

Heritage NEWS

JANUARY 2007

General Meeting
Wednesday,
January 31, 2007
at 7:30 p.m.
Ladies' Literary Club
218 N. Washington St. • Ypsilanti

An Evening of **Asking the Experts**

Please join on Wednesday evening, January 31, at 7:30 at the Ladies' Literary Club, to "Ask the Experts." This evening is a wonderful opportunity to pick the brains of five restoration professionals—a mason, a restoration carpenter and home inspector, a house painter par excellence, a former museum curator, and a door and window man—to find out everything you need to know about maintaining your historic home.

Mike Condon owns Ypsilanti Restoration. He dabbles in carpentry and remodeling but his greatest area of expertise is masonry. Mike says he will take your questions on "all things that need mortar."

Don Randazzo, long-time Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation board member retired from the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, where he worked as a restoration carpenter. Don also owns a home inspection business.

Ron Rupert, owner of Home Services Ltd., is one of the premier house painters in Washtenaw County. Among his many, many projects was the complete restoration, inside and out, of the historic 1883 Hack House in Milan. Ron can tell you how to take a vintage house back to where it was.

Henry Prebys, YHF board president, retired a year ago after thirty years as a curator at the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. An expert on American interiors, Hank is also a bottomless pit of knowledge about too many things "antique" to mention in one article.

Barry LaRue, also a YHF board member, works at the University of Michigan as a backstage manager for University Productions. Barry has had his residential builders' license for thirty years and does freelance repair work on old houses. Barry is versatile, citing window repair, porch repair, and door and window hardware as his particular areas of expertise.

Don't miss this exciting evening. We urge you to arrive with questions in mind. As always, the public is welcome and refreshments will be served. The Ladies' Literary Club is at 218 North Washington Street, Ypsilanti.



Board Member, Don Randazzo repairing the exterior of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum.



Hack House, Milan

The Ypsilanti Historical Museum



Is Getting a Facelift

It has taken months, but on September 19 the Historical Museum at 220 North Huron was finally purchased from the city by the Ypsilanti Historical Society. City council approved an agreement that had been worked out between YHS president Al Rudisill (represented by local attorney Tom Manchester) and city manager Ed Koryzno (represented by city attorney John Barr). The YHS board quickly added their approval, agreeing to a price of \$250,000 for the house. A payment of \$125,000 has been made and the remainder of the money will be paid over ten years.

Long-time deferred maintenance began immediately! The first order of business became all things leaking. The leaky roof on the carriage house has been replaced and the leaky main roof on the house repaired. The leaky lower porch roofs are contracted for replacement but work will have to wait until the weather improves. Half-round gutters and downspouts on the house also await better weather for installation.

The third-floor attic, formerly the home of pigeons and even the occasional

raccoon, was unusable. Immediately after the sale was finalized, the attic was cleaned and its roof insulated and sealed. In addition, the attic's stairway and floor have been painted. Four protected lights have been installed and two handrails now assist people going up and down the attic stairs. Many items previously stored in the basement were moved to the attic.

The basement has been cleared out in preparation for the replacement of the lower portion of the brick walls. These walls have deteriorated as a result of groundwater wicking up the bricks and popping them. Anything in the basement that didn't go to the attic has been moved to a classroom in the vacant George School. Thanks go to the Ypsilanti Public Schools for generously offering to help the museum! Farm implements stored in the basement have been given to the Saline Farm Museum.



Visitors to the museum gift shop will notice the brand-new storm door that was hung in December. And most recently, on January 4, a new energy-efficient furnace was installed. With new attic insulation and new programmable thermostats, the cost to heat the museum will decrease dramatically.

All of the above work had to be done immediately to save the building and to cut the cost of operating the museum. The Ypsilanti Historical Society Endowment Committee has been planning a major fund-raising campaign since before the sale of the house was finalized. Look for an announcement and an invitation to contribute to the endowment fund. Donations are tax deductible, of course. Best of all, they will help perpetuate one of the wonderful gems of the Ypsilanti community!





The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Heritage News

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

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Board Members

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Don Randazzo
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Penny Schreiber
Andrea Webber

See you at the General Meeting - Wednesday, January 31, 2007, 7:30 pm

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.

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

2007
CALENDAR



March 21
Gardens



May 28
Marker Banquet



August 19
Historic Home Tour

If you would like to nominate a building for a Historic Marker designation send (before April 1) a very brief description of the building and its address to:

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



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

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

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

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

Name _____

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