

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 1993

Ypsilanti, MI

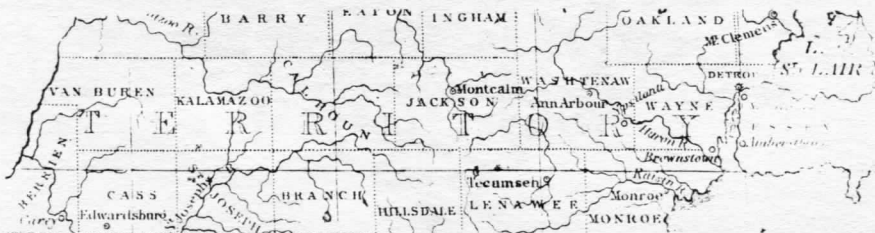
MEETING: Wednesday, January 27, 1993, 7:30

LOCATION: The First Methodist Church
The Meeting Room (downstairs)
Corner of Washington and Washtenaw
in Ypsilanti

PROGRAM: Where Is Ypsilanti? . . . or . . .
The Eccentricities of Early Nineteenth Century
Map Making: A Look at the Mapping of Michigan
During Its First Eighty Years: 1805-1885

SPEAKER: Dave Davis, Collector

As many of us know, Dave Davis has been collecting for a very long time; but few of us have really seen or heard him discuss any aspect of his collections. The Heritage Foundation has decided that this secretive activity has gone on long enough, and we have given Dave notice to appear before the Foundation and the General Public on the above announced date. Some of us know that, besides his vast collection of post cards, he has hoarded away numerous atlases and travelers' guides of long ago, and it is this latter that we have called upon him to show us. In fact, he seems to have taken on his assignment with enthusiasm, for he has prepared a **SHORT SLIDE PROGRAM** (somewhere between one-half hour and an hour all together). He will also bring a few examples from his valuable collection. Incidentally, if you should have any early maps (in the form of atlases or otherwise), you are most welcome to bring them, providing that you take full responsibility for their safe-keeping. Dave would certainly be able to comment with authority on whatever you have. So do come, gather with those of us who want to keep in touch with our local past, our friends, newcomers to Ypsilanti, and out-of-towners. Membership not a requirement. **Refreshments will be served.**

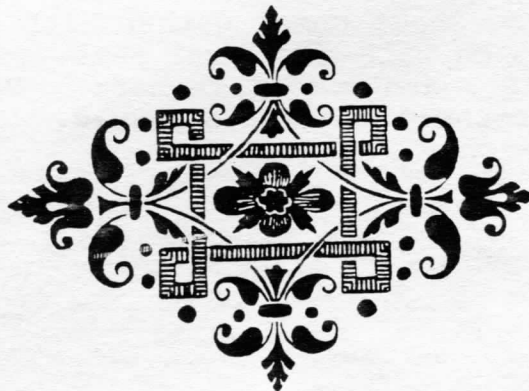




**DORIS MILLIMAN, CITY HISTORIAN, GALVANIZING SUPPORT FOR
STAINED GLASS WINDOW PROJECT**

Betty MacDowell, Director of the Michigan Stained Glass Census, in association with Michigan State University Museum, is urging Ypsilanti organizations (particularly churches) and individuals to become involved in the effort to record information about a long-neglected portion of Michigan's cultural heritage: its stained glass windows. Since Ypsilanti is rich in historic churches and other public (and semi-public) buildings with stained glass, Doris Milliman, City Historian, is gearing up to see that a volunteer effort is made to record as many examples as possible of that important part of our heritage.

The project already has more than 500 volunteers involved in the state. Anyone willing to participate can do so, either through his/her church or individually. The work consists essentially of three parts: 1.) a single page form identifies building data and location of any windows; 2.) a single page that offers data about the window itself; and finally 3.) hopefully a color slide of the window. Yes, windows in private collections are to be recorded, when possible. The information thus gleaned will be maintained in computerized archives at the Michigan State University Museum. It will also be entered into the national Census of Stained Glass Windows in America, which has been underway since 1979. To obtain forms and further information, write Betty MacDowell, Director, Michigan Stained Glass Census, Michigan State University Museum, East Lansing, MI 48824-1045, or call (517) 355-2370. You will also find that Doris Milliman has further information at the Ypsilanti Historical Museum, 482-4990; and you may call your News editor at 485-2155.





HOORAY! HOORAY! OLD TOWN RESTAURANT TO RE-OPEN!

You may have read it in the Depot Town Rag: **Old Town Restaurant is re-opening** at last. Remember that place where for many years you could take a visitor from the other side of the earth for breakfast--and he or she would love it: the walk down through the old city, into Depot Town in one or another stage of its recent restoration and revitalization? The homey service and the home-cooked breakfasts, like Grandma used to make?

Well, it's about to be reborn--with variations. The main figure in the revival is **Bill French**, owner of Aubree's Saloon and Sticks. He will be joined by **Steve Beckett** in the part of the restaurant that will serve breakfast. Appropriately, the breakfast experience will take place in the two smaller rooms (the original and second space) to the east.

The Rag reports that the main dining room to the west will thus become the main dining room, open for dinner "specializing in chicken and fish and with the same 'casual atmosphere' that Depot Towners are accustomed to." Sandy and Bill French will manage that portion of the enterprise. "Plans to reactivate a liquor license are still in the works for that location." Then the space beyond the main dining room will be opened for a third element of the complex, an entirely new addition to the scene, with separate entrance.

We understand that **Pete Murdock** is to be given much of the credit for initiating a "carrot and stick" approach to attract interested buyers. Details are still sketchy, but we understand that the city has worked out a significant incentives package, in terms of facade money (the roof has already been repaired), rental rehab., and the possibility of additional parking in the rear. Three cheers for Pete in this operation, for Depot Town had endured long enough without its anchor. Depot Town's success depends, I think we will all agree, mainly on its neighborhood or local appeal, where you can take a visitor and he can feel the intimate American character of the place. It is also a place for small specialty shops. And it would be nice if it could again have a drug store (remember Weber's?). And wouldn't it be wonderful to see an East Side Branch Library somewhere there (perhaps the Depot itself?). And a branch bank. Dream on. **Meanwhile, thank Pete, the Frenches and the Becketts, and the City itself for moving to bring back into existence the Old Town for us all.**

THE YPSILANTI COMMUNITY BAND

The Ypsilanti Community Band is a non-profit, volunteer organization with membership open to all adult musicians. Anyone who knows anything about Ypsilanti history will appreciate hearing that the tradition in music continues. The YCB has just announced its 1993 schedule, as follows:

Indoor Concerts

Thursday, February 25	Ypsilanti High School	8:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 29	Ypsilanti High School	8:00 p.m.

Outdoor Concerts

Thursday, June 3	Recreation Park	7:30 p.m.
Thursday, June 17	Riverside Park	7:30 p.m.
Thursday, July 1	Recreation Park	7:30 p.m.
Thursday, July 15	Riverside Park	7:30 p.m.

Additional Performances

Yankee Air Force Museum * Belleville's Music in The Park Series * Ypsilanti Heritage Festival

Why not clip this notice now and post for your convenience? For more information please call: 461-6781.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION SPECIALIST SPEAKS OUT

Dolores Palma, partner in the foremost national firm for downtown revitalization, Hyatt-Palma, Inc., which has just completed a study of Ypsilanti's downtown, has an article entitled "The Top 10 Ways to Revitalize Your Downtown" in the November 1992 issue of American City & County, as **Barry LaRue** has brought to our attention. Barry, Fourth Ward Councilperson, has focused on downtown development, as well as historic preservation. Perhaps one quote from the Palma article will capture the spirit of her approach:

Dare to Be Different. In the most successful downtowns, the business community knows that it cannot out mall the mall and it cannot out discount the discounters. Instead, for downtown to succeed it must create, carve out and become known for its own particular niche in the marketplace. It must dare to stand out from the crowd.

While it is true that downtown cannot out mall the mall, it's also true that the mall cannot out "downtown" downtown. Downtown leaders must become intimately familiar with the competition--which is constantly changing--and then focus upon what is not being offered that downtown can offer best. (from pp. 49-50 of the above journal)

NEW YHF PRESIDENT AND V-P; NEW BOARD MEMBER

At the November meeting of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation, another election of board members took place. Three people were re-elected: **Don Randazzo** (long-time chair of the Marker committee), **Jane VanBolt** (former long-time chair of Home Tour), and **Penny Schreiber** (member of Home Tour committee and Ypsilanti promoter par excellence) were all re-elected with enthusiasm. **Peg Du Fresne**, 1991 and 1992 Home Tour Chair and Chair of next year's tour, was officially elected to the Board as well. Peg has also been serving the Foundation and the community in other ways, including as an ambitious YHF calendar sales person.

At the December meeting of the Board of Directors, **Penny Schreiber, vice-president, was elected president** as Hank Prebys stepped down, and **Rick Leyshock became vice-president**. As with many volunteer organizations, it is now the policy of the Foundation Board that whoever accepts the responsibility of vice-president almost automatically becomes president the following year.

Thanks should be extended especially to **Hank Prebys** for his leadership over the past year, keeping a rambunctious board under as tight control as could be expected and running astonishingly well-organized monthly board meetings. He has always been a wellspring of ideas for both speakers and projects. **Thanks, and ever thanks.**

Other members of the Board are **Denis Schmiedeke, Jack Harris, Jane Bird, Bill Nickels, and Lisa Walters**. Although not a board member per se, **Betty Randazzo** has for a long time been an invaluable addition, in picking up the printed News, stamps, labels, etc. and getting this publication to the members (often with the help of her two sons, **Brian and Mike**). She has also kept up the membership list all these many years. **Again, thanks, and ever thanks to all for community service well done.**



MEMBERSHIP IN THE 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 Lisa Walters, Treasurer, 102 N. Wallace Blvd., Ypsilanti, MI 48197

**THANK
YOU**

**YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION
510 Pearl Street
Heritage News
Jack Harris, Editor(485-2155)
Lisa Walters, Assistant Editor(485-3683)**

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MARCH 1993

Ypsilanti, MI

MEETING: Wednesday, March 24, 1993--7:30

**LOCATION: The First Methodist Church
The Meeting Room (downstairs)
Corner of Washington and Washtenaw
in Ypsilanti**

PROGRAM: THE RESTORATION OF THE STATE CAPITOL

SPEAKER: STEVEN JONES, AIA -- Project Manager

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation is pleased to announce that our speaker for our March 1993 public meeting will be Steven Jones, project manager for the restoration of the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing. Jones did the preparatory drawings for the preservation architect. He will concentrate in this talk on the exterior (the repainting, etc.) and the restoration of the Governor's Suite. The project has developed over four years, starting with the Senate, then the House, and finally to a full scale, nationally acclaimed restoration, with three architectural firms involved.

