

Historical Markers & Statues- Ypsilanti, Michigan

Welcome to our online program covering historical markers and statues of the city of Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Jeff Davis, James Mann, and Gerry Petty developed this program.

Woodruff's Grove Marker

(junction of South Prospect and South Grove Streets)



The Woodruff's Grove marker is located at the junction of South Prospect and South Grove Streets, near the site of the original settlement in 1823. The marker was erected in the summer of 1923, by the Ypsilanti Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, to honor the early frontiersmen who founded Ypsilanti.

In the summer of 1823, Major Benjamin J. Woodruff, with Oronte Grant, Hiram Tuttle, David Stiles, Willard and George Hall, William Eiclar, Danial Cross, David Beverly, S. Noyce, and Titus Bronson settled at or near this site, thus creating the first settlement in Washtenaw County. Major Woodruff became the first sheriff and Postmaster in the county.

Early in 1825, Congress authorized the survey of a highway from Detroit to Chicago. This is Michigan Avenue as we know it today. It passed about three-quarters of a mile north of Woodruff's Grove and spelled the doom of that new settlement. By 1927, the Woodruffs, as well as the other settlers, moved north into Ypsilanti.

In February 1824, the first white child was born in Washtenaw County. His name was Alpha Washtenaw Bryan, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Bryan, who were among the first Woodruff's Grove settlers. In 1997, Keturah Haab, widow of Oscar Haab, donated the half acre of property where the marker is located to the City of Ypsilanti. Oscar Haab founded the Old German Restaurant in Ann Arbor, and later, with his brother Otto, co-founded Haab's Restaurant in Ypsilanti.



Demetrius Ypsilanti Statue *(junction of Washtenaw Avenue and Cross Street)*



The Demetrius Ypsilanti Statue is located at the corner of Washtenaw Avenue and Cross Street, just across from Eastern Michigan University's McKenny building. The statue was donated to the City of Ypsilanti by the American Hellenic Progressive Association in 1928. The artist that made the statue was Greek sculptor Christopher Nastos.

The main function of AHEPA at the time was to get new immigrants naturalized, teach them English, and move them into American society as quickly as possible. Later, AHEPA was involved in funding and awarding scholarships for supporting education programs.

Those present at the dedication included Michigan Governor Fred W. Green, Consul General George De Pasta of Greece, Congressman Earl C. Michener, and Archbishop Damascianos from Corinth, Greece.

President Charles McKenny of the Normal College presided at the ceremonies. Immediately after the talk by Governor Green, the Greek National Anthem was played, and then Dean Alfange, Supreme President of AHEPA, presented to the City of Ypsilanti the marble bust of Demetrius Ypsilanti.

Demetrius Ypsilanti (1793-1832) was a field general in the Greek army during the country's struggle for independence from the Ottoman empire. A highlight of his heroism was his successful defense of the Citadel of Argos in 1824 where, with 220 soldiers, he held the fortress against an army of eight thousand. Having exhausted his provisions, he escaped one night beyond the enemy lines with his entire command, having lost not a single man.

Judge Woodward was so fascinated by the military successes of General Ypsilanti that he recommended, in 1825, that the new village be named after him. Other names suggested at the time were "Waterville" and "Palmyra." In 1995 the sculpture was restored and re-dedicated, with support from AHEPA. Attending the re-dedication were AHEPA members, as well as representatives from the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation, U.S. Rep. Lynn Rivers and representatives of the cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.

Spanish War Memorial

(junction of Washtenaw Avenue and Cross Street)

Memorial Monument Presented to City (Ypsilanti Times - May 20, 1940): *Colorful ceremony marks unveiling by Mrs. Fred W. Green. Kelly sees the event as an Americanism tribute. Rep. Earl C. Michener says time now grave, needs good judgement.*

All Roads seemed to converge that Saturday on the statue, "The Hiker" dedicated to the youthful, gallant Americans who went to war with Spain in 1898. The monument, situated on the triangle of land opposite that on which the statue of Gen. Demetrius Ypsilanti stands, was formally unveiled, and presented to the city of Ypsilanti in a colorful ceremony, which opened with the approach of members of the 31st Michigan Volunteer Infantry. United Spanish War Veterans and gay marching musical units including the smartly uniformed Ypsilanti High School band, the dashing Girls Drum and Bugle Corps, the Ford Highlanders, and the Drum and Bugle Corps of Duffield Camp, Detroit. The event marked the reunion of the veterans, and the homecoming of Company G, through whose efforts the statue of The Hiker was obtained.

Mrs. Fred W. Green, escorted by Grant Pierce in the war uniform of his father, Walter C. Pierce, officer of the day, walked to "The Hiker" and amid applause unveiled the striking figure. The figure was the last work of the gifted Allen G. Newman, who died in February of that year.

Indicating The Hiker, Honorable Harry F. Kelly, Secretary of State, said, when he had been introduced by Gen. John P. Kirk, "We are paying today a tribute to plain American citizenship. I do not know whether our Hiker came from the South or East, the North or West; I do not care. Whether he came from a large city, or a village; I do not care; whether from labor or from a college; I don't care. We do not know what religion he learned at his mother's knee. We do not care. It is enough for us that he illustrates the basic quality of American government.

Must Rededicate Selves: "We must rededicate ourselves to real two-fisted American citizenship. There have been those who tried to sow seeds of hate. Let us rather sing a song of love. A government is made for man, and not man for government. We must aim for cohesiveness and preparedness in every way. You have been hiking ever since you came back from war," continued Secretary Kelly, "and have asked for nothing just for yourself. We will celebrate Sunday for the first time "I am an American day," and who can take a greater part than you?

"I bring you today the good wishes of the State of Michigan, and congratulate Phillip Becker, Walter C. Pierce and your Major Kirk and committee for bringing about this kind of an occasion."

Grave Times: "Captain Kirk, Major Kirk, General Kirk," said Hon. Earl C. Michener in acknowledging Gen. Kirk's introduction. Changing to a grave tone he said, "These are serious times. As we stand here there hangs over us the pall of war. God alone knows what the future has in store for us. But remember that the United States is not at war today with anybody," he said with deep impressiveness.

"The principal concern we have in Washington," he continued, "is to see to it that, if possible, we do not go to war with anybody. Sufficient preparedness is the best way to keep out. The biggest job we have is to keep our feet on the ground and our heads on our shoulders. We should not get into war because of a momentary mass feeling. Congress in 1898 did not want to go to war and did not go until it was demanded. We shall not go today until the mass of the people demand it. Beware of propaganda which leads us into positions that we shall regret at a future date. A woman writes me: "It is 2 o'clock in the morning, I have been listening to the radio. I have two boys; my neighbor lost two boys in the last war. Please don't send my boys over there to fight."

"President Roosevelt receives mail by truckloads every day both for and against the war. I join in the belief that your government is not going to make any declaration that will cause any of our boys to fight outside the western hemisphere."

Before concluding, Congressman Michener spoke briefly to Mrs. Green: "I wish you knew, Mrs. Green, how all the boys feel about Freddy Green. He was a lieutenant, but he mingled with the privates. We shall always remember him."

Must Have Army-Navy: John P. Kirk, who was Major over Company G, stated that the large attendance was indeed gratifying and said, "just 42 years ago we left for the purpose of participating in war with Spain, and it was 41 years almost to the day when we returned. We nearly all contracted fever due to unpreparedness by the government. The country sent soldiers to Chickamauga without rifles to fight with. There has been preparedness practiced since, but not sufficient. When the guns are thundering, we shall have reason to give serious thought to this. This country," he said impressively, "must have an army and a navy and as good an air force, if not better, than any other country in the world.

"We all detest war," asserted Mr. Kirk. "It brings disaster to everyone connected with it. We have never desired war; but it has been forced upon us at times. May war never come to us! We are recognized as the strongest nation in the world and have sufficient manpower.

"Our flag that is good enough to live under is good enough to fight for," maintained the speaker. "Soldiers have suffered torture and pain in the interests of their country and for the flag." "We must have a tribute of some sort or an arbitration board whose results every nation will abide by."

Mr. Kirk then affirmed that "The Hiker" was the outcome of a wish to keep alive the deeds of the Spanish War Veterans, originating with Fred Green. "For weeks one of our comrades spent all his time to raise all that was possible. There was \$3,000 raised. Walter C. Pierce," he said, "much credit is due to you and if it were not for you, I honestly believe we would not be here today. The City of Ypsilanti gave \$500, the supervisors of Washtenaw County \$200, Fred Yedley \$400, the American Legion \$100, the Knights of Pythias \$125, and others under \$100."

Accepts Monument: Dr. Harvey C. Colburn gave the invocation and Ross K. Bower, mayor of Ypsilanti, giving the acceptance for the city, spoke of the Normal College having assumed the responsibility of caring for the grounds on which the statue stands. "In some European countries they are tearing down monuments...we are proud of the men of Company G," he said.

Entertainment of several kinds was provided in the afternoon. In Roosevelt High School auditorium, entertainment was arranged, embracing an octette and a brass sextette from Community band; a track meet in Briggs' Field continued in the afternoon. Miss Marjorie Backus' pupils gave a program in tap dancing, in the lounges at both ends of the hall on the first floor. Miss Mary Stacklewitz gave a military dance, Miss Madge Starr an acrobatic number, Miss Nancy Patterson danced "Sweet Sue," Miss Suzanne Oakes gave a waltz, and Miss Donna Peebles danced "Cane Swing."

