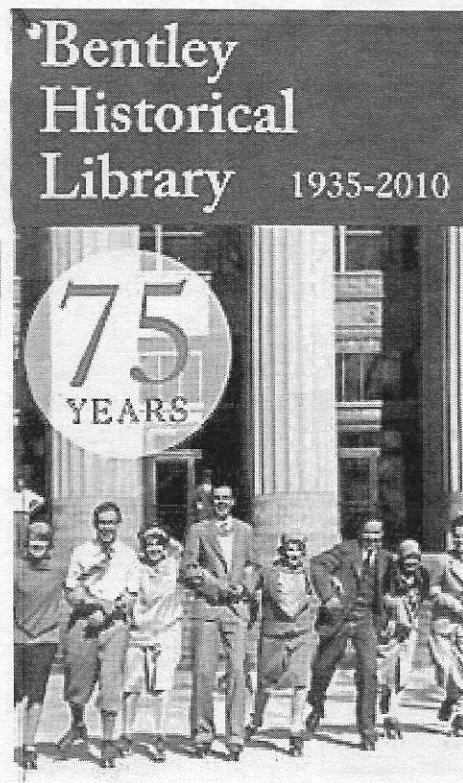
**1150 Beal Avenue Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2113 U.S.A.
Phone: (734) 764-3482 Fax: (734) 936-1333**

From UM Central Campus to Bentley Historical Library

Turn Left (North) onto State Street. Stay on State until it deadends, then turn Right. At the first light, turn Left onto Fuller. Stay on Fuller past the main entrance to North Campus and turn Left onto Beal. The Bentley Library will be the second building on your Right.

From UM North Campus (2101 Bonisteel) to Bentley Historical Library

Head one block East on Bonisteel. At the stopsign, turn Right onto Beal. The Bentley Library will be on your Left.



A Day in the Life of an Archivist

Today the Bentley Historical Library is made up of three divisions:

- the Michigan Historical Collections (MHC) which documents Michigan and Michigan's people
- the University Archives and Records Program (UARP) which serves as the University of Michigan archives
- Reference and Access Services, which assists reading room researchers and remote researchers in answering their questions.

First, the staff members of MHC and UARP bring the papers, records, photographs, maps, audiovisual material, architectural drawings, etc. into the building, arrange them in a usable order (if necessary), re-folder and re-box them in acid-free folders and boxes (if necessary), describe the material in a finding aid, and create a catalog record for MIRLYN -(Michigan Research Library Network).

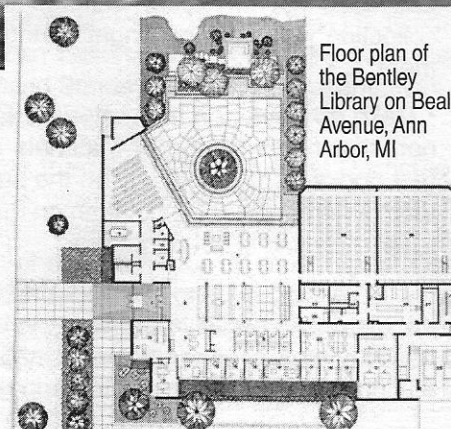
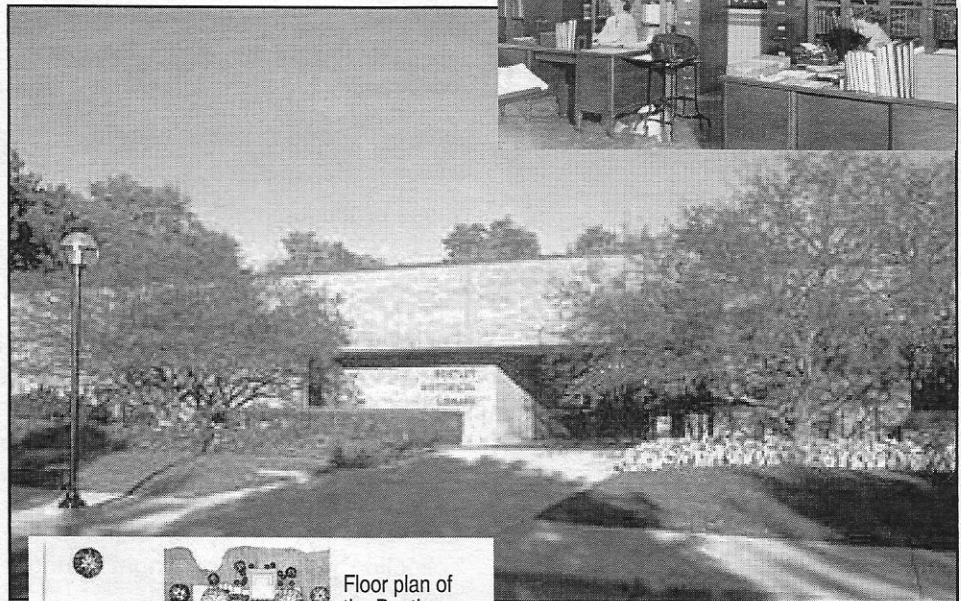
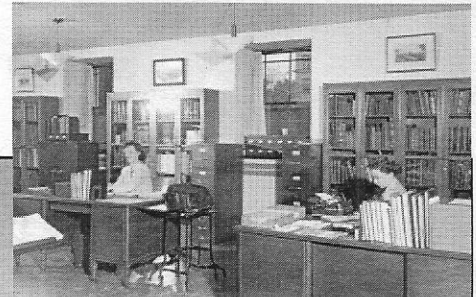
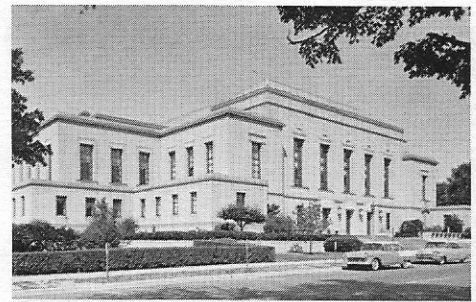
The Reference and Access Services staff not only help researchers with their research strategies, teach them to use the various research tools, i.e. MIRLYN, finding aids, subject guides and indexes, and digital publications, but also provide orientations to classes and groups throughout the campus, community, and state to help familiarize them with the resources of the library. The photographs below show staff and former staff performing some of these tasks.

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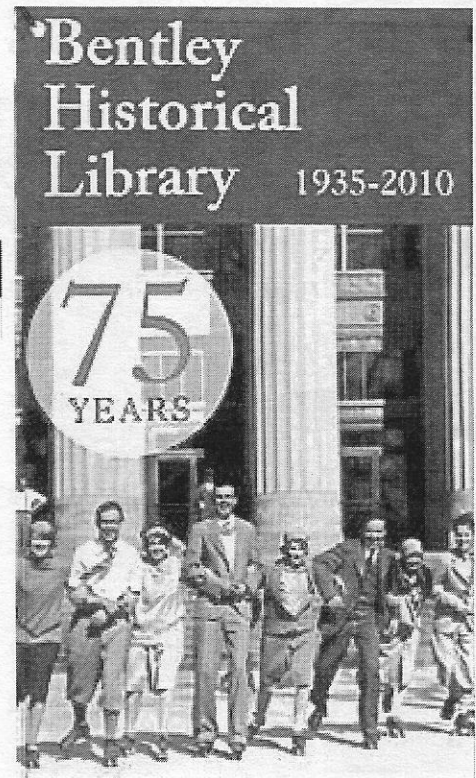
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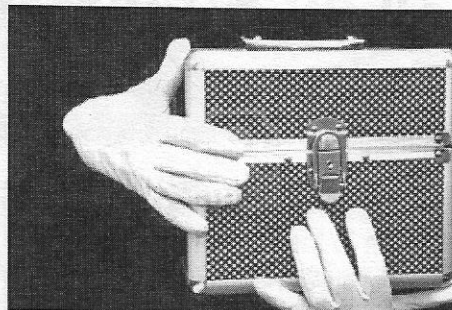


It's truly "White Gloves" treatment at the Bentley

PRELIMINARY STEPS AND SECURITY FOR ON-SITE USE OF THE COLLECTIONS

Our responsibility for proper care of the unique materials entrusted to us requires us to institute the following safeguards in the reading room:

- Researchers must leave coats and other outerwear in the coatroom.
- All briefcases, book bags, handbags, books, newspapers, and other personal belongings must be left in the coatroom. Coin-returned lockers are located in the coatroom requiring a 25¢ deposit, which is returned when the locker is opened.
- Cell phone and scanner use is prohibited in the reading room.
- Researchers are required to leave identification at the Reference Desk to be returned to the researcher once he or she has relinquished all materials. Acceptable forms of identification are: Driver's License, U of M Student, Faculty, or Staff Identification, Passport, or other forms accepted by the Reference Archivist. Photo Identification is preferred. We appreciate your understanding of the concern we have for the long-term guardianship of these materials.
- Laptop computers, digital cameras, note paper, and note cards, may be taken into the reading room. Outlets for laptop computers are available at every table. Personal materials used in the reading room may be searched when the researcher leaves.
- Each researcher must fill out a researcher registration form during their first visit to the Bentley and sign the register book at each subsequent visit. Signing the registration form signifies that the researcher has read the "Guide to Use of the Bentley Historical Library" and agrees to abide by its policies.
- Any person found stealing, defacing, mutilating, or in any way damaging materials will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.



REQUESTING MATERIAL

Researchers must fill out call slips for each box or item requested. Call slips are retained by the library for security purposes.

To help us provide maximum physical protection for the records, please follow these procedures:

- Use materials only in the reading room. Materials may not be removed to any other area of the building.
- Take notes either in pencil or in ball-point pen. Laptop computers, cameras and recording devices are also permitted, provided that their use does not disturb other researches and that such use does not physically damage the collection nor incur copyright infringement.
- Make no marks on the materials. Do not write notes on top of materials or rest books or other objects on the surface of items used. Do not lean on materials. Tracing is not permitted.
- In handling either photographs or photographic negatives, wear gloves provided by the reference staff. Handle any photographic image by the edges.
- Only one box or five books may be used at a time. Remove only one folder at a time. Put folders and items back in the same order and facing the same way you received them.
- Researchers may eat and drink in the lounge. In accordance with University of Michigan policy, the Bentley Library prohibits smoking.
- Cell phones are not to be used in the reading room, if brought in, they must be turned off or set to vibrate. Cell phones can be used in the foyer.

ORDERING DUPLICATION OF MATERIALS

Ask the reference staff for assistance and information about the possibility of duplication. Upon request the reference staff will provide researchers with written instructions for duplication.

DO NOT REMOVE ITEMS FROM THE COLLECTION

The library reserves the right to restrict duplication.

The Reference Staff will endeavor to provide photocopy orders of ten pages or less on the same day. Larger photocopy orders will generally be ready within 48 hours and orders for photograph and audio-visual materials will take approximately two weeks to complete.

COPYRIGHT OF UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS

Researchers may further investigate the Library's policies on

- Copyright protections
- "Fair Use" limitation on exclusive rights of the author
- Making copies for private study
- Permission to publish
- Additional copyright information
- The use of libelous statements or invasion of privacy

The researcher, by signing the researcher registration card, agrees not to quote, publish, reproduce, or display the copy in whole or in part without permission. Copies may not be further duplicated, nor deposited in or given to other institutions without the written permission of the director of the library. Copies may not be sold or lent to any other individual.

The researcher, by signing the researcher registration card, agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan and the Bentley Historical Library and its staff against all suits, claims, actions, and expenses arising out of his/her use of unpublished materials here.

Alvin Morell Bentley III (August 30, 1918 – April 10, 1969)

was a Michigan politician. As a U.S. representative, he made national headlines as one of the victims of the 1954 U.S. Capitol shootings.

The only child of Alvin M. Bentley, Jr., and Helen Webb Bentley, was born in Portland, Maine only three months before his father died serving in France during World War I. Although fatherless, Bentley was heir to a family fortune, from his grandfather who founded the Owosso Manufacturing Company.

He graduated in 1934 from Southern Pines High School in Southern Pines, North Carolina and in 1936 from Asheville Prep School in Asheville, North Carolina. He received his bachelor's degree in 1940 from the University of Michigan and attended Turner's Diplomatic School, Washington, D.C., to qualify for the U.S. diplomatic service.

He served as vice consul and secretary with the United States Foreign Service, serving in Mexico, Colombia, Hungary, and Italy. He returned to Washington, D.C., in 1950, for work in the State Department.