MR. JONES WILL HAVE SLIDES to accompany his talk, which should last forty-five minutes to an hour. You will be interested to note that Mr. Jones is a member of the nationally recognized architectural firm of Quinn-Evans. They were (and are) the architects for the Pease Auditorium restoration, The One Room School House, and that best-known of several miracles in historic preservation that have occurred in Ypsilanti over recent years, the rebuilding and restoration of Sherzer Hall--all on the campus of Eastern Michigan University.

We hope you will come. Membership is not required, only an interest in historic preservation, the curiosity to know more about the preservation of our monumental State Capitol, and the desire to spend a pleasant hour or two of an evening among folks of similar tastes.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED



FIRE DAMAGED QUEEN ANNE--AN UPDATE

Shoeb Sharieff of Ann Arbor and associate of First Commercial of Southfield has purchased the large Queen Anne at Washington and Washtenaw. This large duplex was severely damaged by fire in July of 1990. Since then, a parade of would-be buyers with sincere aspirations has sought to acquire the house to rehabilitate it. Sharieff, however, brings to the project a hopeful array of attitudes, resources, and expertise to do the job. He likes the structure and displays a large photograph of it, circa 1935, in his Southfield office of First Commercial, a realty and development company.

Sharieff has marshaled a talented team to assist in this effort. He has retained local architect Denis Schmiedeke to prepare the plans and specifications for its rehabilitation and John Standish, formerly of Heaney Construction of Ypsilanti, as construction manager. While with Heaney, Standish guided the energy retro-fit of St. John's Activity Center & School in 1989 from the plans prepared by Schmiedeke the year before.

Rehab construction of the house is scheduled to commence later in the spring with the possibility of completion by September. "CROSS EVERYTHING!" THIS IS NOT THE FIRST MIRACLE IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION THAT HAS OCCURRED IN YPSILANTI; BUT THIS ONE IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT, BECAUSE THE ALTERNATIVES ARE TOO DEPRESSING TO THOSE WHO ARE SENSITIVE TO WHAT HAS HAPPENED THROUGHOUT THE CITY IN THE PAST TWENTY YEARS. IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO THE INTEGRITY OF OUR WELL-ESTABLISHED HISTORIC DISTRICT, WITH THIS MAJOR STRUCTURE STANDING AT SUCH A CRITICAL JUNCTION AT THE CENTER--AND, NOT SO INCIDENTAL, STANDING DIRECTLY BEHIND OUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ITSELF A STATEMENT ABOUT OUR COMMITMENT TO PRESERVING THE BEST OF OUR PAST FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF OUR FUTURE.

WANT A PROJECT? ALL TOWER CLOCKS IN MICHIGAN TO BE RECORDED

The Timekeeper's Inn & Clock Shop in Whitehall, Michigan, is seeking help in locating all the tower clocks in the state, for further research. They will be photographed, line drawings made, and a booklet compiled--and the resultant information made available to the public. Send inquires to Michael Bronsink, CC, NAWCC79339, The Timekeeper's Inn & Clock Shop, 303 Mears Avenue, Whitehall, MI 49461.



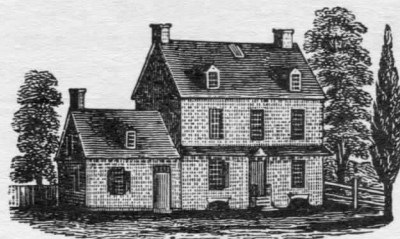


FIRE DANGERS

Now is the time for everyone to double-check your pantry cupboards, basement, and other hideaway areas for any aerosol cans that might be dangerous. One YHF Board Member reported that she has had two close calls that could have led to much worse than what actually occurred in both cases. In the first incident, she was in Europe during an excessively hot spell; when she got home, she discovered that an aerosol can in an enclosed cupboard had exploded, apparently from heat. The contents blasted out the crack at the side of the cupboard and shot across the pantry, about eight feet, leaving a mess, but luckily there was not a fire. Recently, she came home from shopping, opened the front door, and smelled what she thought was gas. Immediately, she called 911 and the Ypsilanti Fire Department responded. "You don't have to send out the trucks, do you? It's only a smell," she said. "It's policy, Madam, to send them: we'll be right over." So, she says, they pulled up, entered, and immediately said to each other: "That's not gas; that's something like an aerosol can." And indeed it was, in a box on the basement stairs, onto which something had tumbled, setting off an uncovered aerosol can. "They were wonderful," she says, "particularly Capt. McDonnell, who stayed to check out all danger and advise what to do with such cans. "Put them in the garage," he said, and he took them out himself. You can imagine how much she appreciates the spirit and the good work of the Ypsilanti Fire Department.

IN PRAISE OF REMINGTON WALKER

Remington-Walker Design Associates, that elegant studio and antiques shop, is a wonderful addition to Depot Town. Partners Sandy Hoag and Midge Prybyla are to be commended for their efforts in creating this delightful spot. Their taste is exquisite! With their ever-changing inventory of antique and collectible tableware, furniture, and decorative accessories, you are assured of finding that special gift or a treat for yourself. If you haven't been there yet, by all means visit!



HURON RIVERFEST '93: MAY 14-22, 1993

Southeast Michigan's Huron River, which runs 125 miles from the center of Oakland County to Lake Erie near Rockwood, has had a major influence in determining human destiny of the area. It was first used as a highway by aboriginal people. Later, cities grew from settlements which formed around river powered mills. Today, it is used primarily as a source of recreation, although it is also a source of water for drinking and irrigation.

As the Huron has helped determine human destiny, however, so too we have control of the river's destiny. We have controlled its flow with over 90 dams; we have dumped our wastes and fertilizer runoff in it; and we continue to develop the open spaces of the river basin with little thought of protecting this natural system from the added developmental burden.

The lives of the river and of the people and communities that live within its 900 square-mile watershed are inextricably intertwined--the river's problems are our problems; its health is our health; and its future is our future.

To highlight this interdependency and to celebrate this ever-provident gift from nature, **HURON RIVERFEST '93**--an eight-day canoe trip with community celebrations and events along the way--is planned for May 14 - 20.

THE FLOTILLA IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AT RIVERSIDE PARK IN THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 19TH. FESTIVITIES WILL BE HELD IN THE PARK.

For more information on how you or your organization can contribute to Riverfest '93 and/or participate in the celebration programs, please contact Dave Moilanen at the Huron-Clinton Metroparks (1-800-47-PARKS); Joan Martin at the Huron River Watershed Council (769-5123); or Sandy Schultz (1-313-572-2359).

LIVING IN THE FOURTH WARD "STUDENT GHETTO"

Listening to WEMU before the Primary Election, your editor heard a Ward 3 student candidate refer to the Fourth Ward as "pretty much a student ghetto." Well, in one sense, it is, what with the zoning of Ypsilanti as it is. On this basis, we would like to list some of the HARSHIPS of being a citizen of the this dreadful Fourth Ward:

-----a retired neighbor at the other end of the block who plows the entire sidewalk throughout this snowy winter.

-----two darling single-parent children from next door who bring an enormous tray of home-made heart-shaped sugar cookies with red sugar and heart-shaped candies on top bearing fun messages such as "CRAZY" on them. The Valentine message attached read (in a treasure of children's handwriting): "FROM SCOTT AND HOLLY to Jack and Cliff."

-----neighbors around the corner (the ones who have duplicated the nineteenth century carpenter's lace in the front gable--best example in Ypsilanti?--at the back facing the new walled-in garden of lilacs and herbs)---they, dear ones, bearing good tidings of cheer at Christmas in the form of a tray of Scottish shortbread.

-----a concerned neighbor down the block who calls at once when the fire engines arrive at your address (see "Fire Dangers" elsewhere in this issue) to inquire about your safety.

-----proximity to downtown and to Campus Town, where there are good restaurants to be found.

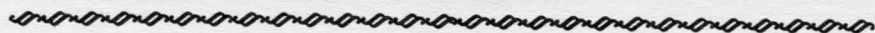
-----easy access (within walking distance) to two great libraries: The Ypsilanti District Library, Main Branch, and the Library at the University, which, by the way, is open to all of us, though we may not have "take-out" privileges. Your editor has been working at the Graduate Library at the University of Michigan and now frequently finds, to his amazement, that the place is not so great as "it's cracked up to be" (as one waitress in an L.A. cafe said about Southern California in the early 1950's). Returning to Ypsilanti, he flies into the E.M.U. collection, slaps a book title on the computer screen, gets a quick print-out as to exactly where the book may be found--and is in business again. Dreadful place.

-----easy walking distance (even if we aren't lucky enough to live within the Historic District) to one of the greatest collections of historic buildings in this part of the country, particularly North Huron Street (the east half of which was removed from the ward recently for some peculiar reason but it's still for all practical physical purposes "a piece of the continent, a part of the main.") Even a winter walk through time-tested wood and brick is a pleasure in such an environment, and spring will again make it a joy to do a bit of aerobic hiking here.

-----Proximity to Congdon Ace Hardware, just down the street. After driving from the east end of Ypsilanti to the west end, trying to find the right tool for installing a tiny auto light for the hatchback, your editor dashed into his local Ace and Paul there handed him the right tool, on trust, and the problem was soon solved. Don't forget, we've got the most helpful local hardware right here, if you can bear the locale.

-----the older lady who lives alone upstairs nearby and who brings books for you to read or peruse, and who also feeds the squirrels and birds from her front porch. Last week we had a fabulous Red-bellied Woodpecker as visitor (from the happier outlying Wards and suburbs, no doubt)!

Yes, it's tough living in the heart of Ypsilanti--and these are just some of the hardships that we have to face in this "student ghetto"--not to mention the busy daily foot traffic between the main campus and the downtown campus--foot traffic made up mostly of a whole lot of nice young people full of dreams for a better world.





PLANS UNDERWAY FOR 1993 HISTORIC HOME TOUR

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation's 1993 Historic Home Tour will be held on Sunday, August 22. In January, the committee for the 1993 tour began planning for this year's event. We have our first site, the Ladies' Literary Club, and are hard at work securing other locations to round out the tour. We hope to have the list of tour locations finalized by late May, in time to announce them at the Marker Banquet.

We have also contacted our various sponsors and contributors from past tours, and once again they have been most generous in giving of their support for their 1993 tour.

We began the preliminary planning for the publicity campaign for this year's tour and hope to make the publicity effort the most effective ever.

Look for further updates on Home Tour in future issues of **Heritage News**. In the meantime, anyone interested in participating in the Home Tour in any capacity, or anyone with a suggestion for a potential tour site, should contact me at 482-8666.

Peg DuFresne

Chairman, 1993 Historic Home Tour Committee

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510 Pearl Street
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Jack Harris, Editor(485-2155)
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MAY 1993

Ypsilanti, MI

MEETING: Tuesday, May 11, 1993 - 6:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Ladies Literary Club, 218 N. Washington

SPECIAL EVENT: 12th ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET
19th HISTORIC STRUCTURE MARKER
AWARDS PROGRAM

Another winter over, and the heavy snows of spring have passed--we hope. The most unpredictable season is now underway; now we look forward, with hope and trepidation, to more and more glory in the garden. "The sun never shines in Michigan," as one East Coast temporary transplant put it; but we who, like the chickadees, stay, know better--and sometimes the wait is worth it. If you like the seasons AND historic architecture, then Ypsilanti ain't a bad place to be. (Just folks who recognize a good thing when they see it.)

