

Heritage News

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.

January 1990

Ypsilanti, MI

- MEETING:** Tuesday, January 30, 1990 - 7:30 pm
- LOCATION:** Tom Conway's Historic Auto Museum
(The Old Fire Station)
110 West Cross Street, Ypsilanti
- PROGRAM:** AN ILLUSTRATED LECTURE
of the HISTORY of the AUTO INDUSTRY
in MICHIGAN
- SPEAKER:** TOM JONES, Executive Director
Historical Society of Michigan

Mr. Jones will present an entertaining and informative talk, with slides, concerning the history of the automobile industry in Michigan from 1890 to 1930, with emphasis upon the first twenty years of the twentieth century, the 'heyday' of the industry. He will also make reference to certain historic structures or homes of the auto barons, such as Ford's Fairlane and the Fisher estate. Mr. Jones has done a great deal of research in this area and this, coupled with his own personal interest in the subject, makes him something of an authority on this key Michigan industry and one of great importance to Ypsilanti.

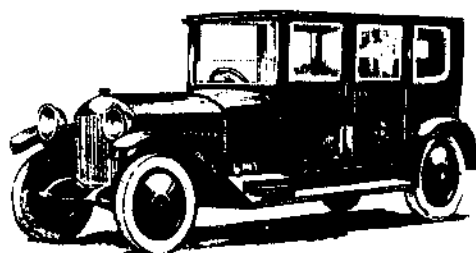
We are also fortunate to have gained Tom Conway's approval for the use of his Historic Car Museum for this special meeting, which will be held in the large room upstairs, where the firemen of Old Ypsilanti slept and spent their time, while waiting for the next call.

Refreshments will be served. See you there! (For further information, call 485-2155)

GUESTS

ARE

WELCOME!!!





HISTORIC SOUTH SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD HOLIDAY HOME TOUR PRAISED

The South Side Neighborhood Association triumphed last month not only in bringing not only the neighborhood itself closer together but also in astonishing many visitors from elsewhere in the community with the charm and vitality of its first "HOLIDAY TRADITIONS IN OUR HOMES" candlelit home tour. Visitors were treated to a generous display of good old fashioned hospitality as they wended their way from the Sprentalls on South Adams to the Slaughters on South Huron. The focus was upon traditions at the holiday season, both Christmas and Hanukkah. Most of the area was lit with the glow of candlelight in brown bags, and the tour houses were marked with delightful signs to match the program. The Othmans, the Milletts, the Jentzens, the Colemans, the Glassmans, and the Hoags made up the other six families that greeted visitors, often with cider or punch and cookies. Each family explained its own traditions and special ways of celebrating. Trees were lit, tables were set, stockings were hung, music was played, fires burned in fireplaces, and guests were made to feel welcome - all of which made for a memorable night outing in Ypsilanti - Ypsilanti as we all dream of its being more often. Bravo, South Side! Do it again!

A LULL IN ACTIVITY, EXCEPT

Except for the E.M.U. Owens College of Business building and the Haab McAuley Health Center (major projects indeed), there seems to be a lull in new activity downtown. BUT,BUT,BUT have you noticed, recently, the activity at 212 West Michigan, the building lodged between the old Greystone Hotel and the Palasek building (with the antiques shop)? TOM SACHLER is doing a notable restoration of that most westerly facade in that great bank of Italianate facades that runs from there to Washington Street. He has removed the old fake materials and is doing a first-rate restoration: he has replicated the lower cornice to complement the one on Palaseks', with Eastlake detail carved in wood; the arched windows will be restored; and the hoods are being replicated by W. F. Norman in Missouri. The brick is fortunately still in its natural state. He is repairing that and doing some stone pilaster work - all of which add up to a major facelift for the downtown, a quality job that must be seen as one more peg in the framework of this historic city on the way back up. Cheers (with gratitude) to Mr. Stachler!

CALL YOUR EDITOR!

To report items of interest which you think should appear in the HERITAGE NEWS, call Jack Harris, Editor, 485-2155, or write him at 510 Pearl, Ypsilanti, MI 48197.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH -

"WHEN A SOCIETY OR A CIVILIZATION PERISHES, ONE CONDITION MAY ALWAYS BE FOUND: THEY FORGOT WHERE THEY CAME FROM."

- Carl Sandburg





SEEN SHERZER LATELY?

Remember: last year at this time who would have thought we were about to lose one of our most historic structures? Yes, it was on March 9th, 1989, that fire broke out early in the morning and ravaged that E.M.U. landmark. We wrote its requiem in this paper - but with the faint hope that something would survive. Well, look now, and watch the **WORK IN PROGRESS!** They have built a steel frame **INSIDE** the old brick building, new glass is appearing in windows on the lower floors, the masonry wall just below the great old cornice (which will be rebuilt) is being done. One can only anticipate the activity that will take place when the Art Department is once again ensconced in a safer "new" Sherzer, and the students continue to celebrate spring days on the embankment in front of that great arched entryway that still survives.

Kudos to Eastern for keeping, in the face of a tragic fire, its trinity of historic structures intact: Welch, Starkweather, and Sherzer!

FOR THE ECOLOGY-MINDED:

1. All the facts about recycling are in the booklet "Household Waste" from Concern, Inc., 1794 Columbia Rd. NW, Washington, DC 20009.
2. A great new magazine about the environment: Garbage, from the publishers of Old House Journal. Subscriptions, \$21 yearly: Garbage, 435 Ninth St., Brooklyn, NY 11215.
3. For mail-order sources of organic food, call Americans for Safe Food: 212-332-9110.
4. A wheel-chart guide to household hazardous waste is offered by American Oceans Campaign: 213-394-0911.

reprinted from "Earth Alert," House Beautiful, February 1990, p. 31.



THINK GARDENS NOW!

Now is the time to dream - and **PLAN** - that next summer's garden. Here are a few seed catalogues that have been recommended: W. Atlee Burpee & Co., 0300 Park Ave., Warminster, PA 18974; John Jeavons Bountiful Gardens (organic), 19550 Walker Rd., CA 95490; Liberty Seed Company, P.O. Box 806, New Philadelphia, OH 44663; Geo. W. Park Seed Co., Cokesbury Rd., Greenwood, SC 2967-0001; The Cook's Garden (imported and exotic), P.O. Box 65, Londonderry VT 05148; Thomas and Morgan (English varieties), Box 1308, Jackson, NJ 08527.

FOR OLD ROSES: your editor has had good luck with Pickering Nurseries, Inc., 670 Kingston Rd., Pickering, Ontario, L1V 1A6, Phone (416) 839-2111. Recommended by Bob McElya, whose old rose garden on Congress St. is well known, this house has a very large selection of hard-to-find old roses with such exotic names as "Blanc Double de Coubert," "Cardinal de Richelieu," and "Mme Alfred Carriere," all of which your editor has growing in his garden since November '88, and which have already bloomed as starters.

EXOTIC NEW THINGS: Achillea (folks here may call it yarrow, remember?) in pastel colors? Yes! - subtle peach, warm pink, cream and melon shades. Check out Burpee for this.

OTHER EXOTICS: Try Logee's Greenhouses, 55 North Street, Danielson, CT 06239, especially for exotic house plants like rex begonias, geraniums, camellias, bougainvilleas, etc. **HAPPY PLANNING!**



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March 1990

Ypsilanti, MI

- MEETING:** Tuesday, March 27, 1990 - 7:30
- LOCATION:** MATERIALS UNLIMITED
2 West Michigan Avenue
- PROGRAM:** INTRODUCTORY FAUX FINISHES:
a first hand lesson in basic marbling,
stippling, sponging, rag rolling, etc.
- SPEAKER:** SAM BAGARELLA, Property Master,
University Productions, University of Michigan

Many people know what is meant by the term 'faux(false) finishes' but for those who don't, it's simple: any finish on any surface that is not true, or not the real surface but one painted on to resemble something it isn't: that is faux finish. For example, a wood mantle that is painted to look like marble is faux marble, or a, say, pine floor that is painted to look like oak is called faux bois(false wood). We've all seen examples, even if many times we don't know we are facing a faux finish! A few of us with older homes can boast the original faux finish on the woodwork, some have floors that were given faux finishes in bygone days, others have examples of faux marble.

Well, the old art is coming back, as people restore and renovate their homes.

Sam Bagarella, a scenic artist and muralists and an expert in faux finishes, has agreed to give us a lesson in the basics of this now much-in-demand art; and even if we aren't planning our own major project at the moment, it will be a special treat to see just how it is done. He will give us the BASIC TECHNIQUES IN MARBLING, STIPPLING, SPONGING, RAG-ROLLING, WET BLENDING, AND FEATHER LAYERING. Yet, if that sounds like an evening and a half, you needn't worry; Sam has committed himself to about 45 minutes.

NOTE THE PERFECT SETTING!!! So bring your note pad and your friends, and come, see for yourself!

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED!



FALSE FRONTS ARE OUT DOWNTOWN

While faux finishes are in in the world of decoration, both on old and new things (see our program for March), the false fronts that have been disappearing over the last several years in downtown Ypsilanti are now falling away faster than ever. The interesting thing is, however, that as the artificial fronts come off, revealing the original brick facades underneath, we all-too-soon forget what a change has taken place: what did it look like a week ago? -- was it black and yellow stripes? or sheet aluminum? or a grill work that looked like a cross between a bed spring and prison bars? We forget so easily.

On the north side of Michigan Avenue, for example, next to RALPH ELLIS' Bike Shop, Ralph, who has bought the building, is now in the process of restoring the original brick front. He has removed the artificial siding that for so many years covered the three-story structure, so we can already see how it will harmonize with the other already restored facades along that historic block.



