

# Heritage

# NEWS

AUG./SEPT. 2003  
Good News Edition

September

## Collecting Inkwells

by Mary Baker

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

Ladies' Literary Club  
218 N. Washington Street

## Historic Home Tour 2003

**Sunday, August 17 • noon - 5pm**

The 26th Annual Historic Home Tour will take place on Sunday, August 17th from noon - 5pm. Advance tickets are on sale in Ypsilanti at • Haab's Restaurant, Materials Unlimited, Norton-Durant Florists & Gifts, Quinn's Essentials, Henrietta Fahrenheit, Me 'N' My Sisters, Mantis Garden Center. They are also available in Ann Arbor at John Leidy's and Downtown Home & Garden and in Plymouth at Saxtons Garden Center. 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.

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### 108 North Huron Street

The lovely brick Italianate house at 108 North Huron was built in the 1850s. William B. Clarke bought the house in 1860. The Clarke family and their descendants lived there until 1934, when the house was sold and fell on hard times. Lawyers eventually leased the house for office space.

### 318 West Forest Avenue

The exterior of this Italianate house, probably built in 1876, has been painted a cheerful yellow. Passersby are drawn to the house—which looks both imposing and approachable—by its stately style and sunny demeanor.



318 West Forest Avenue

### 11 West Michigan Avenue

This year's tour revisits the Flour Mill Building in downtown Ypsilanti, recently renovated by Phoenix Contractors, Inc., and considered a landmark at the eastern gateway to the historic Michigan Avenue business district.



11 West Michigan Avenue

### 229 West Michigan Avenue

This old post-office building is typical of the classical revival style common to government buildings of the first half of the twentieth century. Its design owes much to the Beaux-Arts tradition prized by architects trained in Paris at the end of the nineteenth century.



229 West Michigan Avenue

### 122 Linden Court

Linden Court is a cul de sac of twelve homes in the Woods Road Subdivision off of Summit Street. Built in 1930 as Linden Place, all of the houses were completed by 1931.



122 Linden Court

### 935 Pearl Street

The house at 935 Pearl Street, with its delightful swooping roof, eyebrow window, and lovely landscaping radiates curb appeal. Built in 1922 for Professor William H. Sherzer of the Michigan State Normal College (today EMU) and his wife, Maude, the house is a combination of English Cotswold, American Prairie, and Arts and Crafts styles.



935 Pearl Street

# Good News in Ypsilanti

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation presents its

## 2003 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:



1. 126 West Michigan,  
Joseph D. Lawrence &  
Jennifer Albaum
2. 1307 Westmoorland,  
Kevin & Andrea Webber
3. 316-318 Washtenaw,  
Steve & Kathy Allen
4. 702 Collegewood,  
Vincent & Cheryl Zuellig



### • Nice Work •

Up on the East Side, at **320 EAST CROSS**, the removal of aluminum siding and metal porch posts, the construction of appropriate wood posts and a beautiful paint job has returned a c. 1850 Greek Revival to a delighted neighborhood.

At **330 MAPLE**, a new front porch will soon make it tempting to sit a spell and watch the world (well, at least the neighborhood) go by.

And good-looking second-story additions are taking shape at **308 MAPLE** and **402 EAST CROSS**.

The fire-damaged Queen Anne house at **306 N.**

**ADAMS** is being repaired, enlarged and gaining an appropriate front porch.

The historic village barn at the rear of **206 NORTH HURON** was reroofed last fall. Will painting be the next improvement?

### • Major Rehab Jobs • undertaken this year

Don't miss a visit to the **downtown LIBRARY!** Months of work while the Library was closed have resulted in a stunning interior and much improved circulation (no pun intended!)



The much-abused building at **208 W. MICHIGAN** has been sold to Peter Beal of J. C. Beal Construction

and restoration will soon begin.

And, next door at 210 W. MICHIGAN, another rehab is about to start.

One of downtown's worst eyesores disappeared when **31-33 S. HURON** underwent a major reconstruction and now presents a handsome new front for H&B Bookkeeping.

Across the street, at **8-14 S. HURON**, major structural work is preparing the way for a storefront reconstruction.

At **306 South Huron**, an inappropriate porch enclosure was removed, the original open porch skillfully reconstructed and the house painted in deep, rich colors. It has probably never looked better!

The long-abused, pre-Civil War **THOMPSON BUILDING** in Depot Town has been emptied of a many-years accumulation of stuff (over 40 construction dumpsters full!). An engineering firm has completed its inspection of the building and submitted its report and recommendations, and an architectural firm has begun work on the rehab plans.

Work has begun at **52 E. CROSS** in Depot Town on the

reconstruction of the storefront. Formerly occupied by the sign shop, Vital Signs, which has moved to Lincoln Street, the space will soon be occupied by BirdBrain, dealing in upscale furnishings for home and garden.

A handsome awning now shelters the rear patio at the **SIDETRACK**, where a piano player holds forth.