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE is our subject again, and the occasion is the 19th Historic Structure Marker Awards Program and our Banquet. After a season of diverse and most interesting speakers, we now turn purely to celebration: to an elegant dinner laid out in the dining room of the historic Ladies Literary Club, one of Ypsilanti's most treasured buildings, and a brief award presentation program.

DON RANDAZZO, Chair of the Marker Committee, and his troupe, Bill Nickels, Hank Prebys, and Rick Leyshock, have presented to the Board of YHF for their approval a list of buildings. This year there are four finalists, whose owners will be honored for their notable restoration and maintenance of an historic structure.

EACH YEAR the Banquet becomes more and more a Social Event of the Season, so IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN CALLED AND YOU WOULD STILL LIKE TO ATTEND, call either Karen Nickels, our banquet chair, at 483-8896, or her partner, our new President Penny Schreiber, at 483-5688 and discuss what dish you might like to bring to supplement our table. Punch will be served in the long dining room at 6:30, with dinner shortly after 7:00. (THE MARKER RECIPIENTS are not expected to bring a dish, since they are OUR SPECIAL GUESTS.) REMEMBER: space is limited, so call now.

AWARD RECIPIENTS

THE FOLLOWING OWNERS of buildings will be awarded HISTORIC STRUCTURE MARKERS and will be our special GUESTS OF HONOR, Tuesday, May 11, 1993, at The Ladies Literary Club, at 6:30 p.m.:

LINDA FRENCH for her building best known as The Sidetrack
56 East Cross, in Depot Town
Style: Italianate Commercial

AMERICAN DENTAL GROUP for their building at 108 W. Michigan
Style: Italianate Commercial

PETER MURDOCK AND GRACE SWEENEY for their home at 504 N.
River
Style: American Bungalow

S. ASHLEIGH ROHRER for her home at 310 E. Cross
Style: American Wing and Gable, with Italianate
Embellishments

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Treasurer Lisa Walters is currently hard at work learning all she can about these properties, so that this information can be shared by all at the banquet. Lisa began her research by spending several hours at the archives of the Historic Museum, poring over old City Directories, and continues at the Building Department, looking for old permits, and searching the tax records downstairs at the museum. She'd like to thank Barry LaRue, who spent a lunch hour at the graduate library at U-M making copies of old Sanborn fire insurance maps to assist Lisa in her research. Don Randazzo is gathering information necessary for the markers, and Hank Prebys has taken on the architectural research. Thanks to everyone involved in this project; Ypsilanti is blessed with a wealth of people who care deeply about its history and heritage.



1993 HISTORIC HOME TOUR UPDATE

Plans continue for this year's YHF Historic Home Tour, to be held on Sunday, August 22nd. We have two locations already committed: the historic Ladies Literary Club and Richard Reid's apartment on Cross Street in Depot Town, the former home of Tom and Betty Dodd, now with the Ballroom--or, if you will, the Grand Salon--one of the most impressive spaces in Ypsilanti, further restored and redecorated. Work continues to secure other locations to round out the tour, and we hope to have the complete list of sites in time to announce them at the Marker Banquet.

Each year, proceeds from the tour go to support a number of preservation programs, including the historic structure marker program and a scholarship fund that allows an intern to assist the Ypsilanti Historic District Commission during the summer months.

This year, in addition to supporting these worthy causes, the YHF Board of Directors and the Historic Home Tour Committee have approved the donation of a portion of the tour proceeds to the Pease Auditorium restoration effort. Our donation will be made to The Friends of Pease, the community-based fund-raising group working for the renovation and restoration of this historic performance space, with its splendid acoustics, on the campus of Eastern Michigan University. (Pease first opened its doors on April 20, 1915.) A donation such as this is in keeping with the mission of the YHF, which is, in part, "to actively engage in historic preservation projects and to encourage public and private preservation efforts in whatever ways possible."

Look for further updates on Home Tour in future issues of Heritage News. In the meantime, anyone with a suggestion for a potential tour site should contact me at 482-8666.

Peg Du Fresne
Chairman, 1993 Historic Home Tour Committee.

FOUNDATION AGAIN SUPPORTS YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation has again contributed to the Ypsilanti District Library collection. This year we will be contributing a Library membership to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, including its Preservation Magazine, Newspaper, and Forum Journal. We hope YHF members and the general public will find pleasure and enlightenment in all the materials that the National Trust will supply our library.

1994 MARKS 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF YHF

1994 will mark the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation! Plans are underway to mark this important milestone with a very special celebration which will take place next year.

Although details are still sketchy, circle the second full week in May, 1994, on your calendar. That happens to be National Preservation Week, and in keeping with the preservation theme, the 20th anniversary celebration will be held sometime during that week.

While the exact nature of the celebration is yet to be determined, be assured that it will be a grand and festive event. Included in the plans is a program to be held during the event that will be a retrospective of the first twenty years of the Foundation, saluting its contributions to the preservation effort in this community.

As part of the 20th anniversary observance, we are updating the YHF logo, incorporating the tag line "1974 - 1994: Twenty Years Preserving the Past for the Future." Expect to see this new logo make its debut later this year, on YHF stationery and other materials, as we gear up for the anniversary.

Look for further details in future issues of Heritage News. The committee for the 20th anniversary celebration is being assembled now and we are beginning to investigate possible locations. Anyone interested in joining the committee and/or contributing ideas should contact me at 482-8666.

Peg Du Fresne
Chairman, YHF 20th Anniversary Celebration Committee

BILL NICKELS RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Long-Time Board Member and Former YHF President Bill Nickels will be attending the 1993 International Conference on Teaching Excellence at the University of Texas, where he will receive an award for outstanding community college teaching. If you're half as dedicated to your teaching as you have been over the years to the Foundation and its many projects, it comes as no surprise to us, Bill, that you should receive such a prestigious award. The rest of the Board wishes you hearty congratulations!

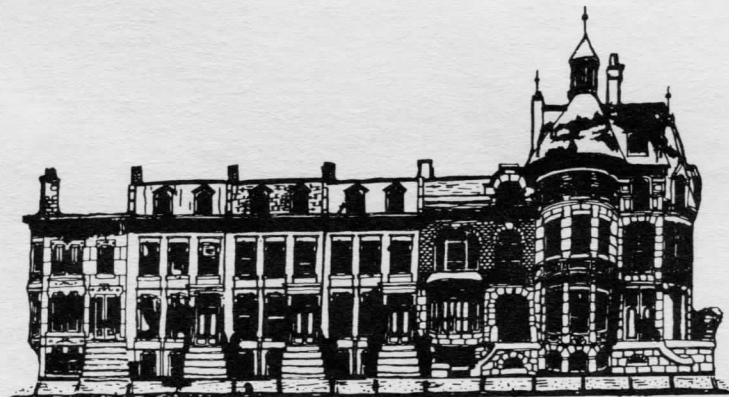
E.M.U. HOSTS INAUGURAL MICHIGAN ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE
CONFERENCE

Eastern Michigan University will host the first Michigan One-Room Schoolhouse Conference at McKenny Student Union on the campus, Friday, May 14, 1993. The Conference is sponsored by the Historical Society of Michigan and the College of Education at E.M.U. This will be a very full-day gathering of devotees of the one-room schoolhouse. Sessions range from "Tales from Bygone Days: Conversations with Former One-Room School Teachers" (including Lois Porter) to "The One-Room Schoolhouse Museum: Heritage Interpretation and Teaching Programs." Another session will focus on "Living in the One-Room School." One session includes a one-room school teacher from Copper Harbor! This should be a lot of fun and a delightful educational experience. The fee for the entire program is \$25, including lunch. Call or write Jennifer M. Tucker, Historical Society of Michigan, 2117 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor, 48104, (313) 769-1828.

SHORT BUT SWEET ANNOUNCEMENTS

TAKE NOTE:

- 1.) New house construction has been approved for the long-vacant lot at the corner of East Cross and Park streets.
- 2.) The Amendments to the Historic District Ordinance, bringing it into line with the changes in the State Enabling legislation, have been passed.
- 3.) The Review of the City Zoning Ordinance is nearing completion.
- 4.) The Review of the Sign Ordinance will begin soon.



FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

The Heritage Foundation has again awarded a \$500 scholarship to an EMU student, Norma Thomas, an undergraduate, who will serve as staff intern to the Historic District Commission this summer. She comes highly recommended to the Foundation by Dr. Marshall McLennan, Professor of Geography and Geology at E.M.U. The Foundation Board accepted his recommendation unanimously. Congratulations, Norma!



YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION
510 Pearl Street
Heritage News
Jack Harris, Editor
Lisa Walters, Assistant Editor

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.

AUGUST 1993 ** GOOD NEWS EDITION!! ** Ypsilanti, MI

THE YPSILANTI HERITAGE FESTIVAL August 20, 21, 22

SPECIAL EVENT: 16TH ANNUAL YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION HOME TOUR

DATE: Sunday, August 22, 1993, Noon to 5:00 p.m.

TICKETS: Adults \$7.00 - Seniors \$6.00 - Children \$4.00

Tickets available during Festival at YHF booths:

1. on the right at the entryway to Riverside Park
2. in front of the Historical Museum, 220 N. Huron

HOMES/BUILDINGS ON TOUR

Pease Auditorium	Eastern Michigan University
218 N. Washington	Ladies Literary Club
213 N. Huron	Billie Wardell (Maureen Fitzgibbon's apt)
411 N. Huron	Steve and Elaina Hoxie
415 N. Huron	The Wilkinson-Lewis House Earl Greene
46-48-50 E. Cross	Richard and Marian Reid (The following apartments: the Reids' penthouse apartment, Amy McMillan's, Gerry Curtis')
407 E. Forest	Larry and Lynda Hummel

**SEE HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN PROGRESS
VISIT SOME OF YPSILANTI'S FASCINATING HISTORIC STRUCTURES!**

IT HAPPENED IN YPSILANTI IN 1992-93

The Heritage Foundation presents its **ANNUAL 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 also allows us an opportunity to say Thank You to all of those who have helped make this a better place to live. This News issue is the Foundation's gift to everyone who cares for and about Ypsilanti. We're delighted you came to the Festival; we hope you'll
COME BACK TO YPSILANTI.

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation wishes to announce that it is making plans for the celebration of its **20th anniversary**, next year: **1974-1994**--Twenty years of dedication to the promotion of historic preservation in Ypsilanti, through walking tours, home tours, engagement calendars promoting preservation, marker awards and banquets, newsletters, scholarships in historic preservation, other awards and gifts to significant preservation projects on campus and community, etc. etc. This should be a momentous event for the Foundation and all those who have contributed to its success--as well as all those who wish to celebrate the occasion with us.

