


Ypsilanti Collections on Display

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



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

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Announces September General Meeting

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



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

James Mann Named Ypsilanti Historian

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

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

Towner House Update

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

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Heritage News

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Heritage News

August 2000 "Good News Edition"

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



SPECIAL EVENT

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Ypsilanti Heritage
Foundation's
23rd Annual

Historic Home Tour

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

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Tickets

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

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Advance tickets are available:

In Ypsilanti

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

In Ann Arbor

at the John Leidy Shop and
Downtown Home and Garden

In Plymouth

at Saxton's Garden Center

•••

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

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

FEATURING



210 W. Cross Cross Street Village

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



411 N. Huron Steve and Elaina Hoxie

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

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



209 N. Huron John and Pattie Harrington and Joe Lawrence

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



121 N. Huron Doug and Mary Kisor

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

Home Tour continued on page 2

It Happened in Ypsilanti

1999-2000

NICE WORK!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

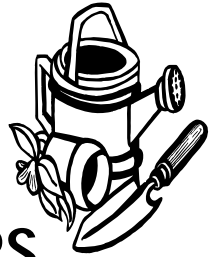
GREAT NEW PAINT JOBS

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

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

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

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



FLOWERS, FLOWERS, FLOWERS

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

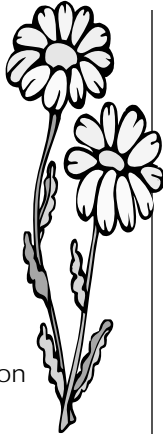
- Old Ladies Library
130 N. Huron
- AVE MARIA
W. Forest at N. Adams
- The CABOOSE in
Depot Town,

It Happened in Ypsilanti

1999-2000

the curbsides at:

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



the traffic islands at:

- Washtenaw & Hamilton
- Huron & Cross,

courtesy of Mayor Cheryl Farmer and recruited helpers!

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

MUCH APPRECIATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ON-GOING COMMITMENT

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

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

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



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

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

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

www.yhf.org



Heritage Foundation Website

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

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

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

Membership In The Foundation

*If you would like to join the
Foundation . . .*

Send your check, payable to the
Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation, to
Joe Mattimoe, YHF Treasurer,
301 N. Grove, Ypsilanti MI 48198.
Individuals \$10, Household \$15,
Contributing \$25, Sustaining \$100,
Life \$1000.

HELP MAKE HISTORY!

In this Edition

It Happened in Ypsilanti	
1999-2000	3
More Ypsilanti Highlights	5
City Hall Complete	5
Towner House Update	6
Ypsilanti Historian Named	6
September Meeting	6
Ypsilanti Collections on Display	6

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Board Members

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

Home Tour

from page 1

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



119 N. Huron

Blake Hayes and Mary Seelhorst

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



214 N. Huron
Cheryl Farmer

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



52 E. Cross

Bill Labedski and Linda Yohn

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

• • •

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

• • •



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

More 1999-2000 Ypsilanti Highlights

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

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

...

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

...

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

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

...

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

...

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



City Hall Complete

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

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

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

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

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

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

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