Disagreeing with the Truman administration's foreign policy, Bentley resigned from the diplomatic service in 1950 and returned to live in Owosso, Michigan. He was a delegate to Republican State conventions in 1950, 1951, and 1952. He was vice president of Lake Huron Broadcasting Company, Saginaw MI, in 1952, and a director of Mitchell-Bentley Corporation.

In 1952, Bentley defeated the incumbent Republican U.S. Representative Fred L. Crawford in the primary election for Michigan's 8th congressional district and went on to win in the 1952 general election. Bentley was elected to the Eighty-third and to the three succeeding Congresses, serving from January 3, 1953 to January 3, 1961. He was not a candidate for re-nomination in 1960, instead running for a seat in the United States Senate and losing to Democratic incumbent Patrick V. McNamara in the 1960 general election.

Bentley was one of five Representatives shot on March 1, 1954, in the U.S. Capitol shooting incident when four Puerto Rican nationalists opened fire from the visitors' balcony into the chamber of the United States House of Representatives. Bentley was shot in the chest, but survived.

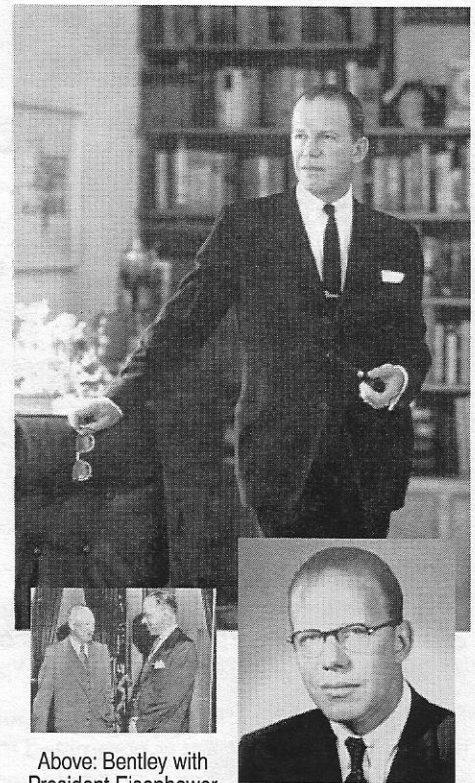
From 1961 to 1962, Bentley was a delegate from the 15th Senatorial District to the Michigan State Constitutional Convention, which produced the Michigan state constitution adopted in 1963. In 1962, Bentley again ran for the U.S. House for a one-term, at-large seat created as a result of the 1960 U.S. Census, but he lost in the general election to Democrat Neil Staebler. He continued public service by receiving appointments to education-related positions in the state. Also, after leaving Congress in 1961, he had returned to the University of Michigan as a graduate student in the History department.

While continuing to maintain offices in Washington, D.C., Bentley commuted by air to Ann Arbor to attend classes. He received an M.A. degree in 1963. In 1966, while pursuing a doctoral degree, Governor George W. Romney appointed him to the board of regents of the University of Michigan.

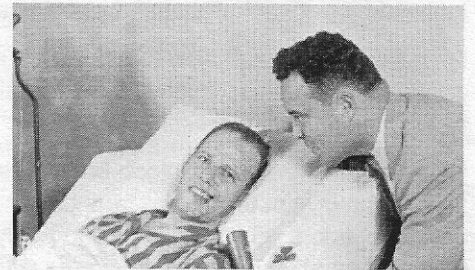
He died, aged 50, while on vacation in Tucson, Arizona of an "inflammation affecting the central nervous system". Bentley had been confined to a wheelchair for two years after "corrective surgery" when his condition suddenly worsened. He is interred in Oak Hill Cemetery in Owosso, Michigan.

In 1971, his widow, Arvella D. Bentley, gave a generous donation to the University of Michigan's "Michigan Historical Collections", enabling it to construct a new building which was subsequently renamed the Bentley Historical Library.

[SOURCE: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia]



Above: Bentley with President Eisenhower



J. Edgar Hoover visits Representative Bentley while recovering from the 1954 Capitol shootings

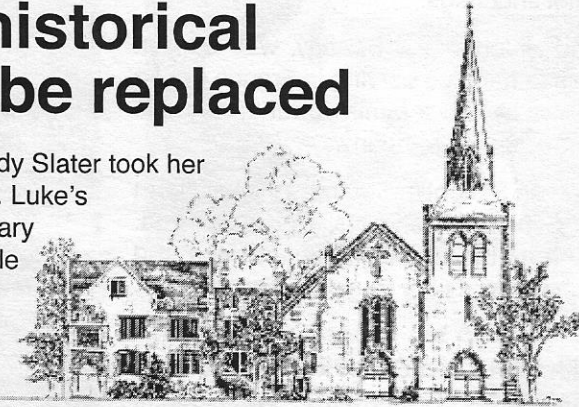
**"A library is thought in cold storage."
-Herbert Samuel**

**"A library, to modify the famous metaphor of Socrates, should be the delivery room for the birth of ideas – a place where history comes to life."
-Norman Cousins**

**"If truth is beauty, how come no one has their hair done in a library?"
- Lily Tomlin**

Destroyed historical marker will be replaced

Reverend Dr. JoAnn Kennedy Slater took her usual morning walk around St. Luke's Episcopal Church in late January only to discover shards of brittle white material on the ground directly below where the building's historical marker had been. As rector of the historic church on North Huron Street, she began to reach out to the source of the awarded marker.



First, she telephoned the Ypsilanti Historical Museum down the street where she was told it was the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation that awards the markers. They connected her with Bill Nickels of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation.

Nickels reported, "She desperately would like the marker replaced - I told her the Heritage Foundation is committed to installing and maintaining markers at no charge to the owners. She would very much like to pay for a new marker, but I insisted we would replace it free of charge."

Rev. Kennedy Slater also filed a police report on the incident, but was more concerned about replacement of the valued marker and its relationship to the historic value of the building.

Slater noted, "Being a historic building serves as a visual witness to St. Luke's long commitment to the Ypsilanti community; and being a historic building also complements the history, faith and polity of our denomination. The Episcopal Church has always been a powerful witness for social justice and has been a faithful and supportive presence in the struggles of 'Seneca Falls, Selma, and Stonewall.' St. Luke's is a place literally grounded in Ypsilanti history with a commitment to the city's future in living out those values and opportunities for all God's people."

Episcopalians have worshipped in Ypsilanti for nearly two centuries. In the late 1820s missionaries preached to the area's first settlers and Rev. Silas C. Freeman and Andrew Cornish founded St. James's Church in 1830. The congregation held services in homes and the village hotel and was one of the six founding parishes of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan. In 1837, the church reorganized as St. Luke's. In June 1858 the present sanctuary, designed by architects Anderson & Jordan of Detroit, was consecrated.

As the congregation grew, the church added the Church House in 1928 and the Parish House in 1955. In 2001, the church appointed its first female rector, JoAnn Kennedy Slater, who replaced Jasper Pennington upon his retirement.

Nickels contacted Heritage Foundation board members, saying, "We occasionally get to understand the value of what we do in the community. This is one of those times. St. Luke's is proud of their historic structure and appreciates their marker which probably translates to them properly taking care of their buildings."

YHF plans to replace the marker in the same spot the vandalized marker was located. The holes are already drilled, Nickels says, and the job should not be difficult.

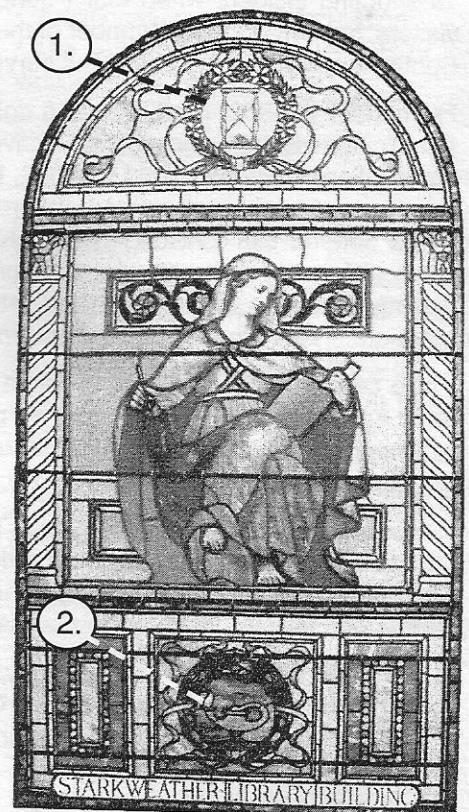
Tiffany window is preserved

Ypsilanti's Heritage Foundation and Historical Society cooperated in a special program to dedicate the restoration of the Mary Ann Starkweather Tiffany window from the original Ladies' Library Association now on permanent display in the Ypsilanti Historical Museum.

Project Coordinator Denis Schmiedeke and Dirk Thomson III, CEO of Brighton's Thompson Art Glass Studios, made the heroic effort to save the priceless Ypsilanti artifact and Donald Randazzo built the surround to display and protect the artifact. But historians still seem confused about the subject of the elegant and historic Arts & Crafts design.

A robed woman sits with a book and stylus in the center panel. An hourglass (1) drains its sand in the top panel and an oil lamp (2) burns in the bottom panel; both are surrounded by wreaths of jeweled glass.

A dubious conclusion: Amateur sleuths suggest the design is an early advertisement for the Evelyn Wood Speed Reading Institute.



A nursery rhyme rewritten:

There was an old woman who lived in a shoe
 She had so many ~~children~~ ^{books} she ~~didn't~~ ^{didn't know} what to do

The meaning and origin of the popular English nursery rhyme "There Was an Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe" is still debated. But whether you think the "old woman" was a historical female figure of the day or King George II (1683–1760) or not, Ypsilantians agree that Mary Ann Starkweather set a better example for those lyrics.

The most common version of the rhyme is:

There was an old woman who lived in a shoe.
 She had so many children, she didn't know what to do;
 She gave them some broth without any bread;
 Then whipped them all soundly and put them to bed.

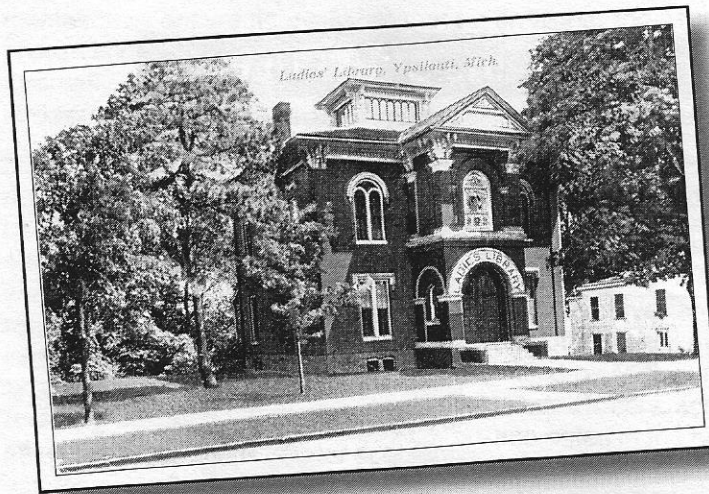


The earliest printed version in Joseph Ritson's Gammer Gurton's Garland in 1794 has the more coarse last line:

She whipp'd all their bums, and sent them to bed.

Many other variations were printed in the 18th and 19th centuries. Marjorie Ainsworth Decker published a Christian version of the rhyme in The Christian Mother Goose Book published in 1978:

There was an old woman who lived in a shoe,
 She had so many children, and loved them all, too.
 She said, "Thank you Lord Jesus, for sending them bread."
 Then kissed them all gladly and sent them to bed.



Starkweather Home/Ladies Library

Built in 1858, this wonderful brick building was a stop for the Underground Railroad. It was once home to the Ladies Library and also served as the city's public library until the mid-1960s. Located on N. Huron Street and backing up to scenic Riverside Park, the Ladies Library provided a pleasant place for a stroll or a good read. Still standing today, the Ladies Library is currently being renovated inside for future plans. Check out Visit Ypsilanti's FaceBook page every Wednesday for more vintage postcards.