Peg DuFresne has been appointed chair of the committee which includes Jonnie Bryant, Mary Ann MacDonald, Penny Schreiber, Lisa Mills Walters, Karen Nickels, Barry LaRue, and Don Randazzo. More announcements later in the News--and be prepared to contribute your ideas about how we might make this our **HAPPIEST PARTY EVER!!!** (And we have had a lot of them, haven't we?) **"DREAM ON THE EVENT!"**



NEW ACTIVITY DOWNTOWN

Do note that the scaffolding is down on **RALPH ELLIS'S SECOND STOREFRONT**, just east of his **YPSILANTI CYCLE**, 118 W. Michigan, and the second and third floor windows are in on that Italianate storefront. Most of us have forgotten what that front looked like (as with many other fronts along that block!) only a few years ago. Let's NOT FORGET!!! Ralph has yet to paint or clean the brick, but the whole front is such an improvement over recent decades of blatant ugliness that he deserves a medal of honor for his labor and dedication. That leaves, note, just two fronts along that block that still have their fake coverings over the exteriors. Cross everything for further inspirations!

Just east of Ralph's, look out for the new **X-Press Printing Co.** at 114 W. Michigan Avenue. Andrew Gill II, the owner, tells us that they are responsible for the official 1993 Heritage Festival T-shirt, sold at the Chamber's booth in the Festival area. They are the only establishment able to do silk screening in Ypsilanti, a boon to Eastern Michigan and others. Let's hope everyone gives them the support they need.

Along that same row of restored historic nineteenth century storefronts is also **Mirrors**, a ladies' shop we announced last year. Go look now: its window is a picture of pastels in ladies' hats and accessories. Very nice.

Don't forget, too, that downtown still can boast at least two optometry shops, including **First Optometry**, at 126 W. Michigan, where the historic front is the invitation to a modern, well-equipped shop that greets you on entry. Do try it, as did your editor the other day simply to have his glasses readjusted--and it worked!

NEW AWNINGS are sprouting up all over town, adding color and contrast, attractive advertising, and protection from the rain, as well. Note the new one at **T C's Speakeasy**, 207 W. Michigan, another at **ALE Design & Sales** (Computer Resources) at 124 W. Michigan, and yet another at **InterFirst Federal Savings Bank** at 215 W. Michigan, near the library. There's even a new one at the new **First Impressions** (where the Yogurt place was just east of the Business School). How many have we missed?

LOUIS' CAFE, at 205 W. Michigan, also has a new "Restaurant" sign that looks attractive at their front.

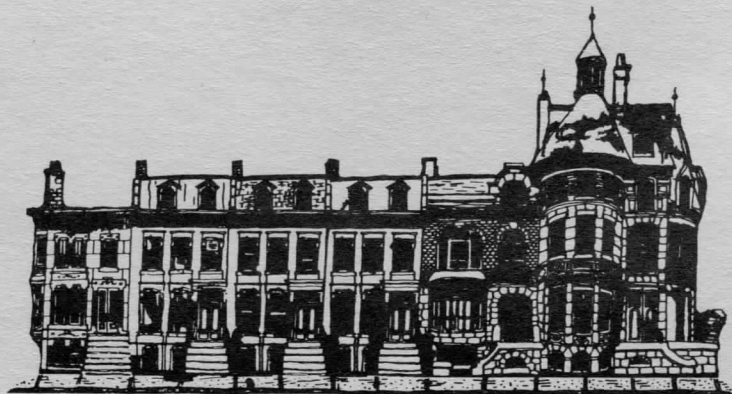
Park in the metered parking off N. Huron behind mainstreet and look around. You'll see all kinds of "rear" improvements. One particularly nice development is behind the **Santa Fe Chile** that's on Washington, where upstairs apartments have been figured into the design, done by our architect friend and former HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION member, Scott Diels. Nice work, Scott.

Ypsilanti now has what we're told is the first minority travel agency in Washtenaw county: **TWO TRAVEL**, at 42 N. Huron. Give it a try!

If you still haven't done a walk through the **PHOENIX BUILDING**, at the SE corner of Pearl and N. Washington, owned by **Bill Kinney**, do so at once. You will particularly want to find your way upstairs, where you'll discover something unique to the city: it's like a first-class restoration of an early twentieth century complex of offices. In fact, that's exactly what it is.

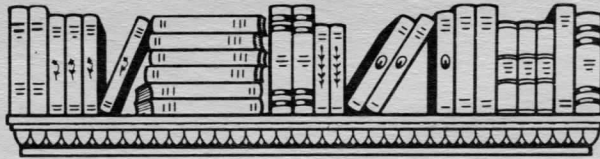
Ypsilanti Mainstreet can be credited for the window paintings at certain vacant properties and for the exhibits in the Kresge Building (NW corner at Washington and Mich. Ave) and the shop window just east of Ypsi Cycle. **CBC** also is to be complimented for the colorful use of bunting and banners over special holidays this year, and for the sale of bunting that you see on private residences--all declaring pride.

Don't you EVER forget, we have the finest old-fashioned hardware stores--**Ace Hardware (Congdon)**--you could imagine, with personal service and suggestions. Aren't these worth preserving? (None of that huge shopping center indifference--if not ignorance--on the part of service, and none of the frustration for the customer.) Get down to Ace today; and, if you have questions, ask anyone, but particularly **Don** and **Paul**, the owners.




CAMPUS SHOPPING AREA IMPROVEMENTS:

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS! Among our fondest wishes for Ypsilanti has been the dream of an attractive secondhand book store. Now we have it in the 500 block of the West Cross Street Campus Shopping Area in the form of the **CROSS STREET BOOK SHOP**. Sheridan Settler deserves a visit from anyone interested in the subject of book collecting, for his subject range is broad, his quality of materials high, and his prices reasonable. Tons of books, well ordered, on shelf after shelf, and an owner who is sensitive to his customers' needs and requests: what more could we ask for? (Well, perhaps, the ultimate dream: an old Morris chair and a floor lamp and a cup of tea for casual perusal before purchases!). I noted in the window in a recent walk by such attractive titles as Queen of the Blues: Dinah Washington (Don't look for it: I bought it); Living in the Depot (hint, hint for that one in Depot Town); and Grand Homes of the Midwest. Do wander in or give him a call. Ah! the civilized life! Along with gardens and historic homes come books, books, books!---and they're HERE!



You may also, while there, want to note the new paint job on the three buildings of which the book shop is the easternmost; the westernmost, by the way, is **La Fiesta Mexicana**, still going strong as the foremost, the **PREMIER**, authentic Mexican restaurant in the area. Do ask for the specials. The hostess also arranges for special parties. Both shops, by the way, sport brand-new eye-catching awnings.






NEW ACTIVITY IN DEPOT TOWN:

Probably the big event of the year in Depot Town has been the reopening of our old stand-by, **The Old Town Cafe**. This long awaited event occurred earlier this summer, with **Steve Beckett** and **Sandee and Bill French** working out a plan to open what eventually will be two restaurants in one: the one that had already opened in the original parts of the restaurant and the one that is still anticipated in the two portions of the building to the west. In the original Old Town space, everything is new: new booths, new lighting, tables, decorations, even the menu and pleasant outdoor seating on that shady side of the street. Your editor was in the other day and ordered a "Chicken Melt special" (\$3.99) on thick slices of solid whole wheat/nut bread. On the side, the plate held a large quantity of four different kinds of fresh fruit, brimming with flavor, texture, and good health. Real flowers on the table, too!

The space to the west, where the bar was, will open soon as Cady's (the name has something to do with a street out of Bill's childhood: now if that ain't a touch of romanticism in Ypsilanti, I don't know what is). There will be French (no pun) doors separating the two establishments. The bar will reopen; the kitchen will be held jointly. A new wood exterior is planned, and in the cement block building to the west the graveyard paint-job will disappear and a most colorful awning will emerge. That space will be called The Meeting Room, serving for small parties, business meetings, showers, etc. Can't wait to see it all happen! (Let's give Chelsea's The Common Grill some competition!)

The other notable change in dining habits in Depot Town over this past year has been **Linda French's** long awaited opening of a courtyard or outdoor cafe as a part of **The Sidetrack**. (Am I in Paris? Will Josephine Baker step out any minute now and sing "April in Paris" or "Please Don't Touch My Tomatoes"?) When that girl Linda does something, she does it right! Not only has she developed one of the finest, friendliest, best-small-kitchen (try the fabulous soups!) watering holes in Ypsilanti, she now has the most charming, unique, and visible outdoor cafe in town. (And the Sidetrack already challenges any place in the area for quality of what it offers.) Congratulations to the most cheerful hostess--Linda! (How many of you are old enough to remember the days when you knew enough in passing the then "Central" bar not to look in the windows for fear of being beaten up? Only we few, we happy few, can fully appreciate what Linda has done and how far Ypsilanti has come!)



Another notable addition to Depot Town is the opening of one of the most beautiful shops for antiques, reproduction furniture, and fabrics: the new **Remington-Walker Design Associates** at 23 E. Cross. That's the address now, but plans are under way already for expansion to a much larger space to the west, beyond the Daily Grind, taking in the corner storefront. The new location will allow the owners, **Sandy Hoag** and her partner, **Midge Prybyla**, to hold their premier Christmas show of their wonderful line of antiques and reproduction furniture and accessories. Watch for their open house, or wander in on one of these weekends.

Once in their new site they will include furniture and other antiques from the **Steve Gross** and **Tom Schmidt** collections. They also hope to offer, perhaps once a month, an open house, at which one can enjoy an honest to goodness genuine cup of tea and a slice of cake (with marzipan?) or an English "biscuit." Even an old fashioned American sugar cookie (the real thing, of course) would do.

Sandy and **Midge** have a shop that is competitive with the best in that high-quality category anywhere. Proof of this is in the news that they have been invited to do the Christmas decorations this year for the famed **Music Room** at **Fairlane**, the **Henry Ford Estate**, in Dearborn. There will be fifteen rooms open and Sandy and Midge will be responsible for one of the grandest. There will be caroling, candle light dinners, etc. These two women prove that, if you offer the public quality, the public will respond. We congratulate them on their proposed expansion and their success!

But the best kept secret (unless you were so reckless as to read the signs in the window!) is the change-over in the interior of **Miller's Ice Cream Parlor**. Did you know that breakfasts there are among the best in the area? Did you even know they serve breakfast? Get with it. There has been a whole transformation in that establishment. And you now can purchase greeting cards and small gift items (perfect if you're visiting someone with an historic house). The waiter at breakfast, incidentally, could have stepped right out of the Norman Rockwell picture on the wall--and was as pleasant.

New Signs continue to crop up in Depot Town, too. You couldn't have missed the unique one on the side of **City Body Shop**. **Esquire Draperies** has a new one too. And new paint jobs, too, including the **Ypsi Food Co-op**.

