

Heritage NEWS

NOVEMBER 2008

General Meeting

Wednesday,

November 19, 2008

at 7:30 p.m.

Ladies' Literary Club

218 N. Washington St. • Ypsilanti

Legacy of Two Cities: Ypsilanti & Ann Arbor, 1893-2008



Architect
**Denis
Schmiedeke,**
Retired U-M
Architecture
Professor
**Kingsbury
Marzolf,**
and Former Kempf
House Museum
Curator
Wystan Stevens

never been emphasized or brought out before that we had a Second Gold Coast and it is all lost." Schmiedeke is referring to the huge houses that used to exist on East Forest Avenue from Ford Boulevard to Washtenaw Avenue. He will be featuring these lost houses in his part of the presentation. Of the twenty-eight images of

Join us on Wednesday November 19, 2008, at 7:30 p.m., at the historic 1840s Ladies' Literary Club, 218 North Washington Street, Ypsilanti. We promise a lively evening with three loquacious and fascinating local architecture buffs, who also happen to be old friends: Denis Schmiedeke, Kingsbury Marzolf, and Wystan Stevens, will present a Power Point presentation to the Heritage

Foundation with images from the book *Art Work of Washtenaw County* published in 1893. The emphasis will be on Ypsilanti, with landscapes, river views, and buildings from the book and con-

temporary photos taken by Marzolf and Schmiedeke of the same locations.

Schmiedeke is in charge of the Ypsilanti part of the program and Marzolf will handle Ann Arbor. Stevens,

widely appreciated as an amusing, informed, and insightful raconteur, will take the role of official commentator, giving his personal reactions to the images.

Marzolf and Stevens presented the program, with an emphasis on Ann Arbor, in the spring of 1993 at the U-M Bentley Historical Library. "It was a blast," recalls

Marzolf. "I'd introduce the

buildings and Wystan would say something knowledgeable and hilarious."

Many know that "North Huron has been referred to as the Gold Coast of Ypsilanti," says Schmiedeke. "But it has

old Ypsilanti buildings that will be in the Power Point, some are still there and some are not. "Sometimes what replaces them is interesting in itself," says Schmiedeke.

Stevens credits Marzolf with awakening his appreciation of historic architecture during an evening in 1966 when Marzolf addressed the Washtenaw Historical Society, presenting slides of various architectural styles and comparing them with specimens from Ann Arbor and nearby towns. Years later Stevens reveled in the experience of sitting in on Marzolf's U-M courses on architectural history.

This is going to be a fun evening. Think Larry, Mo, and Curl.

Please join us on November 19. The public is welcome and, as always, refreshments will be served. For more information, call Penny Schreiber at (734) 483-5688.



***Learn about the history of Beer at the January Meeting
held Wednesday, January 21, 2009 • 7:30 p.m. at the Corner Brewery***

Barns & Outbuildings in Ypsilanti

Owners Receive Special Awards at September Meeting

For many years, the Heritage Foundation has awarded Historic Structure markers annually 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 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."

A walk through the Historic District will reveal some of those historical and architectural treasures still found in out-of-the-way places where, if you listen carefully, you might still hear the sound of horses' hooves and the rumble of wagon wheels.

In 2007 the Heritage Foundation began awarding Historic Structure markers to barns and carriage houses to bring attention to these significant structures, further the community's appreciation of the contribution they make to our architectural history, and to encourage their preservation.

In September 2008, the Foundation's featured speaker, Keith Bruder, shared with us everything there is to know about barns. Historic Structure markers were awarded that night to seven significant village barns.

"Carriage houses and wagon sheds were once as commonly encountered in the coun-



119 North Adams | Hedger Breed

try 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'*



213 East Cross
Tom Tiplady & Mary Gentry



215 East Cross
Tom Tiplady & Mary Gentry



309 West Cross Street
Jitendra Mehta

Riverside Arts Center Links Buildings

The Riverside Arts Center is in the throes of the most significant project in their nearly fifteen year history. The long awaited "link" between our two buildings is moving toward completion. Beal Incorporated, the general contractor, has managed a crew of talented subs to create this bridge between the historic 1909 former Masonic Temple with the 1915 Detroit Edison building designed by UMs Emil Lorch.



Anita Toews,
Project Architect

The elevator and stair connector was designed by Anita Toews of Architects Design Group of Ann Arbor. It is complicated by the fact that none of the two building's floors correspond requiring a numbing amount of sleepless nights figuring out the layout, stair riser heights, and other details.

As if this project wasn't enough, the Riverside was notified in October that they were the recipients of two additional grants. One from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs to enlarge the theatre lobby and provide an infrared listening system for the hearing impaired and the other from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority to assist in restoring the facade of the Edison building, now call the Riverside Off Center.

Kudos to Huron Sign and its owner, Bill Short, for restoring the lit sign projecting from the Off Center. When the connector is complete the second story dance studio will be able to be occupied for classes and rehearsals and, with additional funding, the third floor of the main building will house two large arts classrooms.

Suffice it to say, we at the Riverside Arts Center are excited about the future and so grateful to all the agencies, foundations and friends who have contributed to our success!



Boom truck delivering roofing materials last Friday.



Volunteer crew who removed a wall in the theater lobby of the Riverside Arts Center.



112 South Washington
Steven & Mary Jentzen



106 South Washington
Steven & Mary Jentzen



215 South Washington
Roy & Leona Ashmall



The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Heritage News

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

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See you at the General Meeting - Wednesday, November 19, 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

Freighthouse Update



The Friends of the Ypsilanti Freight-house ...

FOYF efforts to re-open the Freighthouse continue.

The current SHPO CLG grant for foundation, facade and storm water management was delivered to Lansing just before Christmas 2007. Officially awarded to the City of Ypsilanti and the FOYF in spring 2008, Lansing delayed the launch until this fall. The delay was a blessing in disguise. Our volunteers re-evaluated every aspect of the proposed work. Although no engineering work was contracted, a storm water management consultant and a civil engineer were recruited to review the C.A.R. and the grant, inspect the site and to help us execute our bid process.

At the same time, new FOYF bylaws

changed our organization from a loose membership structure into a cohesive, management-focused, Board of Trustees, led by a four person Executive Board. The FOYF Board negotiated a new, five-year Management Agreement with the City.

Working with the City staff, grant specifics and a professional bidding process were put in place to satisfy SHPO, MDEQ, WCDC and City environmental ordinances and unfunded mandates. New specifications in-hand, site plan drawings were prepared by a volunteer architect. Exact calculations for the proposed rain garden and specifications were prepared for SHPO and HDC review, plus Building Department permitting.

Also during this time, key support for the intent and execution of this grant project was sought and received from the DTDDA which includes a \$5000 grant match. We are also very grateful for the Heritage Foundation match of \$5000, as well as a generous contribution from the YHF Home Tour proceeds of over \$2000 toward plant material for our rain garden.

Thanks to the extra preparation time given to us by the Fates, the efforts of our volunteers and the generosity of our benefactors will be put to efficient and effective use.

Work is beginning right now! The winning bid was submitted by local preservation contractor, Mike Condon, Ypsilanti Restoration, LLC. Ron Rupert of Home Services, LLC, will do fascia painting, with help from EMU Preservation program volunteers.

Finally, in June, the Board invited the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation to the Freighthouse for a presentation and subsequently submitted a proposal for funding. It has been announced that the Ypsilanti Freighthouse is one of the projects the AAACF is considering for funding with \$1,000,000 grant from Pfizer. Stay tuned!