Many at Banquet: There were between four and five hundred at the evening banquet, which closed the 41st Annual Reunion of 12 companies of the 31st Michigan Volunteer Infantry, United Spanish War Veterans and Homecoming of Company G. Flags in holders, as well as red and blue stripes, ran the length of the tables.

Animated orchestral music and tap dances were enjoyed.

Mr. Kirk was toastmaster, George Becker's singing of "God Bless America" was very impressive, and under his direction the audience repeated the song. Mr. Kirk thanked President John Munson for his kindness throughout the preparation of the reunion. Introductions of visitors were made together, with their wives, and nearly all acknowledged the introductions with a bow.

In speaking on the banquet program, Congressman Michener reminded the audience, "If war comes, WE are not going, but boys and grandchildren are the ones that will fight the battles of the future. In the World War we fought to make the world better and give other nations what we enjoyed in the United States. The Philippines was made free by your efforts. The Spanish War made the United States a world power. We should never again send our boys to a world war. We went to war to make the world safe for democracy; now after 21 years there is scarcely a trace of democracy left in the world. We should set up an assembly in this country so that the Statue of Liberty shall mean what it was intended to mean. Murder is murder wherever it is, whether in Japan or France.

He concluded with a warning that the two billion dollars needed for armaments then would not be easy to obtain since people are now paying about all they could in taxes.

Business Expedited: Int the business meeting in Roosevelt auditorium, Saturday roll call was the first important item of business, with Walter C. Pierce presiding, and Louis B. McMullen recording the names of missing members. Reading the minutes of the previous year's meeting was dispensed with.

It was decided that the widows of deceased members should be sent notices of meetings, and that these names be sent to Secretary McMullen.

Baskets of Flowers were presented by the W.R.C. and the Daughters of Veterans.

"The Hiker" Monument Acceptance Speech: Ross K. Bower, Mayor of Ypsilanti

Mr. Chairman, honored guests, members of the 31st Michigan, ladies and gentlemen.

It is with distinct pleasure and privilege for me, on behalf of the people of Ypsilanti, to accept this beautiful monument. It is beautiful.

I know some of the work that was necessary to accomplish the placing of this monument. You are to be complimented for a job well done. I understand that the Michigan State Normal College has assumed the responsibility for the landscaping and the care of this plot of ground. You may be assured, therefore, that the surroundings for this monument will always be kept.

How fortunate we are that we can meet here today to dedicate a monument to veterans of the Spanish American War. In some countries they are tearing down monuments and melting them up to wage more war. May this never happen to "The Hiker."

We erect monuments to men who have completed their work and accomplished some great purpose, but I should like to remind you that there is still much more work to be done. We must continue to fight certain influences that are leaving no stone unturned to discredit and destroy the American system of government, based on the ideals and institution embodied in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States - the ideals and institutions which constitute Americanism, and which, in only a century and a half, have made us a nation second to none in greatness and influence, in power and wealth. The Communists, the Fascists, and the Nazis would destroy all of these. We cannot let them destroy our American system. We need a rebirth of patriotism, national harmony and a moral arming which will make impossible in America the existence of an "ism" except Americanism, and

which will untie, strengthen and consolidate us as a nation, and being so considered, others will refrain from attacking us. Thus, will it help to keep us out of war. But should war be forced upon us; this national harmony and patriotism will help us win.

"The Hiker" stands here, facing our Normal College, watching over these young men and young women who are being trained for our public schools, admonishing them to go out into the work and teach Americanism, and to combat effectively all the other "isms" which are menacing the life of our nation.

Again, I want to express the gratitude of our city for this monument. We are proud of our men who were members of the 31st.



Civil War Plaque

(Old Town Hall at 300 North Huron Street)

A memorial in memory of the men from Ypsilanti, who fought in the American Civil War, stands on the north lawn of Old Town Hall at 300 North Huron Street. The memorial is a boulder with a plaque which was dedicated on November 11, 1924, by the Women's Relief Corp. the Sons and Daughter of Union veterans. The boulder was dug out of a trench and brought to Ypsilanti by a teamster named Byron Fosdick, who erected the boulder for a small charge.

"In loving memory of Carpenter Post No. 180 Grand Army of the Republic, dedicated by Carpenter's Women's Relief Corps No. 65; Carpenter's Camp No. 180 Sons of Union Veterans; Martha A. Beach Tent No. 5, Daughters of Union Veterans; Ypsilanti, Michigan, 1924," are the words inscribed on the stone.

There were about 50 soldiers in the G.A.R. organization at the time that the stone was erected. The women's organizations sponsored a dinner for the men that day, just before the group went to city hall to dedicate the stone.

At the dinner, the ladies - anxious to obtain funds for the monument - raffled off a guess cake, made by Mrs. Margaret Weston. The cake, which contained 50 pennies, was won by Justice of the Peace Darwin Curtis, who purchased it for \$1.25. This was only one of many dinners sponsored by the group to raise funds for the stone.

At the time the monument was erected, Seth Marenas was president of the GAR post; Mrs. Emma Bailey was state president of the Women's relief Corps; and Mrs. Eunice Matts was monument chairman. Members of the committee in charge of raising money for the plaque and stone were: Mrs. Eunice Garty, Mrs. S. B. Mereness, Mrs. Harry Weston, Mrs. Ella Niles, Mrs. Sarah Young, Mrs. Ella Bassett, E. E. Ensign, Horatio Paine, and C. Downing. The plaque was unveiled by Mrs. S. B. Mereness.



Ypsilanti Sesquicentennial Plaque

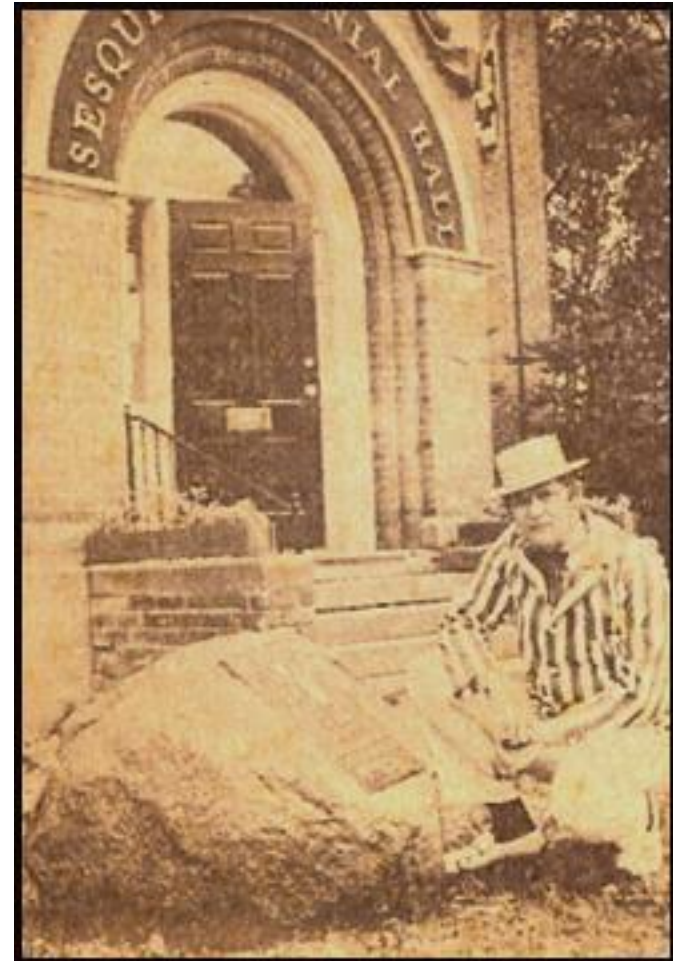
(130 North Huron Street)

(Picture at left): Commemorating Birthday - Wes Boughner of the Ypsilanti Area Jaycees checks out the bronze plaque, donated by Jaycees to the city and imbedded in a large rock in front of Sesquicentennial Headquarters, on North Huron Street. The plaque, commemorating the city's Sesquicentennial, was promised to the city during Jaycee week, and was put in place Friday afternoon (Press Photo - 7/1/1973). **State of Michigan, Michigan Legislature - House Concurrent Resolution No. 86.**

A concurrent resolution commemorating the Ypsilanti Area Sesquicentennial:

WHEREAS: the week of June 30 to July 8, 1973, will mark an important milestone in the development and growth of one of Michigan's most prosperous areas. One hundred fifty years ago, Major Benjamin Woodruff and his companions from Sandusky, Ohio, came to southeastern Michigan and founded, on the east bank of the Huron River, "Woodruff's Grove," the first village in Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS: the beginning of a survey for a government road over old Sauk Trail, running from Detroit to Chicago, saw the abandonment of the Grove. However, a mile away, the village of Ypsilanti was begun in 1825 by several landowners, the most prominent of whom was Judge Augustus B. Woodward. A classical scholar and, like many other Americans, intensely interested in the



Greek war for independence, which was then raging, he named the town for a heroic Greek Leader, Demetrius Ypsilanti; and

