

SUMMER 2002

THE YPSILANTI GLEANINGS

*A Publication of the
Ypsilanti Historical Society
Summer 2002*



*Ypsilanti Historical Museum and Archives
220 North Huron Street*

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YPSILANTI HISTORICAL MUSEUM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Museum Director	Dr. William Edmunds	482-5218
President	Joan Carpenter	971-0536
Treasurer	Karen Nickels	483-8896
Secretary	Diane Schick	483-2348

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Acquisitions	Grace Cornish	482-2108
Administration Board	Virginia Davis-Brown	484-0080
Building Improvements	Gerald Jennings	434-0117
Finance Committee	John Salcau	483-3617
Programs	John and Fofi Pappas	482-1462
Textiles	Grace Cornish	482-2108
Special Details	Kathryn Howard	482-7081

* * * * *

ARCHIVES	Gerald Pety	office:	482-4990
		residence:	572-0437

ADMINISTRATION BOARD

Chairman	Virginia Davis Brown
Secretary	Kathleen Campbell
Treasurer	Grace Cornish
Docents	Ann McCarthy
Displays	Joan Carpenter
Textiles	Grace Cornish and Doreen Binder

MUSEUM INFORMATION

The Museum, located at 220 North Huron Street, is owned by the City of Ypsilanti and is operated and maintained by volunteer workers in the public interest of the Ypsilanti Historical Society.

The **Museum** is open to the public at no charge. The days and hours are as follows:

THURSDAY 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
SATURDAY 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
SUNDAY 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The **Archives**, now located behind the Museum building, is open:

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Telephone: 734 - 482-4990

Group Tours may be arranged by calling 483-2929 or 971-0536.

Dear Members,

These last six months have been as busy as can be in and around the Museum. Painting, polishing, scrubbing, scraping and hanging pictures,(that have been tucked away in closets), has made our Museum even more beautiful than ever before.

Karen Nickels, Virginia Davis-Brown, Gerry Jennings, John Pappas, Diane Schick, and Kathryn Howard have spent much of the summer doing all of the above. We can't find the words to express our deepest appreciation to these members. When you see them, please give them a BIG "thank you"!

Perhaps the biggest change is the move of the archives from the back of the Museum into the Carriage House behind the Museum. This move has allowed us to expand the display area within the building. Gerry Pety is on duty to assist you in your search for your long, lost family, home, friends, events, schools, organizations, businesses and whatever else you may wish to look up. The Archives are open from 9 a.m. until noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The two rooms that had previously been the Archives are now the sites of the gift shop and a fantastic new Ypsilanti Room. The former Ypsilanti Room is in the process of being transformed into a display room of kitchen-ware from years gone by. A huge black wood-burning stove will be one of the many cooking tools used in the past that will make you thankful for the invention of microwave ovens!

The dining room has a new carpet that brightens up the room. The huge Allen cabinet has been replaced by a new china cabinet and the overall arrangement of the room makes you feel as though you need only to sit down at the table and enjoy dinner!

In the former gift shop area you may feel inclined to browse the book shelves and settle in for a quiet afternoon of reading. Or, perhaps you might prefer to listen to Aunt Nell play your favorite melodies on the beautiful upright Grand Piano which now graces this room.

These are just a few of the changes that have taken place in this beautiful, old house. We hope you will join us soon on a trip into the past...an enlightening journey for young and old.

**Joan Carpenter
President**

THE HERITAGE FESTIVAL IS THE MUSEUM

It hardly seems possible that “ Heritage Festival, 2002” is only three weeks away. The plans and preparations for this great event began last February and still keeps us very busy down at the Freight House.

Board members are a fussy group! They’ve been bustling about polishing and re-arranging things to please the eyes of our visitors for the last two months, making certain that everything is just perfect...and you know what? IT IS!

We look forward to seeing our members and friends at the Museum during Festival time! This is one of the few sites to visit that has no entrance fee of any kind. Our hours during all three days of the Festival are from 12:00 to 6 p.m. and docents will be happy to show you around.