The Caboose, note, has new siding, replacing the old to match, and the cupola has been rebuilt, all the work of **Scott Claassen**, owner of the **Follett House**, which stands directly in front of it on Cross Street.

Did you know that **Apple Annie's and Jim Macdonald's Shop** has an original plan, entitled "Landscape Design for Development for Quirk Park, Ypsilanti, Michigan, Joseph Poles, L.A., Monroe, Michigan," obviously Riverside Park. The Olmsted-like natural walks are similar to the present design, though more plentiful, and there is a "Rustic Bridge" from east side to west of the river. In the center is a formal garden that seems to date the design as somewhere about 1910, but that's only a guess. Anyone with a little spare cash and an interest in this historic city will snatch it up, so you may miss it. (Jim, by the way, is the proud new father of a son, Spencer Ross.)

On the East Side . . .

DON'T LEAVE TOWN before stopping at **313 East Cross** to feast upon **the Bryants'** new paint job of two shades of blue, plum, and, yes, gold! They didn't stop there, however: they went right on and painted the charming old barn as well. Do look. We think you'll like it. **GET OUT OF YOUR CAR** and take a good look at this one!

Even in recession times, the East Side proves itself a popular place for growth. Two new houses, believe it or not, are being built there this year, the one at the SW corner of **Park and Cross**, the other **329 Oak**--the latter done by the owners themselves, none other than our **Fire Marshall and his wife, Charlie and Kyle Achatz**.

At **322 Maple**, it's the home of **Marjean Rose and Jim Soraruf** that deserves special notice. They have added a new kitchen where the old board and batten shed (much dilapidated) had stood, installing historic windows in a new space and making themselves a most pleasant addition that takes full advantage of the back yard.

At **302 Oak** you should also enjoy the fully developed Victorian landscape that seems now a natural part of the Italianate house that has been improving, step-by-step, over the years.



On the West Side . . .

Of course, the monumental focus of this year's progress in historic preservation in the entire city has been the serious beginning of work to rebuild and restore the fire ravaged **Washington House at the SE corner of Washtenaw and N. Washington**, now owned by **Shoeb Sharieff** of Ann Arbor. Everyone who has eyes is crying out as they pass, "They're putting it back!"--astonished by the city's determination to save notable historic structures for both their tax-roll value and their intrinsic merit. This large Queen Anne is of course pivotal to the neighborhood and at a key junction within the Historic District and directly in front of the magnificent Methodist Church.

Sharieff brings to the project a hopeful array of attitudes, resources, and expertise to do the job. He likes the structure and displays a large photograph of it, circa 1935, in his Southfield office. He has chosen **Denis Schmiedeke** of Ypsilanti as his architect. The rehabilitation work will include demolition of the dilapidated garage in rear yard, all interior stairways, and most interior partitions, all of which has taken the better part of the last three months. New construction will include reconfiguration of interior spaces into eight air-conditioned apartments, the construction of a new exterior stair tower addition at the rear of the building, window replacements, roof reconstruction, large new dormers on the north and south, and site redevelopment for parking, walkways and landscaping. The completed project will be known as Phoenix Place Apartments. This is a major commitment to preservation, and all persons sensitive to the true meaning of **HERITAGE** Festival should rejoice as they see this building's renewal in progress.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION ROLE SIGNIFICANT

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

Serving on the Commission is a thankless task, a time-consuming and wearing job, that only the most dedicated citizen should be assigned by the city. In the course of its history, since its establishment in 1978, disputes have arisen, tempers have flared, misunderstandings have occurred, but no one can ultimately deny that the work of the commission has contributed enormously to Ypsilanti's ever-growing positive image, both as it is seen by the public in the area and in reality.

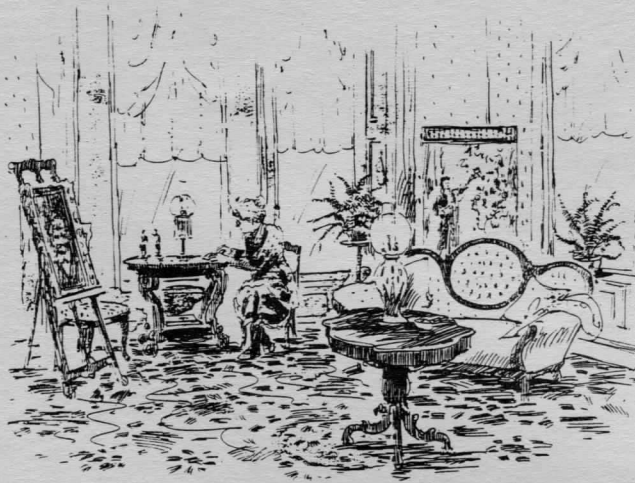
History happened as it did in the late seventies, with the establishment of our great historic district, because this town was on its way to becoming a shambles and because two women in particular, **Nathalie Edmunds** and **Jane (Bird) Schmiedeke**, rolled up their sleeves and went to work to turn the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

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

Councilperson Barry LaRue reports that the **Methodist Church** is building a **Memorial Garden** between the Narthex, or North entry, and the church sign at the corner. Do look for the new hoop-and-spear cast iron fence appearing soon, perhaps by Festival.

It should be noted that **Full Circle Community Center** is to be commended for its impressive improvements to the property at 301 N. Hamilton, particularly the front porch, which looks so appropriate to the bungalow style.





On the South Side . . .

And you didn't think much was happening over the past year in Ypsilanti? Well, read on. The biggest news of the moment on the South Side is the intense activity in putting together The Parish House Inn, the second bed and breakfast in Ypsilanti (Remember the one at Washtenaw and Roosevelt on home tour last year?). This new one at 103 S. Huron is a joint venture between **Louis Rome** and **Gregg and Lisa Welch** of **The Santa Fe Chili**--and it appears to be headed for something very special indeed! A walk through indicates the kind of attention to detail that a successful project of this kind really needs: 2 and 1/2 stories of beautifully decorated rooms (9 guest rooms), with the finest Victorian wallpapers, new bulls-eye woodwork throughout to match original, fireplaces, bathrooms galore, and original floors of golden oak in the log cabin pattern. The kitchen is located downstairs at the back in what could have originally been the basement (had it existed) but now also harbors the breakfast room overlooking the Huron River. This is a major investment in a building that was moved to the site from the Congregational Church many years ago.

The Welchs plan to host an **OPEN HOUSE** during festival (except during the Sunday p.m. Home Tour): Don't miss this chance to see this very special addition to the exciting things that are happening in Ypsilanti this year. We all await its open-for-business announcement!

The Child and Family Service at that great house at 118 S. Washington (anyone else remember what it looked like in the early seventies?) has seen a new paint job again this year. The maintenance of that building has been an example to all of us who own property ever since **Bill Vollano** took over as executive director many years ago. The restoration of the superb stained glass windows, the chandeliers, etc. are largely due to his commitment. Praise him! And you might like to know that the sweet and most appropriate plantings around the house are the work of staff person, **Anne Benedict**.

FLOWERS/GARDENS/GROUNDS

It was once true, not so many years ago, that Ypsilanti looked barren of flowers and flowering shrubs and trees. The rare magnolia (for three minutes in May) or the red bud or even perhaps a dogwood was about the limit one could hope for. The rare eccentric who had flowers was an oddity to keep an eye on. Now the town is fast approaching deserving the title of "Ypsilanti, the Garden Community." Everyone is vying for a place in the sun (or shade--whatever the specific condition may be).

You can find gardens everywhere--and there is nothing like taking an interest in what other people are doing with their "exterior space" (to use a dubious modern expression) to start a conversation and perhaps even a friendship! Hardly anybody can resist responding to the attention you give their "exterior space." "Grounds" perhaps is the old-fashioned word for the subject; "yard" is perhaps the most American term; but more and more we seem to lean to the English term "garden," which probably captures best what we're seeing going on all over Ypsilanti: beds and borders springing up everywhere, filled with lilies, daisies, petunias, marigolds, vinca and impatiens, as well as all sorts of other less identifiable things that cry out for name plates, no less. The following list is only by way of a hint of where to look and, if we're able to make identification, something of what you're looking at. Lots more gardens could be mentioned, space allowing.

DOWNTOWN, at the three major entries--east and west Michigan Avenue and south Huron--the plantings this year are special and no one should miss them. Note first of all that the **Ypsilanti logo signs (the big "Y")** have received an injection of intensified color, focusing on green and magenta, the two most dominant colors in flowering nature. But the real stunner is the improvement in the plantings at all of these entries. Not only at the entries but elsewhere downtown--especially along the N. Washington Street Mall and in the Adams parking lot--you will see the enormous improvement.

Much of this is to be credited to **LORI WARD** and her staff of **YPSILANTI MAINSTREET**, an established part of downtown development that has its beginnings with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and is supported by the DDA and the CBC, as well as the city. Much of the planting, as in past years, is the work of the folks at **FULL CIRCLE**, under the direction of **Kathy Edgren**. She and three of her clients have done much to make our downtown gardens look better than ever. But Lori and her staff also were out there over a two week period planting and cleaning up along the Mall and in the planters. They planted over 150 flats of flowers--far, far more than in the past. The entry at South Huron looks particularly great because Lori hired two



college fellows to do the hard work of cleaning up the planting area there and then they did, as you can see, a major job in planting. It's all **NOT TO BE MISSED!** What a far cry from a few summers ago when all that greeted you in those same spaces was hot cement! Do walk or carefully drive by and notice what a fine job Lori, Mainstreet, and Full Circle have done to counteract these difficult times for business downtown. Do support them and offer thanks.

At **TOWN CENTRE**, the senior high rise at the western edge of our downtown, you'd never know there's a parking lot smack dab in front of the place because the hedge on the north and the cleverly designed park on the east encloses it. Half-barrels of geraniums with variegated leaves and greenery are spaced at regular intervals all around the lot. In the park are paved walks and benches, floribunda roses, well-kept lawns, and trees for shade--all of which mitigates the problem of heavy traffic in that area.

If you pull into the big parking lot off N. Adams (across from the Business School) you'll see, at the NE end, an awning for **Copy Source** (Binding, Resumes, Typesetting, etc.) and beneath that you'll discover a really colorful, healthy bed of petunias and pansies. And if you look up to the SE, you'll note again the **Palacek's Sky Terrace**, as it might be called, with the rail chock-a-block with boxes of red geraniums and something white (Is it sweet alyssum?) that makes a showy display, even from such height--clear proof that you can have a garden almost anywhere. Nearby, note also the tidiness of the new **AATA** bus station as well as the new plantings of grass and trees.

On the East Side . . .

Depot Town seems to have made a especial effort this year to see that planting enhances the outdoor living spaces, especially in the huge raised bed east of Aubrees and around the Signal Tower.

Up **Cross at 213**, the Cottage Garden that packs the front is again a treat for passersby. It has everything you can think of that a cottage garden should have. Do walk by this one!