WHEREAS: Ypsilanti not only acquired a Greek namesake, but also in the heritage of the philosophers, developed a long-lasting respect towards education. In so doing Ypsilanti laid the groundwork for Michigan's position of leadership in education. As early as 1830 the first schoolhouse was built, and fourteen years later Charles Woodruff started the first school for studies beyond the elementary grades. In 1848, this school was taken over by Reverend L. H. Moore and transformed into a seminary, long recognized among educational circles. With the creation of Michigan State Normal College in 1849 came the first teacher training school west of the Alleghenies and for fifty years the only "normal" college in the State. This institution, since its founding, has continued to expand its facilities and curriculum to meet the increasing needs of society. Today, Eastern Michigan University stands as a symbol of educational achievement and excellence; and

WHEREAS: Strategically located on the Huron River and Chicago Road, Ypsilanti was a natural spot for economic development. Early industry included paper mills, carriage factories, and cigar manufacturing. The greatest boon to industrial development came in 1932 when Ford Motor Company constructed a plant and power dam. Later Ypsilanti was to become the site of the Willow Run plant, famous during World War II as the producer of bombers for the Allied Air Armada; and





WHEREAS: The Ypsilanti of 1973 is inhabited by people who, like the founding fathers, are proud of the educational, economic, cultural, and recreational opportunities which this friendly and pleasant area offers; now therefore be it

RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (the Senate concurring), That by these present, tribute is accorded with great good will to the Ypsilanti area and its renaissance of founding days; to the citizens - every man, woman, and child for the gifts they give and the heritage they cherish; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this tribute be presented to the members of the Sesquicentennial Committee, the Mayor and City Council of Ypsilanti, and The Ypsilanti Township, Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and Trustees, in testimony of the high esteem of the Michigan Legislature.

Adopted by the House April 10, 1973

Adopted by the Senate April 11, 1973

Signed: T. Thomas Thatcher, Clerk of the House of Representatives

Signed: Beryl I. Kenyon, Secretary of the Senate

Chicago Road Plaque

(Intersection of Michigan Avenue and Ballard Streets)

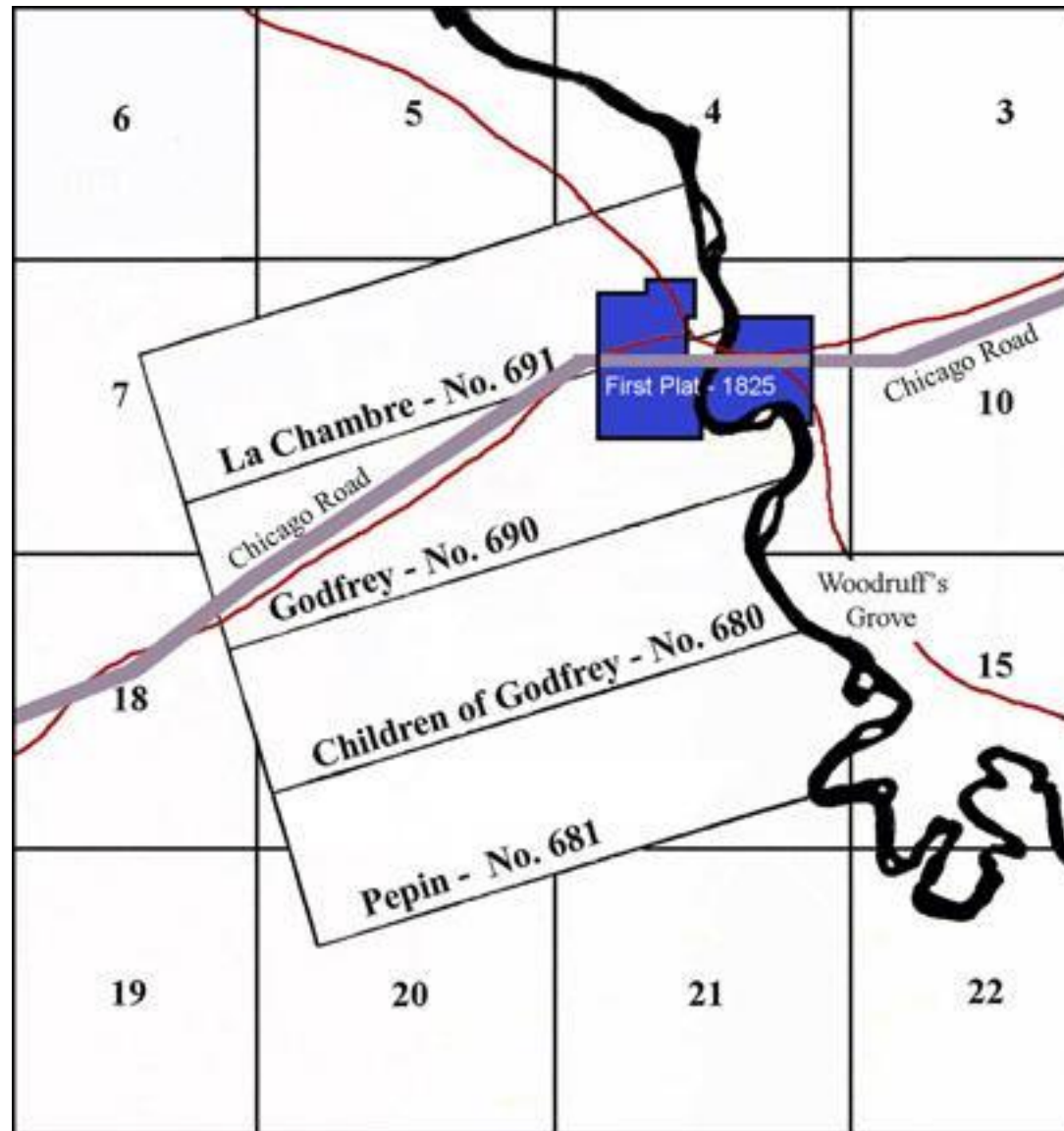


The Congress of the United States appropriated \$3,000 for the survey of a road from Detroit to Chicago in 1825. The survey was conducted by Orange Risdon, who followed the Sauk Trail. This was at a time when the Territory of Michigan was a wilderness, with only a few scattered settlements clearing the land for farming, such as the one at Woodruff's Grove, just south of present-day Ypsilanti. A further \$20,000 was appropriated in 1827 for the construction of the road. Over time, this road became the major highway connecting Detroit and Chicago.

The road was known by many names, as each community it passed through chose its own way to identify it. In Ypsilanti, the road was named Congress Street. Then, in 1914, the citizens of Ypsilanti voted to rename the road Michigan Avenue. That same year, the Federation

of Women's Clubs, assisted by its component clubs, the Ladies Literary Club, the Woman's Club, The Women's Study Club and the Ypsilanti Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, sponsored the erection of a historic marker at the point of Michigan Ave. Ballard Street, and Congress Street. The marker is a two-and-a-half-ton boulder of Black Syenite Granite, which was procured with much difficulty a few miles west of Ann Arbor. Black Syenite is the hardest of all granite, and rare. At the time, there were only two other pieces of the kind in the area.

The unveiling of the marker was held on the Fourth of July 1914, as part of a ceremony including band music and an eloquent address by Professor R. Clyde Ford of the Michigan State Normal College, now Eastern Michigan University.



Toll Gate - Summit Road

(1705 West Michigan Avenue)



The Detroit & Saline Plank Road was opened on August 26, 1850, 40 miles long with eight toll gates. One of these toll gates was at the Summit Farm, now 1705 West Michigan Ave., about three miles west of Ypsilanti. The tolls were to collect revenue, to fund repair of the road.

The toll rates were one cent per mile for wagons pulled by one horse or oxen. Two cents per mile if drawn by two horses, and if drawn by more than two horses, there was an additional $\frac{3}{4}$ cent charge for each additional horse or oxen. The toll for all single horses led; ridden or driven, was one cent per mile. For every 20 sheep or swine, one half cent and for every score of cattle, one cent per mile.

Local farmers resented the cost, and built a road of their own, bypassing the toll gate. A new toll gate was erected after the detour linked up with the road. Finally, in 1866, Evan Begole couldn't take it anymore, and used an ax to smash the toll gate. That was the beginning of the end of it.



A plaque on a boulder was erected on the site, by the Ypsilanti Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1938.



The plaque reads: "This tablet marks the site of the Summit Farm Toll gate on the Detroit-Saline Plank Rd. Chartered in 1848. Placed by the Ypsilanti Chapter D.A.R., 1938."



(June 12, 1938 - left to right) James Edward Smith, Avis JoAnne Thompson, Mrs. Floyd Moore (D.A.R. State Historian), Mrs. Fred Wilber (Ex-Regent, Ypsilanti Chapter D.A.R.), Mrs. Horace Z. Wilber (Regent), Mrs. B.S. Boyce (Chaplin) and Mrs. George Black (Chair, Marking Committee).

Cannon in Prospect Park

(Corner of Prospect and Cross Streets)




The cannon that stands guard in Prospect Park is the largest cannon in the State of Michigan. The weapon was cast at West Point Foundry in 1865, and taken to Fort McClary in Kittery, Maine and mounted as a coastal defense gun. There, in 1901, Ypsilanti Mayor Oliver Thompson admired it and learned it was to be replaced. He decided to apply for it on behalf of the city.

After two years of correspondence the cannon arrived at the depot in October of 1902. On the advice of

Mayor Thompson, it was given to the Carpenter Post of the G.A.R.

John Engel hitched eight horses to the wagon and moved the weapon to the base of Cross Street hill, but because of its weight, the cannon could go no further. A stone crusher with tractor wheels was used to carry the gun up the hill. The cannon was set in place on October 13, 1902.