On Saturday, August 17th, Velia Lauverman, who is an expert quilter and quilt appraiser, will be at the Museum to provide you with a verbal appraisal of that beautiful, old quilt that has been in your family forever. Wouldn’t it be wonderful to finally know its age and value?

On Sunday afternoon, August 18th Hal Estry, the music man we all so enjoyed last year, will be with us again for our pleasure. Come and rest your weary feet while he plays his wonderful music and takes you back in time.

We do need some assistance during the Festival and hope you will consider lending us your helping hand. Docents, men and women, are needed to guide our visitors through the house and point out the many unusual items that are displayed that were once common, everyday necessities in the latter part of the 1800s. Each helping docent is given a card that high-lights the articles in the room in which they are working, and there is a seasoned docent nearby to help out in case there is a question for which you have no answer.

If you would like to be a part of the past for a couple of hours, please call me at, (734) 971-0536. The shifts are 12 to 2 p.m., 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. I will be delighted to hear from you and I’m certain that you will enjoy this opportunity to get a close-up of what it might have been like to live in a house like this!

We hope you will visit us during HERITAGE FESTIVAL, 2002, and at any other time you would like to do something interesting.

There are many activities that are held at the Museum throughout the year such as CRAFT DAY, in September, CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE and the NEW YEARS JUBILEE, in December, TRASH AND TREASURE SALE in the spring, picnics and programs and events.

Our door is always open!

Joan Carpenter

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL MUSEUM

+ + + WEB SITE + + +

We are getting a web site.

Nonprofit Enterprise at Work (N.E.W.) of Ann Arbor, through a grant from Ameritech, is designing a web page for the Museum for free! Through them for \$10.00 we have obtained a domain name:

www.ypsilantihistoricalmuseum.org

The name is a one time charge. There is an annual fee of \$25.00 to maintain the web site. We can make changes and additions to the web site without extra cost.

Our web site will have linkage to the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum, the Michigan Fire Museum and the Yankee Air Force Museum. We will also be linked to the City of Ypsilanti web site, the Visitors & Convention Bureau, and the Chamber of Commerce.

Our web site will have pictures of the major rooms showing our new configuration. Information on hours of operation, appointments for special tours, directions on how to get here with maps and how to join our Society will also be included. Suggestions for future additions/changes will be welcome.

We hope you and the public will find it interesting and stimulating – your Museum/Society is sneaking into the 21st Century!

William P. Edmunds
Museum Director

FINANCE REPORT

BUDGET

We have had a very successful budget year. The following are the year end figures for July 2001 - June 2002:

TOTAL INCOME:	\$21,510.66
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$15,956.01
NET INCOME:	\$ 5,554.65

Our annual Yard Sale brought a profit of \$927.10. This was a great help to our budget.

Expenses for the 2002 - 2003 budget will show a slight increase due to our expanded activities.

We have 270 paid members plus 45 life members for a total membership of 315.

ENDOWMENT FUND

About 25 years ago an Endowment Fund was initiated by the Ypsilanti Historical Museum Board. This Endowment received the proceeds from the sale of the Lewis House that had been bequeathed to the Museum. Succeeding years saw several additional bequests of various amounts added to the Endowment. None of this fund was used or needed for the support of the Museum until this year.

Recent budgetary decisions by the City have eliminated financial support for the operation of the Museum, and it has become necessary to begin using income from the Endowment Fund. With the present decline in the financial market and the prospect of further reduction in the income from the Endowment, the Board is looking to other potential sources of income to help with current operating expenses.

Over all, we remain confident in the future and the continued support of the membership.

John Salcau, Finance Chairman
Karen Nickels, Treasurer

RECENT MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS July 2002 Report

Acquisition methods for the Ypsilanti Historical Museum records have been improved starting in 2000. Most articles one sees in the museum were donated by Ypsilantians and former records are somewhat confusing or lost. Being a local "house Museum" authentic local articles of all types are welcome. However only so many of a given article can be used, or kept. Updating the quality is always gratefully received but storage is at a premium.