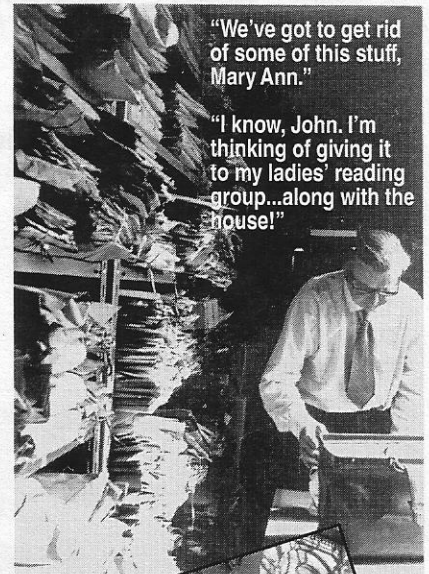
-Cory Hamlin, Marketing & Communications Assistant, Ypsilanti Area CVB



The Ypsilanti version

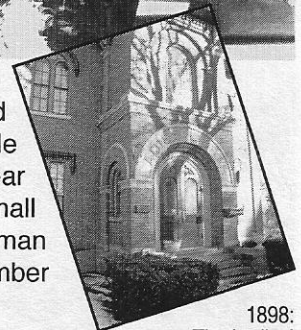
Mary Ann Newberry (above) married John Starkweather in 1839 and moved to a farm near Ypsilanti. He died in 1883, and the following year Mrs. Starkweather inherited a small fortune from her father, the lumberman for whom the Upper Peninsula lumber town is named.

Since the Starkweathers had no children, she used her inheritance to make contributions to local charities, churches, and the City of Ypsilanti: the Hebe Fountain at Michigan & Huron, Starkweather Hall on the Michigan Normal School (EMU) campus, Starkweather Memorial Chapel at Highland Cemetery and, in 1890, turned over her home and all the books in it to the Ladies Library Association, establishing the city's first library.

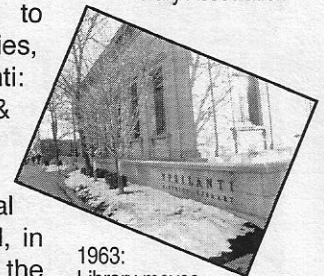


"We've got to get rid of some of this stuff, Mary Ann."

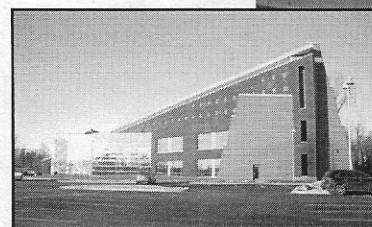
"I know, John. I'm thinking of giving it to my ladies' reading group...along with the house!"



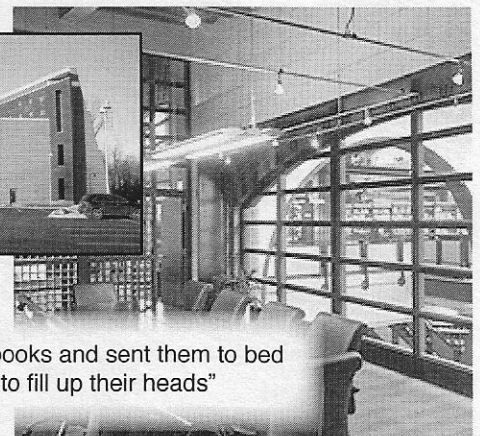
1898:
The Ladies' Library Association



1963:
Library moves to former U.S. Post Office



2002: YDL expands to Whittaker Road



"She gave them her books and sent them to bed
 With plenty of stories to fill up their heads"



The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Heritage News

Claudia Pettit
945 Sheridan
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Board Members

Hank Prebys, President
Joe Mattimoe, Treasurer
Jan Arps-Prundeanu
Tom Dodd
Pattie Harrington
Barry LaRue
Michael Newberry
Bill Nickels
Alex Pettit
Claudia Pettit
Don Randazzo
Jane Schmiedeke

*Dedicated to the belief that one of Ypsilanti's
greatest resources is its historic architecture*

See you at the General Meeting - Wednesday, 20 March, at 7:30 p.m.

Become a Member

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation encourages both private and public preservation efforts.

Join today and see what we have to offer!

Visit the website at www.yhf.org to enter your name and address.

Mail it along with a check for the appropriate amount to our treasurer.

Our membership year runs from January-December.

Make checks payable to: Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

c/o Claudia Pettit

945 Sheridan

Ypsilanti, MI 48197



*Dedicated to
the belief that
one of Ypsilanti's
greatest
resources is
its historic
architecture*

Annual Membership Categories

Students & Seniors	\$10
Individual	\$15
Family	\$20
(2 or more @ same address)	
Contributing	\$50
Sustaining	\$100
Lifetime	\$1000

2012/2013 SCHEDULE

Meetings are held at the Ladies' Literary Club,

20
MARCH

Fran Blouin, director
University of Michigan
Bentley Historical Library

22
MAY

Annual Marker Awards Banquet

Dipping into the archive is always an interesting, if sometimes unsettling, proposition. It often begins with anxiety, with the fear that the thing you want won't surface. But ultimately the process is a little like tapping into the unconscious, and can bring with it the ambivalent gratification of rediscovering forgotten selves.

Rather than making new pictures, why can't I just recycle some of these old ones? Claim "found" photographs from among my boxes? And have this gesture signify "resistance to further production/consumption"?

-Moyra Davey, *Long Life Cool White: Photographs and Essays*

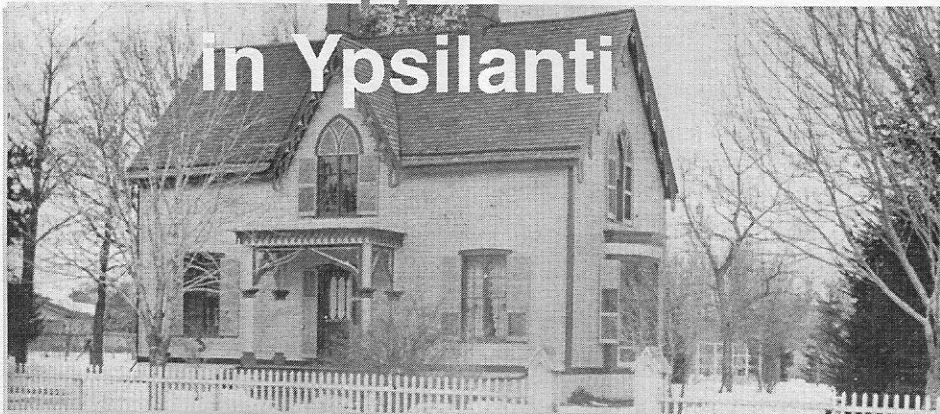
Heritage NEWS



May 2013

American Vernacular • Arts & Crafts • Bungalow • Cape Cod • Colonial Revival • Commercial • Cotswold • Dutch Colonial • Faith-based • Federal • Georgian Revival • Gothic Revival • Greek Revival • Italianate • Prairie • Queen Anne • Ranch • Tudor • Victorian • What's It

**Preserved,
protected,
and appreciated
in Ypsilanti**



The non-profit Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation is dedicated to the belief that one of Ypsilanti's greatest resources is its wonderful historic architecture. Ypsilanti's historic district, one of the largest in the state of Michigan, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The YHF supports preservation in the historic district and throughout the city. Since 1974 the YHF has sought to increase public understanding, awareness, and appreciation of the city's architectural links to the past.

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation augments the preservation efforts of national, state, county, and city ordinances by recognizing historic properties meeting specific criteria (at right).

Through numerous yearly activities the YHF educates the community about the philosophy and purpose of historic preservation and encourages public and private preservation efforts in the city.

In addition to the annual presentation of preservation awards to local homeowners at its Marker Awards Banquet every May, the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation:

- publishes a bimonthly newsletter
- hosts an informative public program on preservation or historical topics in September, November, January, and March
- sponsors a popular annual historic home tour in August
- and makes financial contributions to local preservation projects

Next Public Program:

Annual Marker Awards Banquet*

**6:30 p.m. Wednesday
22 May 2013**

**at the Ladies' Literary Club
218 N. Washington St.**

The public is invited

The 40th annual Heritage Foundation's Marker Award Banquet is set for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, 22 May 2013 at the Ladies' Literary Club. Owners of six houses and two out buildings [see pages 4-5] that meet certain criteria will be recognized for their efforts and Historic Building Markers will be awarded in order to publicly identify buildings of special merit.



Homes or buildings are nominated for this special award by the following criteria:

- The property is within the boundaries of the City of Ypsilanti
- The property predates 1950 and has an identifiable architectural style
- The property is well and appropriately maintained
- The grounds are maintained
- If it is a rental property, the property has had appropriate maintenance for at least two years
- The property has been developed sensitively
- The siding on the property 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

** The banquet is potluck BUT marker recipients are our honored guests and need bring nothing but themselves!*

This is where history lives

What is historic preservation?

-From the Ypsilanti Historic District FACT SHEET

Historic preservation is the planned and guided protection, rehabilitation, maintenance and reuse of our architectural resources.

As recently as 1960, private efforts at preservation were limited to the rescue of an occasional mansion or monument, the federal government was busily engaged in urban renewal programs which leveled the older parts of many communities, few states had effective preservation an official part of their planning process were few and far between.

Enormous changes in attitude toward preservation have come in more recent years as a result of growing concern for our dwindling resources (including buildings themselves), the escalating costs of new construction, a revived interest in the nation's history, an anew appreciation of the aesthetic and economic value of historic architecture.

Preservation is no longer the sentimental saving of a beautiful old building—it is now a broad concept involving building codes, land use planning, tax law, open space planning, downtown revitalization—a vital tool for the conservation of neighborhoods and cities. Private involvement in preservation is extensive: thousands of people of ordinary means are engaged in the restoration of historic buildings, federal laws and tax benefits now encourage preservation, the states pursue active programs and offer assistance to local communities, and hundreds of cities have adopted preservation as official policy by establishing historic districts.

National Trust for Historic Preservation

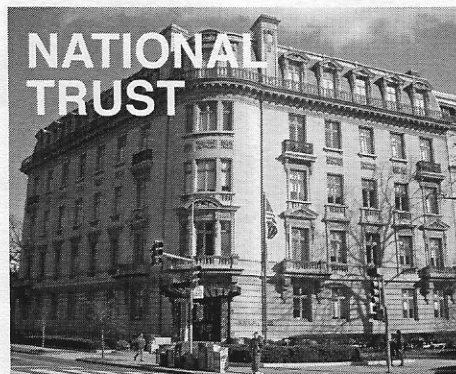
MI State Historic Preservation Office

Washtenaw County Historic District Commission

City of Ypsilanti Historic District Commission

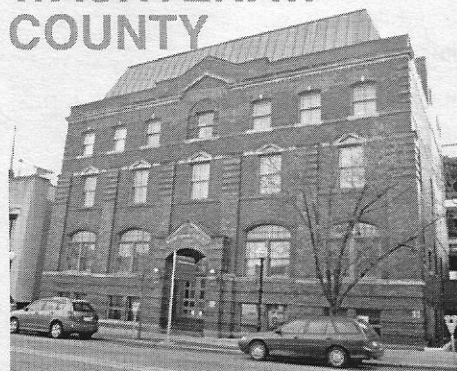
Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Federal, State, County, & City headquarters for Historic Preservation

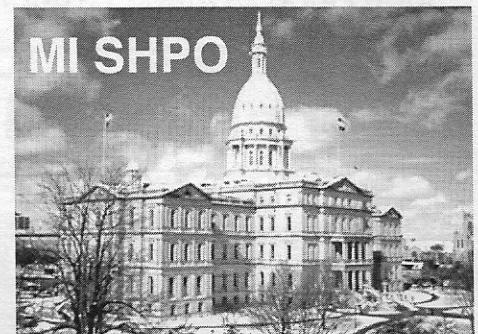


The National Trust for Historic Preservation headquarters, also known as the Andrew Mellon Building, is located in the Dupont Circle neighborhood of Washington, D.C. The building is a National Historic Landmark.

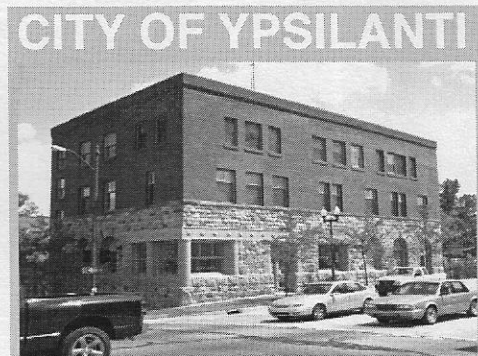
WASHTENAW COUNTY



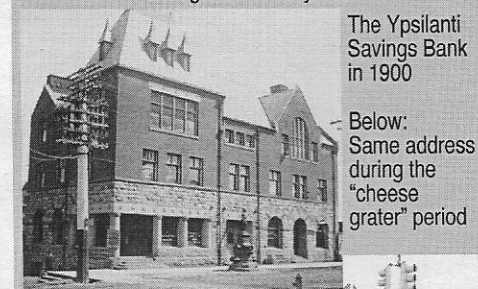
The County Annex building at 110 N. Fourth was built as Ann Arbor's YMCA in 1904 and houses several county units, including the public defender's office, the office of community and economic development, Project Outreach and the Washtenaw Housing Alliance (which includes the HDC)



Michigan's SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) is housed in a State office building in Lansing, but not in the historic capitol building shown here

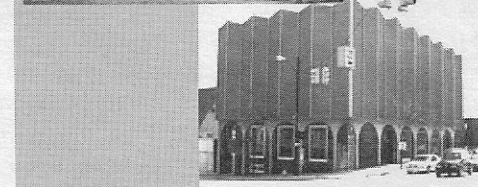


Ypsilanti's Historic District Commission office is housed at City Hall, a building that has seen great changes over the years



The Ypsilanti Savings Bank in 1900

Below: Same address during the "cheese grater" period



Ypsilanti's Historic District

What is a historic district?

