



30th Annual Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Historic Home

Sunday August 19, 20



921 Woods Road
Michael & Laura DeBacker

Prolific local architect R. S. Gerganoff designed this impressive stone and slate-roofed house in the picturesque English Medieval style for the Ferguson family in 1941.

Since its first appearance on this tour, in 2001, the house has undergone dramatic changes. Michael and Laura DeBacker, the latest of many owners, bought the house in summer 2002 and moved in with their three small



922 Pleasant Drive
Paul & Penny Schreiber

The brick center-entrance colonial revival at 922 Pleasant Drive is the home of Ypsilanti mayor Paul Schreiber and his wife, Penny. The Schreibers are the second owners of the house, which was designed in 1937 by Ypsilanti architect H. E. Schlesinger for Phyllis and Ted Williamson. □ Dr. Ted □ died in spring 1985 and Phyllis sold the house to the Schreibers in late July.



**310 Hiawatha Street
Mary Jane Dennison & Rick
Humesky**

This 1933 brick vernacular Tudor is one of two houses on today's tour designed by eclectic Ypsilanti architect R. S. Gerganoff. When Mary Jane (M. J.) Dennison bought the house in 1992, it was a modest piece of charm sitting in the middle of a half-acre city lot just a few houses in from busy West Cross Street. The small house made a big statement, though, with its terrific front Roman window. It is impossible to walk by without fantasizing about knocking on the door and asking to see the room with the Roman window.

M. J. purchased the house from the Helen Crane estate. Helen's husband, Morton, had been groundskeeper for EMU, and he planted many of the trees on the property. By 1997 M. J. had met Rick Humesky, who is now her husband, and they decided to increase the size of the house and add a garage. M. J. was adamant that the house addition must appear seamless. "I didn't want it to look like a wart," she says. She and Rick hired Ann



**415 North Huron Street
Wilkinson-Lewis-Greene
House
Steve Hudock & Jeff Ellis**

The stunning Italianate Wilkinson-Lewis-Greene house is one of Ypsilanti's most significant historic structures. Built in 1878 by James Wilkinson for his widowed mother, the house was purchased in 1905 by Harriet Adelaide Lewis, herself a widow with several children. Lewis's daughter Evangeline lived in the house for many, many years.

Following Evangeline's death, the Ypsilanti Historical Society owned the house for a period of time. In late 1989 Earl Greene bought the house from the Historical Society. Greene would prove to be the rescuing angel of this beautiful house, a structure which was once described by Ward Swarts, a restoration architect who contributed to the formation of the Ypsilanti Historic District, as "one of the finest extant examples of eclectic Victorian/Italianate architecture in the

Arbor architect Mary Kalmes. When the 1933 brick could not be matched, the brick that had been removed for the addition was refurbished and put back. The house's red gables are a great modern touch, which was carried over into the new garage.

Today the house has a beautiful galley kitchen, with a space for a table beyond; a family room; a cute mudroom for the dogs; and an expanded master bedroom. The living room with its wood-beamed cathedral ceiling, lovely but simple fireplace, and that aforementioned Roman window lives up to its sidewalk-fantasy reputation. Tourgoers will enjoy standing in the room and looking through the house to the large window in the new family room.

The inside of the house feels cozy and English cottage-ey. M. J. is a veteran stalker of estate sales, Depot Town antiques stores, and the Saline antiques fair. She also inherited antiques from her mother and her favorite auntie. When you exit the house into the pretty and secluded backyard, you will think you are far out in the country.

Midwest.□

Greene spared nothing in his restoration efforts. He employed a researcher from Henry Ford Museum/Greenfield Village and the finest artisans and woodworkers to be found. During the two years following Greene's purchase of 415 North Huron, the restoration team accomplished near miracles. Extraordinary decorative painting was revealed and restored. Under many coats of paint, ceiling paintings were discovered and restored. Door and window frames were found to be of a type of walnut that is now extinct.

Earl Greene died a few years ago, but the house is once again blessed. Its new owners, Steve Hudock and Jeff Ellis, understand its architectural and historical significance and are committed to its preservation.



**111 East Forest Street
Bill & Marcia Phillips**

When a Realtor told Bill and Marcia Phillips that he thought the house they were looking at was a Sears catalogue kit home, they were immediately smitten. Marcia, a former history teacher and research historian, learned that the original owners, Frank and Katharine (Kitty) Lidke, had purchased the "Fullerton model" in 1926 for \$2,294. The lumber was pre-cut and numbered and then shipped to the Ypsilanti depot, complete with instructions. The practical, sturdy lines of this American Foursquare reflect a uniquely American design, popular in the 1920s.

When Sears began selling kit homes in 1908, the company's primary aim was to display and advertise its furniture, home appliances, and accessories. The Phillips house still has the original Sears light fixtures, hardware, kitchen cabinets, and bathroom fixtures. Even the kitchen sink is original!

In 2004 Marcia and Bill undertook a



**220 South Huron Street
The Queen's Residence Bed
and Breakfast
Joe & Marla Queen**

This circa 1870 Victorian Italianate house was built by H. P. Glover for Samuel Barnard, vice president of Ypsilanti's Peninsular Paper Company. Charles Newton, chief buyer for Henry Ford's Greenfield Village, owned the house from the late 1920s into the 1940s. Newton changed the exterior, adding Roman Doric columns, and its current style now veers toward classical revival. Newton also installed an authentic early-eighteenth-century Connecticut kitchen and tavern in the basement. Henry Ford visited the house many times.

In 1999 Marla Frudden (now Queen) purchased 220 South Huron, her third historic house. "I always wanted to own a B and B," says Marla, who had the idea in mind when she discovered this outstanding example of nineteenth-century gracious living. She met Joe Queen in 2005 through

major project: the removal of the faux brick siding that had been installed in the 1940s. They invited their friends to “putty parties” to patch the hundreds of nail holes, and they painted the house a shade of gold very close to its original color. The quality of the materials used was evident, says Bill, because none of the clapboards needed to be replaced.

This delightful example of Americana is now restored and preserved for all to appreciate and enjoy. Marcia and Bill have filled their home with family heirlooms and other period pieces. The house really feels like the 1920s.

their mutual interest in ballroom dancing. They married in April 2006 and began to plan a Bed and Breakfast. The Queen’s Residence opened in April and Marla and Joe are offering ballroom dancing lessons to their guests. “We’re going for the romance,” says Marla, “the dancing, the hot tub, the two pergolas.”

Marla started collecting antiques when she was sixteen. The house is filled with her finds picked up over many years from Ann Arbor’s Treasure Mart, yard sales, and antique shops. “I like using my stuff,” she says. Tourgoers will enjoy every inch of this spacious high-ceilinged house, which was last on the tour in 2001. Be sure to walk through the wonderful brick-wall-enclosed courtyard, which includes the new pergolas. The basement tavern remains a highlight.



The Norris-Thompson Block
□ **River Street Depot Town**
Stewart Beal

Stewart Beal, a young and enthusiastic