Look for the additions to the 1875-85 furniture. A beautiful walnut Victorian settee and platform rocker were donated by Virginia Davis Brown. They are a matched pair with carved backs. Two side chairs with velvet covers over horsehair were donated by Natalie Edmunds. The original finish is in excellent shape. The walnut Victrola was donated by Ron Miller. Records were included and will be used during many events.

A Sojourner homestead was collected by June Harlow and donated in 2000. The cottage, fenced yard and furnishings includes typically dressed dolls, animals and many accessories. It has proved to be a wonderful addition to "Black History" displays.

A replica of the museum was made by Robert Willoughby, given to Doris Milliman and donated by Marjorie Pearson. The model of one block of Michigan Avenue was also made by Robert Willoughby.

A doll carriage, doll, blanket and doll clothing were donated by Dorothy Rodenberg. Authentic toys and children's books used in Ypsilanti are also welcome. Resource books donated are sometimes put in the Archives.

Since the museum now has a kitchen things stored in the basement can be displayed. Marlene Barr and Ana Hubbell have donated kitchen utensils. Earl Harwood (Virginia Davis Brown's brother) has donated Grandmothers stove. It will be displayed when Jerry Jennings finishes cleaning and assembling it.

Many have donated clothes, Barbara Tooman, Natalie Edmunds, Robert Sloan, Violet Jewett and David Gallesero most recently. Clothes especially are placed in primary or secondary storage along with accessories. The condition and authenticity help decide their display ability in the museum. Expanding and upgrading the museum collection is always the goal.

Pictures have been donated recently by Donnie Stokes, Bob Fink, Marlene Barr, Ada Bailey, Mae Firth, Earnest Griffin and Theresa Levinski. Some will go to the archives.

The museum has received money donations earmarked for the Administration Committee. These funds have been used for framing pictures, new rugs and some repairs. Visit the museum and enjoy all the improvements including the rugs and the picture of Doris Milliman. The wedding dress display is the first since 1999.

Grace Cornish

WEDDING DRESSES

Our Ypsilanti museum has over 30 wedding dresses. Most have enough information to know who wore them and when. Unfortunately the information on some has been misplaced or was never recorded over the years, Several of the dresses are on display this summer in the museum. Six are over 100 years old but in remarkable condition.

Before 1900 most of the wedding dresses were not white as is expected in this century. The average woman chose a garment she could wear many times after the wedding to everyday and special events. The oldest dress owned by the museum is made from dark printed cotton with a hand made lace collar. Cotton can be laundered many times, if done carefully. We washed it here very carefully for the present display, and it was really soiled. The colors are still bright and the fabric still in good shape. This wedding dress was used by Marian Hortense Ely Riggs for her 1850 wedding. She lived only 10 years after the wedding but her dress was preserved and given to the museum by Marian Willoughby in 1993. It is displayed in the north west corner of the museum dining room.

Also in the dining room you will see the 1884 wedding dress for Mrs. Dusbiber, Bill Dusbiber's mother. This dress is silk and cotton and the cotton is beginning to disintegrate in the worn sections. The fabric is heavy and so is the lining for an August 4, 1884 wedding. Most dresses of the late 19th century had stays in the waist and heavy lining or tape at the hem line better known as "dust ruffles".

In the parlor Mrs. Annie Cray Glover's 1870 wedding dress is beige silk. It is made with cotton lace skirt under the redingcoat. It was probably worn with a small bustle. The other wedding dress in the parlor is the 1902 sheer white cotton dress for the May wedding of Gladye Collins to Samuel Ballantine. This has a bib collar and lots of lace insertion and ruffles.

The craft room upstairs has the wedding dress of Sarah Ellen Good Jones in 1875. She was the wife of William Jones the president of the Normal College. This is made of gray cotton. The fabric is very durable and warm to wear.