-From the Ypsilanti HDC

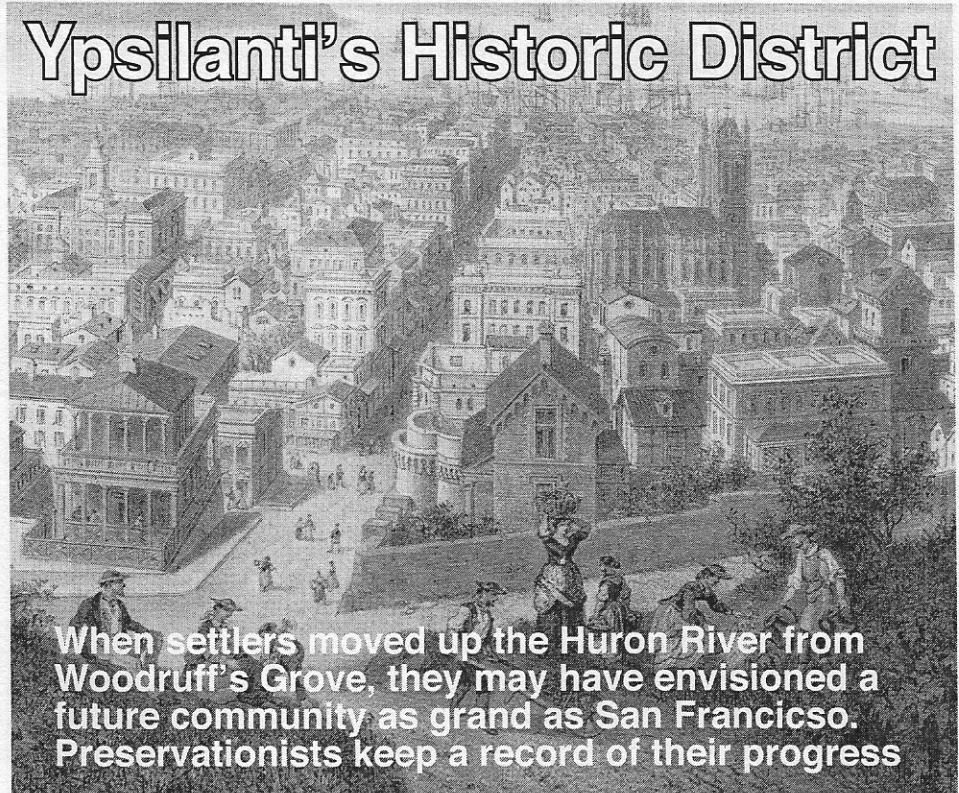
A historic district is an area of a community with a high concentration of historically and architecturally significant structures worthy of preservation. It is not an architectural museum in which no old building is ever torn down and no new building ever built. It must always be a growing, functioning part of the total community. Ideally, it is protected by a historic district ordinance and administered by a historic district commission.

Communities across the country have established historic districts in order to maintain the unique character of the district, encourage the recycling and continued productive use of fine old buildings, encourage new construction of a compatible nature, prevent the visual and financially harmful effects of neglected property, provide guidance for property owners, stabilize property values, protect investment and encourage new vitality.

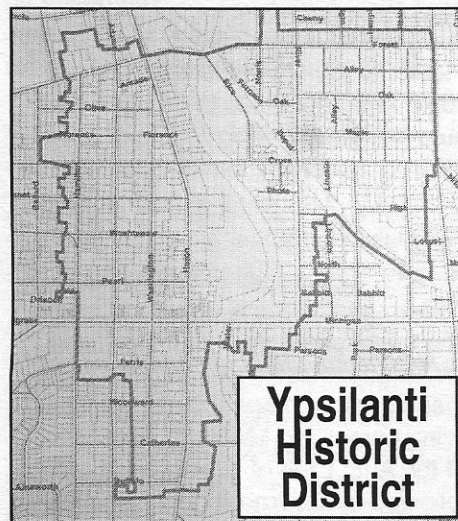
These goals are realized through the implementation of an ordinance whose provisions serve to guide the decisions of the Historic District Commission.

With the designation in 1973 of the Ypsilanti Historic District and the passage in 1978 of an ordinance to protect the District, the City of Ypsilanti recognized its wealth of historic architecture and committed itself to the conservation and careful development of the District for the benefit of the entire community. In so doing, it joined a rapidly growing number of U.S. cities in choosing preservation as one way to deal with an all too familiar array of urban problems.

The Ypsilanti Historic District enjoys the honor of being on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places, the highest possible recognition of the merit of its historic architecture.



When settlers moved up the Huron River from Woodruff's Grove, they may have envisioned a future community as grand as San Francisco. Preservationists keep a record of their progress



Ypsilanti boasts one of the oldest and largest historic districts in Michigan, which encompasses both downtown and Depot Town, and the neighborhoods to the north and south of them.

The Historic District Commission (HDC) is an appointed citizen's board that reviews exterior modifications to structures ("resources") within the district; the purpose is not to revert things to The Way They Were, but to ensure that any changes are at least not detrimental to the character of the structure or the district.

The HDC meets twice monthly, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings, at City Hall. (The meetings happen roughly simultaneously with Ypsilanti City Council meetings.)

Official website:
http://www.cityofypsilanti.com/boards/bd_historic

HDC Commissioners:

Anne Stevenson, Chair
Hank Prebys, Vice Chair
Ron Rupert
Jennifer Henriksen
Mike Condon
Alex Pettit
Jane Schmiedke

**"Save the past;
enrich the future"**

-National Trust for Historic Preservation

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation 2013 Marker Awards



1029 Washtenaw

Shannon & Andrea Linn

Families watched from the front porch of this Queen Anne as traffic streamed in and out of town along a tree-lined Washtenaw Avenue. Behind classical columns and dainty dentils in the porch fascia, wicker chairs provided the best view of every parade in Old Ypsi. Our streets followed the river and Native American trails and this tributary led westerly to Ann Arbor.

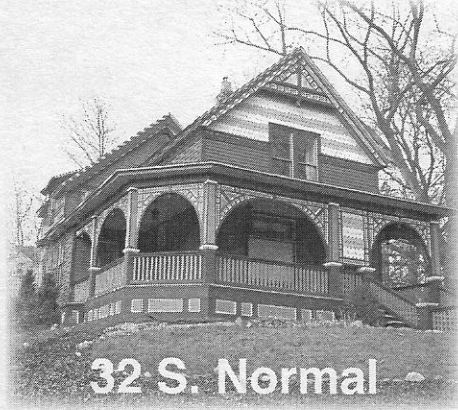
Built in 1900, the house was occupied in 1922 by Michigan State Normal College professor Nathan A. Harvey and wife Carrie. They lived there until his retirement in 1935.

Frederick and Ruth Katon lived here in 1957. Frederick was a mechanic at E.G. Weidman Auto Co. Katons owned the house until his death in 1989, but the next two generations of Katons still live in the neighborhood.

Gary and Tammy Dust lived here next. Gary was a firefighter at Willow Run Airport and Tammy grew up on the EMU campus and is now a school administrator in a downriver district.

Robert Kilpatrick and Andrea Linn purchased the house next.

The Queen Anne structural design, fish-scale shingle texture, and green & cream color scheme is echoed in the garage at the rear of the property and is surrounded by massive shade trees, continuing to make an impressive entrance into the city from the west. And, true to tradition, there's a path alongside the property connecting walkers with the schools and churches to the south on W. Cross Street.



32 S. Normal

Adam Delaney

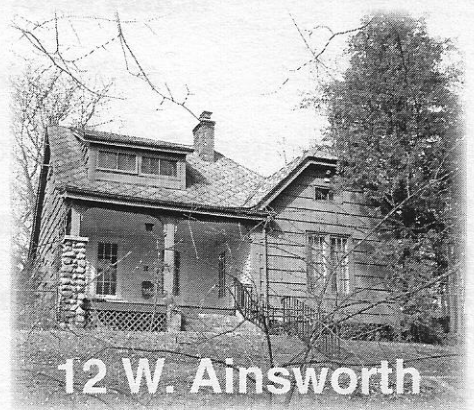
This red, pink, and delicious two-colors-of-cream "painted lady" was built on the corner of S. Normal and W. Michigan (then the Chicago Road) in 1893 at the City's southern entrance to the Normal School (hence the street name).

In 1922, Arba M. and Rhoda J. Wilson lived here. Arba had an auto repair business at 103 N. Huron. Stephen Plome, a cook, and his wife Mary occupied the residence in 1926. In 1935, auto worker Hamilton Moore and wife Mildred. George Plom is listed as a resident that same year, but no occupation is shown.

In 1951, the owners of record were William and Meridith Polmartis, and one might conclude that "Plom" was an Americanized name derived from their Greek heritage. Ploms continued living here: Cleo M. Plom, supervisor of the Auto Club of Michigan, in 1957, followed by George B. Plom and Paul Kuestner, who was a teacher in the public schools.

Today's outstandingly colorful paint job was the work of Adam Delaney who has owned the property since 2004. The analogous color scheme was featured on the cover of the 2012 Home Tour brochure. These most recent color choices have made this house a beacon for the Normal Park neighborhood and still maintains its role as a welcoming sign to the campus.

YHF continues to recognize barns, garages, and garages that meet the marker criteria. Look for these at the May 22 pot-luck dinner!



12 W. Ainsworth

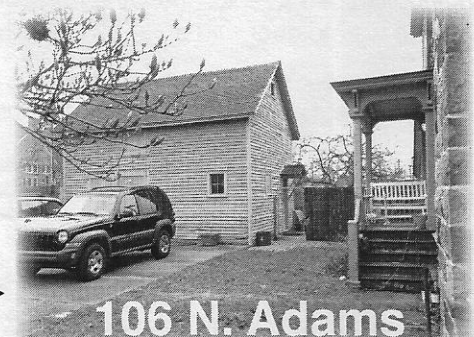
Robert Howard

Named for a family of early settlers who had a mill on the Huron River at Michigan Avenue, Ainsworth Subdivision was one of the first additions to the original plat of the City.

This charming cottage was built in 1920, but there is very little information on the property in the Polk Directories, indicating that the Ainsworth subdivision may have still been part of the township originally.

Robert, now a retired teacher, has lived in the house since 1944. He is a volunteer at the Historical Society Museum and maintains both the Ainsworth house and the house his grandfather built on Whittaker Road next to what was the family's market. His father, Art Howard, was a landscape architect by trade and served for many years on the board of directors of the Historical Society. Art worked in his father's Howard Meat Market and later had his own store at the Whittaker Road location.

Sitting picturesquely near the neighborhood's entrance from Michigan Avenue, the Howard family has a great perspective on the history of their community.



106 N. Adams

Six houses and two out-buildings to be recognized



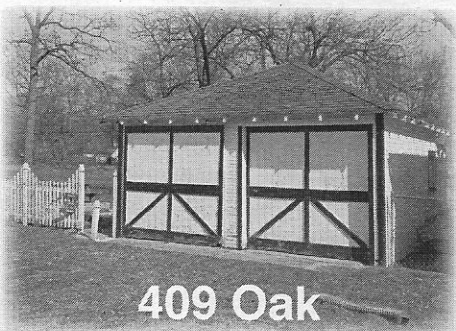
408 E. Cross

Brian Robb & Kate de Fuccio

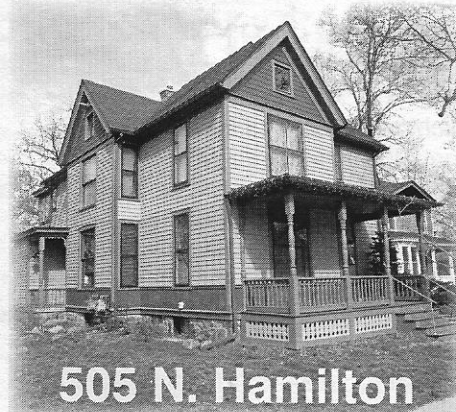
According to City records, this property enjoys a long and colorful genealogy: 1912–4 Mary A. Crane, 1920–1922 Charles Westfall, 1926 Ryland H. Pierce, 1929 Roy Gharst, 1930 Bert L. Conrad, 1931 Ralph D. Hanby, 1933 Lawrence Arend, 1934–8 Frank Cox, 1941–77 Joseph P. Stanton, 1978 VACANT, 1979–84 John P. Eckhardt, 1985–90 Steph. Strobbe, 1991 VACANT, 1992–2000 Thomas D. Shazer, 2000–1313 Brian Robb & Kate de Fuccio.

