

Heritage

NEWS

AUG./SEPT. 2004

GOOD NEWS EDITION

Historic Home Tour 2004

Sunday, August 22 ■ noon - 5pm

The 27th Annual Historic Home Tour will take place on Sunday, August 22nd from noon - 5pm. Advance tickets are on sale in Ypsilanti at Haab's Restaurant, Norton-Durant Florists & Gifts and Quinn's Essentials, they are also available in Ann Arbor at Downtown Home & Garden. Tickets are \$8.00 in advance and \$10.00 the day of the tour. On the day of the tour, tickets are available at the Home Tour ticket booth in front of the Historical Museum at 208 North Huron Street from 10 a.m. until 3 pm and Haab's on Michigan Avenue.



203 North Washington Street

The home at 203 North Washington is more than 100 years old. Today Daniel and O'Bryan Worley are working diligently to bring it back to its original nineteenth-century glory. The house's eclectic and expressive characteristics are highly indicative of the Queen Anne style, popular in the 1880s and 1890s when the Industrial Revolution swept the country. As in this regal 1890 beauty, the exteriors of Queen Anne houses were often innovative and ornamental. Note the spindle work and other decorative details. Unfortunately these glorious details often proved difficult to maintain. For this reason, the Queen Anne style fell out of favor around the turn of the last century while smaller, more serious styles took center stage.

1124 Grant Street

Built in 1926, this Colonial Revival house was constructed as a model home. Its contractor, Allen Dieter, lived in the house until 1942. William Yeatman, a farmer and a gas station owner, became the house's second owner. Yeatman's partner, Matthew Stein, bought it in 1945 and his family lived there until 1975, when Bob and Shari Strauss purchased the house.

114 North Normal Street

Charles Neal Ellis, the owner of a local lumber business, built the Queen Anne house at 114 North Normal Street between the years 1885 and 1896. Ellis and his wife, Julia Chapman Ellis, raised their three daughters, Bessie, Bethlea, and Bertha, in the house.

209 Washtenaw Avenue

In a small city with a wealth of beautiful old churches, the 1892 First United Methodist Church of Ypsilanti stands out. The light-filled sanctuary is lovely, with graceful wood pews, a prominent balcony encircling the space, and a backdrop of stunning stained glass windows.

321 High Street

This 1930s American vernacular cottage was built in 1939 by the current owner's grandparents Jake and Alice Dieterle. Because Jake Dieterle was a finish carpenter, he did all the woodwork in the house, including the corner cupboard.

845 East Cross Street

Randy and Kathy Fettes are decorative painters and the owners of Rand and Company Interiors. Naturally they like to practice their painting skills on their own house, so tourgoers interested in decorative painting won't want to miss this stop on today's tour.



1124 Grant Street



114 North Normal Street



209 Washtenaw Avenue



321 High Street



845 East Cross Street

Good News in Ypsilanti

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation presents its

2004 Good News Issue

reporting on some of the improvements that have occurred in Ypsilanti over the past year, for our own delight and that of our Festival visitors. It's also a chance to say Thank You to everyone who cares for and about Ypsilanti!



"It Happened in Ypsilanti"

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation awarded *Historic Structure Markers*

this year to:



houses pictured left to right

1. 114 North Normal,
c. 1890 Queen Anne
2. 302 Oak,
c. 1860 Italianate
3. 306 South Huron,
c. 1888 Italianate
4. 35 South Summit,
c 1850 Gothic Revival, Italianate,
Queen Anne & Eastlake
5. 8 South Summit,
c. 1883 Queen Anne
6. Sexton's House & Gatehouse
Highland Cemetery - River Street
(not pictured)

• *Nice Work* •

Need inspiration to choose paint colors for your own house? Drive by to see the gorgeous jobs at 323 MAPLE, 114 NORTH NORMAL, 321 HIGH, 109 NORTH and 52 EAST CROSS.

And, while you're admiring the paint scheme at 52 EAST CROSS, the home of BirdBrain, who deal in upscale furnishings for home and garden, take a minute to appreciate the contemporary curved cornice above the storefront windows. It replaces a cornice that was removed years ago

The muddy parking lot behind CADY'S GRILL is unrecognizable! Paving and landscaping have made it a great entry to Cadys rear entrance. And more enhancements are coming – stay tuned!