TOM SACHLER, whom we mentioned in our last NEWS for doing the facade just west of Palaseks', is now at work on the two facades on either side of the old entryway to the Werth Theatre, almost directly across from the fountain next to the library. Tiles from another era

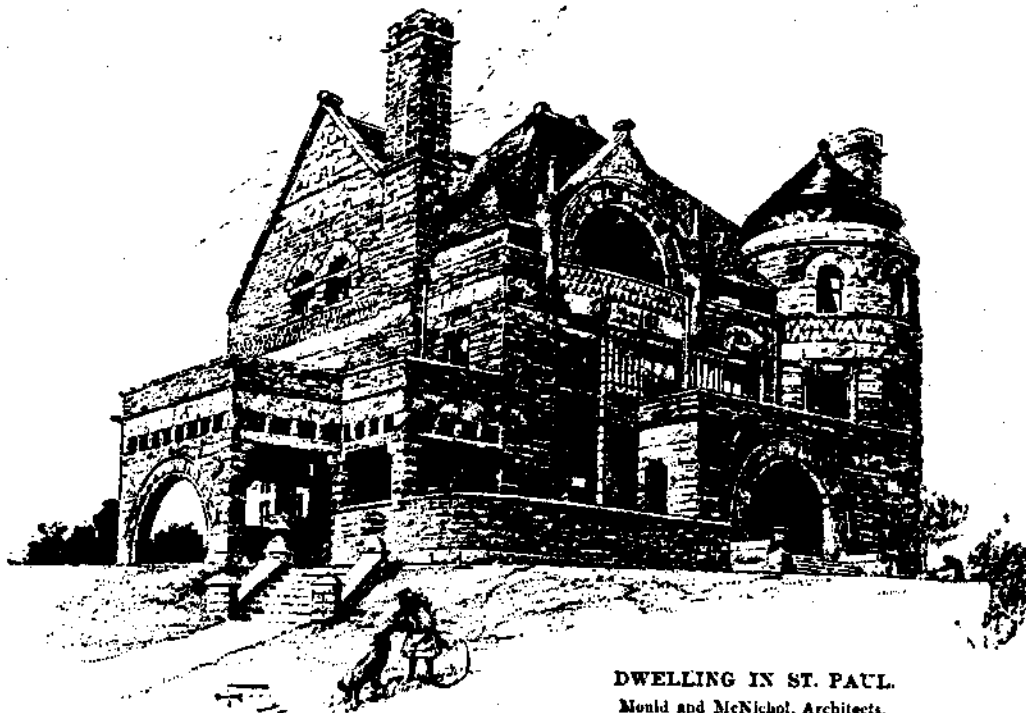
have been uncovered, new glass will be installed in the art deco windows, and the lower cornice is being redesigned to suit this historic building.

Finally, the one we've all waited for, the enormous grillwork that covered the bank of arched Italianate windows above TC's SPEAKEASY is now down - and gone forever. Your editor was rushing by car to the library recently when he saw, miracle of miracles, the scaffolding up and half-a-dozen men upon it removing those great bars that hung on that front. He raced home, grabbed his camera, and went back to get some shots of that historic moment - and the bars came down and the grillwork behind them was lowered, piece by piece, to the street. With the completion of that front, that entire block will have regained its authenticity.

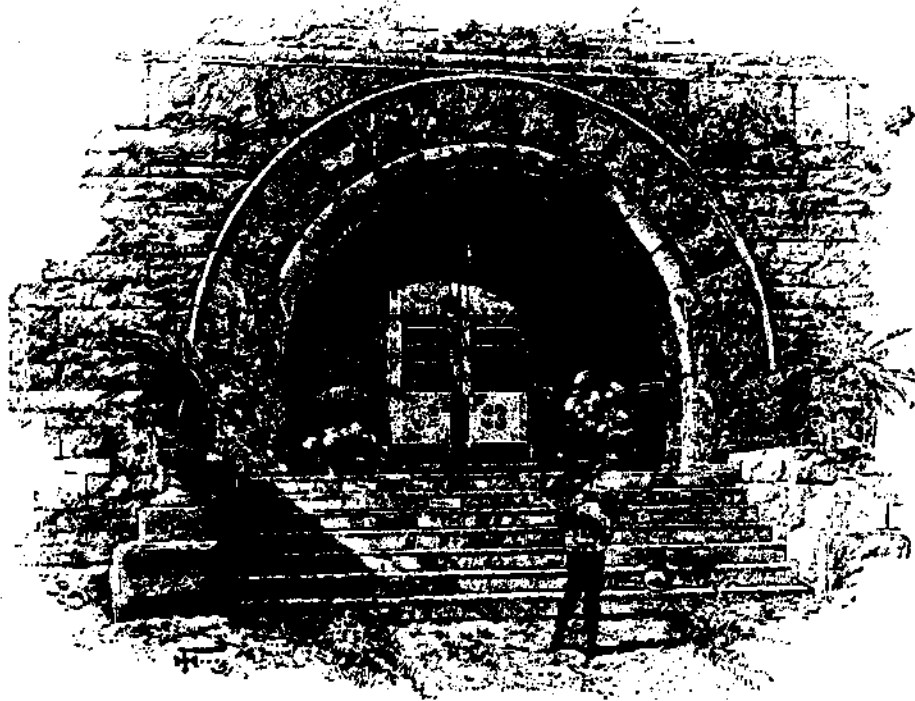
KUDOS TO ALL INVOLVED!- owners, architects, city planners, and Main Street manager, Linda Young.

SHERZER UPDATE

Note: much visible progress on the rebuilding of Historic Sherzer Hall, hit by fire a year ago this month. Roof trusses are being put in place, many new windows (exactly duplicating the old) are in, steel framework is being erected for new dormers (to duplicate the old), and the entire southwest corner of the building, destroyed in the fire, has been re-constructed. Now is the time to view the developments there, as we watch another phoenix rise from the ashes in Ypsilanti.



DWELLING IN ST. PAUL.
Mould and McNichol, Architects.



PORCH IN ST. PAUL.—Mould and McNichol, Architects.

C.F. Sherzer

The mansion of the banker John L. Merriam, in St. Paul, Minnesota, shows the Richardsonian mannerisms carried to extremes. It later housed a science museum. Destroyed.



IF YOU CAN'T RECYCLE A BUILDING, STILL, YOU CAN RECYCLE

Recycling is **IN** in Ypsilanti, and the YHF urges you (if you aren't already committed) to get into the act of saving our beautiful planet by re-cycling instead of sending **EVERYTHING** off to the nearest dump. Take your old newspapers (tied or in bags - with all **SHINY** paper removed), your cans (cut and flattened, if possible), and now plastic bottles to the recycling center to behind Depot Town, north of Frog Island, and just south of Forest Avenue, where a bevy of volunteers under the leadership of Pete Murdock will greet you with appreciation. It should be noted that Pete and wife Grace could be found hard at work there - 6:00 a.m.! - on the coldest Saturday mornings of the winter.

THE JANUARY MEETING: A THANK YOU NOTE

As many of you know, our last meeting was one of our best and most successful, thanks to two people, especially: First, to **TOM JONES**, for the lively and informative (one-of-a-kind) slide/lecture presentation on the history of the automobile industry in Michigan, with a supplement on the homes of the auto barons. Tom held his capacity audience riveted with his spirited talk and the discussion lingered on over refreshments.

And also thanks to that one-of-a-kind friend to Ypsilanti: **TOM CONWAY**, not only for opening his Auto Museum to our members and friends, but for his personal welcome and enthusiasm for his subject, which was evident from

the beginning of the meeting. He shared personal ex-periences related to his collection, told anecdotes, and generally entertained visitors as they moved from the car collection on the ground floor to the the room upstairs, where the meeting itself was held. And what a room it is! Filled with treasures of the road: gas pumps, signs, maps, and on and on. **TOM, YOU LIT THE HOUSE, AND WE WANT TO SAY THANK YOU IN THE BIGGEST WAY. YOU ARE APPRECIATED!**

TWO NEW APPOINTEES TO THE HDC

Jane Bird, Chair of the Ypsilanti Historic District Commission, reports that there have been two new appointments made to the membership of the commission:

(1.) **GarE Maxton**, who is well-known in downtown Ypsilanti, as an investor and developer and, especially, a restorer of historic commercial properties. Witness, for example, 104 and 106 W. Michigan, the latter of which serves as home (upstairs) for himself and his wife, Chris. Probably even more exciting is his work on the historic G.A.R. Hall at 110 Pearl, which was on the Foundation's Home Tour during Festival last August. Now work is in progress on the adjacent sister building at 108. He has also contributed to the renaissance in Ypsilanti by renovate a burned out residential property on South Huron, below Buffalo. **GarE**, you may not know, is a graduate, summa cum laude, of Western Michigan University with two degrees, one in art, another in chemistry. He is head of Maxton Ltd., a computer firm downtown.

(2.) **Art McVicar** is a Master of Science graduate of Eastern, with a major in Historic Preservation



and Administration. He also holds bachelor and master degrees in Theatre, and was involved with the renovation of the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor as carpenter. At present he is Facility Manager for Students' Theatre Arts Complex at the University of Michigan. Earlier history includes a stint in the U.S. Army as civilian technical director for the Music and Theatre Branch, Ft. Polk, La. He has also been Assistant Technical Director of the Baton Rouge Little Theatre, Baton Rouge, La.

Clearly, both gentlemen meet the specified requirements to hold positions on this important civic body. The Foundation wishes them well in the work that lies ahead.



HENRY FORD MUSEUM & GREENFIELD VILLAGE TOUR OF YPSILANTI PLANNED

The Heritage Foundation is in the process of planning a tour, co-sponsored by Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. This would be a day-long visit, starting from the Village by bus and involving an historical overview of Ypsilanti, followed by a continental breakfast at the Ladies Literary Club. The tour would then lead out into the community to visit a variety of places: private homes (including that of Hank Prebys, Director of Exhibits at the Museum), Materials Unlimited, Depot Town, Water Tower, Welch Hall, at least one historic church, and the historic district of Highland Cemetery. The tour would, of course, try to give at

least a drive-by lecture showing of the best of Ypsilanti's rich architectural heritage, so that east, west, south sides would be seen. This is a new project for the Foundation. Suggestions are welcome. We believe it will bring new visibility to our town and be yet another image builder, as Ypsilanti moves ever forward toward its growing reputation as a living historic community.

ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE UPDATE

While progress has been slow of late in the transformation of EMU's One Room Schoolhouse into a living museum, work is under way to get the project back on track, now that the initial funding goal has been reached. The exterior restoration of the building was completed last year. Now the interior is to be tackled.

The Restoration Sub-committee met recently on site with two experts: Don Randazzo as carpenter specialist and Scott Diels, architect with Domino Farms, to work out specific details in terms of interior restoration. Both men have served, incidentally, on the Ypsilanti Historic District Commission. Members of the committee include Lois Porter, Ricky Balkam, Nat Edmunds, Scott Westerman (head of the campus project), Dean Rockwell (chair of the full committee), Carroll Osborn, Linda Chapman, Tom Gwaltney, Marshall McLennon, and Jack Harris, as Chair. After a chilly tour of the building and much on-site discussion, the committee met in the old Regents' Room at McKenny Union and drew up a list of steps to be taken. These are now in progress, under the direction of Bill Smart, Supervisor of Plant. The goal is to have the



building ready for use when the 1990 Fall term begins, as a site for special class visits (both university and local school), as well as visits by alumnae and other interested groups.

**REMEMBER: MARCH IS
CLEAN-UP TIME IN
YPSILANTI. RAKE THAT
FRONT YARD. TIDY UP;
DROP A HINT TO YOUR
NEIGHBORS; WHEN
SOMETHING IS CLEARLY
OUTSIDE THE LAW, WRITE
OR CALL THE BUILDING
INSPECTORS.**

HISTORIC STRUCTURE MARKER BANQUET ANNOUNCEMENT

Do mark your calendar now for the Foundation's Historic Structure Marker Banquet, set for Tuesday, May 22, at the Ladies' Literary Club, North Washington. It's a bring-a-dish-to-pass evening and always proves to be a fun social event. Don't miss it!



**YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION
510 PEARL STREET
YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN 48197
(313) 485-2155**

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MAY 1990

Ypsilanti, Michigan

MEETING: Wednesday, May 23, 1990 - 6:30 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENT: 9TH ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET
16TH ANNUAL HISTORIC STRUCTURE MARKER AWARDS PROGRAM

LOCATION: LADIES' LITERARY CLUB, 218 N WASHINGTON

It's SPRING again in Ypsilanti. We have seen daffodils and narcisses come and go (if we didn't turn our heads or blink) in 85 degree temperatures, then at least threats of frost, if not the real thing; but still we can tell it's spring, with all the flowering shrubs and trees bursting into bloom--and the dandelions everywhere. With the season so uncertain, we are all hoping for a more temperate summer! In any case, let's all gather to celebrate lilac season at the HISTORIC STRUCTURE MARKER AWARDS BANQUET.

Don Randazzo, Chair, and his Marker Committee members, Bill Nickels, Hank Prebys, and Rick Leyshock, have spent the year surveying the city, seeking out notable properties, and meeting to pool their findings. Maintenance is essential if a building is to survive, and the committee considers carefully the question of continued maintenance, as well as historical-architectural merits. This year there are four finalists, for which the full Board gave its unanimous approval.

For the OWNER, then, the marker is a BIG THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE; for others, especially visitors to Ypsilanti, it speaks for all Ypsilantians in saying WE KNOW WE HAVE SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF!

DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL OCCASION, held in one of Ypsilanti's most HISTORIC STRUCTURES. The long dining room table will be laden with luscious dishes. As guests gather, slides of Ypsilanti, past and present, will play on the screen in the background. Guests will fill their plates and meet in the front room for dinner and a short program of marker presentations.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND, MEMBER OR NOT, and you haven't as yet been called, simply call our Banquet Co-chair (with Penny Schreiber), Karen Nickels, at 483-8896, and suggest what kind of dish you might contribute.

(Marker recipients are, of course, NOT expected to bring a dish, since they are our honored guests.)



AWARDS RECIPIENTS

THE FOLLOWING OWNERS of the buildings listed will be awarded HISTORIC STRUCTURE MARKERS and will be our special GUESTS OF HONOR, Wednesday, May 23 at 6:30

PAUL & KATHY GUNDERSON for their residence at
323 Oak
Style: Queen Anne

OSCAR HAAB for his historic building (now two apartments) at
119 North Huron
Style: Richardsonian Romanesque

AL HEEZEN & WANDA McCLASSON for their residence at
2120 Washtenaw
Style: Italianate

GARE & CHRISTINE MAXTON for their historic G.A.R. HALL at
110 Pearl
Style: Italianate Commercial



DON'T FORGET: ANNUAL HISTORIC HOME TOUR:

DATE: Sunday, August 19, 1990

TIME: Noon to 5:00 p.m.

PRICES: \$6.00 Adults
\$5.00 Seniors
\$4.00 Children under 12

Guides needed - call Jane VanBolt, 453-6525

HAVE YOU BEEN WATCHING SHERZER LATELY?

Now's the time to see the project in its final stages of, at least, exterior restoration. The roof is on and the dormers are receiving their new fronts of brick and stone, copying the original. Do take a walk now around EMU's own Historic District!



**FUN WALKING TOUR OF DOWNTOWN
RECOMMENDED NOW!**

Not so long ago, everything seemed to be happening all around downtown, while the downtown itself stood relatively idle. Now the scene has changed, and downtown is where you'll find the action. In fact, we suggest you stir your stumps and take a walking tour of Ypsilanti's NEW historic downtown. Some highlights:

1. The Eastern Deli: just east of Brooks' IGA and the laundromat. Expected market: EMU's College of Business, opening in September - but why wait to try it?
2. EMU College of Business: the grounded nun, as someone has called it, capped with its great white brim; now silver tile are covering one of the great bays. What next?
3. Maria's Yogurt: Watch for it at the NE corner of W. Michigan and Adams - a deli and frozen yogurt shop.
4. Tom Sachler's renovation of the old Weurth building across from the fountain: stand by the fountain and look closely at what's going on and note the red sandstone cornerstones at the top: quite impressive!
5. The facade and renovation at T. C. Speakeasy's, next to Louis' Cafe. This is the long-awaited removal of grillwork, the last eyesore on that side of the street in that block: feast your eyes on what a superb job they've done.
6. Louis' Cafe itself, for good food and the charm of an old English interior, newly decorated.
7. Ralph Ellis' facade work, in progress at 116 W. Michigan, next to his bike shop.
8. Then wander into Max's Restaurant & Catering, at 6 West Michigan (just east of Haab's). There you'll find that owners Joe and Diane Mikulec have created a Gallery of Old Ypsilanti photographs, beautifully reproduced and box-framed on clean white walls, a real treat whether or not you stay to enjoy the ALWAYS fresh food (sandwiches, cole slaw, soups - yummm!)
9. Materials Unlimited is just next door, the site of our last great Foundation meeting, thanks to the owners. There's nothing like lingering over a great collection of architectural and antiques.
10. Then you could pop down into Riverside Park, via the entry just west of Max's, for a wander - and up behind the Ladies' Library, with its hanging garden, and head south on N. Huron, observing on the way . . .

11. The Oscar Haab Health Center: THE MOST PERFECT in-fill in a Historic District in every way: size, materials, design. Look! Look closely - and at its relationship to its neighbors. And remember: it was back when the buildings that filled that now long-barren lot were torn down that the present preservation movement really began in Ypsilanti.

That movement has led to the establishment of our Historic District and the strong commitment to preservation that has become the backbone of this community. Now Ypsilanti is gaining a reputation for having more historical integrity than most of its neighbors. Smile. Look up that street, one of the great sweeps of historic architecture in the Midwest - and smile!

12. Turn the corner onto Pearl and observe what's still going on at 108 & 110, where the Maxtons are doing a super quality job on what were two very sorry historic structures (one, at least, of great historic value - our G.A.R Hall).

13. If you haven't seen the upstairs of the Phoenix Building on the SE corner of Pearl and Washington, do it now: just enter the stairway off Washington and do the tour: lots of activity going on up there in an historic atmosphere (you'll love it).

There is more--more new shops to look into--but that should give you a start. Again, take a nice morning, noon, or afternoon walk through downtown Ypsilanti; we think you'll be pleased at the progress.



YHF AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP TO E.M.U. STUDENT

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation has just accepted Dr. Marshall McLennan's recommendation of Cynthia Wyse for its annual Preservation Scholarship Award. The award program was set up several years ago by the Foundation in conjunction with E.M.U.; each year the Foundation gives an award of \$500 to a student recommended by Dr. McLennan, Head of the Preservation Program at the university. Ms. Wyse has already begun her internship with the Historic District Commission. She comes to E.M.U.'s preservation program from Ohio and has prior degrees in nursing and accounting. She has just completed her first year in the program with an excellent record.

PITCH IN AND PLANT!

Now is the time to watch the plantings going on all over Ypsilanti - especially petunias! Watch for them up and down Huron Street and other sites here and there where there's a conscientious citizen or two. Why not join in? Dress up your neighborhood. You can't imagine what a window box of petunias or geraniums will do for the whole block or a corner site filled with simple flowers that bloom all summer and into fall. If petunias or geraniums aren't to your liking, try sowing seed of nasturtiums, and for taller blooms that are stunning, try the old-fashioned reliable cosmos seeds. Marigolds are also a sure-fire winner. As much as anything, a few flowers out front shout, "We care!" to those looking for a pleasant place to live. Do it now!

NOTES ABOUT TOWN

While you're out driving, you might want to notice the following:

1. The splendid traditional screen door at 212 Washtenaw. It's the little touches that make the big difference.
2. The new awning and jazzy corner sign ("Sticks") that announces the upstairs pool parlor at Aubrey's in Depot Town.
3. The colors in the new paint job at 207 Hamilton, especially the blue that brings out the blue (!) in the stone, especially in the tower.
4. The 15 new trees - maple, ash, and locust -planted on both sides of S. Huron from Ferris to Buffalo by the Michigan Department of Transportation (through the efforts of the South Side Association).