Listed as “storekeepers” and “laborers” when information was available, the owners seemed to fit perfectly with the Historic East Side’s working man’s neighborhood. That ethic holds true today as our city’s traditions continue.

Today the handsome East Side residence is the home of City Councilmember Brian Robb and Kate de Fuccio. The present color scheme of green, creams, and red are really “Rock Garden,” “Macadamia,” “Rye Grass,” and “Fireweed” according to the names on the paint chips and accent the structure’s delicate details in a most tasteful manner.



409 Oak



505 N. Hamilton

Barry LaRue & Kim Clarke

This Queen Anne house was built circa 1888. The Lewis family owned this house from about 1905 until 1968. Alton Lewis was a co-owner, treasurer, and manager of Michigan Ladder Company. They “updated” the Queen Anne style to a more Neo-classical look when they bought the home by enlarging a small front porch to a wrap-around complete with Doric columns. The parlors and formal dining room had oak trim added and features such as huge fluted columns in the archways, etc.

After 1968 the house was converted to a student rental and eventually was lost due to unpaid taxes.

After demolishing the collapsed garage and front porch roof, the County considered a total demolition when LaRue and Clarke purchased the house in October, 2009 and spent a year and a half restoring much of the missing or damaged details. Holes in the roof drilled through to the first floor, required structural and aesthetic repairs. Every system from roof to plumbing and electrical were removed and brought to current standards, being sensitive to period detail.

Yellow-orange, yellow-green, and terra cotta divide the façades of this house into a pleasing visage.

The home is now a duplex and has gone from the most blighted structure on the block to one that clearly sends the message that even a “basket case” can be saved!



324 W. Forest

JTK Holding LLC

In his 1976 account of local history, City Historian Foster Fletcher wrote “the finest brick home, was that of John S. Jenness...” Records show the grand Italianate style house was built by Vermonter John Jenness in 1858.

A broad overhang shelters the cornice and brackets, subtly encompassing the third floor windows. Paired four-over-four windows complete the front façade with half-round hoods on the second floor, elliptical hoods on the main floor. Assembled in perfect symmetry, the front portico is topped by a delicate banner of Victorian trim on the second level. This attention to Italianate details provided an elegant home for the Jenness family.

Being at the edge of the Normal College, many professors and students lived here over time. From private residence, to rooming house, to apartments, the property stands nobly at the eastern border of Eastern Michigan University. Other Italianate cubes line the north side of Forest Avenue, but 324 is by far the most massive.

Polk’s Directory indicates three women living here in 1922, three more in 1926, and the pattern continues through 1935. In 1957, the house had been divided into six apartments. Records indicate the house was owned by “Marsh” in 1973. Richard Reid owned it in 1999 and, in 2006, the property was part of Ave Maria College.

SPECIAL THANKS to Karl Williams, Jan Arps-Prundeanu, and Barry LaRue for helping collect data on the properties.

Preservation saves historic places in the nation, state, & county

The National Register of Historic Places

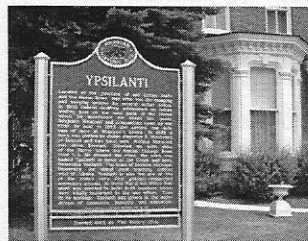
A service of the National Park Service, The National Register is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and administered by the National Park Service, the National Register of Historic Places coordinates and supports public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources

Listing on the National Register is honorary only. It does not protect the listed structures from inappropriate alteration or demolition. Only a local historic preservation ordinance can do that.



MI SHPO

Michigan's State Historic Preservation Office evaluates properties for significance and nominates eligible resources to the National Register or protects with a local historic district ordinance. SHPO educates the public via workshops, newsletters and the HistWeb site. State Register resources are not protected from demolition or inappropriate alterations.



20 State historical markers have been awarded properties in Ypsilanti

Washtenaw County helps Local Historic Districts

To help protect and preserve our most significant resources, the Washtenaw County Historic Preservation Commission periodically reviews local ordinances to ensure consistency and compliance with PA 169, invites local units of government (lugs) to take advantage of the local historic district program to protect sense of place and assists local governments in creating their own historic district commissions. SHPO does not create local ordinances; only local governments can do that.

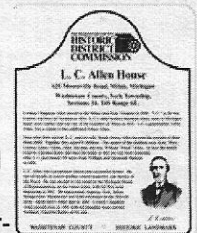


Historic Preservation in Washtenaw County

Washtenaw County is Michigan's only county-wide certified local government. Its historic preservation program is dedicated to supporting local historic districts, spurring heritage tourism, and attracting investment in our historic resources.

The Washtenaw County Historic Preservation Program is housed within the County's Office of Community & Economic Development. The program includes the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission and its staff.

To date the staff has conducted several historic preservation projects, spanning nearly three decades of identification, documentation, and analysis. Since the 1990s, several of these projects have been partially funded by grants provided by the State Historic Preservation Office's CLG grant program. These include the Washtenaw County Thematic Survey, 1996-1997; and the HistWeb project, 2002 to present, public workshops, and site-based projects in Chelsea, Dexter, and Ann Arbor.

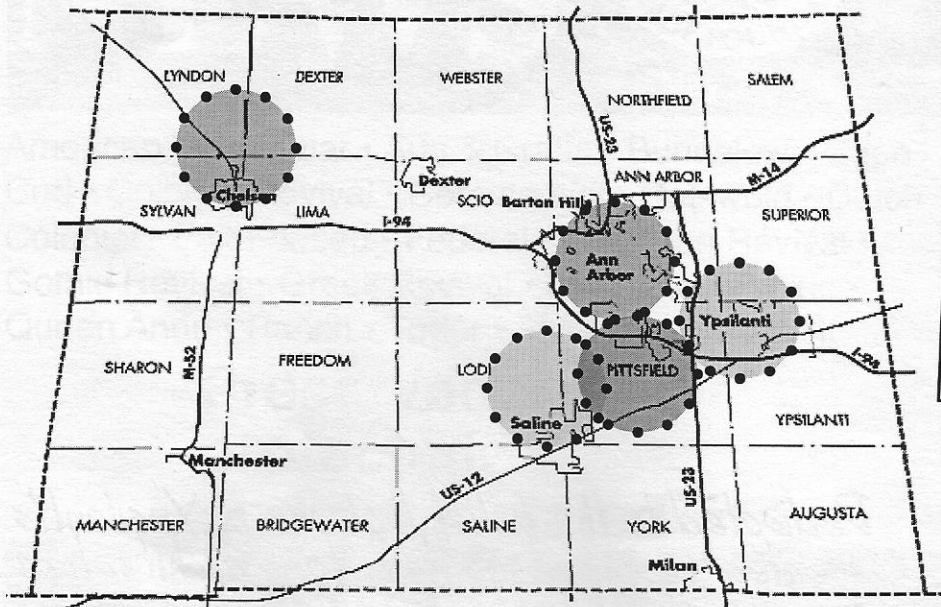


Historic Preservation Programs

Program	Honorary	Protection	Educational Benefit	Tax Benefit	# in Washtenaw County	# in City of Ypsilanti
Local Protected Historic Resources	X	X	X	X	2,432	776
National Historic Landmarks	X	NO	X	X	0	0
National Register	X	NO	X	X	72	all Historic District
State Register	X	NO	X	NO	150	23
Centennial Farms	X	NO	X	NO	150	0
Historical Monuments	X	NO	X	NO	101	20
Historical Bridges	NO	NO	X	NO	41	1
One-Room Schoolhouses	NO	NO	X	NO	113	1 @ EMU
Unprotected Historical Resources	NO	NO	X	NO	3,000+	?
Awarded Markers from Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation	X	NO	X	NO	-	200+

LUGS (local units of government) have established Historic Districts throughout the County

Local Historic Districts have been established in the Cities of Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, Saline, and Chelsea, and in Pittsfield Charter Township:



Federal Tax Credits for Historic Properties

Source: Michigan State Housing Development Authority

Federal tax incentives are available to stimulate private investment in the rehabilitation of historic structures. The State Historic Preservation Office in the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, administers provisions of the Tax Reform Act of 1986 in partnership with the National Park Service and Internal Revenue Service.

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 establishes...

...a 20% tax credit for the substantial, certified rehabilitation of certified historic structures for commercial, industrial and rental residential purposes, and a 10% tax credit for the substantial rehabilitation for nonresidential purposes of buildings built before 1936; and a straight-line depreciation period of 27.5 years for residential property and 39 years for nonresidential property for the depreciable basis of the rehabilitated building reduced by the amount of the tax credit.

A certified historic structure is any building that is listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places, or located in a registered historic district and certified as being of historic significance to the district.

A registered historic district is any district that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, or designated under a local ordinance under Michigan Public Act 169 of 1970, as amended, which has been certified by the National Park Service as substantially meeting all the requirements for listing of districts in the National Register. Simply being listed in a locally designated historic district is not sufficient to gain access to the Federal tax credits.

A certified rehabilitation is any rehabilitation of a certified historic structure that is certified as being consistent with the historic character of the property and, where applicable, the district in which it is located. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation are used to determine whether the historical character of the building is preserved through the process of rehabilitation.

National News Clip:

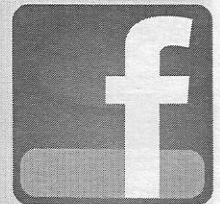
From **PRESERVATION**, Spring 2013, the magazine of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

Midwest-West, Michigan, Ypsilanti

[Photo: Sightseeing in the hanger of the Yankee Air Museum, Ypsilanti, Mich. Courtesy Leisa Thompson]

"Ypsilanti offers one of the oldest and largest historic districts in the state. This area's love for history and historic preservation is the bedrock of our visitor's experience. Discover the Yankee Air Museum, Michigan Firehouse Museum, Automotive Heritage Museum, a century's worth of historic architecture, and more. Call (800) 265-9045. WWW.VISITYPSINOW.COM/DISCOVER"

Post card of
Hutchinson
Mansion
featured on
CVB's
FB page



"Still home to much of the beautiful architecture built in the 1800s, Ypsilanti is rich in historic architecture. The historic district has designated 776 buildings, including the beautiful Hutchinson Mansion located in the Historic East Side Ypsilanti neighborhood. Ypsilanti also boasts numerous historic homes that overlook the Huron River."



Check out Visit Ypsilanti's Facebook page every Wednesday for more vintage postcards.



Find us on
Facebook



The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Heritage News

Claudia Pettit
945 Sheridan
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Board Members

Hank Prebys, President
Joe Mattimoe, Treasurer
Jan Arps-Prundeanu
Tom Dodd
Pattie Harrington
Barry LaRue
Michael Newberry
Bill Nickels
Alex Pettit
Claudia Pettit
Don Randazzo
Jane Schmiedeke

*Dedicated to the belief that one of Ypsilanti's
greatest resources is its historic architecture*

See you at the Marker Awards Banquet - Wednesday, 22 May at 6:30 p.m.

Become a Member

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation encourages both private and public preservation efforts.

Join today and see what we have to offer!

Visit the website at www.yhf.org to enter your name and address. Please mail it along with a check for the appropriate amount to our treasurer. YHF's membership year runs from January-December.

Annual Membership Categories

Students & Seniors	\$10
Individual	\$15
Family	\$20
(2 or more @ same address)	
Contributing	\$50
Sustaining	\$100
Lifetime	\$1000

*Dedicated to
the belief that
one of Ypsilanti's
greatest
resources is
its historic
architecture*

Make checks payable to: Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
c/o Claudia Pettit
945 Sheridan
Ypsilanti, MI 48197



2013 / 2014 SCHEDULE

Programs are held Wednesdays at the Ladies' Literary Club
218 N. Washington Street, Ypsilanti, MI

2013

22	MAY	40th Annual Marker Awards Banquet 6:30 p.m. Ladies' Literary Club
18	AUGUST	36th Annual Home Tour
18	SEPTEMBER	"The Working Women of 19 Century Ypsilanti" Susan Nenadic, author of "Working Women in Washtenaw"

20	NOVEMBER	TBA
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2014

15	JANUARY	TBA
19	MARCH	TBA
21	MAY	41st Annual Marker Awards Banquet

Heritage NEWS



The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation 2013 GOOD NEWS ISSUE reporting, for our own delight and that of our Festival visitors, on some of the improvements that have occurred in Ypsilanti over the past year. It's also our chance to say thank you to everyone who cares for and about Ypsilanti!

