

Heritage NEWS

MARCH 2004

March

"So Faux So Good"

Guest speakers
Randy & Kathy Fettes

Discussion & Demonstration
of Faux Painting Techniques

Wed. March 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Ladies' Literary Club
218 N. Washington Street



Ypsilantians Randy and Kathy Fettes own a decorative painting business called Rand and Company Interiors. On Wednesday evening, March 24, 7:30, the Fettes will give a talk and demonstration on decorative painting for the Heritage Foundation at the Ladies' Literary Club, 218 North Washington, Ypsilanti.

Randy Fettes has been in the custom painting business since his graduation from art school. About ten years ago, he and Kathy added decorative painting to the business.

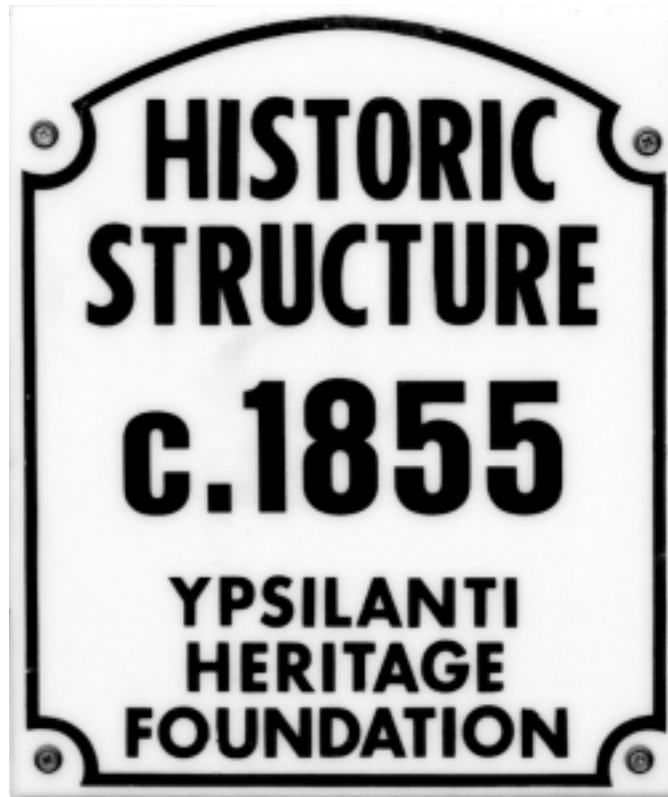
The painting duo went into business together at the right time. Decorative painting is very popular, partly due to HGTV. Today the Fetteses do quite a bit of stenciling for their clients. "Stenciling used to be cows and chickens," laughs Kathy. "Now it can be 'all over' stenciling, with great big stencils that look like fabric damask." Or they mimic the look of old-fashioned silk wall coverings. "Dimensional, raised

stencils are now cutting edge," she adds. The Fetteses go to conventions and classes to stay current.

On March 24 Kathy and Randy are going to talk a little bit about the history of decorative painting. Then they will demonstrate simple techniques and explain the proper proportions for mixing glazes. The audience will have the opportunity to "practice." Kathy and Randy are also bringing photos of some of their recent projects.

Kathy and Randy's house is going to be on the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Historic Home Tour on August 22. Everyone can look forward to seeing what they have done to their own house on East Cross Street.

Please join us on March 24 for practical tips on decorative painting from experts. As always, coffee and cookies will be served and the general public is welcome.



Historic House Markers

You can nominate a home or building for this special award

The time is coming again for The Heritage Foundation's Marker Award Banquet. It will take place Wednesday, May 26, 2004 at the Ladies' Literary Club. At the banquet, owners of houses that meet certain criteria are recognized for their efforts and Historic Building Markers are awarded in order to publicly identify buildings of special merit.

You can nominate a home or building for this special award.

How about bringing places that you think deserve an award to the attention of the selection committee?

Here are the criteria used by the committee:

- The building is within the boundaries of the City of Ypsilanti.
- The building predates 1950 and has an identifiable architectural style.

- The building is well and appropriately maintained (maybe it has just been rehabilitated).
- The grounds are maintained.
- If it is a rental property, the property has had appropriate maintenance for at least two years.
- The building has been developed sensitively.