The beloved, 125 year old FREIGHTHOUSE is getting some welcome attention by way of grant-funded electrical work, repairs to wooden portions of the building, and new exterior lighting.



The "gingerbread", such a highlight of the house at 101 EAST FOREST (corner of North River), for many years had pieces missing. A few scraps, found in the basement, and an historic photo of the house guided the creation of new pieces so that what you see now matches exactly what was there originally.

And, next door at 111 EAST FOREST, the asphalt siding has been removed and, when the 12,000 nail holes have been filled, the house will be painted in its original colors, traces of which still remained. And this is a do-it-yourself job !!

Thanks to the owner of the Queen Anne house at 106 SOUTH HURON for the appropriate front porch railing. It really stands out from the inappropriate railings we see so often.

• Major Rehab Jobs • undertaken this year

Something to keep an eye on – the KRESGE BUILDING, the huge commercial Italianate building at the NW corner of Michigan and North Washington, and the adjoining RENAISSANCE BUILDING are just in the beginning stages of being rehabbed. It will eventually house businesses on the first floor and loft apartments on the upper floors. What an attractive place to live that will be.

• Great News •

Ypsilanti was one of four Michigan cities to receive a \$100,000 COOL CITIES grant. It will enable the Riverside Arts Center to expand into the vacant Detroit Edison building next door, providing funds for interior and exterior improvements and much needed space for ever-expanding activities.



• On-Going •

And, speaking of attractive places to live, the much anticipated WATER STREET project is making steady, if not particularly visible, progress. All of the property has now been purchased, many buildings have been demolished and contaminated soil has been removed and replaced. Construction of the housing units will begin when all demolition is complete.

• New •

Four new apartments are ready in a building just completed at the corner of NORTH ADAMS and ARCADE. Where there was one of the very few vacant lots in the city, there is now an attractive building offering two-story apartments with private entrances and on-site parking.

You can't get from here to there, or from there to here, the dust billows, the ruts are muddy and deep and we've given up washing our cars. But, the NEW STREETS are smooth and clean and beautiful!!! And, yes, this is the last year of the road repair project – every local street will have been replaced, as well as the water mains under them!!! Again, many thanks to the road workers who are competent, efficient, helpful and friendly.

• Thanks •

The historic village barn at the rear of 206 NORTH HURON, about which we worried for so long, was reroofed last fall and painted this spring.

And thanks to the very nice, but anonymous, person who planted and tends the lovely little URBAN GARDEN behind 234 West Michigan at the corner of North Adams! It has been noticed!

And thanks to Mr. Hunter at 9 NORTH RIVER, whose front yard garden is as lovely as ever!

Don't miss visiting Ypsilanti's museums



FIRE EQUIPMENT MUSEUM
on Cross Street between Huron and Washington



AUTO HERITAGE MUSEUM
on Cross at North River



HISTORICAL MUSEUM
on North Huron just south of Cross



YANKEE AIR FORCE MUSEUM
at Willow Run Airport

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

Police ▪ Firefighters ▪ City Manager
City Department Heads ▪ City Employees
Mayor & City Council
Boards & Commissions

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

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

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

2004/2005 SCHEDULE

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

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SEPTEMBER **Historic Preservation
Before & After**
Jane Schmiedeke & Paul Schreiber

17
NOVEMBER **Buying This Old House**
Don Randazzo & Paul Schreiber

26
JANUARY **How To Research Your Home**
James Mann

23
MARCH **Painting Your Home**
Ron Rupert & Sherwin Williams

25
MAY **Annual Awards Banquet**

Have you visited the YHF website lately? There are new features you may find interesting • www.yhf.org
Heritage News is the newsletter of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation. It is published five times a year: September, November, January, March and May, and distributed free of charge, to the membership by mail, and made available to the public at City Hall, Farmers' Market and various business locations in the three business districts in the City.

See you at the General Meeting - Wednesday, September 22, 2004, at 7:30 pm

**Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
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