Ypsilanti Press - October 30, 1954: An old landmark on the east side is the large cannon that stands in Prospect Park.

It was given to Carpenter Post, G.A.R., on the advice of Mayor Oliver E. Thompson, who had worked for two years to obtain it. The weapon is an ancient coast defense gun from Fort McClary, Kittery, Maine. Mayor Thompson found it there and on learning that it was to be replaced by a large gun, he applied for it. It took two years of correspondence, because of government red tape, to get it assigned to Ypsilanti. Then the War Department decided not to give any more guns. However, Ordinance Sgt. J.E. Wolf, of Fort McClary, managed to convince the department that the cannon had been promised to Ypsilanti before that order was made.

The cannon arrived here in 1892 after Station Agent B.M. Damon secured a special transportation rate from the Michigan Central Railroad.

City Engineer William Blanchard designed and made wood end frames from which the present carriage was cast in iron.

The next problem was to get the cannon to the park, then just being developed. John Engel, a depot merchant who also did teaming hitched an eight-horse team to the piece and carried it to the foot of East Cross St. hill - where it was stalled. A huge city stone crusher with tractor wheels came in handy as a means of solving the difficulty.


The cannon has been a subject of cameras for over 50 years. It weighs about 10 tons and has a 10-inch barrel.

Ypsilanti residents, especially those on the East Side, have long accepted it as a memorial to Mayor Oliver E. Thompson, who worked so hard to obtain it.

It was the source of controversy during the scrap drive at the time of World War II. Members of the salvage committee made the mistake of suggesting the cannon be scrapped for the war effort.

A storm of protest broke from the irate residents who knew and valued the history of the giant weapon.

The cannon is still held in high esteem. This spring, a group of scouts gave it a fine new coat of black paint.



Ypsilanti Press - September 22, 1942: Would Keep Cannon. The proposition to scrap the cannon in Prospect Park comes from the newcomers on the salvage committee who know nothing of its history or the many citizens and especially one family who had much to do with the growth of Ypsilanti and who were active in bringing the gun here. To begin with the cannon was not given to Ypsilanti by the War Department but to Carpenter Post, G.A.R. on the advice of Mayor Oliver E. Thompson, who worked for two years to obtain it.

Most cannons stuck in various towns are products of the Spanish War or World War spoils, but our cannon is an ancient coast defense gun from Fort McClary, Kittery, ME. It was found there by Mayor Thompson, and on learning its interesting history and that it was to be replaced by a large gun, he applied for it. It took two years of correspondence because of government red tape to get it assigned to Ypsilanti, and then the War Department decided not to give any more guns. However, ordinance Sergt. J.E. Wolf of Fort McClary, who loved the gun and hoped to find a home for it among people who appreciated it as Ypsilanti certainly did, convinced the department that the cannon had been promised before that order was made and in 1892, the gun arrived here, Station Agent B.M. Damon secured a special transportation rate from the Michigan Central Railroad.

There was only the gun, the government not donating the carriage. But City Engineer William Blanchard (who gave waterworks park plants from his own garden, by the way) designed and made wood end frames from which the present carriage was cast in iron. The whole community was deeply interested.

The next thing was to get the cannon to the park, then just nicely under way. John Engel, a depot merchant who also did teaming, hitched an eight-horse team to the gun and carried it to the foot of E. Cross St. hill - where it was stalled. Now the city had been beguiled into buying a huge stone crusher with tractor wheels, which always broke if anything bigger than a pebble was put into it and had been the butt of many a jest as the city white elephant. But now it rose to the occasion nobly and speedily yanked the gun to the park.

The cannon and the Lake Luna have been subjects of snapshots by hundreds of tourists and family reunion members for 40 years and have carried the name of Ypsilanti to all parts of the country. For years John Chapman, Civil War veteran and first caretaker of the park, plated the flower bed along Lake Luna to scarlet salvia, blue ageratum and white alyssum that blazoned the national colors to all who passed. Newcomers do not know that this park was reclaimed, planted and landscaped by a neighborhood group before it was turned over to the city, the lake being paid for by the neighborhood.

The cannon has also been the loved resort of hundreds of children, locals and visitors from many states. It has been an integral part of the lives and happy memories of countless youngsters, who climb up or are put up on it and are thrilled at its touch. Prospect

Park has always been a paradise for children and the cannon is a very special part of it. It would be a shame to sacrifice this source of happy memories to a senseless fad that would mean little to the government, as there are many other sources of metal. Ypsilanti has plenty of interurban rails, which the government specially needs. Only last week attention was called to the heaps of iron metal rusting in the outskirts of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. Daily word is received of great heaps of metal found in the most unexpected places. Little real search has been made here for such material.

Now as to the Thompson family. "Uncle Ben," as he was widely known, came here in 1830. He was a millwright and carriage maker. In 1873 he and his son, Oliver E. Thompson, bought the Thompson block on River Street at the Depot, the former barracks of the 27th Michigan Infantry in the Civil War, and began making carriages, later adding a line of agricultural implements, which soon became the largest such store in this section. In 1880 Oliver invented a seeder, and later a kraut cutter, so much better than any existing that their product soon carried the name of Ypsilanti to all parts of the United States and abroad. To this industry Mr. Thompson and his three sons added a large coal business, a line of painting and decorating, a seed store and a building industry. As the factory work was seasonal "O.E." as he was called, added the rehabilitation of the shabby section just east of the factory on Cross and Maple Streets for summer work. He bought the whole block, built several new houses and remodeled others and made a little park of the joined backyards. The double house now owned by Edward Thompson on the south side of East Cross St. and a big double house on River Blvd. were also Thompson-built. After their father's death the sons carried on the factory as O.E. Thompson's Sons, and when at last they sold it, the old name was retained and still is used.

Oliver Thompson was mayor, for many years a member of the city school board, and the Methodist Church board. His son Benjamin D., also served on the school board, was director of the First National Bank and was prominent in many ways. He was the father of Joseph H., Benjamin C., and Robert Thompson. Edward served as park commissioner for years and many of the beauties and conveniences now in Prospect Park are due to him. For years every parade, patriotic, fraternal or political, was organized by him, some of which have never been surpassed. He first decorated the present Methodist Church, and his own paintings adorn many Ypsilanti homes. He is an authority on Ypsilanti history, to which his family contributed so much. John H. Thompson, who died recently, was long a member of the county superintendents of the poor, and when that office was changed, was investigator for the new official. Cousins of the Thompsons, the Williams, were also prominent in Ypsilanti life.

The feeling in Ypsilanti, especially on the East Side, has been that the cannon was a memorial to Oliver E. Thompson, who after long effort obtained it. It is not a useless ornament, as so many such guns are, but a valuable part of the everyday life of the many common people who frequent the Park. It would be a real loss to the community to destroy it, when there are so many other sources of metal material available. The government is appealing to boost morale - yet what would it mean to the younger group and their parents to have this part of their daily lives destroyed unnecessarily?

Ypsilanti Museum - MotorCities Marker

(220 North Huron Street)



In 2008, MotorCities received a federal grant to create a Wayside Exhibit Program in the MotorCities region. The program creates a comprehensive system of approximately 300 outdoor signs in communities throughout central and southeastern Michigan. Each sign commemorates Michigan's automotive heritage and is designed to increase public awareness of this on a community and regional level.

The Story of the House at 220 North Huron: Built in 1860, the house was owned and occupied by three prominent families during its first half century. It was built in the popular Italianate architecture style of the period. Its large windows, extended eaves, and expressive brackets are classic examples of this style.

Asa Dow, who had been a business partner with Daniel Lace Quirk in

Chicago, made this place his home during the years that he lived in Ypsilanti. On December 15, 1863, the stockholders of the newly formed First National Bank of Ypsilanti selected him for president. Mr. Dow would also participate in the organization of the Ypsilanti Woolen Manufacturing Company. The Dow Home at 220 North Huron Street (once 42 Huron Street) was an Ypsilanti show place. The Friday morning April 22, 1864, Ypsilanti True Democrat refers to it as follows: *There are few places of its size that can boast of as many beautiful private residences as Ypsilanti. Many of them have handsome lawns and gardens,*

tastefully decorated with ornamental trees, shrubbery, and flowering plants and not a few possess an ornate style of architecture...The dwelling of Messers Dow, Jenness, Sampson, Mills, Loveridge, and Major Atwood are all elegant and tasty domiciles worthy of attention.

The newspaper again references Asa Dow on July 14, 1864, in the coverage of the death of Minerva Miles Dow, his wife. Mrs. Dow would be the second person buried at the newly dedicated Highland Cemetery. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Dow returned to Chicago. After his death on September 23, 1890, his body was returned to Ypsilanti and was buried in Highland Cemetery as well.

In the real estate transfer column from March 17, 1865, it says: "*Asa Dow to A.H. Goodrich, residence on Huron Street and household goods \$14,000.*" This was quite a large sum of money, even considering the inflated real estate prices during the closing months of the Civil War.