To contribute news items dealing with preservation, call Jack Harris, Editor, at 485-2155 or Lisa Walters, Assistant Editor, at 485-3683.

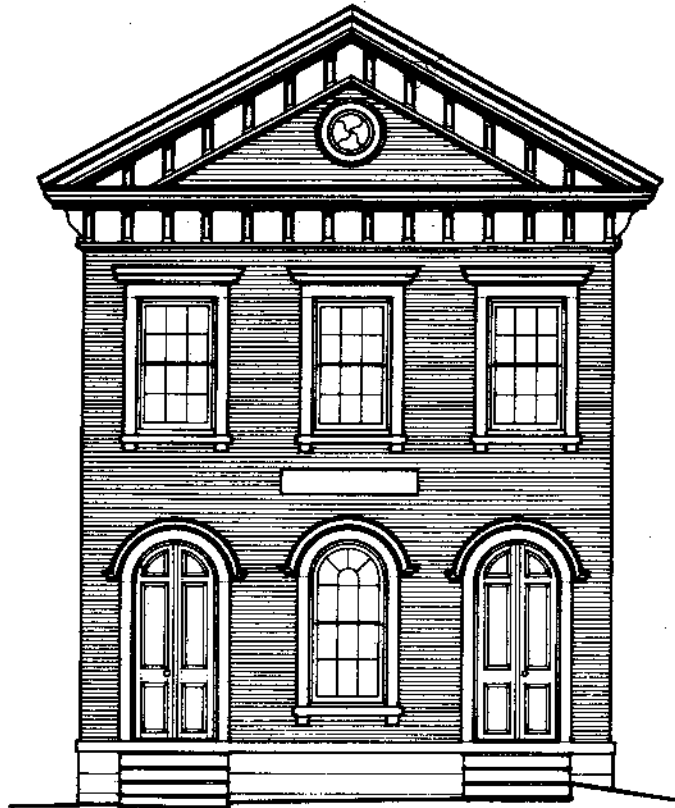
PRESERVATION PLAN ON IT

MEMBERSHIP IN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation, founded in 1974, is a non-profit organization devoted to education about, and support of, Ypsilanti's historic resources.

Membership is \$10 for individuals, \$15 for families, \$3 for students and senior citizens.

Please send your check, payable to the YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION, to:
Betty Randazzo, Treasurer
6101 Hitchingham
Ypsilanti, MI 48197



YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION

510 Pearl
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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AUGUST 1990

** GOOD NEWS EDITION !!

Ypsilanti, MI

THE YPSILANTI HERITAGE FESTIVAL August 17, 18, 19

SPECIAL EVENT: 13TH ANNUAL YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION HOME TOUR

DATE: Sunday, August 19, Noon to 5:00 p.m.

Tickets: Adults \$6.00 - Senior \$5.00 - Children \$4.00

Available at ticket booths in the Festival area:

1. At the entryway into Riverside Park
2. In front of the Historical Museum on Huron Street

TOUR STRUCTURES

230 N. Grove	Vincent & Cheryl Zuellig
212 Washtenaw	Al Heezen & Wanda McGlasson
120 N. Huron	St. Luke's Episcopal Church
302 S. Huron	Richard & Roberta Suthard
116 S. Adams	John & Valerie Sprentall
510 Pearl	Jack Harris & Cliff Larkins
112 Perrin (upstairs)	Pat Wadke
929 Pleasant Drive	Jean McFadden

SEE HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN PROGRESS -

VISIT SOME OF YPSILANTI'S FASCINATING HISTORIC STRUCTURES!

IT HAPPENED IN YPSILANTI IN 1989-90 !!

The Heritage Foundation presents its ANNUAL GOOD NEWS ISSUE, reporting on some of the improvements which have occurred in Ypsilanti over the past year, for our own delight and that of our Festival visitors. It also allows us an opportunity to say Thank You to at least SOME of those who have helped to make this a better place to live. This News issue is the Foundation's gift to all who care about Ypsilanti. We're delighted you came; we hope you'll come back to Ypsilanti.

FOCUS ON DOWNTOWN

It's easy to see the enormous changes in the appearance of downtown Ypsilanti in the past several years. Over all, the movement has been to remove the false fronts--the plastic, metal, tile, and other postwar materials--and restore as much as possible of the original brick, stone, and wood surfaces. This past year has been a particularly busy one in this regard. New businesses have also sprung up and at least one new structure has replaced the old eyesore of a dusty vacant lot.

LET'S BEGIN OUR TOUR OF DOWNTOWN by walking down North Huron. Last year we advised our readers to look at the wasteland just beyond 119 N. Huron, one of our tour houses then. Now what you see is the new McCauley's Health Service in the final stages of completion. Note how perfectly this new building fits into the neighborhood of existing buildings: the brick surface, the window patterns, the setback, the overall scale--all reflect good teamwork between the architects and the Historic District Commission. This is something that we all can feel proud to see happening in Ypsilanti. As a bonus, we can feel glad that McCauley is committed to renovate the Italianate building that is adjacent to the new structure--all good news for downtown and the community at large.

NOTE the attractive new shop, Fashions by G & T Unlimited, at 46 N. Huron (just beyond the Vitamin Shoppe). Their window always looks attractive with stylish women's wear.

THEN AS WE ROUND THE CORNER AND HEAD WEST ON MICHIGAN AVENUE, we are first impressed by the number of facade restorations that have taken place. First, of course, are those done by Gare and Chris Maxton at Maxton Unlimited. Look up, and enjoy the sweep of those Italianate facades long covered by false fronts. This unbroken vista extends all the way to Moray's Jewelers and beyond. Then note the work-in-progress at 116, where Ypsi Cycle's owner, Ralph Ellis, is doing a major overhaul on the front, with new lintels and sills and an enormous amount of brick work. This is the kind of commitment that Ypsilanti can be most proud of: a local property owner doing his own work, improving, little by little, his own world--not banking on out-of-town entrepreneurs.

LOOK ACROSS THE STREET for a moment. Note that Freeman and Bunting have established a new office at 107, with a very attractive interior.

CONTINUING UP THE AVENUE, note the new awning at Noble's Custom Clothing at 124--wine and vanilla--and appreciate again the entire facade restoration at 126, First Optometry.

WHEN YOU REACH THE CORNER OF WASHINGTON AND MICHIGAN, the most significant change that should strike your eye is the transformation of TC's SPEAKEASY at 207 and 209 (which includes Rapid Shoe Repair). It's the event that so many of us had waited for. Don't you remember the great grill structure that encased that front for so long? the one that, at certain times, when the light was right, we could see behind to the splendid row of arched Italianate windows and wished we could have them free and clear. Now there they are, all in a row, as originally intended in the mid-nineteenth century, and painted in blue, sand, and rose. This major restoration virtually completes that side of the 200 block.

ON THE NORTH SIDE, you'll be pleased to see the progress along that series of fronts, starting, perhaps, with 212, now owned by TOM SACHLER, who has removed the fake materials and restored the continuity of that great sweep of Italianate windows that extends from Michigan Avenue west to the Old Greystone Hotel. Now Tom is at work on the Werth Building, restoring as much of the character of that important building as he can.

DON'T OVERLOOK, either, the important job that Greg Batinais, owner of the Wolverine (228), did on his restaurant. But even more important, note the enormous change in the building at the NE corner of Michigan and Adams, also owned by Mr. Batinais. Last year, in the process of completely rebuilding the west wall of that corner building, they discovered the fluted cast iron pillars that support the front. NOW LOOK WHAT HAS HAPPENED!! The restoration is finished (with the cast iron pillars still showing through the new windows), and the place has been transformed into MARIA'S YOGURT AND DELI, with an attractive wine-colored awning and a slick new interior--busy already and ready to go when the new Business School opens just across Adams.

AND THAT'S THE BIGGEST ADDITION TO DOWNTOWN, though it stands out like something more appropriate for the moon than historic downtown Ypsilanti. As in Maria's Deli, here too you can see the pillars of the superstructure through the windows (windows that now shine like pearl) and great semicircle of silver tile, which appears to be somewhat translucent, meets the eye. Behind, along Pearl, the non-descript parking structure nears completion, with entry from that narrow street. It will be interesting to see all the new life this building will bring to the area, especially the downtown. If the developments like Maria's, Louis' Cafe at 205 Michigan Ave. and the Eastern Deli at 406 (as well as the now established Abe's nearby on the corner) are any indication, the place should be humming!

♥ KUDOS TO CHRISTINE MAXTON for turning out a highly professional newsletter for the CBC. We all remember how BETTY CAMPBELL kept our spirits up about downtown through all the rough years; now it's time to say Thank You to not only her but her successor, Christine, who is giving the newsletter a whole new look that our professional and business center can be proud of. If you don't get it now, send \$12 to Central Business Community, P.O. Box 2124, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 for your membership.



IRRETRIEVABLE LOSSES: lest we forget . . .

YPSILANTI IS DIMINISHED BY THE LOSS of two great ladies the past year.

The first is MARIE SCHLESINGER of 712 Pearl, long-time member of the Ann Arbor Women's Club and steady supporter of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation. Marie will be remembered for her great civility and her commitment to fight the battle for a better city. She often took on lengthy telephone lists, calling for support of one candidate or another. She was a fighter and fearless, yet she never lost her dignity. She will be missed.

The second is also remembered as a true 'lady' in the old-fashioned sense: ALICE WARNER WOODS. She was a lifelong resident of Ypsilanti: "If anyone epitomized the best tradition of the word 'lady,'" said Peter Fletcher, "she would. She was filled with compassion, care, and concern, genteel nobility." She too was a member of the Ann Arbor Women's Club, as well as a life member of the Ypsilanti Ladies' Literary Club and the Ypsilanti Thrift Shop, as well as other service organizations. She was honored recently by the congregation of the First Methodist Church, where she had been an eighty year member (she was born three years before the church at 209 Washtenaw was built). She too will be sorely missed.