The other wedding dresses on display are from the 20th century. The 1940 white oyster satin wedding dress in the Milliman room is made of the fabric popular then. It has a train, veil, lace rosettes with a pearl center and a zipper closing. Wedding dresses in the costume room include the off white oyster satin 1929 dress with train for Margarite Breakey. The rolled back collar is unusual. The oyster satin 1940 dress for Alexene Fox Clow has the popular sweetheart neckline. The satin 1950 dress for Mrs. Dell has what is known as a scoop neckline and the train is lined. Mrs. Fred Peter's 1938 wedding dress has applied velvet flowers. The 1970 50th Anniversary wedding dress for Rosena Schaser Warner is in the upstairs hall. The embroidery and bead work is distinctive.

If the dresses have 22" waists they are too small for the museum to display at this time. The museum attempts to rotate the display of dresses in storage.

Grace Cornish

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIETY

Donations are always welcome and are tax deductible.

Capital Fund for Development

This will provide funding for a handicapped entrance to the museum basement and increase meeting space for groups.

Endowment Fund

Presently pays the lease for the archival space and the salary of the archivist. As the fund grows, it will hopefully pay for a professional museum director.

Dues & Unspecified Donations

Helps with the daily operation of the museum and general maintenance of museum interior and artifacts.

Specified Donations

Memorials - Families may remember their loved ones by initiating a memorial fund in their name.

Special Projects - donors may contribute to a project initiated by the donor or suggested by the Historical Society.

Archives

Local family histories are eagerly accepted.

Collections

The museum will accept collections for a short term exhibition. We also accept collections for a tax deductible contribution.

MUSEUM GIFT SHOPPE

Many items to choose from!

WESTERWALD POTTERY - Variety of pieces, with Ypsilanti Water Tower in green. Some with a blue leaf decoration and the word "Ypsilanti."

PAPERWEIGHTS - nice selection - various sizes.

Some BALDWIN BRASS ITEMS

MINIATURE CLOCKS

**YPSILANTI BOOKS
and
WASHTENAW COUNTY ATLASES**

TOTE BAGS

COFFEE MUGS

OTHER INTERESTING ITEMS!!!

*** * * * ***

**GIFT SHOPPE HOURS
THURSDAY - SATURDAY - SUNDAY
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

Basement Meeting Room

One of the great features of the museum building is a full basement. At present that space is used for the storage of archival and exhibit items. But the possibility exists to create a classroom and meeting area that would significantly enrich the function of the museum. Of course, renovation that includes outside accesses as well as amenities for the public would need to be undertaken to make that use a reality.

The first and most critical problem we face, however, is preparation of the structure to preserve it. Earlier work in putting in a cement floor failed to acknowledge the need for proper drainage to keep moisture from the basement walls. Moisture wicking up from underneath the floor to internal brick walls is causing old soft brick to break down. Moisture around the foundation is causing the outside limestone walls to powder off. The present effort using dehumidifiers and fans to reduce moisture that could affect historical items is only a temporary solution and will not preserve the building.

A number of experts have been consulted regarding the problem of moisture control and repairs to internal brick walls. Estimates have been offered on several approaches to the problem. The most recent thinking is to seal the foundation of the building on the outside and put weeping tile around its base. That, of course, is a requirement for new construction, but with old it was not a practice. If that work can proceed, the other renovation projects may well get under way.

Jerry Jennings

TOURS at the MUSEUM

We haven't had as many school tours this year as we've had in the past. The following are the tours we've had since the first of the year and the Docents who have helped:

2002

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Feb. 26 | Elderwise - Bob Southgate |
| Aug. 14 | Pittsfield Historical Society - Joan Carpenter, Karen and Bill Nickels |
| May 20 | Faithway Baptist School - Bob Southgate, Kathy Campbell, Joan Carpenter, Dorothy Humphrey |
| May 31 | Estabrook School - Lois Katon, Doris Olson |
| July 8 | Willow Run Co-op - Doris Olson, Kathryn Howard, Karen Nickels |
| July 19 | EMU Arts & Science Class - Virginia Brown, Lois Katon |

Ann McCarthy

ITEMS WANTED FOR THE MUSEUM

Tall case clock (Grandfather)

Pier mirror

Dry sink

Small water pump (as used in farm kitchen)

WELCOME
to the NEW HOME of the
ARCHIVES

First of all let me introduce myself to the members who have not yet met me. My name is Gerry Pety and I am the Museum Archivist and willing to assist you in locating the materials you seek!