Aaron Goodrich came to Ypsilanti to manage the Follett House, Ypsilanti's largest and finest hotel. After managing the hotel during 1866, he became a salesman for the Batchelder & Company Monument Works, a local marble works that furnished many of the cemetery monuments throughout southeastern Michigan. The stately house was home to Aaron and Julia Goodrich for almost 10 years. They took great pride in maintaining the dwelling and its setting. The Saturday morning May 13, 1865, Ypsilanti Commercial refers to it: *Messers A. H. Goodrich and D.L. Quirk are enclosing their residences on Huron Street with a new fence that is indeed a credit to our city. It is mainly of wood but molded and sanded to imitate iron. It has elegant iron posts and is bolted with iron clamps to large square stone posts sunk three feet into the ground. For durability, it cannot be surpassed, and we have seen nothing so tasty. We are told its cost was \$30.00 per rod.*

The Goodrich family moved to Saline and opened the Goodrich House at 220 North Huron in May 1879. They later sold the home to Mr. and Mrs. Lambert Barnes. Mr. Barnes was the superintendent of the Peninsular Paper Company, and advanced to the position of president there. His wife Jane was the daughter of Robert L. Geddes, one of Washtenaw County's earliest pioneers. Mr. Barnes had also served as mayor of Ypsilanti from 1875-1879. At the time of his death in 1887, he was vice president of the First National Bank of Ypsilanti. He died on June 30, 1887, in Detroit, where he had gone to have an ulcerated tooth taken care of. His widow died in 1893.

Miss Laverne Ross purchased the house in 1922 and began renting it out to tenants. Up to eight apartments were available for this. During the 1920's and 1930's, several residents were administrators and faculty members at the Michigan State Normal College (now Eastern Michigan University). In the 1940s, records show that several tenants were employed at Ford's Willow Run bomber

plant, and after its closure, another worked for the Kaiser-Frazer Car Company at the former bomber plant. By the 1960s, the home became a popular rental space for students and retirees.

The city of Ypsilanti purchased the home in 1965 for \$55,000 and continued to rent it out as apartments. The only year on record that all eight apartments were rented is 1968, when students and city employees resided within them. The last tenant moved out in 1970, and the city offered the home, known as the "Barnes-Ross house" to the Ypsilanti Historical Society, to convert into a local history museum. The museum opened in 1972 after much repair and restoration. In September of 2006, Ypsilanti Mayor Cheryl Farmer and the city council agreed to sell the home to the Ypsilanti Historical Society.

The 12-room, 5,406 square foot brick mansion is now home to the collective memory of the history of Ypsilanti and will continue to share these important stories for years to come.



Ypsilanti Historical Marker

(220 North Huron Street)



The marker was erected in 1963, by the Ypsilanti Rotary Club and is a registered Michigan Historical Site (number 237). The marker was originally located just north of I-94 near the Highway 12 (Business) interchange, just west of Ypsilanti. It was moved to the front yard of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum (220 North Huron Street) sometime in the 1990s.

The wording on the marker is as follows: *Located at the juncture of the old Indian trails and the Huron River, this area was the camping and burying ground for several Indian tribes. In 1809 Gabriel Godfrey established an Indian trading post on the west bank of the Huron which he maintained for about ten years. Benjamin Woodruff and companions came up the river by boat in 1823 and settled one mile east of here at Woodruff's Grove. In 1825 a town was platted by Judge Augustus B. Woodward of Detroit and two local men, William Harwood and John Stewart. Situated on both sides of the Huron where the famous Chicago Road (now U.S. 12) crossed the river, the town was named Ypsilanti in honor of the Greek war hero, Demetrius Ypsilanti. The home of Eastern Michigan University, the oldest state university west of Albany, Ypsilanti is also*

the site of one of the state's very first publicly supported secondary schools. In World War II the Willow Run plant was erected to

build B-24 bombers which were vitally important in the war effort. True to its heritage, Ypsilanti has grown in the mainstream of commerce, industry, and education.

The back of the sign has a map of the Ypsilanti area with the following locations marked:

- You are here
- Cleary College
- Eastern Michigan University
- Ypsilanti Monument
- Site of the Godfrey Trading Post
- Beyer Memorial Hospital
- Willow Run Airport
- Site of Woodruff's Grove
- Michigan Avenue Interchange
- Grove Road Interchange
- Original Plat of Ypsilanti

In 2008, the sign was refurbished with funds donated by Bill and Mary Claire Anhut.



Bomber Restaurant - MotorCities Marker

(220 North Huron Street)



In 2008, MotorCities received a federal grant to create a Wayside Exhibit Program in the MotorCities region. The program creates a comprehensive system of approximately 300 outdoor signs, in communities throughout central and southeastern Michigan. Each sign commemorates Michigan's automotive heritage and is designed to increase public awareness of this, on a community and regional level.

The marker reads as follows: ***"You can get hungry building B-24 bombers. The Bomber Restaurant was first given its name in 1942 by Florence Bladwin Averill. The massive Ford B-24 plant had just opened at nearby Willow Run Airport to supply aircraft for our World War II efforts. Thousands of people worked around the clock at the plant, and the Bomber stayed open 24 hours a day to feed***

them. After various owners over the years, the Bomber Restaurant now serves food within an engaging display of military history".



Ypsilanti Savings Bank - Historical Marker

This marker was presented to the Ypsilanti Savings Bank by the Historical Society of Michigan, for over 100 years of service to the community. Since the Ypsilanti Savings Bank is no longer in existence, the marker is hanging in the Ypsilanti Historical Society Archives.

Ann Arbor News - August 1, 1987: Ypsilanti - The 100-year-old Ypsilanti Savings Bank announced Friday that it will merge its operations into Ohio-based Trustcorp Inc., the same company that bought out Ann Arbor's last locally owned bank, Citizens Trust Bankcorp Inc., in May.

Worth \$19 million, the deal calls for an exchange of 1.9 shares of Trustcorp common stock for each share of Ypsilanti Savings stock. The deal is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

"This is a very positive step for us," said James B. Pate, president and chief executive officer of Ypsilanti Savings. "It's definitely going to be a plus for our customers."

Word of the buyout by Trustcorp, a \$4.6 billion tri-state financial services giant headquartered in Toledo, was released by George W. Haigh, Head of Trustcorp, and George H. Cress, chief executive officer of Citizens Trust Company of Ann Arbor. Trustcorp acquired Citizens Trust earlier this year in a \$50 million deal that should be finalized this September. When that move is completed, Cress is scheduled to become chairman, president and chief executive officer of Trustcorp of Michigan.



Michigan Firehouse Museum - MotorCities Marker

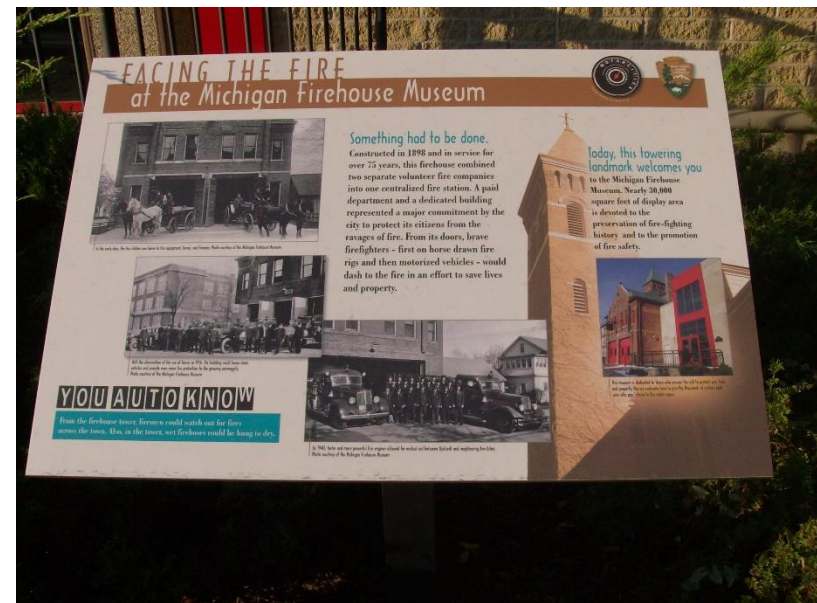
In 2008, MotorCities received a federal grant to create a Wayside Exhibit Program in the MotorCities region. The program creates a comprehensive system of approximately 300 outdoor signs, in communities throughout central and southeastern Michigan. Each sign commemorates Michigan's automotive heritage, and is designed to increase public awareness of this, on a community and regional level.

The marker reads as follows:

FACING THE FIRE at the Michigan Firehouse Museum

Something had to be done. Constructed in 1898 and in service for 75 years, this firehouse combined two separate volunteer fire companies into one centralized fire station. A paid department and dedicated building represented a major commitment by the city to protect its citizens from the ravages of fire. From its doors, brave firefighters – first on horse drawn fire rigs and then motorized vehicles – would dash to the fire in an effort to save lives and property.

Today, this towering landmark welcomes you to the Michigan Firehouse Museum. Nearly 30,000 square feet of display area is dedicated to the preservation of fire-fighting history and to the promotion of fire safety.



Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum - MotorCities Marker



In 2008, MotorCities received a federal grant to create a Wayside Exhibit Program in the MotorCities region. The program creates a comprehensive system of approximately 300 outdoor signs, in communities throughout central and southeastern Michigan. Each sign commemorates Michigan's automotive heritage and is designed to increase public awareness of this, on a community and regional level.