"Porches are small stages where people present themselves to the public but cannot be touched by the public--an intermediate place," quoted in Victoria, July 1990.

FIRST, TALLY OUR LOSSES . . .

No way to hide it: The Old West Side (of the mighty Huron, we mean) has suffered severe loss in the two fires that have struck this part of the city this summer, the first in the 100 block of N. Hamilton, the second at the SE corner of Washtenaw and Washington. This was one of the best examples of those many old houses that surely must have been used for many years as boarding houses for students at the "Normal," with many additions, glassed in porches, and old rambling roses round the building. Although the building is pretty much a shell, it would be a serious loss if it should be decided that demolition is its fate.

The other building, called the Washington House, was an even more distinctive feature of our cityscape. It is now a shell, but hopefully it can be rebuilt as others in such dire condition have been. At this point, the alternatives seem unthinkable, especially at that junction. Both houses lay within the Historic District. We hope something can be worked out to save as much as possible of these structures.

FOR GOOD NEWS, turn to outside the Historic District, to 423 Ballard Street, near the campus, where Kermit Coleman is now in the process of bringing back from the grave a pivotal building in that area. Not so many years ago it was the home of Mrs. MacLean, who kept a lovely home for elderly guests. Then it declined, until the great double front doors, with thick beveled glass in the shape of two half moons facing one another, were battered and the glass smashed out. The porch railing deteriorated and fell away. Some of us thought of going up and salvaging the pieces, but only Barry LaRue did. Finally, it became a crack house. Then came a fire at the back, severely damaging it. Surely, we thought, that was the end: the abuse had gone on too long.

Now to our delight Kermit Coleman (of Coleman's Farm Market) is busy putting the house back together, with as much attention to its historic features as is financially feasible. He has uncovered the wood clapboards and is replacing where fire destroyed these; he is restoring the unique front door; and he is, we hope, putting that very special turned railing back together. Barry also salvaged a large cut stone that was part of the front landscape (he found it in the middle of Ballard one day).

Mr. Coleman has already distinguished himself for his careful restoration of the house at the SW corner of Ballard and Emmet a couple of years ago, where he saved most of the detail, including the period garage, and the little stone garden area at the back. This part of town, unprotected by the Historic District Ordinance, needs all the attention of people like Mr. Coleman it can get. WE SALUTE YOU, MR. COLEMAN!!

IF NORTH HAMILTON SUFFERED A SEVERE LOSS THIS PAST YEAR, it also experienced an almost miraculous transformation. In last year's NEWS we asked our readers to look at 207 N. HAMILTON and await the transformation about to take place. Well, we urge you to pass that way now and marvel: the greatest architectural monument on that street is now a delight to the eye, restored to perfection, and with a color scheme that has an element of magic to it - for the blue paint has brought out the unique blue quality in many of the stones in the foundation and tower. JACK TRAVER and RICHARD REID, who have redone several other properties in the city, are to be thanked for this very special revitalization.

ALSO ON N. HAMILTON, TRIANGLE PROPERTIES has begun another renovation at the SE corner of Hamilton and Emmet (the former home of Pat Jones). It will be interesting to see what they make of it, for it has great potential as an historic property, although it has suffered sea change over the years.

YOU MAY NOT KNOW IT, but TRIANGLE PROPERTIES is the family that recently also put together the two houses farther up Emmet, at 705 and 701. If you haven't seen these, make it part of your Heritage Tour to look them over. A first class job was done on both, as you will see, with brick patio tying them together. YOU MAKE US LOOK GOOD, TRIANGLE! Thank You!



AS FOR STREETSIDE GARDENS, JoAnn Geer again wins the prize, at least on this side of town. The blooms are better than ever at 501 Pearl, and she has influenced her neighbors into following suit. Do look at the corner of Ballard and Pearl and appreciate the efforts of JoAnn and her neighbors. While there, look up Pearl to 508, where the new owners have installed window boxes on the porch rails and filled them to the brim with 'geranium' geraniums.

ANOTHER PLACE TO PEEK AT PLANTINGS (like alliteration?) would be the parking area behind 119 N. Huron (on tour last year) and up to the Chamber of Commerce on the corner of Washtenaw and Huron. Here several tenants have pooled their wits and resources to make a semipublic space seem more intimate and certainly more charming than the mud hole that occupied that same space only a few years ago.

MOMENTOUS DISCOVERIES AT THE EVANGELINE LEWIS HOUSE

Many of us remember Evangeline Lewis and her lovely Italianate house, so long in her family, on North Huron Street. This past year it was sold by the Museum to Ann Arborite Earl Greene, who is deep in the process of restoring it as his private residence (keeping the apartment at the back). The day your editor visited the house, workmen were setting up the newly rebuilt (and elaborate) front stairway, including entirely rebuilt rails and posts. A plasterer was hard at repair work in the dining room (but gave me details of some of the complexities of his present task). Earl himself was on the roof with a metal roofman. When he came down, he gave me a thorough tour of the house and its history, both personal and physical--since all the evidence of the latter is exposed to the viewer at this time. The really great discovery is that the ceilings still have much of the original stencilling intact, and much of it is quite rare and beautiful: there is even a classic medallion with woman's head in the living room ceiling--but the entire house is rich in floral patterns, my favorite being the fuchsias overhead in the living room. Once the wallpapers were removed, Earl discovered a wealth of rich designs, including the wainscoting on the stairway. He has restored the windows (upper and lower) that were blocked off to make bookcases. While he may not be able to afford a complete restoration at this time, he is highly sensitive to the value of the house's historic character and is trying to save every single, even small, element. He seems to have studied its history intensely and he now, after only one year, probably knows more than anyone else about the house. We can't wait for the open house!

OTHER NOTABLES:

NAN PLUMMER and JIM SPENCER deserve a big hurrah for their work on their front porch at 312 WASHTENAW, a restoration job from top to bottom.

ERIC MAUER can be proud of his handsome new paint job at 115 North Adams.





♥ A GREAT LADY

WHY HASN'T THE LOCAL PRESS done a major profile of one of Ypsilanti's most interesting citizens: VIRGINIA COOPER? This is a plea to see that happen--and soon. Virginia can often be seen heading out (or back) on foot, often to visit friends less mobile at places like Gilbert Residence. She was met recently as she was in the process of doing the coffee and refreshments for her Methodist Church. She takes an active interest in social concerns in her neighborhood. Miss Cooper was one of the notable English teachers at Roosevelt High. She then moved on to work in the English Department at the University, where she made an important contribution, helping thousands to feel better about their abilities to communicate. Recently she had the satisfaction of hearing from a young man who works as a teacher at Jackson Prison who told her she taught him everything he knows about writing. At the moment she is in the distant Upper Peninsula, picking her favorite, thimbleberries. LET'S TIP OUR HAT TO A GREAT LADY OF YPSILANTI, VIRGINIA COOPER!

◆◆ SOUTH SIDE NEWS ◆◆

CAN WE CALL IT OUR HOUSE OF SEVEN GABLES?

The really BIG CURRENT NEWS in the south side historic district area is the transformation now taking place at 206 S. Huron. Long covered with vinyl or aluminum, this house, owned by Joe Lawrence, is in process of rediscovery. Your editor walked around it recently, and counted exactly seven gables, though he'll leave it to better authorities to do the official count. In any case, it's not only the gables that are worth noting. Indeed, the house is unique in the city and deserves careful study. Again, identifying it architecturally should be left to the experts, but can we call it Eastlake, that particular Victorian style that came out of England, with its strong elements, in brackets, bargeboards, heavy overhang, and elaborate decorative features in gables, over--and under--windows and on the unique double front doors? It may also be recognized for its rarity in that the siding is vertical rather than horizontal, and flat against the building, leaving a clean, smooth appearance in contrast to the massive decorative features. The large porch is clearly a later addition, for note the window on the north side that extends above and below the roof and ceiling of it. How lucky we are to have lived through the era of cover up, block out, hide the past, and now be able to enjoy the return to the past and to all its variety. THANKS, ESPECIALLY, FOR THIS PROJECT, JOE LAWRENCE!

WHILE YOU'RE ON THE SOUTH SIDE, you might want to notice other improvements. For example, Mr. Boyer, owner of 220 S. Washington, has done a major service to the neighborhood by restoring much of the character of that long neglected building. You may also be interested to know that 221 has changed hands. Formerly Michael Lynn's home, it is an especially historic house, and the new owners (unidentified as yet) fell in love with it on first sight. You can see much yard work already in progress. We welcome them! Another property to notice in that area is 218 Ferris, diagonally across from the U.S. Post Office, home to Connie and Royd Riddell. Quite a challenge it has been, but apparently the interior as well as the exterior is taking shape. Do glance that way in passing (you'll note, if you remember it formerly, some careful improvements in the main porch, especially). Finally, the PETUNIA PARADE, a growing tradition, is again in full swing up Huron street, especially from Suthards to Fennell's.

"HOLIDAY TRADITIONS IN OUR HOMES," the South Side Neighborhood Association's own home tour during the holiday season, was without question the most memorable event of this past year for the south side and for all who attended. It was a real neighborhood home tour, with all the warmth and welcome that anyone could hope for anywhere in America. There were candlelit streets all the way and cider and cookies at many houses. The Sprentalls, the Slaughters, the Othmans, the Milletts, the Jentzens, the Colemans, the Glassmans, and the Hoags played hosts this initial year. We would love to see them do it again, and we hope others will participate next year. It's a statement of neighborhood strength in one of our most important historic parts of town. LET'S ALL ENCOURAGE THE SOUTHSIDERS TO DO IT AGAIN!!