At the **corner of N. River and Maple**, the gardener there needs special praise this year for the display of daylilies and daisies, as well as other flowers that run from around the foundation right down to the corner of the streets. Such a difference this makes in that entryway to one of the east side's prettiest and most sheltered (by maples, of course) streets.



Do drive up **Maple**, with a pause before **203**, to take a good look at what has been done there over the past couple of years. Remember when it was a Queen Anne with lots of potential crying out for attention? Now go look: you'll be amazed at the attention it's getting. Yes, there's a new paint job and lots of repair work (that was enough, probably, to put off an army of potential buyers alone); but the glory of the place is the TLC it's getting BEYOND the necessities, with flower boxes on every window sill upstairs and pots and pots and pots, flower-filled, as well as other plantings. There's got to be a special award for this one.

Then wend your way up Oak, and feast your eyes on the new stone terraced garden of **Paul Sieron at 192 Oak** and scratch your head in wonder as to how he managed to get so much bloom in such a short time. The bungalow, with its very special Egyptian framing around windows and door, is a treat in itself; but the new landscaping gives it an even greater exoticism, almost as if you were on the coast of Maine where a very special gardener made his home.

This "house on the Maine coast," however, looks out across--not the sea--but a great Ypsilanti mansion, the home-base grounds of perhaps Ypsilanti's most famous corporation, world wide: **HIGH SCOPE FOUNDATION**. From Ypsi to Singapore, you will find that people know about the important educational research of this organization. What one needs to add, however, is that "Hi-Scope" has maintained over many years now an historic property, house and grounds, that is the pride of Ypsilanti. And they continue to maintain it all to perfection. Last year's YHF Home Tour party, held on the grounds, exemplifies the cooperation that the High Scope people have shown this community--and the community is grateful. Let's take every opportunity we find to thank them!

On the West Side . . .

Cheryl Farmer, at 218 N. Huron, started her tour de force in gardening by filling the margin between the sidewalk and the street with petunias (now more subtly asserting itself in petunias and alyssum); she has since expanded her garden into an impressive perennial border, with rose campion, day lilies, irises, and more.





The **YPSILANTI HISTORIC MUSEUM**, just north of Dr. Farmer's, has broken the chain of petunias (Why not?) by planting rose moss. (Some call it 'portulaca.') We don't know whose idea it was or why, but it does suggest an individuality to each property--and certainly that is in keeping with the variety of styles of architecture along that street. Assert your individuality in gardens, we say, as the city asserts itself architecturally!

Nothing wrong, however, with **Chuck Soule** and his business partner, **Karl Andrews**, for their insistence in maintaining the "Parade of Petunias" idea that (so far as we know) was Chuck's idea in the first place.

It's **Cheryl Farmer**, again, who is to be thanked for the variety of marigolds in the island triangle at the junction of Cross and Huron. Please note.

At the great Italianate villa, **121 N. Huron**, **Doug and Mary Kaisor** have improved their grounds by a new landscaping design. Go see: the driveway has been moved, the herb garden expanded, daylilies and decorative grasses have been added, as well as lots of annuals.

Conley's Auto Service at Washtenaw and Washington (formerly Ray's Marathon) has planted petunias again to "keep the tradition"--just the kind of Ypsilanti Spirit we like to see!

Over on Pearl, you should pause at the **junction of Pearl and Ballard** to appreciate the continual improvement there: all four corners have that well-kept look. Perhaps it's the SE corner, home of **Bob and Carol Borner**, that has seen the most dramatic change since last year (a new paint job, much house improvement, and meticulous garden care that stretches along both streets). JoAnn Geer's great bungalow too, The Geer Homestead, is more than ever attractive as she hones her gardening skills (and this extends to the rental property behind on Ballard: check it out). **Mr. Richmond's** lawn on the NW corner and **Mr. Sherock's** on the NE have also had special attention. Altogether a neat junction in a neighborhood that is largely student housing--and a busy one, where student foot traffic now enhances the scene.

And one more time, we must ask you to notice **Joe Lawrence's** masterly job of putting together the charming house at the SW corner of Emmet and Perrin.



Everyone driving along West Cross Street must have noticed the work going on in the garden at the home of **Alan and Barbara Saxton** at the corner of Wallace Boulevard. Since their arrival a couple of years ago, they have developed the borders of that extensive property well beyond the formal peony beds that then existed. Now they are building an ornamental pool at the corner of their property, with plantings and a berm. They have put an incredible amount of time and work into not only building the pool but also planning and studying the whole complex nature of a water garden. We were pleased to hear that they had even consulted that expert (and friend of the Foundation), **Art Howard**, on the mysteries of pool culture. They already have a complex pool life established, with a variety of fish and aquatic flora, as well as exotic plantings over the berm that hides the pool from the street. Their plan now is to build a unique deck on the site. The entire project sprang from the gift of a purple leafed birch tree, in honor of Mrs. Saxton's mother. Their love for their home and their enthusiasm and dedication to its improvement is cause for celebration.

After admiring the Saxtons', continue south down Wallace Boulevard and notice the plantings in the median at all corners. This is the result of the Greenscape Program, sponsored by the very active **Normal Park Neighborhood Association**. You may have noticed the welcoming signs at the four corners of this pleasant neighborhood; the NPNA's gardening goal for next year is to adorn these particular corners with blooms and blossoms. Remember that next summer; for now, visit this lovely neighborhood to note the historic homes and many other floral points of interest.

On the South Side . . .

The Historic South Side Neighborhood Association held their annual picnic (or block party) August 3 on Woodward St. between Adams and Washington. They had an Ypsi Fire Truck for the kids (all ages) and a Twp. Fire Safety Smoke House to teach everyone how to escape a burning home. They were also making a statement by holding their street party on National Night Out Against Crime. There was a Children's Parade and Children's Storyteller (for everyone). Needless to say, they set an example for other neighborhoods in town.

Bobbie Southard's garden around the Italianate at 302 S. Huron enhances that building enormously.

Sandy Hoag's plantings of hosta, funkia, and canna from the foundation to the street have altered that great monument (formerly the Gibsons') at 220 S. Huron into the show place it should have always been.

Joe Lawrence, of course, has been busy improving his historic properties, starting with the little one at 320 S. Huron (at Buffalo), with gardens all around. What a transformation from an aluminum box to a pleasantly landscaped clapboard residence at our major entry. His own house at 212 S. Huron has also received some subtle improvements, particularly a meticulous paint job from cellar windows to gables. (Note especially around the door.) Finally, his masterpiece of restoration at 208 next door is nearing completion, with details that would astonish the most avid preservationist.

Bill Fennel's garden at 202 S. Huron, with its antique cast iron fence (the real thing, imported from a Missouri mansion, destroyed) is one of the prettiest old-fashioned street-side gardens to enhance our major entryway into town.

E.M.U. CAMPUS NEWS

Of course the great news on campus this year has been the progress of the **Pease Auditorium Renovation Project**. Our only major auditorium for campus and community, Pease is an integral part of Ypsilanti's, as well as E.M.U.'s, history. Opened in 1915, it has served the community during many of its great moments, from commencements to concerts with world-famous performers. Restoration, we are happy to announce, has actually begun, as all those attending the YHF Home Tour will discover. Phase I, in progress now, involves only exterior repairs and minimal interior repairs. But **Ron Miller**, Assistant to University President Shelton, reports that they are removing all the seats and reupholstering them and that there are plans for a new heating and cooling system. Plans are to revitalize Pease "into a functional historical building easily accessed by the community."

When completed, Pease will offer campus and community organizations a place to hold concerts, recitals and lectures," says Mr. Miller. The League of Historic American Theatres visited Pease on June 18, as a part of its sweep through Michigan's great old theatres. "This is a major coup for the restoration of Pease," Miller said. "Everyone involved with the renovation was there." Both Miller and **Sharon Shelton**, President Shelton's wife, who greeted the visitors, said that E.M.U.'s plans for Pease met with much approval from the national historical theatre organization.

YHF members should know that the Foundation has allocated a percentage of its Home Tour sales funds this year for the renovation of Pease Auditorium. This is the first time the organization has made such a commitment.


Another campus project that the Foundation has supported in the past, **The One-Room Schoolhouse**, was host for the first meeting of the newly formed Michigan One-Room Schoolhouse Association, an organization designed to bring together all the many one-room schoolhouse projects, in a effort to promote awareness of the importance of this historical aspect of our educational history. Reports are that the May gathering was an enormous success and lots of fun, with many recollecting their own days at one-room schoolhouses. Anyone interested in joining the Michigan One-Room Schoolhouse Association, send \$10, payable to the Historical Society of Michigan, 2117 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48104-4599.

YHF CALENDARS AGAIN AVAILABLE

The Heritage Foundation Engagement Calendar, that old standby for those who want a calendar for note-taking at a reasonable price, is available again, with sales at Festival and later in key shops here and in Ann Arbor. Thanks go mainly to Lisa Walters and Bill Nickels. This year **EVERY ONE OF THE SEVEN HOUSES ON HOME TOUR WILL BE FEATURED** in the calendar, plus at least five others. Don't miss it, for you, your friends (both here and away), and those special people at the office. Great for gifts for any occasion--and easy!

CHURCHES HOLD OPEN HOUSES: Eight historic Ypsilanti churches will hold open house this year during Festival, Saturday, August 21, from 1 until 5 p.m. (with one exception). They are First United Methodist, First Presbyterian, First Congregational, Immanuel Lutheran, AME Brown Chapel (celebrating its 150 year!), St. John the Baptist Catholic (until 4 only), St. Luke's Episcopal, and the First Church of Christ Scientist. Inspirational and Free! Anyone interested should not be disappointed!





THANKS TO CHERYL FARMER FOR OPENING HER RESTORED ITALIANATE HOUSE WITH THE GREAT ENCLOSED PORCH OVERLOOKING RIVERSIDE PARK ABLAZE WITH CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS this past holiday season as the site of the annual YHF Christmas party. Cheryl's' high spirits and community commitment, as well as the wonderful variety of delicious foods brought by the guests, made this a VERY SPECIAL OCCASION.

"Talking Antiques" a Success

The Ypsilanti Press and two local gentlemen involved for many years in the antiques business are to be commended for the particularly interesting new (weekly?) addition to the paper, "Talking Antiques" by **Tom Schmidt** and **Steve Gross**. It's a question and answer format and they encourage your sending in your questions to "Talking Antiques," c/o The Ypsilanti Press, 20 E. Michigan Ave. Their discussions have proved to be witty and informative, the best we've seen in these parts in a long time. Do challenge them with your questions.

This year again the YHF made a donation in support of the **Ypsilanti District Library**, membership in the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which includes the library receiving all the Trust's membership publications, including Historic Preservation magazine.

The Ypsilanti District Library is having a book sale during Heritage Festival. If you have books, especially papberbacks you wish to relinquish, please drop them off at the main library, downtown, Michigan Avenue at Adams.

THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO WATER AND SWEEP, PICK UP AND PLANT, KEEPING YPSILANTI A PLEASANT PLACE TO LIVE! THANKS ALSO TO OUR POLICE FORCE (YES, DO SLOW THE TRAFFIC DOWN!), OUR BUILDING INSPECTORS, OUR CITY MANAGER, AND ALL THOSE WHO HAVE WORKED FOR YPSILANTI.

Heritage Foundation Board Members:

Penny Schreiber, President
Rick Leyshock, Vice President
Lisa Mills Walters, Treasurer
Peg DuFresne
Jack Harris
Bill Nickels
Hank Prebys
Don Randazzo
Denis Schmiedeke
Jane Schmiedeke
Jane Van Bolt

MEMBERSHIP IN THE FOUNDATION

REMEMBER: dues are due in September. If you are a dues paying member now, you should be receiving your billing soon. If you would like to join the Foundation, send your check to Lisa Mills Walters, Treasurer, 102 N. Wallace, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Individuals: \$10; Family: \$15; Contributing: \$15; Sustaining: \$100; Life: \$1000.
HELP MAKE HISTORY!



**The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
Heritage News
510 Pearl Street
Jack Harris, Editor (485-2155)
Lisa Walters, Assistant Editor**



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 1993

Ypsilanti, MI

MEETING: Wednesday, September 29, 1993

LOCATION: The First Methodist Church
The Meeting Room (downstairs)
209 Washtenaw Avenue, Ypsilanti

PROGRAM: "The Revitalization of Downtown Ypsilanti"

SPEAKER: Lori Ward, Director, Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority

Ypsilanti is very lucky to have captured the attention of Lori Ward, director of the Ypsi DDA. At this important first meeting of our new season, Lori will outline to Heritage Foundation members and the general public the exciting plans currently under development for the revitalization of downtown Ypsilanti. First, she will detail for us the Streetscape Improvement Project that may include installation of a median that will transform Michigan Avenue into a slower moving boulevard and encourage pedestrians to move about more easily in the downtown area. She will then fill us in on plans for restoring the facade of City Hall. Finally, Lori will inform us of where the city stands in relation to Senate Bill 1, which abolishes the use of property taxes to fund public schools and dramatically affects funding for the Streetscape Improvement Project.

Lori Ward is overflowing with enthusiasm for Ypsilanti in general and the rejuvenation of the downtown area in particular, and she comes complete with slides.

Lori has a B.A. in Urban Planning from the University of Illinois and an M.A. in Historic Preservation from Cornell University. She was formerly a senior planner in the downtown development group of Johnson, Johnson, and Roy in Ann Arbor. Before she moved to this area, she was Director of Washington D.C. Preservation League, a non-profit group, where she worked on such high profile preservation projects as the Willard Hotel and Union Station. Lori is a great asset to Ypsilanti, and we urge all of you to take this opportunity to become better informed about the Streetscape Improvement Project and to meet her.

COME AND BE ENTERTAINED, INFORMED, AND EXCITED BY IDEAS AT THE HEART OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION! REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED. SEE YOU THERE! MEMBERSHIP NOT REQUIRED! EVERYONE WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND!

Also available at the September meeting are 1994 Calendars--twelve superb photographs of historic houses in Ypsilanti, with a useful calendar thrown in. The price is still a mere \$5.00, and it makes a splendid gift for friends, relatives, and especially former Ypsilantians who would enjoy a reminder of home. Pick up several at the meeting, or call Lisa Walters at 485-3683 or Penny Schreiber at 483-5688.

1993 HISTORIC HOME TOUR ANOTHER SUCCESS

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation's 1993 Historic Home Tour, held on Sunday, August 22nd, proved to be another success. 520 tickets were sold for this year's tour, and with complimentary tickets added in, more than 600 people went on tour.

On behalf of the Home Tour Committee, I would like to thank the property owners and residents for graciously opening their doors: Eastern Michigan University and the Friends of Pease for Pease Auditorium; the members of the Ladies Literary Club; Billie Wardell and Maureen Fitzsimmons; Steve and Elaina Hoxie; Earl Greene for the Wilkinson-Lewis House; Richard and Marian Reid; Gerry Curtis; Amy McMillan; and Larry and Lynda Hummel.

Lack of space prevents me from mentioning you all by name, but a special thanks to all of our volunteer guides, our many brochure sponsors and patrons, and the various contributors to the tour, brochure production, photography and printing, publicity, mailing list, and advance ticket sales.

Thanks to Eric and Lisa Walters, this year's ticket chairs, and to Bill and Karen Nickels, for their advice and assistance with ticket sales. We'd also like to thank Rick and Carol Leyshock and Hank Prebys and Joe Mattimoe for arranging a delightful post-tour party for the homeowners and volunteers. A special thank you goes out to Hank and Joe for the use of their beautiful garden as the site of the party.

It takes a great many people, working together, to create a successful event like Home Tour. We, the members of the Home Tour Committee, consider ourselves very fortunate to have the support of so many people. **CONGRATULATIONS AND MANY THANKS TO YOU ALL!**

Peg Du Fresne
Chair, 1993 Historic Home Tour Committee

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NOVEMBER 1993

Ypsilanti, MI

MEETING: Tuesday, November 30, 1993--7:30

LOCATION: Ladies' Literary Club
218 North Washington
Ypsilanti, Michigan

PROGRAM: PRESERVATION PAST AND PRESENT

SPEAKER: WILLIAM M. WORDEN, SECRETARY OF THE MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK and DIRECTOR of the HISTORIC DESIGNATION ADVISORY BOARD OF THE CITY OF DETROIT

From the founding of the National Trust by Congress in the late 1940's, to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and on to the multitude of municipal preservation ordinances in recent decades, Preservation has seemed to be a movement of the late twentieth century.

But governments have been engaged in preservation for roughly 1,500 years! Who were the first preservationists, and how has preservation been practiced in the past? How has it evolved, and what are its characteristics today?

For a fast overview of preservation as it came into being in ancient times and evolved into today's ecological movement of built environments, you can't do better than come listen to **Bill Worden**, well-known Detroit preservation enthusiast and fighter, who will entertain us with slides and humor.

Do come! Bring friends. Refreshments will be served. Membership not an issue. Interest in an **informative and jolly** evening is all that is required.



WILLIAM M. WORDEN

William M. Worden, a native Detroiter, has served since 1977 as Staff Director of the Historic Designation Advisory Board of the City of Detroit, which operates the city's program of designation of historic districts and landmarks.

He attended Ohio University, spent a semester in Copenhagen, and graduated from The Ohio State University with a major in Art History; he continued at Ohio State for graduate study. He is an alumnus of the London (England) Summer School of the Victorian Society and the Architectural Conservation Summer School offered at West Dean College, near Chichester, England.

In 1975-76, Mr. Worden was Administrative Coordinator of the Detroit/Urban Conservation project, a city-wide survey of historic resources. Since 1971, he has also operated his own pipe organ business, with emphasis on the restoration of historic instruments. In 1978, the firm completed the restoration of Detroit's oldest pipe organ, and has since partially restored Michigan's largest 19th century organ.

Active for many years in the history of steam navigation, Mr. Worden has served as a board member and officer of the Great Lakes Maritime Institute, and as an editor for its publication *Telescope*; and has edited *Steamboat Bill* (Steamship Historical Society of America); he is currently *Steamboat Bill's* columnist on maritime preservation. He is a life member of the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society (Great Britain), and a member of the Coastal Cruising Association (Britain), the *Virginia V* Foundation (Seattle), and the Internationales Bodensee-Schiffarts Museum (Lake Constance).

Currently, Mr. Worden serves as Secretary of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, Michigan's statewide preservation organization and as an Advisor Emeritus of the National Trust for Historic Preservation having served on that board from 1978 to 1987. From 1981-85, Mr. Worden was Corporate Secretary of Maintenance Central for Seniors, a non-profit which budgeted over \$3 million annually for free home repairs for senior citizens. He served as board member for other organizations, including the Detroit chapter of the American Guild of Organists, Detroit Landmarks, Inc., Cass Community Methodist Church, and the parish council of St. Joseph's, Detroit, where he directed interior restoration in celebration of the centennial of the parish church.

Mr. Worden also directed the \$600,000 renovation of Detroit's Most Holy Trinity R.C. Church, a National Register property with a long-standing reputation for social service programs. That parish's "Sharin' O' the Green" Committee for 1986, co-chaired by Gov. James Blanchard and Thomas Monaghan, honored him with its "Samaritan of the Year" award. A charter member of Partners for Sacred Places, Mr. Worden remains active as advisor to a number of churches of various denominations on renovation and maintenance issues and is a member of the Architectural Review Committee of the Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit. He has received recognition from the Detroit Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration (Career Civil Servant of the Year, 1985) and has received a Testimonial Resolution of the Detroit City Council honoring his contributions to Detroit.

Mr. Worden is married to Barbara W. Worden, Vice-President and Senior Loan Officer of OmniBank. They own a large Edwardian house in Detroit's Indian Village Historic District, and he is a past president of the Indian Village Association, a pioneering neighborhood association dating from 1937.

LETTER OF THANKS FROM YOUR EDITOR:

Many friends have helped me to face, survive, and recover recently from major surgery--the first in my lucky adult lifetime. Some are dead and so illustrious that I scarcely dare name them, though I would hate to live without their presence: **Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson, Virginia Woolf**, to name only a few,--the first that come to mind. Others are alive and need to be protected from further intrusions upon their kindnesses; hence, the resort to initials only. No one, for example, could have a better and truer friend than **Mr. F.C.**, who took me in desperation first to Beyer Hospital, watched over my house and cat, and the next day returned me to my home. Less than a week later, he was on hand and ready to rush me to St. Joe's (where I spent more than a week of critical tests and carotid arterial surgery), took over the teaching of my two Shakespeare classes (on top of his own full teaching load), watched over the house, brought me my dead friends, comforted me, and fed the cat.

At the same time, other vital friends swung into action to make life worth living: **Ms. J.B.S.** and **Mr. D.S.** both were full of kindnesses, especially with the loan of new reading material, including a divine book titled Antique Flowers. At the same time, **Dr. C.F.** came with gifts from her garden as well as her formidable knowledge of my immediate problem. Once held captive in that best of all possible prisons, St. Joe's, I was temporarily kept alive with the care packages smuggled in by that good friend, **Mr. F.B.**, who could only have been brought up in the country, where we hope such neighborly kindnesses are still practiced. He was invaluable during those days when I missed meals, as I waited for my turn in various test laboratories: the smuggled honey, the whole grain bread, and the pears (so beautiful I couldn't eat them) gave me comfort and confidence as much as nourishment. "Praises and presents came, and nourishing food," as **Walt Whitman** put it.

To the staff, nurses, and doctors at both Beyer and St. Joe's I feel enormously in debt for a new surge of faith in the goodness of humanity. Not only did they inform me in detail of each stage of my confinement and surgery, but they treated me to such humane kindnesses that over and over again I was moved to the brink of tears by my good fortune--and I thought, by contrast, of the unfortunate Bosnians.