Since the move from the back of the Museum, there have been many important changes. We hope you will find a better organized and more pleasant area in which to pursue your needs.

Most of the people who come to the Archives are attempting to trace their family back in time. They are seeking information as to where they once lived and what they did for a living, etc. Others are just interested in some of the lovely old homes and buildings in Ypsilanti.

One of the most interesting requests has been from Margaret Delaney, Branch Manager of the downtown Ypsilanti District Library. When the building was first constructed in 1915, it was the local U.S. Post Office branch for the city of Ypsilanti. It is still a magnificent structure, but very common for its time period. We have some interesting pictures of the basement during construction, but very few of the finished building. Can any of the members help? Ms. Delaney's phone number is 482-5025.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Have you taken a walk through the Museum within the last few weeks? If you haven't I am sure you are in for a great surprise!

The Administration Committee has been very busy this spring and summer as we have made some major changes.

As you walk in the front door you will notice the White Room has become the Milliman Room in honor of Doris, with a new rug and a beautiful picture of her hanging on the back wall. The furniture has been changed and it looks so different than it did.

The former Gift Shop area is now our Library and Music Room. It has a new coat of paint and Judge Babbitt has taken up new residency over the fireplace where the lighting is so much better. The room gives the feeling that you would like to get a good book, sit back, relax and do some reading.

The Dining Room has a new look. The large case that was full of dishes is now gone and in its place are two small china cabinets which makes the room look and feel much bigger. Oh yes, there is also a new rug in that room.

As you continue on into what was formerly the Ypsilanti Room, you will be amazed to see a beautiful kitchen of the 1800's. Displays include a pie safe, cupboards and a large gate-legged table in the middle of the room. Our latest gift from Earl Harwood is his grandmother's old wood kitchen range. It is a Kalamazoo stove made around the first part of the 1900's. It is now in the basement of the Museum in pieces in the process of being restored. It will take some work but it should be a great asset to our kitchen. Our thanks to Earl for this wonderful gift.

The Ypsilanti Room has been moved and again the lighting is much better for all the displays. The Civil War case is being redone at this time and it looks great.

Looking for the Gift Shop? You'll find it relocated in the back door area. This way you won't have to carry your purchases while touring through the Museum and it'll be easier to shop and take things right to the car as you exit the Museum.

Four new rugs, four rooms painted and hundreds of hours have transformed Ypsilanti's most precious jewel into an even more beautiful place to visit and bring your friends.

We owe so much to the people who have made all this come together. Our thanks go to Karen and Bill Nickels, Jerry Jennings, Kathryn Howard, Grace Cornish, Doreen Binder, Kathleen Campbell, Joan Carpenter, John Pappas, Craig Nickels and Charlie Brown. Without them it would never have been possible to accomplish all these things. We hope you will enjoy all the changes.

There are other things planned for the Museum this fall. Mark your calendar right now for the Craft Demonstration Day which will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2002 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Plan now to bring your children, grandchildren, great grandchildren or if they aren't available, how about the neighbor's children. Remember most of them have never seen how things were done 100 years ago and may never if we don't show them. A lot of work goes into these programs and it is very discouraging when not many people come. There will be things for the children to do and make.

If you know of someone who does an unusual craft, please let me know. My telephone number is 484-0080.

We have done our job, now it is up to you to come and enjoy your Museum!

Virginia Davis-Brown

OUTDATED ORDINANCES
FROM REVISED CHARTER OF YPSILANTI 1898

As time goes on, concerns of local government are the same but the treatment changes. Ypsilanti government in 1877 was concerned about obscenity just as we are now concerned about adult bookstores.