Lighted arbors make evening drinking and dining more festive at **CADY'S** and **AUBREE'S**.

## • Flowers •

**DEPOT TOWN** is in bloom with beautiful hanging baskets and big pots everywhere - what a difference flowers make!

The **MICHIGAN AVENUE PLANTERS** are overflowing with purple and pink. Many thanks to Tom Grant of Margolis Nursery for the great care he gives the plantings.

**FLOWERS** are thriving everywhere in half barrels and window boxes, on street corners and curbsides. Thanks to everyone who plants and tends these beauties! Special thanks to all the apartment dwellers who plant flowers!

The commercial Italianate building at **108 WEST MICHIGAN** got a whole new lease on life with great new paint colors.

You think your paint job is big? Consider what confronts the crew of painters at the **GILBERT MANSION** at 227 North Grove!! Three stories, two towers, three paint colors and countless details - week after week after week!

Demolitions began earlier this summer in preparation for the construction of the new, much-anticipated **WATER STREET** neighborhood of condominiums. More coming - stay tuned!

Strolling on North Huron Street? At the **RIVERSIDE ARTS CENTER**,



step beneath the beautiful new pergola, onto the brick-paved plaza and down the handsome staircase into Riverside Park. Designed to link downtown and Depot Town,

this construction enhances the park as well as both commercial districts.

Ypsilanti's first **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE** was beautiful in its place of honor on the new plaza.

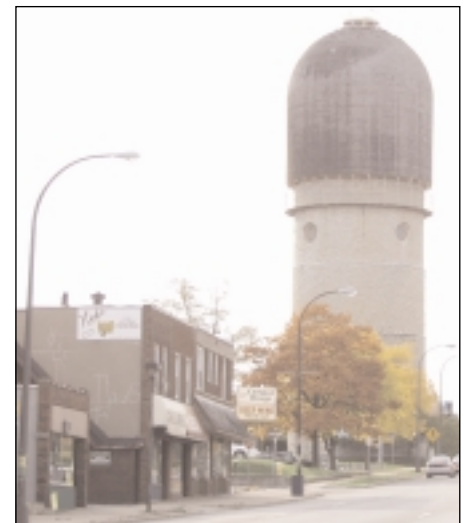
AGAIN, thank you to the **SIDETRACK** for the enormous lighted tree in the courtyard at Christmas.

More and bigger green and white **HISTORIC DISTRICT SIGNS** were added this year on top of street signs. Every intersection within the Historic District and on the perimeter is now identified.

The **VW FESTIVAL**, held at Auburn Hills for 16 years, moved to Ypsilanti this year and drew crowds to Riverside Park on a gorgeous weekend. Come back - we enjoyed having you!

## • Outside the Historic District •

The Ypsilanti **WATER TOWER** got a new roof this spring. Few of us will ever see the tower encased in scaffolding again since this roof is to last for 50 years. Thanks to YCUA (Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority) for the great care lavished on this historic structure and for the lights which circle the Water Tower during the winter holidays.



**STREETS**, Streets, beautiful streets! Last year, residents on the east side of town gladly put up with dirt, dust, closed streets and blocked driveways as the city replaced water mains and sewer pipes and completely rebuilt streets in one phase of a 4-year project. This year, folks on the west side of town are looking past the mess and forward to new, smooth pavement - such a temptation for roller skates and skateboards!

Again, many thanks to the road workers who are competent, efficient, helpful and friendly.



Don't miss visiting Ypsilanti museums: the **FIRE EQUIPMENT MUSEUM** on Cross Street between Huron and Washington, the **AUTO HERITAGE MUSEUM** on Cross at North River, the **HISTORICAL MUSEUM** on North

Huron just south of Cross, and the **YANKEE AIR FORCE** at Willow Run Airport.

## • Thanks •

To everyone who works to make Ypsilanti a better place to live: police, fire fighters, city manager, city department heads, city employees, Mayor and City Council, Boards & Commissions.

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

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.

## 2003-2004 HERITAGE FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

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

**WED., SEPT. 24, 2003:**

**"Collecting Inkwells: Mary and Jim Baker's Inkwell Collection,"**  
Mary Baker

**WED., NOV. 19, 2003:**

**"The History of Printing,"**  
John Harrington, co-owner Standard Printing

**WED., JAN. 28, 2004:**

**"Albert Kahn, Master of American Industrial Architecture,"**  
Sally Bund, assistant archivist architectural collections,  
U-M Bentley Historical Library

**WED., MARCH 24, 2004:**

**"So Faux So Good,"** Get an overview of the past, present and future of Faux Finishing from local Decorative painters Randy and Kathy Fettes. 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 15, 2004: 27th Annual Historic Home Tour**



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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*See you at the September Meeting, Wednesday September 24, 7:30 pm*

**For up-to-date information about the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation  
& our Historic Community visit our website at [www.yhf.org](http://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.

visit our website at [www.yhf.org](http://www.yhf.org)