◆◆◆ E.M.U. CAMPUS NEWS ◆◆◆

SHERZER HALL: A MAJOR COMMITMENT TO OUR HERITAGE

Without question, the rebuilding of Sherzer Hall (1902), gutted by fire, is Eastern Michigan University's major 1990 commitment to our H*E*R*I*T*A*G*E celebration. That great building, a product of Professor Sherzer's travels through Europe, studying the most up-to-date university science facilities at the turn of the century, is now almost totally rebuilt, thanks to heavy insurance coverage and university commitment. The art department will be re-established there when classes resume in the fall and a new observatory crowns the building. AMONG BIG THINGS FOR US TO CELEBRATE, let us celebrate THIS,--a testament to America's new awareness of pride in our past and in our very own special history.



—••••• EAST SIDE NEWS •••••

DEPOT TOWN HAS MANY CHANGES TO NOTICE SINCE LAST YEAR

The following are only a few of the changes to be seen in Depot Town since last year's Heritage Festival. The first is the enormous improvement and expansion in the facilities of City Body Shop at 20 East Cross, appropriately site of this year's Festival Reception. At the other end of the block, across the street, Aubrey's transformed its upstairs into a pool parlor and entertainment area, and the exterior sports and new awnings, a jazzy new vertical neon sign, and lighting that accentuates the historic character of the building.

The other NEW ADDITION to Depot Town that can't be overlooked is the opening of the DEPOT TOWN SOURDOUGH BAKERY, at 310 North River St., just south of the Ypsi Food Co-op, in the Millworks Building. This is a community project, following the lines of and in cooperation with the Wildflour Community Bakery of Ann Arbor. This movement for REAL bread, instead of the fluff that Americans were fed for so many years, is national in scope, and popular journals now are including articles on the subject. It has been an expensive operation to develop such a bakery, with special wood-fired brick oven. Now the bakery needs your support: a gift of any amount would be greatly appreciated to defray the cost of starting up. In any event, don't miss this BEST NEW DEVELOPMENT IN DEPOT TOWN. It's delicious whole grain bread with substance. It's often hot out of the oven. It's only \$2.25 per large round loaf. It's fashionable to serve (and already on the tables of the Best Houses). It's Ypsilanti!

Up River Street, at 418, you will see a transformation in the middle of three Greek Revival houses, where the owner, Mr. Barnes, has made a noble effort to restore the character of that much maligned building. He has removed the dreary asbestos siding and restored the clapboard, and built a new porch appropriate to the front, with a Greek pediment and returns and fluted pillars. What can we say but THANK YOU!

TURN UP OAK, while you're there, and delight in the lush garden that now surrounds Paul Seron's very special bungalow at 192 Oak.

THEN NOTE the beautiful new fence at 417 Maple.

NEXT, DELIGHT IN PETER COUSIN'S HOUSE at 325 E. Cross, where house and garden are taking on new life galore. The repair of the porch alone is a treat for those who remember how it was.

THEN NOTE THE PRETTY PAINT combination at 309 E. Cross: dusty rose and cinnamon.

JUST A LITTLE DOWN THE STREET AT 213 E. Cross you can envy the owners for their cottage garden, where one often sees the mistress of the house pampering her multitude of plants. Only such dedication could produce such lavish results.



IF YPSILANTI WERE GREAT BRITAIN AND WE WERE GIVING OUT TITLES . . .

the titles would surely first go to Pete Murdock and Grace Sweeney for their commitment to the development of our recycling program. Those who have joined the army of recyclers in our town must have seen them of a Saturday or Wednesday, working at the Center north of the Farmer's Market. Your editor can remember them in the worst winter weather working there at crack of dawn, and the work doesn't stop for them when they leave the site. There are telephone calls to be made, searching for volunteers.

Incidentally, the center now has double its original space and the types of material that can be accepted has been expanded: glass, newspaper, brown paper, office paper, plastic (you need to note the "acceptable" label on the bottom), cans, etc.

Wouldn't it be nice to see more people volunteering a couple of hours--or even one--to the cause? Come on, doctors, lawyers, university administrators, faculty, plant workers, construction workers, engineers, everyone: we all need to renew our citizenship papers on this tired earth. Contribute a little time to this project, and support PETE AND GRACE in their NOBLE EFFORT.



IN YPSILANTI WE CAN TOUCH HISTORY!

HISTORIC STRUCTURE MARKER AWARDS 1990

YOU MIGHT ENJOY DRIVING BY THESE PROPERTIES, JUST TO SEE THE CHOICES MADE THIS YEAR BY THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION IN AWARDING PROPERTY OWNERS FOR THEIR MAINTENANCE, RESTORATION, &/or RENOVATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES:

323 Oak
Style: Queen Anne
Paul & Kathy Gunderson

119 North Huron
Style: Richardsonian Romanesque
Oscar Haab

212 Washtenaw
Style: Italianate
Al Heezen & Wanda McGlasson

110 Pearl
Style: Italianate Commercial
Gare & Christine Maxton



FOUNDATION CALENDAR FEATURES DOORS!

The 1991 Heritage Foundation Engagement Calendar, now on sale at the Home Tour booths in the park and by the museum, again offers collectors a chance to own a unique souvenir of Ypsilanti: a series of photographs of some of Ypsilanti's most interesting doors. To our knowledge, this is the first time that Ypsilanti's doors have been featured anywhere. Again the work of Board Members Denis Schmiedeke and Jane Bird, this should be one of their most popular creations. Denis is an award-winning photographer as well as an architect, and this year's calendar is going to focus on his talents with a simple design that stresses the photography itself. These calendars, designed for easy usage in making notes about appointments and other scheduling, are a convenient tool in the kitchen or office. They also make wonderful gifts at holiday time--or on any occasion from now until the New Year. Friends now living away from Ypsilanti would almost certainly find them a treat, so order them as gifts. Just call our Sales Representative, Penny Schreiber, at 483-5688, for your order. You will soon be able to find them at several local businesses.

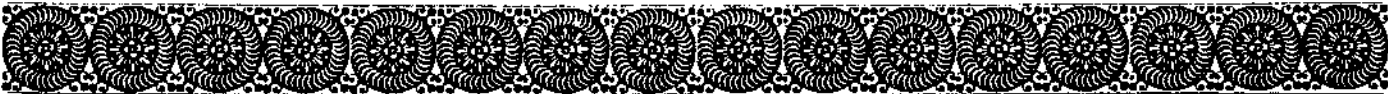
TOUR OUR GREAT CHURCHES, TOO

WHILE WE CELEBRATE OUR HISTORY, let's not overlook a very central part of our community and our history: our beautiful historic churches. This year's Home Tour includes one of our most beautiful and historic churches: St. Luke's Episcopal, but while you're in that central area of our community you might want to explore the glories of several of our other historic churches. You could start, for example, (after a visit to St. Luke's and the Heezen-McGlasson residence) with a tour of the First Methodist Church, with its superb art nouveau woodwork and stained glass; then you would want to go west to the next corner (Adams and Washtenaw) to see the Christian Science Church, a 1924 Classic Revival building wonderfully preserved. Then you might walk up Adams to the First Congregational Church and down the side street there, Emmet, east to Washington Street, where the monumental First Presbyterian Church will greet you. All of these superb edifices are within a very brief walking space, and touring several of them on one occasion will give you an added appreciation of their enormous variety of architecture. If you are able, you really should walk up Cross to St. John's Catholic Church and see the soaring Norman interior. Even farther afield, you in fact could visit another important edifice while on the east side visiting the home of the Zuelligs: Emmanuel Lutheran Church on River Street south of Depot Town, not far from Michigan Avenue. Even farther distant, Brown Chapel AME Church on South Adams we believe to be the second oldest black church in Michigan.

DO PLAN TO SEE AT LEAST AS MUCH AS YOU CAN OF THESE FOCAL BUILDINGS WHILE YOU ARE HERE!



♥ THANK YOU to ALIKA VICTOR, who has led the Midtown Neighborhood Association for more than a year now. The organization needs more commitment from more citizens but Alika has organized a number of effective meetings, made innumerable phone calls, and even provided refreshments. We need to work with her to make the Midtown area - so diverse, so interesting, so important to the community at large - a really vital living area. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, ALIKA, and others - get involved, make suggestions, offer service!



♥ THANKS, AND EVER THANKS . . .

LET'S NOT FORGET to thank those who have some of the thankless jobs in our society:

First, we thank the Ypsilanti Police Force for answering all those calls that they receive, whether emergency or just information or complaint. Yes, that's their job, but it's nice to let them know we're glad they are around when we need them. They can't solve all the problems of our complex society (and we'd like the courts to do more to support police efforts), but with our cooperation they can go a long way toward alleviating some of the worst headaches that plague us. THANK YOU!

Second, the Building Inspectors are another lot who come in for some fierce criticism, at times. Again, their job is not an easy one; but we have seen conditions in housing improve in the past several years, and some of the credit, surely, must go to their holding the line and following the hard rules. All of us have heard stories and some of us have told them about impossible battles with "Inspection;" but OVERALL let's not forget that our society could not survive very long without those rules. So, again, THANKS, for a thankless task.

Third, the Historic District Commission deserves far more credit than it receives in the local presses. The seven members of that body, selected by state law for their expertise in historic preservation, have the thankless task of reviewing every permit that passes through Building Inspection. This includes all of downtown and Depot Town and the entire historic center of this city: more than 700 buildings in all. Not an easy task. Without the ordinance under which they have operated since 1978, this city would be only a shadow of its present self. Empty parking lots would have proliferated; buildings would have been altered out of recognition; and the city's historic character would have been decimated. That, we believe, could be documented with a study of the day to day work of the commission. A thankless job, but the members of that body can take pride in the enormous contribution to the quality of life of this community. Not so incidentally, they are at present Jane Bird, Chair, Ralph Ellis, vice-chair, Bill Nickels, Barry LaRue, Hugh Kennedy, Gare Maxton, and Art Mcviccar. Thank you!

IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ANY OF THESE PUBLIC SERVICE BODIES, WHY NOT TAKE THAT PROBLEM TO THEM; DISCUSS IT WITH THEM, SPECIFICALLY; AND, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, TRY TO COME TO SOME UNDERSTANDING. OFTEN IT'S SIMPLY A MATTER OF LACK OF INFORMATION BEING SHARED THAT CREATES MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

♥ THANKS TO CLIFF LARKINS AND JACK HARRIS FOR HOSTING LAST YEAR'S FOUNDATION CHRISTMAS PARTY. Always an elegant pot luck, there was again good food, good music, good fellowship. Let's--all dues paying members--look forward to next year's party. Any volunteer hosts?

THANKS, TOO, TO THE YPSILANTI POLICE DEPARTMENT for their parade of petunias that brighten the sidewalk and walk up to their building on West Michigan Avenue--up front evidence of community commitment!

1989-90 YHF SPEAKER PROGRAM BETTER THAN EVER

The Foundation had one of its best and most varied speaker programs over the past year. There are four regular public meetings held from September through March (remember that the May banquet is without speaker; simply a program presented by board members, especially Denis Schmiedeke, who does the architectural analysis of the marker buildings). Our four speakers this year were exceptional, and we would like to thank them again, publicly, for their individual presentations:

September meeting:

KINGSBURY MARZOLF, School of Architecture, University of Michigan (on video), for his program on "Architectural Styles in Michigan." (at the Farmer's Market Coffee Shop)

November meeting:

ROCHELLE BALKAM, Chair, History Department, Ypsilanti High School, and Lecturer, History Department, Eastern Michigan University, for her program, "Stories in Stone: cemetery history." (at St. Luke's Episcopal Church)

January meeting:

TOM JONES, Executive Director, Historical Society of Michigan, for his "Illustrated Lecture of the History of the Auto Industry in Michigan." (at TOM CONWAY'S fabulous Historic Auto Museum in the Old Ypsilanti Fire Station)

March meeting:

SAM BAGARELLA, Property Master, University Productions, U. of M., for his illustrated lecture entitled, "Introductory Faux Finishes: a first hand lesson in basic marbling, stippling, sponging, rag rolling, etc." (at Materials Unlimited)

THANKS! One and all: you were much appreciated!

♥ THANKS to ALL WHO WATER AND SWEEP, to keep our city beautiful!! - to all those who plant gardens seen by the public, window boxes, and pots. THANKS, ESPECIALLY, TO ALL OF THOSE WHO HAVE PLANTED ALONG OUR MAIN ENTRYWAYS: WASHTENAW, HURON, CROSS, ETC.: petunias, portulaca (rose moss), marigolds. In spite of those problems that plague us (and this issue is not denying their existence), for the moment we would like to notice all the other things we have to celebrate and feel good about.

FOR QUESTIONS, COMPLAINTS, COMMENTS:

If you should have any of the above to convey about the work of the Foundation or specifically this issue of the NEWS, please call Jack Harris, editor, 485-2155 or Lisa Walters, Assistant Editor, 485-3683.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE FOUNDATION

REMINDER to those interested in RENEWING MEMBERSHIP IN THE FOUNDATION or JOINING, September is the time to send in your dues--or pay them at the meeting. WE HOPE TO HAVE A SYSTEMATIC BILLING PLAN IN PLACE THIS FALL, BUT, ESPECIALLY FOR NEW MEMBERSHIPS OR MEMBERS WHO HAVEN'T PAID IN SOME TIME, THIS IS YOUR REMINDER.

JOIN THE FOUNDATION - HELP MAKE HISTORY!

Individual	\$10
Family	\$15
Contributing	\$25
Sustaining	\$100
Life	\$1000

Make checks payable to Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation, and mail to

Betty Randazzo, Treasurer
6101 Hitchingham Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48197



Heritage News

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.

SEPTEMBER 1990

Ypsilanti, MI

MEETING: Tuesday, September 25, 1990 - 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: The Depot Exchange, 54 East Cross St.
HOST: Steve Gross, Co-owner
PROGRAM: CHANGES AND CHALLENGES IN THE ANTIQUES MARKET

This is a chance to gather for the opening of the new season in one of Depot Town's older established businesses and to talk with the co-owner about the vicissitudes of life for the antique dealer: changes in taste, changes in the market, prospects for the future.

Some members may recall a meeting the Foundation held in the adjacent building back in 1977, when we had John Kern, from the State Preservation Office, and owner Beverly Shankweiler talk with us about old buildings and their uses. That's when Depot Town still looked like a Ghost Town, but Bev and Don, her husband, had already put together that structure that looked, when they bought it, like London after the blitz.

Soon afterward, Steve and his co-partner, Linda French, opened the Exchange, and Steve has been working, as many of us know, long hard hours, refinishing and restoring, collecting and selling antiques from the shop at 54 East Cross. He knows the territory.

THIS WILL NOT BE A LONG MEETING, JUST AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNE WITH ONE ANOTHER AND WITH STEVE ABOUT ANTIQUES AND THE ANTIQUE MARKET IN SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED, AND EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

(FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DID NOT GET A COPY OF THE BIG FESTIVAL "GOOD NEWS" EDITION OF HERITAGE NEWS, COPIES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE MEETING!)

**HENRY FORD MUSEUM & GREENFIELD VILLAGE
TOUR OF HISTORIC YPSILANTI**

Join us for a day long visit to a community living proudly with its past and an optimistic vision of its future. Some twenty styles of architecture, built in Ypsilanti from 1830 to 1940, will be discussed and seen. More than a half dozen places will be visited to experience how well they fit today's needs, though they now serve uses other than those for which they were originally built a century ago. Three distinct historic districts will be toured with discussion of their history, significant places and roles in the life of the community. Other highlights of the day will include:

- * a historical overview of Ypsilanti en route from Henry Ford Museum (by Denis Schmiedeke, AIA);
- * Continental breakfast at the 1843 Greek Revival Ladies' Literary Club;
- * a guided walking tour of North Huron;
- * a visit to three great residences: 212 Washtenaw (Heezen-McGlasson), 301 N. Grove (Prebys), and 7 N. Normal (Booth);
- * a presentation of the showrooms of Materials Unlimited, the Midwest's largest galleries of architectural artifacts;
- * lunch at the popular Haabs' Restaurant (since 1932);
- * a visit to the historic district of Highland Cemetery (1864) to learn about its unique plan and monuments;
- * a tour of Depot Town, the first commercial district of the early village, now enjoying a decade long renaissance;
- * a visit to the famed centennial stone Water Tower with explanation of its stone symbols;
- * a tour of the historic district on the campus of Eastern Michigan University;
- * a narrated walk through restored Welch Hall (1896), the oldest structure in the historic district of Eastern Michigan University;
- * a visit to the First United Methodist Church to see its stained glass windows and its historic Akron Plan.

THE TOUR IS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER, 29. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL THE HENRY FORD MUSEUM, 1-272-1620, Ext. 528 (as of September 12, there were only 11 seats left out of 43 total).



THIRTEENTH ANNUAL HERITAGE HOME TOUR ANOTHER SUCCESS

While pouring rain in the morning may have kept some tour goers away from Home Tour during this year's Festival, Sunday, August 19, the tour itself was another success chalked up for the Foundation. This year was a first for us, with transportation offered by AATA, plus a van donated by Gene Butman Ford. (THANK YOU BOTH!) It was perhaps a first, too, in that EIGHT exceptional buildings were opened to the public: 230 N. Grove (Vincent & Cheryl Zuellig), 212 Washtenaw (Al Heezen & Wanda McGlasson), 120 N. Huron (St. Luke's Episcopal Church), 302 S. Huron (Richard & Roberta Suthard), 116 S. Adams (John & Valerie Sprentall), 510 Pearl (Jack Harris & Cliff Larkins), 112 Perrin (Pat Wadke), and 929 Pleasant Drive (Jean McFadden). THANK YOU ALL, AND EVER THANKS. We know the hard work that all of you put into it, and we do appreciate it.

THANKS should also go to the following:

Janet Weber, for the brochure,
E.M.U. Publications Office, for the printing,
all committee members, who worked long hours all year,
Connie Crump, for pictures that graced the brochure,
Norton's Flowers, for their wonderful contribution
of centerpieces and floral displays for all houses,
the multitude of guides who worked so hard to make each
moment of the tour interesting for the visitors

This year we perhaps gave visitors the widest spectrum of life in Ypsilanti, encompassing homes on the far east, far west, and south side (as well as central), and many positive comments were heard.

ANY PROFITS FROM THE TOUR WILL GO FOR A SCHOLARSHIP TO AN E.M.U. STUDENT, COMMITTED TO WORKING IN SOME CAPACITY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN YPSILANTI.


FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER WINS 2ND NATIONAL AIA PHOTO AWARD

Denis Schmiedeke, AIA/SAH, has again won an award in the annual national American Institute of Architects Photography Competition. Last year, you may remember, Denis won the Louise Buthane Award (best image of an architectural subject in the U.S.), published in Architecture 1991. This year his photograph, "Ministry's Workshop & Meeting House," historic Shakertown, Kentucky, will also be published in Architecture 1992. Congratulations, Denis!

NOTICE: FOUNDATION HAS A NEW BILLING SYSTEM

Members can expect to receive a dues notice in late September. This, we hope, will avoid the frustrating uncertainty of "Have I paid or haven't I?" that plagues many of us. We hope it will work to everyone's advantage.