At present, equal rights for everyone is our focus. In 1877, local government legislated to separate women from what was considered then undesirable jobs.

Mr. Lambert Barnes was a resident of 220 North Huron and served as mayor signing the following ordinances into law.

AN ORDINANCE TO PREVENT VICE AND IMMORALITY

The Common Council of the City of Ypsilanti ordain:

Section 1. That no retail dealer of spirituous and intoxicating liquors, or of brewed, malt and fermented liquors, within the limits of the city of Ypsilanti, shall employ in his saloon, bar, or place of business, any female, excepting his wife or daughter, as clerk, servant, agent or waiter, or shall suffer any female, excepting as aforesaid, to wait upon his customers, or assist in any manner in the sale of such liquors.

Section 2. No proprietor of any saloon, bar or place where spirituous and intoxicating liquors, or brewed, malt and fermented liquors are sold at retail, within the limits of said city, shall suffer any female to be present at, or take part in any game, sport, diversion, theatricals, entertainment, minstrel show, or varieties, had or held in his saloon, bar or place where such liquors are sold.

Section 3. No female, excepting the wife or daughter of the proprietor, shall act as clerk, servant, agent or waiter, or take part in any game, sport, diversion, theatricals, entertainments, minstrel show, or varieties, at any place in the city of Ypsilanti, where spirituous, malt or fermented liquors are sold.

Section 4. Any person violating any provision of this ordinance, shall be punished by a fine of twenty-five dollars, to be imposed by the justice of the peace trying the offender. And on failing to pay said fine forthwith, shall be imprisoned in the Detroit house of correction for the term of ninety days.

Section 5. This ordinance shall be published by the city clerk one week in the Ypsilanti Commercial.

Made and passed in common council at Ypsilanti, this fifteenth day of January, A. D. 1877.

LAMBERT BARNES, Mayor

Frank Joslin, City Clerk

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE SALE OF OBSCENE, IMMORAL, INDECENT
AND SCANDALOUS BOOKS, PAPERS OR PRINTS WITHIN THE CITY OF
YPSILANTI

The Common Council of the City of Ypsilanti ordain:

Section 1. It shall not be lawful within the city of Ypsilanti for any person, firm or corporation, to print, publish, sell offer for sale, give away, circulate or distribute any book, pamphlet, ballad, printed paper or other thing containing obscene, immoral, indecent or scandalous language, or obscene prints, pictures, figures or description, or articles of advertisements of a scandalous, indecent or immoral nature, tending to the corruption of the morals of the residents of said city, or to introduce into any family, school or place of education, or to buy procure, receive or have in his possession, any such book, pamphlet, ballad, printed paper or other thing, either for the purpose of sale or exhibition, loan or circulation, or with intent to introduce the same into any family, school or place of education.

Section 2. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be punished by a fine of not less than ten nor more than one hundred dollars, together with the costs of prosecution, and on failing to pay forthwith such fine and costs, may be imprisoned in the Detroit house of correction or the county jail of Washtenaw county, for any term not exceeding ninety days, unless payment there of be sooner made.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect fifteen days after its passage.

Section 4. This ordinance, immediately after its passage, shall be published once in the Ypsilanti Sentinel, and once in the Ypsilanti Commercial, weekly newspapers printed and circulated within the city of Ypsilanti.

Made and passed in the common council this eleventh day of February, A. D. 1878.

L. A. BARNES, Mayor

Attest:

FRANK JOSLIN, City Clerk

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ms. Charlotte HuckRedlands, California

Martin Opem FamilyYpsilanti

Mrs. Martha Spencer.....Ypsilanti

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Single	\$10.00	Family	\$15.00
Sustaining	\$25.00	Business	\$75.00
Life	\$200.00		