Good News Edition



929 Pearl - Jim & Mary Streeter

Ypsilanti Heritage
Foundation
presents
the
36th Annual
Historic
HOME TOUR

Sunday, August 18
noon – 5pm

Historic Home Tour Features 7 Unique Properties

The 36th Annual Historic Home Tour will take place on Sunday, August 18th from noon - 5pm. The featured properties are both residential and commercial this year and can be found starting on page 4. Advance tickets are on sale in Ypsilanti at Haab's Restaurant, Norton-Durant Florists & Gifts, Salt City Antiques, and Nelson Amos Gallery, they are also available at Downtown Home & Garden in Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$10.00 in advance and \$12.00 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 220 North Huron Street and Haab's on Michigan Avenue.

Good News IN YPSILANTI

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation presents its 2013 GOOD NEWS ISSUE for our own delight and that of our Festival visitors, who enjoy seeing "what has happened" since they were here last year! It's also our chance to say Thank You to everyone who cares about and for Ypsilanti!

Heritage Foundation
HISTORIC STRUCTURE MARKERS
were awarded this year to the houses at:

1029 Washtenaw
32 South Normal
12 West Ainsworth
408 East Cross
505 North Hamilton
324 West Forest

and to the
village barns and carriage houses at:

106 North Adams
409 Oak Street

Congratulations!



Historic Preservation

recycling on a grand scale!

THE STARKWEATHER HOUSE, front and side porches are now complete. The square columns on the side porch are a duplicate of the one that surveyed on site. The round columns on the front porch replicate the original columns as seen in a 19th century County Atlas photo. The home will be divided into 3 apartments using many



of the original moldings and doors. One of the bathrooms will adorn an original clawfoot tub and china sink with a marble top. The apartments should be completed later

this year and will truly be a unique, one-of-a-kind place to call home!

THE YPSILANTI FREIGHTHOUSE roof is complete, a match to the one seen in the turn of the century photo below. The Ypsilanti Freighthouse, a landmark building that was part of the Michigan Central Railroad Complex in Depot Town, played a vital role in the growth and development of Ypsilanti and Southeastern Michigan in the 1800s. The building is currently being revitalized as the heart of the Ypsilanti community in the 21st Century. Once the restoration is complete, the Ypsilanti Freighthouse will be available for public and private functions, exhibits, auctions, classes, performances, and civic uses. It will also be the operational base of the year 'round Ypsilanti Farmers' Market.



Good News

IN YPSILANTI

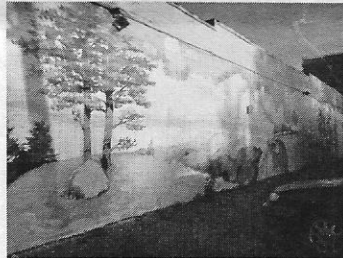
B-24 ESPRESSO BAR opened up on Michigan Avenue next to the park by the library. The Red Rock cafe & Bona Serra, 2 of the newest restaurants downtown continue to thrive bringing new life to downtown.



The historic Sign at Terry Bakery is off to the restoration facility. Historic signs around the City are being preserved for future enjoyment.



Tucked away on the west wall of DOS HERMANOS on West Michigan Avenue between Ballard and Hamilton streets is a painted mural adding a splash of color to a less than colorful spot.

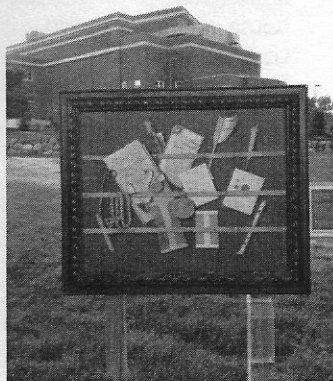


WEST CROSS STREET has been repaved to the delight of all of the citizens of Ypsilanti. The enormous potholes gone and the drive is no longer an obstacle course!



THE DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS INSIDE OUT PROJECT has installed reproductions of art works from the DIA's collection around town from July through September. There are 7 sites in Ypsilanti that the reproductions can be found.

*Painting found in Pease Park -
W. Cross at Perrin Street*



1. Sweet Water Cafe - 735 W. Cross
The Wedding Dance | Peter Gruegel the Elder
2. Pease Park - W. Cross at Perrin Street
Still Life: A Letter Rack | Edart Collyer
3. B-24 Espresso Bar - 217 W. Michigan Avenue
Winter Landscape in Moonlight | Ernst Ludwig Kirchner
4. Riverside Arts Center - 76 N. Huron
The nightmare | Henry Fuseli
5. Riverside Park Gazebo - Riverside Park
A Day in June | George Wesley Bellows
6. Ypsilanti Freighthouse - Deport Town
Interior of St. Peter's Rome | Giovanni Paolo Panini
7. Ypsilanti Food Co-op - 312 N. River Street
Study for Birds | Albert Joseph Moore

*Thanks to everyone who works to make
Ypsilanti a better place to live*

The **CITY EMPLOYEES** who, despite their reduced numbers, still get the job done! Police, fire fighters, city manager, city department heads, mayor & city council! They're a great bunch doing a great job in hard times.

The **VOLUNTEERS** who staff the Historical Museum, work tirelessly to reopen the Freighthouse and the Rutherford Pool, staff the Volunteer Service Corps of the Ypsilanti Police Department, staff the City Boards and Commissions, care for city parks and public gardens, and do endless other things that would otherwise go undone.



And, as always, **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!

There are still onions among the orchids - nobody knows that better than we do. But, next year, again, there will be fewer onions and more orchids!

Come back and see us then! We love having you here and your annual visit is a wonderful incentive for us to "get ready for company"!

See you next year!

2013 HISTORIC HOME TOUR

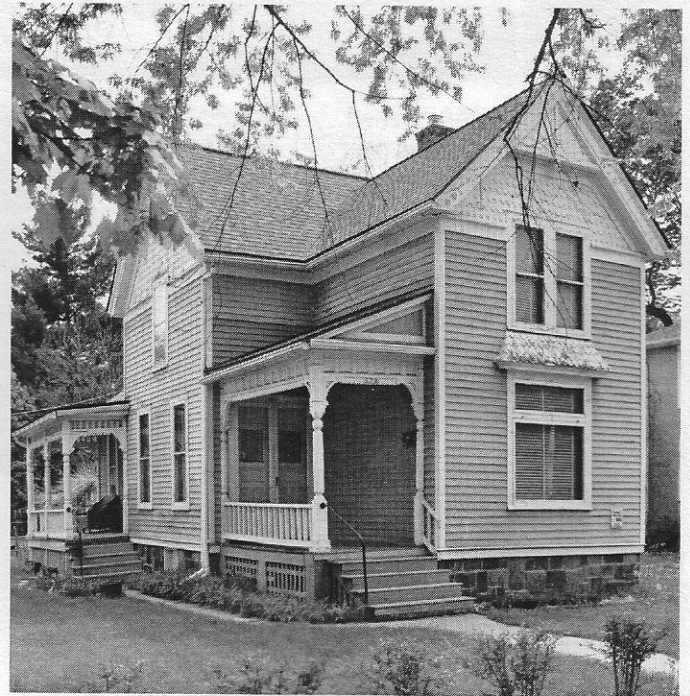


325 East Cross Street

Cheryl & Matt Marzullo

This stately home in the Queen Anne Style was built in 1894 by Jehiel J. Strang. We know nothing about him except that he liked the design well enough to build a similar house one hundred yards up the street. The Queen Anne style, with its high-pitched roof and gables, protruding bay windows and porches, and decorative squares, diamonds, and arches, was popular from the 1870s to the 1890s. These details on the Marzullo house are easy to appreciate because the intricate three-color paint scheme draws our attention to them.

LeRoy Lewis bought the home from Mr. Strang's estate in 1920 and lived in it until 1960. From then on, it changed hands almost yearly until 1991, when it was purchased by Sharryl Sullivan. She and her husband, Peter Cousins, restored everything except the woodwork, returning the house to its original beauty with period wallpapers and paints. Sadly, many of these changes have been stripped away. But the present owners of one year, Cheryl and Matt Marzullo, have begun to re-restore the home with bold paint colors suited to their young family. One of the most striking features is the original fireplace, with tiles that were duplicated by Greenfield Village based on some pieces that remained of the surround. The old windows, with nineteenth-century glass, flood the rooms with light to welcome you into this very charming home.



328 East Cross Street

Michael & Joanie Newberry

The Eaton-Frentner House is a latecomer to the residential district east of Depot Town known as the Historic East Side. By the 1860s this neighborhood was already filled with the residences of working class citizens who found employment in the businesses and mills of the growing economic hub of Ypsilanti. The railroad brought even more wealth to the community, and the number of emerging middle-class Victorian homes increased significantly in this area during the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

Built late in 1891, this vernacular Queen Anne was financed by Louisa Converse through the Ypsilanti Building and Loan Association and willed to her daughter, Addie, and son-in law, Joseph Eaton, who was a house painter and wallpaper hanger. The house's exterior paint-scheme-to-come closely approximates the original color selections Joseph made. Most rooms have layers of painted-over wallpaper, and a few of the original papers hung by Joseph have been uncovered in select areas of the house. Second owners Fred and Lizzie Frentner purchased the house in 1935. It stayed in the family until the death of Fred and Lizzie's daughter, Lucille Grant, in 2009. Lucille had lived in the house her entire life.

Michael and Joanie Newberry, the third owners, purchased the house in 2009. The couple were charmed by how little the house had suffered from inappropriate updates and changes. It retains its original varnished pine woodwork, doors, and hardware (only the kitchen woodwork has been painted). Existing kitchen elements are under restoration to reflect its former appearance, and the bathroom has been returned to its original appearance. The walls are enlivened by mixed media oil paintings and sculpture created by artist Joanie, introducing a funky street aesthetic that is in perfect contrast to the historic charm of the space.

2013 HISTORIC HOME TOUR



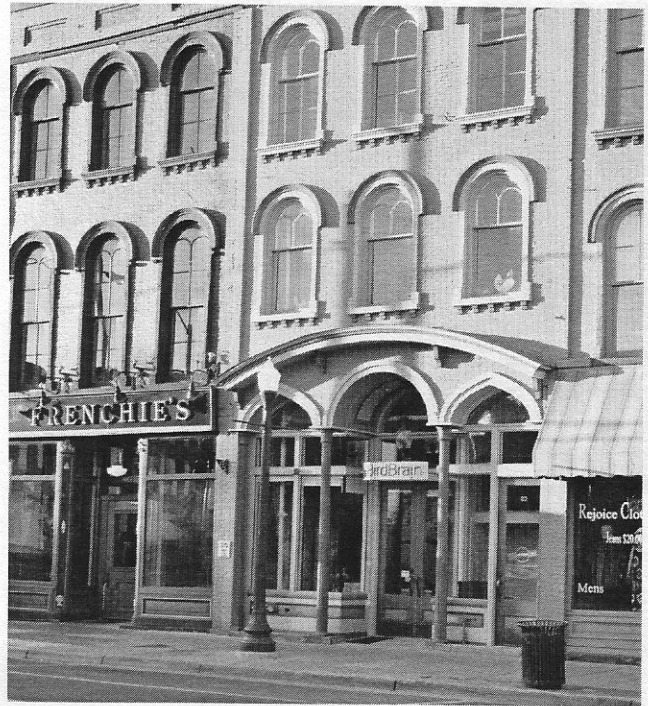
210 Oak Street

Jennifer Wenzel & Kate Stroud

This vernacular Italianate cube was likely built in 1850 by James Haggarty (or Haggerty), a carpenter from New York. He lived in the house with his wife, Harriet, and four children until at least 1901. Subsequent residents included men who worked as "ladder makers" at Michigan Ladder. August Kruger, a farmer and laborer, owned the house from 1920 through the mid-1940s. The house retains many original features, including the flooring, the front door, and a window with the address etched on it. The home has had two additions since its mid-nineteenth-century beginnings; the colonial columns probably were added as styles changed.

An owner still fondly recalled by current neighbors is Clarence Andrew Ver Burg, who lived in the house for fifty years, from 1945 until his death in 1995 at the age of ninety-six. Mr. Ver Burg came to Ypsilanti in 1935 from New London, Ohio, with his wife, Lucy. Ver Burg owned the John Deere dealership (then on River Street) for fourteen years and after that worked as a custodian at Roosevelt High School.