The marker reads as follows:

Hudsons and friends at the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum:

This building has stories to tell. It can tell about first being built as an electric plant before being converted to manufacturing in 1905. There are memories of 1916 when it became the first Dodge dealership outside Detroit, later becoming Willys-Overland-Whippet car dealership. But Hudson Sales and Service is its claim to fame, as Carl Miller

sold Hudson cars here for 25 years, until 1958, as the world's last Hudson dealer. This building really found its voice in 1995, reborn as the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum.



Spencer Cemetery Marker

(Corner of East Michigan Avenue and Spencer Lane)

The Willow Run Community School Administration building stands on the northeast corner of East Michigan Avenue and Spencer Lane. On the lawn in front of the building stands a memorial marker, with the names of the 118 people buried on the site in Spencer Cemetery. The site was not only once the location of the cemetery, but still is, as the graves are still there. It seems the school building and cemetery belong together.

The land was sold by the United States to Zolva Brown on October 1, 1827. He sold the land to John King on June 8, 1832. The first person buried in the cemetery was Ann Brown, wife of Zolva Brown, who was 31 years, 8 months, and 16 days old when she died on December 12, 1833.

The school district was organized in 1834, and the new board decided to build the schoolhouse on land near the burying ground. The log schoolhouse was 20 x 24 feet and was in use for 15 years. Then, the building was replaced with a white frame schoolhouse, which was in use for the next 83 years. This building was replaced in 1932, when the Standard School, and present, building was erected. The cemetery became the property of the school district in 1849. The last two people buried in the cemetery were Phebe Spencer and Fred W. Wanner, both in 1925.

The School District ordered the removal of the headstones, which was carried out in November of 1941, so as to turn the site into a playground for the school. By this time, the cemetery had been closed to burials for about ten years. The school later left the building so the administration could move in. The graves and the memorial marker remain.



Ypsilanti City Hall Marker - 1860

(6 West Cross Street)

Ypsilanti Press – July 8, 1976: DAR dedicates Marker – The Daughters of the American Revolution, Ypsilanti Chapter, in a Monday afternoon service dedicated a bronze marker to be placed on the city's first city hall building at 6 W. Cross St.

Conducting the dedication were Miss Doris Milliman, chapter regent, and Mrs. Hugh Kellas, Chaplain.

Foster Fletcher, city historian, told of the significance of the building, constructed about 1860 and used as city hall and a small jail until early in the 20th century. He said that most of the jail's occupants were vagrants picked up at the train station located east of the building.

The marker was presented to Mrs. Nathalie Edmunds, city council member, who accepted it for the city, mayor and city council. She then presented it to John N. Pappas, present owner of the building.

Pappas is a sculptor now on leave from Eastern Michigan University art department.

Among those attending the dedication were representatives of the Sara Caswell Angell DAR Chapter of Ann Arbor.

Notes from the YHS Archives: The commemoration by the Chapter was due to the suggestion of Mrs. Richard Warner, a past regent and member of the City's Bicentennial Commission, and of Mr. Foster Fletcher.

The committee in charge was Mrs. Alan Stewart, Mrs. Jack O'Neill and Mrs. Virgil Tecoma.

Members of the Sara Caswell Chapter from Ann Arbor who attended the ceremony were: Miss Anna F. Earl, regent, Mrs. Gerald Dykstra, Mrs. Marguerite Lambert, Mrs. James Mesrobian, Mrs. Wallace Holcombe and Mrs. John Oncley, Vice regent. Mr. Guernsey Earl and Dr. John Oncley accompanied the chapter members.

Ypsilanti Chapter members present were Mrs. Charles Parsons, Vice Regent, Mrs. Alan Stewart, Mrs. Daniel McGuire, Mrs. Richard Warner, Mrs. Loren Brown, Mrs. Henry Deering, Mrs. Clayton Hoop, Mrs. Hugh Kellas and Miss Doris Milliman. Among the other guests were Mr. Henry Deering.

Notes from the YHS Archives: The First City Hall – A good location was selected between the east and west sides of town, just west of the present Cross Street Bridge. It was built in 1860 and used as the city hall until 1903. Council met on the first floor, and a jail was in the basement. The jail usually held vagrants from the railroad – one or two at a time. Chauncey Joslin was the second mayor. The east and west sides of Ypsilanti had just voted to join forces before the second mayor, Arden Ballard, was elected.



Craig Doda, May 6, 2018. [First City Hall Historical Marker \(hmdb.org\)](http://hmdb.org)

Starkweather Fountain

It was in 1889, when the Ypsilanti water mains were installed, that Mrs. Starkweather gave a very unique fountain to the City of Ypsilanti. It was made of bronze and sat on a granite foundation, with a height of 12 ¼ feet above the curb. On the North and South sides of the fountain were drinking bowls for horses, on the East and West faces were bowls for people, and at the bottom on the four corners were bowls for dogs.

At the top of the fountain was the figure of Hebe, the Goddess of Youth and Cupbearer to the Gods. The fountain was the work of the J.L. Mott Iron Works of New York. The original cost of it was \$750.

In April of 1932, the fountain was dismantled because of some problems, and by that time there were more modern means available for getting a drink. The City of Ypsilanti planned to place the statue in the park behind the Ladies Library. However, it was placed in storage for several years, and then in 1935 the top part of the fountain, the figure of Hebe, was moved to Tourist Park, now Water Works Park, on Catherine Street. There, she graced the entrance to the park. After that, the fountain disappeared completely.

Over the years, there has been a great deal of speculation and rumor about what eventually happened to the fountain. At one time suspicion fell on the city park commissioner, who it was rumored had sold the fountain and other City owned items for personal gain. This accusation was never proven. Another rumor that circulated was that City workers dumped the fountain into the Huron River. The most likely scenario is that the fountain was scrapped during World War II as a part of the war effort.



Signal Tower in Depot Town

(corner of Cross and River Streets in Depot Town)

Ypsilanti Press - October 22, 1991 - John Mulcary, Press Staff Writer: Tower to stand as Depot Town symbol - A new landmark, signaling the start of a new five-year business plan by Ypsilanti Depot Town merchants, began to take shape Saturday.

"It's going to be our landmark, our identification marker," Depot Town Association President William French said of a railroad crossing guard tower now under construction on the northwest corner of River and Cross Streets.

The tower, now about 20 feet high, is built in the style of one on the site in the 1800s. French said 26 volunteers, mostly from the Depot Town Antique Engine Club, helped put up the frame Saturday, with roofing, siding and finishing touches planned for this Saturday and Nov. 2.

French said the tower gables will slant at the same angle as the Depot Town signs in several parts of town, making the tower a recognizable symbol for the area.

"We didn't just stick up a sign that meant nothing," French said. French said the tower idea was born in 1976 and the design drawn in 1981, but the association did not have the sum of \$4,000 needed for the project until this year. The Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority provided the money, French said. French estimated that without volunteer labor the cost would be about \$12,000.

French said there had been much discussion of whether the tower should be called a signal tower or crossing guard tower, with the latter winning out, at least for now. He said the tower is the first step in a new five-year business plan for Depot Town. More of the plan should be unveiled in about two months, he said.

A small tree obscuring the tower from the south will be moved to a new location, French said. When finished, the tower's eight-sided dome will be illuminated from within, he said.



Clock Tower in Depot Town

(Cross Street in the center of Depot Town)

Ann Arbor News - April 4, 1997 - By Susan Vela, News Special Writer: Depot Town Adds Tower Drive Time. Thanks to \$46,000 in donations, Depot Town will be graced with a new clock tower this August.

But for the finishing touches, the Depot Town Association still needs another \$14,000. That means the fund-raising effort that kicked off last August will continue for at least another month.

The Depot Town Association has set a May 1 deadline for raising the money needed to finance irrigation, landscaping and security posts near the 19-foot clock tower that's proposed for the pedestrian walkway in the middle of Cross Street.

"The next three weeks will be our push time," said Bill French, association chairman. "We'll have a strong indication of whether we've been successful or not. We have a lot of confidence that our cup will be full."

French said the association needs 187 more contributors. Businesses, corporations or individuals willing to donate money for the finishing touches will have their names inscribed in a brick or plaque, which will be placed in the path leading up to and around the clock.

Construction is scheduled to begin in early July and should be done by August 1. But before the first brick can be laid, construction bids need to go out. French said that also should happen within the next three weeks.

The cast iron tower planned for Depot Town is to have four clock faces. The design of the clock will be reminiscent of the late 1800s, when most of Depot Town's buildings went up.

The new clock tower still provides the city with another landmark, and at the same time, provides a buffer to slow down Cross Street traffic.

"We're fortunate to receive 300,000 visitors (to the area) annually," said French, co-owner of two Depot Town eateries. "Besides the clock's aesthetic value to the community, it (makes) the Depot Town area more pedestrian friendly."

Original plans set a \$45,000 price tag for the clock tower and a drinking fountain and parking benches. However, French said efforts to install a drinking fountain and parking benches were nixed a while ago to accommodate new plans for landscaping, irrigation and the posts that will highlight the edges of the pedestrian walkway and protect the clock tower.

Those amenities have added to the total cost. "We have an additional \$14,000 to raise due to a couple of changes," French said.

French is optimistic that the final fund-raising efforts will be successful. If not, he noted that the clock tower still will be constructed, but that plans for the finishing touches could change.

"We've been really pleased with the response from the community," he said. "But it's a large sum of money when you're collecting in \$50 and \$100 bills."

Both the Depot Town Association and Depot Town Development Authority contributed each \$7,500 to seed the project.