The following example gives an idea of what is meant by "appropriate maintenance."

- The siding on the building 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.

One-of-a-kind markers are possible in order to recognize the preservation and stabilization of a significant or high-profile building that has had a history of mistreatment. These will be selected after a case-by-case review.

If you would like to nominate a building for a Historic Marker designation send (before April 1,2004) 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

Riverside Arts Center to Hold Benefit

Mark your calendar for The Riverside Arts Center's "Party for the Potty"! The event will take place on Friday, April 16, at 8:00p.m. Featuring music by the RFD Boys as well as drinks and hors d'oeuvres from local eateries.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will support restroom and catering kitchen improvements in the newly renovated Club Level. Tickets are \$50 each. Corporate Sponsorships are \$500. For more information call (734) 480-ARTS (2787)



At the Riverside Art's Center Club Level

Reflections on Life: The Works of Emil Weddige March 4-31, 2004

The exhibition features the work of longtime printmaker, educator and alumnus of Eastern Michigan University, Emil Weddige, who left his many color lithographs to the University upon his death in 2001.

The exhibition is open from 3-9 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, and 1-3 p.m. on Sundays.

Historic District Commission Role Significant

August 1993

*Heritage Foundation Newsletter article
written by Jack Harris, editor*

"With such news as the above, (historic preservation) we should perhaps add the note that such a miracle would not likely have happened were it not for the establishment of the Historic District in the late 1970's and the important role the Historic District Commission has played in the preservation of the historic character of this town. Often misnamed "the historical" group (confusing it with either the Ypsilanti Historical Society or the Foundation), the HDC is the public body that has been delegated the task of interpreting the city ordinance that that is the guiding source for decisions made in terms of exterior effect for all properties within the historic district. Folling national and state regulations, this ordinance has been a powerful tool in protecting the historic character of this town.

Serving on the Commission is a thankless task, a time-consuming and wearing job, that only the most dedicated citizen should be assigned by the city. In the course of its history, since its establishment in 1978, disputes have arisen, tempers have flared, misunderstandings have occurred, but no one can ultimately deny that the owrk of the commission

has contributed enormously to Ypsilanti's ever-growing positive image, both as it is seen by the public in the area and in reality.

History happened as it did in the late seventies, with the establishment of our great historic district, because this town was on its way to becoming a shambles and because two women in particular, Nathalie Edmunds and Jane Schmiedeke, rolled up their sleeves and went to work to turn the tide against destruction. They have been honored in the past; they should never be forgotten for what they have done. Jane's dedication has been phenomenal. If we honor a Greek patriot named Demetrius for fighting to protect his homeland, we might well consider honoring an American woman named Jane for devoting so much of her life to protecting our town. America has had some extraordinary women who have committed their lives to preservation. Jane Schmiedeke is one of these.

This edition of the News is dedicated to her and to Nathalie and to all those who have committed themselves to preservation. It has largely been through their selfless dedication and hard work that Ypsilanti has turned itself around- and we all deserve to celebrate the Great Cause to which so many have contributed and some have Given So Much in the Preservation of Our Heritage." (Jack Harris, editor)

Home Tour Committee Seeks Volunteers

The Heritage Foundation's Home Tour Committee is busy putting together this year's Historic Homes Tour, which takes place on Sunday, August 22, during the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival. If you would like to volunteer to help with the home tour please call Penny Schreiber (483-5688).



**Historic Homes Tour
Sunday,
August 22**

2004 HERITAGE FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

Location: Ladies' Literary Club
218 N. Washington
Time: 7:30 p.m.

WED., MARCH 24, 2004:

"So Faux So Good," local decorative painters Randy and Kathy Fettes. Get an overview of the past, present and future of faux finishing. Plus a demonstration of their most popular faux finish techniques, including architectural stenciling. Learn to transform your own walls from plain to a richly glazed patina with the help of these classic decorative painting effects.

WED., MAY 26, 2004:

Annual Marker Awards Banquet

SUN. AUGUST 22, 2004:

27th Annual Historic Home Tour

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 March Meeting - Wednesday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m.

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