HERITAGE FOUNDATION CALENDAR MAY BE BEST EVER



Your editor may have his own prejudices, and you are certainly entitled to your own taste, but we do hope you'll have a look at our new 1991 Heritage Foundation Engagement Calendar, hot off the press. It will be available in several local stores, and from our salesperson, Penny Schreiber (483-5688). Featuring Doors of Ypsilanti, it is certainly one of our most professional-looking efforts, and no wonder, for it is largely the work of Denis Schmiedeke, who is solely responsible for the superb photography. The calendar itself, with its useful space for recording reminders and messages, is a BARGAIN at \$5.00!!! We recommend that you think seriously this year about an easy gift for friends and relations in far away places (and even for neighbors here); they'll surely think you spent at least twice that much on them!! AFTER OCTOBER 1, THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE AT RICHARDSON'S, BAILES PHARMACY, MAPLE VILLAGE, BORDERS BOOKS, DEPOT EXCHANGE ANTIQUES, YPSI CO-OP, HON'S FLOWERS, MATERIALS UNLIMITED, MEIJERS (on Carpenter Road). THEY WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT OUR GENERAL MEETINGS.

YPSILANTI HERITAGE NEWS

510 Pearl Street

Jack Harris, editor (485-2155)

(Lisa Walters, Assistant Editor, 485-3683)

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November 1990

Ypsilanti, Michigan

MEETING: Tuesday, Nov 27 / 7:30pm / Bring a guest...or two!
Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served.

LOCATION: First Methodist Church, 209 N. Washtenaw, Ypsilanti,
between Adams & Washington, ample parking.

PROGRAM: THE VISUAL HERITAGE of YPSILANTI

...a multi projector slide presentation of rare, but contemporary images portraying remaining elements of community heritage from earliest times to the present.

BY: Denis Schmiedeke

The visual heritage of a community is what remains of its built environment from times past. It consists of its still existing artifacts, places, spaces and structures, all telling about their different eras in their varied forms, colors, textures, and shapes. We often take our visual environment for granted, day-in and day-out, seldom pausing to reflect upon its elements and why they are the way they are, and when they were done in relationship to one another. This program will provide such a pause to feature vivid color images of Ypsilanti's visual heritage.

Special places of living, worship, work, play, utility, and final rest will be shown to emphasize their qualities which we may enjoy in special ways throughout the year. From...the classical repose of a Greek Revival to the contrasting forms and textures of a Queen Anne, ...the vivid hues of stained glass windows to the powerful forms of space in our churches, ...the varied patterns and shapes of windows to the complexities of ornate cornices in our commercial districts, ...the fog enshrouded stones and monuments to the sun drenched lawns and illuminated autumn leaves in our cemeteries, ...the power and strength of structural form and rusticated textures in our towers and bridges, ...and the tranquillity of sun and shadow upon a winding path along the meandering river through our parks; we will see the Ypsilanti of today as it has come down to us to enjoy, nurture, improve, and pass on.



ACE CONGDON HARDWARE: WE LOVE YOU

A broken storm window, a screw you can't find amongst your chaotic collection, a hook, a small brush for the corners, clippers you've searched all over Meijer's for: the list goes on and on. The solution? So simple! why didn't you think of it before. Head down and just around the corner to ACE, where you can count on one of the fellas to spend whatever it takes to find whatever it is you need. Oh, for the olden days, when a shopkeeper kept a staff on hand to HELP the customer, to make the right suggestions, to take the time to think a problem through! Well, it's still all there at ACE!

These fall days, when there are so many little jobs to be done before the beastly winter sets in in earnest, ACE is the place to remember, before you wear yourself out completely. So often, you are, if not on the roads, on the phone searching for answers, when all you need to do is stop by Harold Britten's little establishment on Pearl Street and there's your solution, quite simple.

HAROLD BRITTEN, we love you for keeping that place going, even in the exodus years, when other businesses were pulling stakes and running. Now we fear, as new structures rise and new businesses open, that the line at your little counter will grow out of hand; but let's enjoy the moment and not think about future scenarios. Let's go on believing that there will always be an ACE downtown and the helpful heads and hands that work there: Don, Ralph, Jim, Rod, Paul - and Harold! Again, thank you!



NEW AMIDST THE OLD AT NORTH HURON AND PEARL

We hope you have noticed (how could you miss it?) the new plantings that now grace the grounds in front of the new OSCAR HAAB MCAULEY HEALTH SERVICE building. Those, along with the neatly planned and executed parking areas, with perfect curbs: What a change from all those years of desolation and mud that blotted the landscape of our most historic streetscape! Why not stop, park, and wander around that area, for so much has happened in the recent past that there's too much to see from the car window.

Note, for example, the finished look about the renovation that has been going on at 119 N. Huron, another of OSCAR's edifices. All the pieces of that great "Chicago" front (so named, because it looks like so many buildings, south and north of the Loop in Chi) are in place and cleaned and painted to perfection, thanks, especially, not only to Oscar, but to DENIS SCHMIEDEKE, architect. One wonders if this is not the best it ever looked in all its long history. Then across the street at ST. LUKE'S, you should note the work that has been done on the tower: masonry repair and repointing, still going on.



NEW EAST SIDE GEMS: GO LOOK!

Two outbuildings have arisen on the east side that should have instant recognition, before anyone thinks for certain they have always been there. The first is the little white "Period" shed behind 325 Maple. You can just see it by pulling up between 323 (the old Weir house) and 325. It's right at the back of the property. Or you can view it by turning into the alley beside 323 and pausing just beyond the great old barn. Look east, and, lo!, a most charming little outbuilding comes into view. One would think it was always there, but not so. It was just built late this summer by two creative artists (we judge them to be beyond the limits of the title 'artisans'), the BOULAN brothers.

Then drive around and onto Oak, one block north, to 206 Oak, the Italianate owned by FRED BECKER. Fred found the Boulan brothers working on the Maple street gem and asked if they would construct an outbuilding or garden shed, about twice as large, for him, under the old pear tree on that glorious extra lot of his, overlooking Depot Town. Lo! go look! a more perfect little board and batten nineteenth century outbuilding, wonderful for garden tools and equipment, shall ne'er be found anywhere in America. Fred is justly proud of his little treasure, and all Ypsilanti is glad for the addition.

While you're in the area, admire the new fence at the corner of Prospect and Maple. The TABORS have replaced the stockade fence with a modified Colonial that looks so much better, more appropriate to an historic neighborhood: simple, elegant, traditional.

It's always fun to check out the decorations at 101 Forest this time of year: as we go to press a great image of TURKEY graces the front door and the ANSCHUETZ's house. Go look see - though there may be changes before you get there. Still the historic structure itself is always a joy to feast your eyes on.

It's worth another look, too, at the KENNEDY residence at 316 N. Grove: the wonderful, mellow, subtle browns and creams that have appeared on that miraculous transformation from ugly duckling to Queen Anne delight, a labor of love, certainly.





TRANSFORMATIONS ON THE WEST SIDE

The Lewis House is has taken on a new zing, with bright Indian red on the window sashes. The house itself is no longer pallid white, either, but instead a soft cream. EARL GREENE is putting heart and soul (and a lot of moola) into this landmark building.

Then, go now (if you haven't been following the metamorphosis) to 423 Ballard, and see them working, even on Sunday, putting the finishing touches on the restoration there. After dereliction, fire, decay, we find almost perfect restoration, including the double Victorian doors, each with half-moon glass. KERMIT COLMAN is the one committed to this treasure.



ON THE SOUTH SIDE, TOO

Can we say it? Go look now, KITTY CORNER across from the Post Office, where there's new rich cream on the woodwork around the windows and over the front stoop and around the railings of the elegant side porch of CONNIE and ROYD RIDDELL's home.

Then note the new paint on another brick gem on the South Side at 221 S. Washington, now the home of JOHN and KATHY LANGBERG. All the woodwork has been painted a charcoal, except for a touch of rust-red trim on the front door! What it does is stress the pink-rose glow to the ancient brick, that constitutes the basic fabric of the edifice itself.

We all know SANDY HOAG and family's 'TARA' at the corner of Catherine and S. Huron. Look now, you'll see that the white paint has gone, replaced by a pale, stone beige color that almost makes the great two-story pillars look like stone itself.

And just around the corner at 204 S. Huron, JOE LAWRENCE'S house, the six or seven shades of greens, rose, and cream highlight the newly-found features of that greatest of our Eastlake houses, so long hidden under aluminum.



WELCOME, NEW CITY MANAGER HERBERT GILSDORF AND WIFE! (We hear that you have come from other communities committed to preservation and that you yourself are a Believer: Most welcome to both of you!)



CONGRATULATIONS, YPSILANTI, FOR HAVING THE SAVVY TO CHOOSE OUR OLD FRIEND "L. J.", L. J. McKEOWN, as our new Chief of Police. Even as Acting Chief, he made an enormous difference in our streetscape. We Congratulate him on his new appointment, well deserved.

SUGGESTION: Have you thought about the possibility of giving a UNIQUE gift to a friend or a neighbor during the upcoming holiday season? What about a special loaf of BREAD from the DEPOT TOWN SOURDOUGH BAKERY? How could they not like it? REAL bread, so good with tea, or for lunch or dinner, or toasted for breakfast! It's available at the shop where it's baked - 310 North River, or next door at the Ypsi Co-op, or (on Saturday mornings) at the Farmer's Market at the Freight House in Depot Town.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year our holiday party for members will be held at one of the glorious houses on this year's Heritage Home Tour. You should receive an invitation from the host early in December. The date is Friday, December 14. If uncertain about your membership status (dues are due in September of each year; and this year, for the first time, you should have received a billing) call Betty Randazzo, our treasurer, at 482-6144.



HERITAGE FOUNDATION CALENDARS ARE GOING FAST THIS YEAR, perhaps for two reasons: 1.) the superb photography of Doors of Ypsilanti (our theme for 1991), done by Denis Schmiedeke; and 2.) the practical convenience of the calendar itself. Take a look for yourself: they are available at several establishments in the community, including Richardson's Drugs (ask!), Materials unlimited, the Ypsi Co-Op, and many more. Or call Penny Schreiber, our Sales Representative, at 483-5688 (early evening). AN INEXPENSIVE GIFT FOR A NEIGHBOR OR A FRIEND FAR AWAY: You can't beat it - and it's easy!

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