Anyone wanting to make a donation can contact Dave French at 485-4677. Correspondence can be sent to Depot Town Association, P.O. Box 97-235, Ypsilanti, MI 48198.

Donations for the commemorative bricks or plaques are being accepted in amounts of \$50, \$100, or \$1,000.



F.D. Richards, August 14, 2013. [Depot Town, Ypsilanti | Sticks | F. D. Richards | Flickr](#)

Caboose in Depot Town

(Ease side of Rice in Depot Town)



Ann Arbor News - By Seth Gordon, News Staff Reporter - 2006: When the caboose rolled to its current resting place on the east side of Rice Street, on a snowy Valentine's Day 27 years ago, Depot Town was a very different place.

Mirroring the transformation of Depot Town itself, the Depot Town Association is one step away from restoring the caboose to its former glory.

"It's really quite pretty and we want it to look good for the Heritage Festival this year," says Depot Town Association President Gary McKeever. "We had painted it red and it was getting to be pink. Red turns pink in the sun."

Gary and Carolyn McKeever also are being honored as grand marshals of the Heritage Festival Parade, which will make its way through downtown Ypsilanti starting at 10 a.m., August 19.

McKeever enlisted the help of local railroad enthusiast Dave Wheeler, who tracked down the caboose's history and chose the red-brown paint, to match its history as part of the New York Central Railroad.

"That's a 1922 caboose and all those were built in the St. Thomas shops in Ontario," Wheeler explains. "They originally belonged to the Michigan Central Railroad, but the Michigan Central was bought out by the New York Central. That was a typical color for their cars."

The restoration also included repainting the caboose handrails yellow, and its wheels black. Radford Roof Repair of Ypsilanti did all of the painting, and also installed a new roof.

"It just came from my love of doing historical restoration, especially when it's in the neighborhood where I grew up," owner Radford Greaves says. "It's a pretty special thing."

The last step of the renovation will be to paint the lettering and logo of the New York central Railroad on the caboose, which Wheeler said will be done sometime in the next two weeks, by Cal Sign Co. of Wayne.

The Depot Town Association bought the caboose from an executive at Ford Motor Co., who kept it indoors and on tracks at a Ford property in Melvindale.

"For all those years, it was out of the weather," said association member Tom Dodd, who also pens the group's newsletter, The Depot Town Rag. "We could tell from the carpeting on the floor, that the only piece of furniture in there was a king-size bed, just from where there were indentations on the carpet."



Having formed in 1975 and incorporated two years later, the Depot Town Association didn't have the funds to purchase the caboose outright in 1980 but signed a contract to buy it over time.

"We think it was a great investment because it's our image," McKeever says.

"In face, on the side of the building right next to the caboose is a sign that says, 'Welcome to Depot Town,' and there's a faded caboose in the center up there. We're trying to get someone back up there to repaint the caboose in the sign, because like the caboose itself, it turned pink and faded."

Police Officers Plaque

(505 West Michigan Avenue)

Ann Arbor News - Obituary for Arthur Kramer: Age 91. Arthur W. Kramer, Sr., a retired Ypsilanti Police Officer, passed away from this life on January 23, 1998, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital from complications following surgery. At the time, he was surrounded by Bessie, his loving wife of 74 years, two children and three generations of grandchildren. Mr. Kramer served as an Ypsilanti Police Officer for over 36 years; starting as a patrolman in 1929 for \$155 a month and retiring as Lieutenant in 1965. Kramer then served as the Ypsilanti Township electrical inspector for six years. He was a Master Electrician who taught the trade to children and grandchildren. Mr. Kramer was a co-founder of K&S; Electric and the Ypsilanti Sign Company, which later became the Huron Sign Company, still owned and operated by his grandchildren. In his later years, Mr. Kramer served as the official historian for the Ypsilanti Police Department. "He always worked," said Mr. Kramer's daughter, Phyllis Bond. "Work, work, work, so we could enjoy life."

Mr. Kramer was born in Carleton in Monroe County in 1906 to Conrad and Josephine (Livernois) Kramer. He attended Ypsilanti High School. He worked for six years at the Ford Motor Company Plant in River Rouge before joining the Ypsilanti Police Department. He met his wife, Bessie, in the summer of 1923, and they were married March 7, 1924. Mr. Kramer's greatest joy came from watching all of his grandchildren grow. He would often bestow nicknames on them that he would use even when they had grown to adulthood. "He really loved all of his grandchildren," said his wife, Bessie Kramer. Mr. Kramer was a member, and former lay minister, of Transfiguration Church (formerly St. Ursula's) in Ypsilanti. He was active throughout his life in community organizations. He was a member of the Lions Club International for 37 years and served as President of the Ypsilanti Chapter in 1965. He was very involved in the White Cane sales and the Ypsilanti Travelogue series. He was a life member for the Knights of Columbus, the Washtenaw Law Enforcement Association, the National Police Officers Association, the Southern Michigan Law Enforcement Association, the Metropolitan Club and the Goodfellows. He also served as a charter member of the Gold Coats at Beyer Hospital and was a member of Senior Citizens on Congress Street.

"I can remember delivering meals to the poor for the Goodfellows," said grandson, Bill Short. "We were poor, but Grandpa could always find someone who had less." Mr. Kramer is survived by his loving wife, Bessie and four children, Shirley Spangler, Pauline Short, Phyllis (Wendell) Bond and Thomas (Lois) Kramer, 26 grandchildren; 49 great grandchildren; 5 great great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sisters, Mary Stanuch, Agnes Davidson and Genevieve; two brothers, Effner and Frank; his oldest son, Arthur Jr.; and one grandson, Larry Max Bond. Funeral mass will be celebrated on Monday, January 26, 11 a.m. at Transfiguration Catholic Church with Fr. David Franco and Fr. Terry Kerner of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Monroe, Michigan concelebrating. Burial will follow in St. John Catholic Cemetery, Ypsilanti, MI. A scripture service will be held Sunday evening at 7 p.m. A rosary will be recited Sunday evening at 8:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Mr. Kramer's honor may be

made to the Ypsilanti Lions Club. Envelopes will be available at the Janowiak Funeral Home, Geer-Logan Chapel where the family will receive friends on Saturday from 6-9 p.m. and on Sunday from 1-4 and 6-9 p.m. and at the Church on Monday, 9 a.m. until time of Mass.



Police Department, Ypsilanti, MI. City of Ypsilanti, [Document \(2600×1784\) \(cityofypsilanti.com\)](#)

G.A.R. Hall Plaque

(Pearl Street)

Ann Arbor News - July 1995 The Carpenter Woman's Relief Corps No. 65 of Ypsilanti is 75 years old this year.

In celebration of the anniversary, the organization is planning a banquet at the G.A.R. Hall on Nov. 5 to which national, department and district officers are being invited. A highlight of the program will be a look backward over the milestones of the past 75 years. Also incorporated into the program will be the annual tribute to senior members. This year a dozen members over 75 will be honored.

The YAMS, a kitchen band composed of representatives from Maccabee's women in Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor and Manchester, will play for the occasion. Arrangements for the banquet are being made under the chairmanship of Mrs. John W. Bird.

The Women's Relief Corps in the United States is the auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic, veterans of the Union Army. Its chief function is a dedication to patriotism and service. The G.A.R. is now extinct as an organization, never having taken descendants of veterans into membership, but the Woman's Corps is a going concern. At first limited to wives, sisters and daughters of Union men, this restricted eligibility clause has been revoked, and the organization is open to all "patriotic women of good character."

Relief to Wounded: Individual relief corps groups were first formed after the Civil War, from among the women who went out to the Union battlefields, to give what aid and relief they could to the wounded. Hence the word "relief" in the organization's name.

The national order was founded July 25, 1883, in Denver, Colo. This national body was at one time the largest patriotic organization of women in the world.

The local group was organized in May 1884, by Mrs. Julia Mereness. Its charter was issued Nov. 20, 1885, when the group had 25 members. The corps took its name from the veterans' organization, Carpenter Post 180, founded two years before.

Full Name Lost: Traditionally, the G.A.R. posts and auxiliaries named their organizations for Union soldiers killed in battle. In the case of the Ypsilanti G.A.R. and women's corps, the full name of the man they commemorate seems to be lost to history. There is a theory the tribute may involve more than one man, hence the lack of a first name or initials, as is common in the names of

other posts. Also bearing out the theory are minutes of an 1895 meeting of the G.A.R., wherein a committee was appointed to "look for the picture of the Carpenter boys."

In City Historian L.S. White's files listed two Carpenter men from Washtenaw County, both Union casualties. One is a Capt. Roswell P. Carpenter, killed May 12, 1864, at Spotsylvania, Va. It appears he is the one to whom the Chelsea women's corps paid tribute. Their group is the R.P. Carpenter post.

The other man, Watson W. Carpenter, rank unknown, was killed July 30, 1864, near Petersburg, Va. Whether the Ypsilanti post was named for him, for him and another man jointly, or for somebody else entirely, is not known.

Light Guard Armory: For some years after the G.A.R. first organized, the men held their meetings in the Light Guard Armory, the building at the northeast of Michigan Ave. and Washington St., now housing the Cunningham Drug store. They met on the third floor, where the guardsmen used to hold their drills.