Ver Burg was an enthusiastic gardener. When Jenn Wenzel, a plant lover with a degree in horticulture from Ferris State, bought the house in May 2012, she was immediately thankful for the fifteen inches of topsoil Clarence had left behind. "It was the dirt and the great garage that captured my heart," says Wenzel. Tourgoers will see the fruits of Jenn and her partner Kate's labors, not only in the huge backyard garden, but in updates to the home that include two colorful bedrooms upstairs and a new island counter in the kitchen. Previous owners Kevin Gady and Meredith Lane updated the kitchen and bathroom.



52 East Cross Street

Bird Brain Building— Sidetrack Bar & Grill

Ypsilanti's Michigan Central Railroad Depot opened in 1838, connecting Ypsilanti to Detroit. The 1850 Masonic Block, centered by what is today the gothic revival Bird Brain Building, was the first building constructed in Depot Town to accommodate the primarily male commuters. The businesses in the Masonic Block included saloons, off-track betting, a small grocery store, and, on the second floor, Ma Bush and her girls. The modern history of Bird Brain begins in the 1950s. As a result of declining railroad traffic, Bird Brain and other Depot Town storefronts sat vacant as businesses came to prefer downtown locations. In 1971 the Artrain, a traveling museum featuring Michigan artists, was coming to Depot Town. Office space and a public area were needed. The ground floor of Bird Brain provided both, and 52 East Cross came to be known as the Artrain Building.

EMU professors Bev and Don Shankwiler saw the Artrain Building's potential. In 1973 they purchased the building, removed more than seven tons of old plaster and debris, and transformed it into their three-story urban townhouse. It was Depot Town's first restoration project.

The Artrain Building remained a private residence until 2003, when it was purchased by Bird Brain, Inc., wholesalers of decorative garden accessories. Bird Brain completed the vision of the Shankwilers, adding a new kitchen, bathrooms, stairways, and skylights. The crown jewel of the restoration was the fabrication of the long missing exterior arch. In June 2012, Linda French and the Sidetrack Bar and Grill purchased the Bird Brain Building. Plans include expanded restaurant seating, a large new kitchen, catering facilities, and new bathrooms.

2013 HISTORIC HOME TOUR



1005 West Cross Street

Christina McCahan & Micah Range

The history of this 123-year-old Victorian is a little sketchy, but one thing is certain today: the mother-daughter team of Christina McCahan and Micah Range are determined to preserve and restore it, after years of neglect and patchwork repairs.

The two distinct entryways on each end of the splendid wrap-around porch suggest the original intent was for the house to be a duplex or boarding house, with business booming in Ypsilanti during the turn of the nineteenth century. Many working class residents of diverse professions are listed as having lived in the home during the early 1900s, from a miner and a grocer to builders, woodworkers, and a chauffeur for the Normal College (now EMU). In 1903 Arthur J Ashdown, a founder of the Ypsilanti Reed Furniture Company, lived here. In 1912, Lloyd Walker, a teacher of penmanship and bookkeeping at Cleary Business College, resided in the house.

A rather colorful chapter in the home's history occurred during the 1970s, when then-resident Reverend Timothy J. O'Malley is said to have embraced the drug culture of the time and to have practiced fencing in the backyard. Some unconventional nuns, who did not wear habits, also ran an outreach program from the home during the same period. Teachers and students have also passed through the house. In its student days, the front lawn was strewn with plastic beer cups most weekends.

Christina and Micah were pleasantly surprised to find the house in good shape structurally, although in need of many updates and replacement appliances. Originally from the west coast, the mother and daughter bring varied backgrounds (Micah is a graphic designer and Christina a licensed esthetician) and good eyes to their stated task of bringing the house back to prominence as a modern family home. From the moment they moved in, they've immersed themselves in home improvement projects. We are so pleased to have them on this year's home tour and celebrate them for rescuing this delightful old Victorian.



929 Pearl Street

Jim and Mary Streeter

This colonial revival-style home in the Normal Park neighborhood was built in 1924 by Robert and Irene Schrepper. In 1988, Jim and Mary Streeter bought the house from Mrs. Schrepper. The house will celebrate its ninetieth birthday next year, and it is remarkable that it has had only two owners. When the Streeters moved in with their three young sons, the house was mostly unchanged from 1924, except for a family room added in the 1940s. The interior doors even retained their original skeleton keys.

The Streeters were on this home tour in 1992. Their boys have since left and provided them with three grandchildren. One of the three bedrooms is now Mary's quilting room and another is a guest room, soon to be transformed into an office for Jim, who recently retired after thirty-eight years as director of the EMU Athletic Media Relations Department.

When Mary first saw the house, it was the screened porch that runs along the east side that sold her on it. "We gain this room every summer," she says, "and it is always so exciting." The porch is furnished with old and new wicker and the glider couch from the screened porch at Mary's childhood home in Detroit's Rosedale Park.

The biggest change the Streeters have made is to the once tiny kitchen. In fall 2011 they bumped it out five feet, transforming it into a beautiful light-filled blue-and-white space that is now Mary's favorite room. The new kitchen, with its white beadboard cupboards and vintage enamel-topped table anchoring the center, looks like it has always been there.

Mary's collections of old wood furniture pieces (most picked up for a song), ironstone dishes, quilts and quilted wall hangings, and cross-stitch samplers enliven this warm and comfortable family home. On the fireplace mantel in the living room is her terrific collection of carved wood birds from Chelsea woodcarver Marlene Dusbiber.

2013 HISTORIC HOME TOUR



2 West Michigan Avenue

Materials Unlimited

Materials Unlimited is an antique store specializing in architectural salvage, fine and vintage antique furniture, and restored antique lighting. It has been in its current location since 1981. The 1927 Art Deco building was designed by the architects

Cuthbert & Cuthbert. Based in Ann Arbor, they were responsible for a few of the houses in the Barton Hills neighborhood. Ivan Cuthbert was known for his work around Ann Arbor and southeast Michigan and for the Platt School. There is no mention of this building other than on a photograph taken in 1928, a year after it was finished.

The building was designed as a multi-use facility, incorporating a Dixie Gasoline station, the Staebler and Sons service station, and an Oakland-Pontiac automobile dealership. Originally a balcony extended around the entire length of the east side. Used cars were sold from the balcony, and the interior of the main floor was the new-car showroom. The top floor was originally open and looked down onto the showroom. This is where the sales offices were located. The lowest level was where automotive repairs and services took place.

During World War II, the bomber plant built at Willow Run Airport brought a huge influx of workers and military personnel. During this time the facility underwent a major transition, becoming a USO hall. A dance floor and bandstand were installed in one corner of the main-floor showroom.

After the war, the building became a Moose Lodge. It remained that until Reynold Lowe, owner of Materials Unlimited, purchased the property from the Moose in 1981.

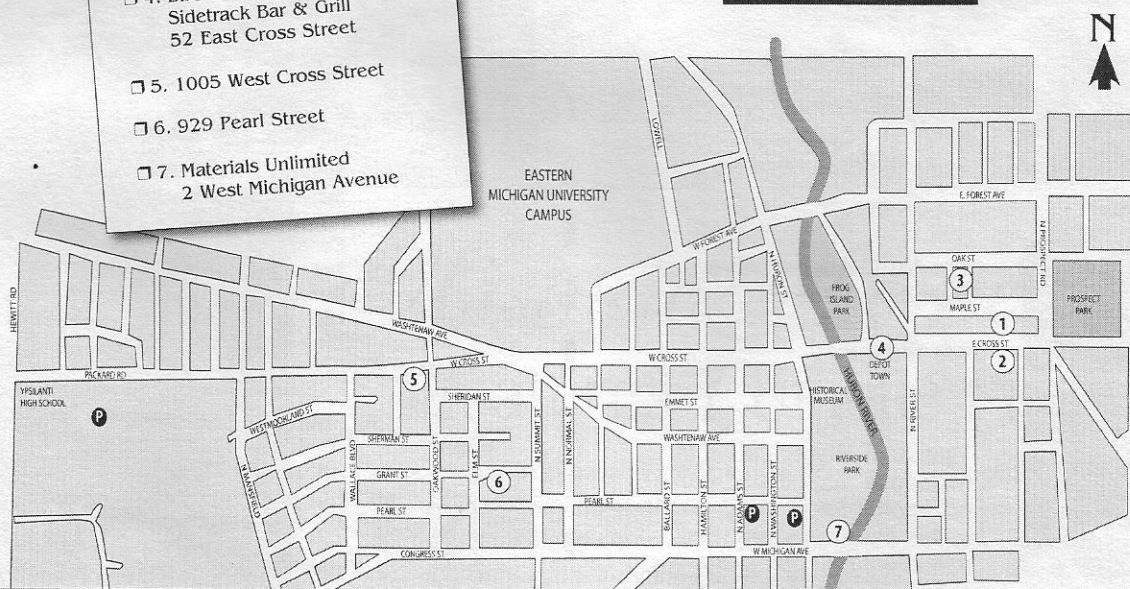
Key to the Tour

- ☐ 1. 325 East Cross Street
- ☐ 2. 328 East Cross Street
- ☐ 3. 210 Oak Street
- ☐ 4. Bird Brain Building—
Sidetrack Bar & Grill
52 East Cross Street
- ☐ 5. 1005 West Cross Street
- ☐ 6. 929 Pearl Street
- ☐ 7. Materials Unlimited
2 West Michigan Avenue

36th Annual

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Historic HOME TOUR



Historic Home Tour

Sunday, August 18th from noon-5pm Tickets are \$10.00 in advance and \$12.00 the day of the tour.

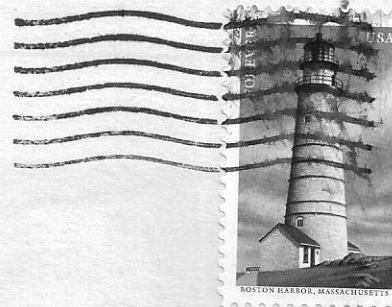
Advance tickets are on sale in Ypsilanti at Haab's Restaurant, Norton-Durant Florists & Gifts, Salt City Antiques, Nelson Amos Gallery. They are also available in Ann Arbor at Downtown Home & Garden. On the day of the tour, tickets are available at the Home Tour ticket booth in front of the Historical Museum at 220 North Huron Street from 10 a.m. until 3 pm and Haab's on Michigan Ave.



The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Heritage News

945 Sheridan | Ypsilanti, MI 48197



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313 High St.
Ypsilanti, MI 48198-2912

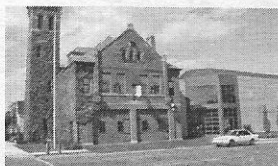
See you at the Home Tour - Sunday, August 18, 2013 noon - 5pm

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Have you visited the YHF website lately? There are new features you may find interesting • www.yhf.org

Ypsilanti Museums

Don't miss these treasures!



Michigan Firehouse Museum

110 W. Cross Street
between Huron and Washington streets
www.michiganfirehousemuseum.org



Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum

100 E. Cross at North River
ypsiautoheritage.org



Ypsilanti Historical Museum

220 North Huron
between Washtenaw & Cross streets
www.ypsilantihistoricalsociety.org



Yankee Air Museum

Willow Run Airport
www.yankeeairmuseum.org

Join YHF Today!

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Students and Seniors	\$5.00
Individual	\$10.00
Family	\$15.00
Contributing	\$25.00
Supporting	\$50.00
Sustaining	\$100.00
Life	\$1,000.00

Please circle category of membership & return ENTIRE form

Make Check Payable to:
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Send Payment to:
Claudia Pettit
945 Sheridan
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Heritage NEWS



NOVEMBER 2013

YHF General Meeting

"The Thompson Block"
speaker
Stewart Beal

Wednesday
November 20, 2013
7:30 p.m.

Ladies' Literary Club
218 N. Washington St.
Ypsilanti

THOMPSON BLOCK

an interesting past— a promising future?

"Architecturally, the building's historical significance is quite apparent. Built in the mid 19th century, the building is an excellent example of the typical downtown building block (here freestanding) with retail on the first floor and dwellings/storage on the upper floors. The masonry brick and wood beam construction was built using bricks from the Great Western Hotel that was torn down to make room for the railroad tracks. The Italianate style with arched fenestration and intricate wooden frieze was particularly popular at that time and can be observed in the few remaining buildings in Ypsilanti from that time period. Its subsequent rehabilitation and preservation would be a great asset and historical resource for not only the citizens of Ypsilanti but also an excellent example of Midwestern architecture from the 1800's for the entire country."