My colleague, **Ms. S.I.**, and her husband, **W.**, were particularly solicitous about my status and generous in their gift-bringing and phone calls.

There was also the visit at St. Joe's of my other good neighbor, **Ms. E.B.**, who brought gifts, cards, and comfort that all was well at home.

In the days after the operation, I found the truth of what many of my readers will have experienced: that, after a successful operation, the life force runs well ahead of one's actual physical strength. (At one point I walked a friend down the hall, said farewell, and then, in fear, wondered if I could make it back to my room.) Once visitors began to arrive in numbers, I found it necessary to tell them when to leave, to protect and harbor my limited energy. (Perhaps I feel most embarrassed when I remember having to suggest to my dear friends, **Ms. K. N.** and her husband, **B.**, that I was growing weak: we had been in animated conversation only about twenty minutes and they had brought me the most wonderful issue of Gourmet to tantalize me into life in the face of hospital fare.) For all those many friends and their kind responsiveness, both in coming and going, I am forever grateful.

Once home, I found that I was hardly ensconced on my couch, when my good neighbor, **Ms. J.G.**, rang the bell with "Greetings" and a poppyseed tea cake that made life more than ever delectable. (Does she know just how delicious that cake is, topped with soft canned peaches and a plopp of **Ms. W.McG's** special gift of "Saskatoon Jam"? What a brilliant and clever way to keep a neighbor alive!)

Indeed, I was so alive that, against all sense, I headed straight into the garden. It was an unforgettably beautiful, sunny day, alive, as only a day in early September can be. I got to the old wooden table at the back of the garden, hung on, breathed deeply--when, just

then, the phone I carried with me rang. It was **Mr. R.D. of Ann Arbor** checking in. I told him I may need his help in getting back to the house. (He thought I was kidding!) Meanwhile, I described to him the intensity of the moment: the multitude of bumble bees drinking deep from the anemone blossoms directly in front of me, the birds singing wildly from every corner, and dahlias and nasturtiums, high and low, attempting to outdo one another. Just at that moment, a monarch butterfly sailed in from the north, over the grapevine fence, dipped, paused briefly directly in front of me, and then, effortlessly it would seem, soared straight over my head and on up over the rooftop of the house, winging its way toward Mexico.

Then began the daily arrival of food--and sometimes full meals. First, was **Mr. F.C.'s** incomparable spaghetti sauce, the recipe for which was learned from an old Sicilian woman in upstate New York, and an all day task to make. During the ecstasy of eating our dinner that evening, my partner, **Mr. C.L.**, gave me a sidelong glance across the small porcelain table in our kitchen and said, "This may be the best spaghetti I've ever eaten." He was right on the mark--except in the "may be."

Meanwhile came flowers from **Ms. P.S.** Then from the **Messrs. H.P. and J.M.** came the huge bouquet of flame-red gladioli, which once saved me from passing out on the sofa by my staring at them and saying to myself simply, "Don't!" The Persian violet from our realtor friend, **Mr. J.M.**, by contrast, gave long-lasting, if subdued, beauty to our dining room table. Finally, came the gift from the **Foundation** of a rose bush, aptly chosen for its name, "Heritage(1984)," but also seen in the eyes of its creator, David Austin, as "perhaps the most beautiful English Rose." It has already taken up the best possible site in the English border at 510 Pearl.

Next day came the complete dinner from the kitchen of **Ms. P.S.**, a herbed chicken dish, cooked to perfection, accompanied by a salad which she claimed contained "everything but the kitchen sink." I asked if she didn't know we needed a kitchen sink. The dressing, she said, was prepared by her husband, **P.** It was, in fact, a complete meal, delicious and health-giving.

Next day came the full lunch AND dinner from the **Messrs. F.R. and J.B.** By this time, at least, my partner and I were conspiring to work out a system whereby we could keep this scam alive for at least a year.

The next day came (how long can this go on?) a complete dinner of fish, potatoes, and vegetables from our dear neighbor, **Ms. S.McM.** and her high spirited daughter, **Ms. H.McM-D**, both of whom had put in a full day at the office and the nursery-school, respectively. Hail to them for their energy and great heart. **Ms. J.V-B.** then arrived from her country house with a refreshing salad and a full casserole of moussaka (as **Lady Fairfax-Lucy of Charlecote** queried me once on Sheep Street at Stratford-upon-Avon when I told her I was from a place called "Ypsilanti": "It's Greek, isn't it?" she proposed). No, no, moussaka is Greek, but Ypsilanti is decidedly very, very much American.

I could add the names of all those who called or sent cards and comforting notes; but the list threatens to grow too long and is already far too distinguished. For now, this is enough (is it not?) to prove that Ypsilanti has more to offer than that which often makes the news.

[This Advertisement for **The Better Things of Life in Ypsilanti** paid for privately by **Messrs. Harris and Larkins.**]



AN ELEGANT BED AND BREAKFAST IN THE BREakey HOUSE?

The latest news about business developments in Ypsilanti is almost too good to believe; but it can be reported as a fact that negotiations are in progress between **Gregg and Lisa Welch** and the present owners, **the Haabs (Oscar and Keturah)**, to establish what would surely be a fabulous bed and breakfast, as well as a catering service, in the former Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce building, also known as **The Breakey House**.

This great Greek Revival treasure, which has survived from the 1830's, set the tone of elegance at the center of the newly established (1823) community built along the banks of the Huron River, as it flowed through the wilderness. Its history is our history. It makes its silent statement there at the southwest corner of Washtenaw Avenue and North Huron Streets.

It is still a crucial, central junction in the community. And now, with most of the buildings along that great avenue restored to perfection, comes the "Great News" that the Breakey House may soon be a bed and breakfast, welcoming guests from out of town. While negotiations are in progress, the Welches are living in the basement, making plans, working with the Haabs, and consulting with that architect-friend of preservation, **Mr. Scott Diels**, on plans for the renovation.

Much credit, right off the top, should go to **James Harless**, Mr. Haab's long-time carpenter, for the role he played, especially in 1986, in bringing the building up to its present condition as a workable, as well as historical, structure.

The Welches, already highly publicized (and deservedly) for their work on the Parish House Bed and Breakfast, intend to maintain the integrity of the original structure. Their plan is to have eight guest rooms or suites and a large catering facility, with a breakfast room off the kitchen, both facing south, with plenty of sun through the large windows. There will be a luncheon room facing north and the elegant dining room will be off the front entry in what is now the front parlor. Most of the main rooms have fireplaces: there are nine working fireplaces in the house, each with its own splendid character, including an American Southwest style fireplace in the ballroom. (The back part of the house is an addition made in the 1920's. One can imagine that the Breakeys perhaps traveled to the Southwest in the twenties, in the days of D. H. Lawrence, Georgia O'Keeffe, and other artists then living in Taos and Santa Fe.

Gregg and Lisa have already entertained the Heritage Foundation Board for its October meeting at The Parish House. Talk to any board member: they all will sing the praises of what kind of reception the Welches give their guests. Now, can you imagine being able to take your guests down to that most elegant historic structure on North Huron

Street and having a dinner or perhaps dessert and coffee in the late evening. We're as yet dreaming, we know; but this dream is moving toward a reality that could add immeasurably to the atmosphere and the ambiance of Ypsilanti. Let's, as an English friend puts it, "Cross everything," and dream on the event.

Speaking of Bringing Back the Grandeur and the Gilt that was Ypsilanti:

Did you know that there's a talented and most helpful new artisan in town? She's a specialist in **frame restoration on gilded frames**. **Denise Fletcher** has just opened her own studio within Unique Art and Wall Creations at **32 N. Huron**. Ensclosed as she is between Materials Unlimited and the potential new bed and breakfast just up the street (which one would guess will need lots of gilt to go with the Greek Revival style), she should be successful. Do call her for further details: 480-9405.

HURON STREET: TEXTBOOK IN AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE

We should never forget the uniqueness of our **Huron Street**. While most American streets reflect one period of our history--say, in Queen Annes or bungalows--Huron Street has just about every important style since the earliest years of our Republic: Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, French Second Empire, Queen Anne, Romanesque, English Tudor, etc. etc. It is almost a **textbook in American historic architecture**.

That is one reason why the **Towner House** is so important to its original site. One of the oldest house in town, it adds its own special statement to the history of that most precious and important avenue. It should never be willfully destroyed. Even moving it to another location would cancel out a major portion of its significance and value.

THE FOUNDATION MAKES OFFER TO STABILIZE THE TOWNER HOUSE

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation has made an offer of up to \$6,000 to the Presbyterian Church, which now owns the Towner House, to stabilize (not to restore) that structure, while a decision is being made about its fate by the Michigan Historic Preservation Review Board in Lansing.

YHF MAKES DONATION TO PEASE RESTORATION EFFORT

At its November meeting, the Board of Directors of the Heritage Foundation approved the donation of \$1000 to The Friends of Pease to aid in the restoration of Pease Auditorium. This donation represents a portion of the proceeds from this year's Historic Home Tour. This donation places the Foundation at the Benefactor level of the Pease restoration effort, and our name will appear on a plaque on one of the seats in the auditorium when it reopens in 1995.



WASHINGTON STREET ELEVATION

Above is one of Architect Denis Schmiedeke's drawings for the restoration of 184-190 North Washington, underway at the present time. Most of us would have guessed that this building was lost and that another parking lot would replace it. It is a tribute to the city of Ypsilanti that, through cooperation of various departments, demolition was delayed until a suitable developer could be found. The city is fortunate in finding Mr. Shoeb Sharieff, who has committed himself to a brilliant restoration of this pivotal property. Its location, we note, is directly behind the proposed new bed and breakfast (see elsewhere in this News).

Another observation about Ypsilanti:

A friend tells us this story: he was in Ann Arbor on State Street at Amer's Mediterranean Deli, looking over the long list of special coffees at the counter at the back. "Don't you have 'regular' coffee?" he asked. "Why, yes, sir," came the cheerful reply. "I'll take a cup." As she got him his cup of regular coffee, the young woman waiting ahead of him turned, smiled, and said, "You must be from Ypsilanti." "How did you know?" he questioned. "Well, nobody here orders regular coffee," she replied. "But I like it," he protested. The ice was broken when he suggested that he thought vanilla was more appropriate for ice cream. They both laughed. She confessed to being from Detroit. Ah, fashion! Sometimes in our pursuit of it we lose sight of **The Real Thing**.

YHF CALENDARS STILL AVAILABLE

Don't forget: the **Heritage Foundation Engagement Calendar for 1994** is still available--although the supply is limited this year. It is one of the best gifts to offer anyone, far, far away or as close as next door, during the upcoming holiday season. And such a bargain! Teachers and professionals of all kinds will love it and friends and relatives will thank you sincerely. And remember: the convenient spiral binder is back by popular demand! So act now and order: call **Lisa Walters at 485-3683**.

**The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
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