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

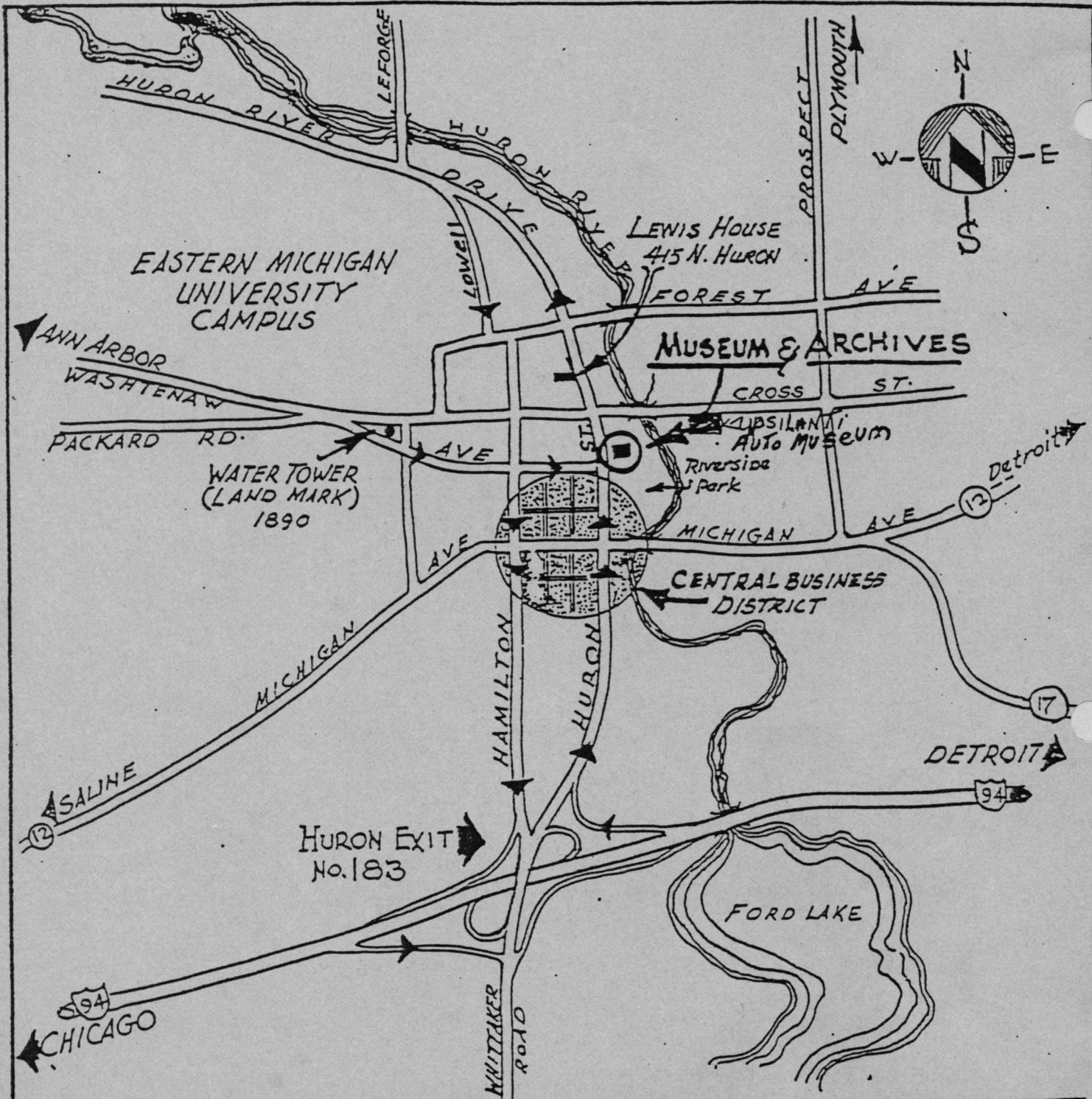
Telephone _____

Please make check payable to: YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY
220 North Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Would you like to become a docent? _____

Would you like to assist in the Archives? _____

The Ypsilanti Historical Society is a non-profit organization



Upsilanti Historical Museum
 220 N. Huron St.
 Upsilanti Michigan - 48197 - Phone 734-482-4990