1992 research report on the building
by Craig Zehnder



The Thompson block property originated in 1838, however the actual structure that we see today was constructed in 1861 by Mark Norris, the founder of the Depot Town section of Ypsilanti. The structure, a 3 story Italianate was originally designed for retail and residential spaces consisting of 6- 20' x 60' bays. The building originally had an ornamental frieze of wood that wrapped around 3 sides of the structure.

A year after it was built, it served as army barracks for the 14th and 27th Michigan infantries during the Civil War.

Norris was an active member of the Underground railroad and it has been rumored that there were tunnels from the Thompson building to the Michigan Central Depot across the street, used for smuggling slaves.

After the Civil War(1869), O. E. Thompson purchased the Norris property for a paint shop, where he began building carriages at the site. As the years progressed he sold Jackson wagons, agricultural implements, swings, wallpaper and was the first in the city to sell bicycles. He never occupied more than 3 of the 6 bays and rented the rest to other businesses.

In the early 1890s a volunteer fire company was housed in the building. A large bell was placed on the roof above the hose house to be rung in case of fire. Five years later a professional fire department was established where on duty fire fighters slept in quarters on the second floor. In 1889 the two city fire companies were merged and relocated to the East Cross Street location.

Oliver Thompson passed away in 1910 leaving the business to his 3 sons and in 1918 they decided to focus on manufacturing and closed down their retail operation.

For a short time in 1916 the Thompson building housed one of the first Dodge dealerships outside of Detroit. Soon after Oliver's grandson relocated across the street to the Automotive Heritage Museum location.

In 1927 The Thompson family sold to C. J. Helm Associates out of Detroit and they continued to use the Thompson name. The company was still producing 68 items serving 1000 customers coast to coast in 1940. Ten years later the last of the business interests under Thompson ended and the building was vacant and let to disrepair.

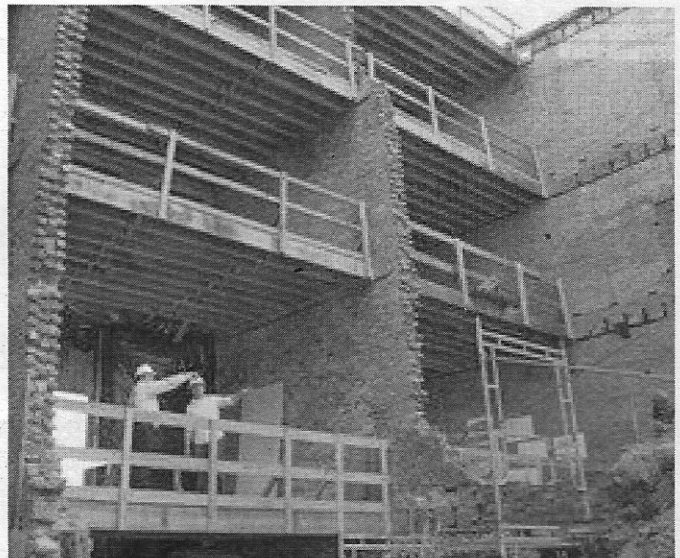
In 1960, the Thompson Building was purchased by David Kircher. He used the building for a warehouse, but continued to let it deteriorate. In 1996, a court order was issued requiring Kircher to make certain repairs. He



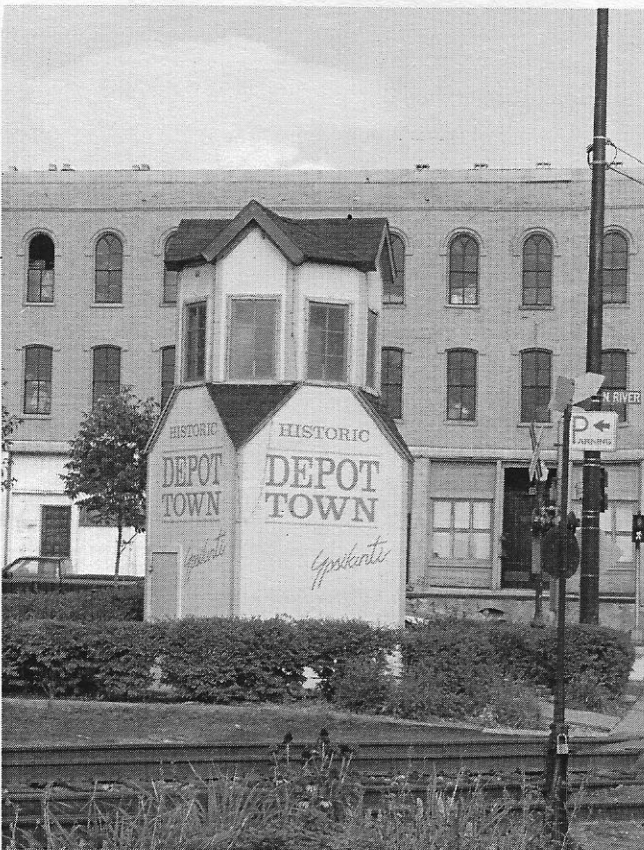
Thompson Block 2009

was later declared guilty of demolishing the building by neglect. Repairs were made by Barnes and Barnes, when Kircher failed to pay for the repairs Robert Barnes was appointed receiver for the property. In 2005 Stewart Beal was appointed the successor receiver to repair the building. In 2006 Beal Properties became sole owner of the property.

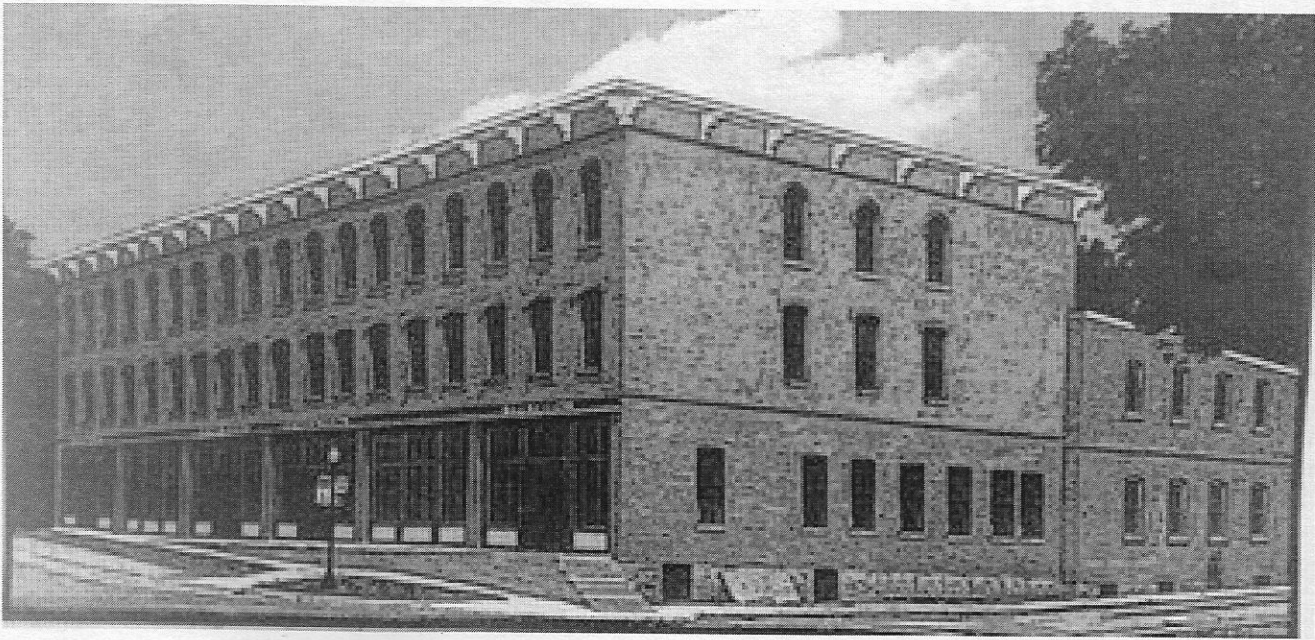
On September 23, 2009 fire destroyed the entire south end of the building. It took 5 fire departments and 6 hours to get the fire under control. The interior floor collapsed and fell to the basement. Engineers determined the facade could be saved by bracing it until new construction could take place. The City and Stewart agreed to a 3 year plan for stabilization.



Thompson Block - August Open House

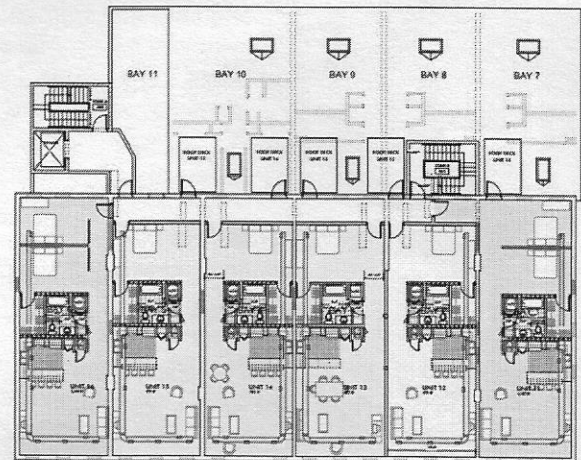
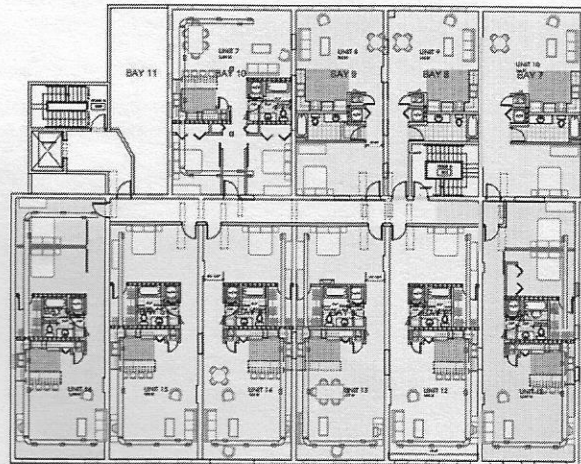


Thompson Block 2001



Currently Thompson Block Partners, LLC is selling \$10,000 shares to raise 1.74 million for the project. The money will be used in addition to bank financing and tax credits. In April of this year they announce the project: 16 luxury lofts, 14,000 sq.ft. of commercial space and 30 parking spaces.

In May, the property was listed by Howard Hanna Real Estate with the general idea of having tenants in the space by the beginning of 2015.



top: Artist's rendering of Thompson Project
below: renderings of 2nd & 3rd floor Thompson block
residential dwellings

Find out the rest of the
Thompson Block story

Wednesday,
November 20, 2013, 7:30 p.m.
at the
Ladies' Literary Club.

Stewart Beal, partner of
Thompson Block
Properties, LLC will
present his perspective
of the future of the
Thompson Block.



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Barry LaRue
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Bill Nickels
Alex Pettit
Claudia Pettit
Don Randazzo
Jane Schmiedeke

See you at the November Meeting - Wednesday, November 20, 2013 7:30pm

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IN MEMORIAM

Thomas E. "Tom" Dodd
June 6, 1935 – May 6, 2013

by YHF Board Member,
Barry LaRue

Tom first came to Ypsilanti in the mid 1960s to teach art at Roosevelt Laboratory School at EMU. He had a unconventional style of teaching that endeared him to his students. After Roosevelt closed he taught at Earthworks and later at Community High School, both in the Ann Arbor Public Schools. While Tom was teaching at Roosevelt he partnered with Max Obermeyer to run the Old Town Bazaar in Depot Town. He and his wife Bettie later purchased the building at 46 East Cross and converted the old Masonic lodge hall on the third floor into their living quarters.

While living in Depot Town Tom edited the *Depot Town Rag* and, working with other Depot Town residents including Gary and Carolyn McKeever, Bev and Don Shankwiler and business owners Linda French, Steve Gross, Bill and Sandee French, Don and Delores Wallaker he tirelessly promoted the little commercial district. He frequently took poetic license with the literal truth, but everyone knew

to take his "news" reports with a grain of salt! He served on Ypsilanti's City Council for a term and stirred that normally staid body into having some fun while trying to run the municipality.

After Tom "retired" he taught at Washtenaw Community College and continued to serve on non-profit boards. Over the years he has been involved with the Depot Town Association, Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation, Riverside Arts Center, just to name a few. He always enjoyed the historic architecture of the area and often led students on walking tours to sketch the different styles of Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor. Tom's ability and willingness to produce newsletters and other content for area non-profits will be sorely missed, as will be his irreverent humor and spirited laugh.

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation would like to thank him for his service as a Board Member and being a community advocate for historical preservation.