In 1908, the men put on a series of dinners to raise money for acquiring their own quarters. The women were allowed to help with the project, provided they didn't solicit house to house or "bother the businessmen." The dinners, at 15 cents a plate, were successful enough to permit the G.A.R. to rent a hall on a five-year contract, with an option to sub-let. The building they rented is the present G.A.R. Hall on Pearl Street, between N. Huron and N. Washington Streets.

As things turned out, five years later, it was the women who actually bought the building. Title to the property was deeded to them by Matthew Stine, a cigar manufacturer, and Mathias Stine and his wife Anna. Two women, Mrs. Katherine Sherman and Mrs. Lois Leech, figured importantly in the purchase of the property. Each contributed \$1,000. "Many other citizens donated liberally," reads a newspaper clipping of the time. The woman's corps has title to the building for as long as the organization exists. If they should disband, the building reverts to the city of Ypsilanti with the stipulation that it be used for patriotic purposes.

Erection Date Unknown: Apparently, records no longer exist to determine when the building was erected. It is believed the abstract for the structure and a number of other papers were burned at one time. Mr. White, the city historian, surmises it may have been built about 1880. A building of some sort shows up at the location, in a photographic negative he has from that year.

The earliest factual information dates from 1899, when the building was the residence of a Miss A. C. Swicke. About two years later, a printer by the name of Guy W. Flower did business there; and in 1909, when the G.A.R. was already renting the place, there was a blacksmith shop in the eastern part of it.

At the present time, the local club, with a membership of over 50 women, meets regularly on the first and third Fridays of every month, except July and August. It is affiliated with the Washtenaw County Hospital Auxiliary and has a representative at the V.A. Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Seven of its members are active in Red Cross work, as volunteer drivers and as assistants during Blood Bank and chest X-ray clinics. The corps makes continuing monetary contributions to each of these institutions.

The University Hospital in Ann Arbor, the Wayne Infirmary, and Howell Sanitarium have also figured in donations from the corps. Christmas remembrance packages are donated to individual families, through the local Council of Social Agencies.

Contributions: At the Department and National levels, the corps contributes annually to at least a dozen "mandatory" funds, and a number of voluntary ones. Money for these diverse contributions is raised through card and other benefit parties, rummage sales, and the renting of the G.A.R. hall to other groups.

Each year, the corps presents American flags to numerous churches, schools, and Boy Scout groups. In making the presentations, or at other times when called upon, the women explain the proper use and display of the flag. They distribute pamphlets containing the pledge of allegiance and patriotic high points in the nation's history.

District Officers: Two of the local women have served the district as president, Mrs. Mable Slater and Mrs. Lillian Parre. At the present time, Mrs. Parre is Department chaplain. The department representative to the Veterans Administration is Mrs. Pearl Celebrezze.

The Woman's Relief Corps and the Daughters of Union Veterans jointly observe Patriotic Month during February, when they co-sponsor a banquet. Civic leaders and leaders of allied patriotic orders and churches are guests.

The patriotic instructor of the corps has charge of Memorial Day and Memorial Sunday observances in Ypsilanti.

Current Officers: Corps officers are elected in January for a one-year term. The following are the group's current officers: Mesdames Alvina Grubb, president; Margaret Starr, junior vice president; Ora Ostrom, chaplain; Cestia Ollette, conductress; Lillian Parre, treasurer and patriotic instructor; Pauline Schoug, secretary; Florence Burd, guard; Hazel Horner, Bertha Stitt, Janet Hodson and Margaret Case, color bearers.

Senior members who will be honored at the anniversary banquet include Mesdames Ella Niles, Nora Holmes, Margaret Weston, Clara Howling, Edna Clough, Rose Parre, Bertha Stitt, Cestia Ollette, Ettie Reed, and Florence Burd. Tribute in absentia will be paid to two other senior members, Florence Raymond, now residing in California, and Jeanne Hadley, a Detroit resident.



M60 Patton Battle Tank

(Michigan Avenue)

Ypsilanti Courier November 8, 2001: VFW to Dedicate M60 Tank. The M60 Patton Battle tank that has been permanently parked at VFW Post 2408 in Ypsilanti will be dedicated and named "Commander Bob" in a ceremony scheduled for 1 p.m. Sunday.

The tank is being named for Bob Holloway, who was commander of the post when he died earlier this year. Mr. Holloway was instrumental in acquiring the tank for permanent exhibit at the Ypsilanti VFW Post.

The tank will be open, and members of the public are invited to the dedication and to look inside the vehicle before it is permanently sealed.

The schedule for the dedication is as follows:

1. Members of the Willow Run High School ROTC will post the colors.
2. Post Commander Harold Lawson will deliver a welcome.
3. The Rev. Keith Geiselman of the First Presbyterian Church will deliver the invocation.
4. State Rep. Ruth Ann Jamnick and Ypsilanti Mayor Cheryl Farmer will speak.
5. Lawson will speak.
6. The Rev. Geiselman will lead a closing prayer.
7. A rifle squad from the VFW will deliver a 21-gun salute.
8. Ypsilanti resident Michelle Mitchell will play taps.
9. A flag will be presented to Velda Holloway, widow of Mr. Holloway.
10. Lawson will close the dedication ceremony.

Following the dedication there will be refreshments served in the post.



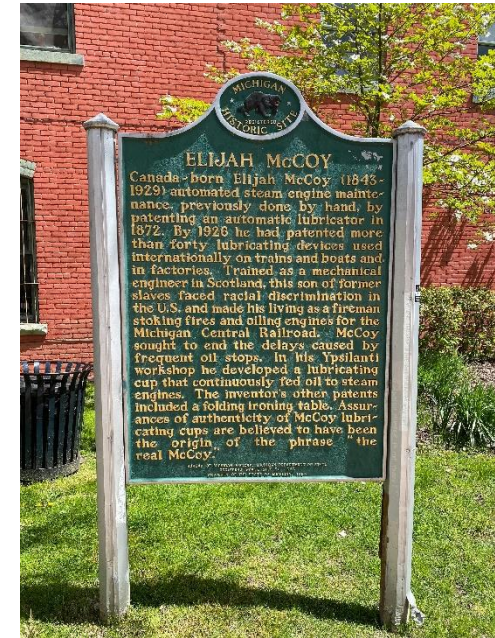
Commander Bob. Waymarking, n.d. [Tank - VFW post 2408 - Ypsilanti, Michigan, USA. \(waymarking.com\)](http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/USMI2408Tank-VFWPost2408-Ypsilanti-Michigan-USA)

Elijah McCoy

(229 West Michigan Avenue)

Canada-born Elijah McCoy (1843-1929) automated steam engine maintenance, previously done by hand, by patenting an automatic lubricator in 1872. By 1926 he had patented more than forty lubricating devices used internationally on trains and boats and in factories. Trained as a mechanical engineer in Scotland, this son of former slaves faced racial discrimination in the U.S. and made his living as a fireman stoking fires and oiling engines for the Michigan Central Railroad. McCoy sought to end the delays caused by frequent oil stops. In his Ypsilanti workshop he developed a lubricating cup that continuously fed oil to steam engines. The inventor's other patents included a folding ironing table. Assurance of authenticity of McCoy lubricating cups is believed to have been the origin of the phrase "the real McCoy." Bureau of Michigan History, Michigan Department of State, Registered State Site No. 642, Property of the State of Michigan - 1984.

Standing in the plaza just east of the library on Michigan Avenue is the Michigan Historic Marker, honoring the memory of African American inventor Elijah McCoy. He was the son of slaves who had escaped from Kentucky and had settled in Ypsilanti. Young Elijah graduated from high school in Ypsilanti and spent the year's 1859 to 1864 studying engineering in Scotland.



J.T. Lambrou, May 12, 2021,
[Elijah McCoy Historical Marker](#)

On his return to Michigan, he was only able to find employment with the Michigan Central Railroad as a fireman. As part of his duties, he had to oil the engine of the train, which had to make frequent stops for this reason. In his home-based machine shop, McCoy invented an automatic lubricator cup for oiling steam engines. This was his first patent, "Improvement in Lubricators for Steam-Engines" granted on July 23, 1872. It is believed this was the origin of the term "the Real McCoy," because engineers would ask if it was "the real McCoy," when buying lubricator cups for trains.

Elijah McCoy held some 60 patents by the time of his death in 1929. The Michigan Historical Marker was made possible by the work of Ypsilanti Historian A. P. Marshall, resident Maymette Dolberry, and State Representative Kirk Profit. The marker was dedicated on June 12, 1994.

Godfroy's on the Potawatomi Trail

(64 North Huron Street)

To commemorate the first settlement in Washtenaw County - Godfroy's on the Potawatomi Trail - Established by Gabriel Godfroy in 1809 - Erected by Ypsilanti Chapter D.A.R. - 1917.

The land on which the City of Ypsilanti now stands was said to be considered neutral ground by the tribes of Native Americans who inhabited the region. Here several trails intersected where the tribes carried out trade, councils and ceremonies. So, it is no surprise that in 1809 Gabriel Godfroy, Francis Pepin and Louis LeShambre built a trading post, the first permanent structure in what is now Washtenaw County. The post was known as "Godfroy's on the Potawatomi Trail." The post is said to have stood on the northeast corner of Huron and Pearl Streets.



The post was most likely a large block house built of heavy logs, surrounded by a stockade extending down the bluff to enclose a spring. The first floor of the block would have been the trading room, where Native Americans exchanged furs of otter, fox, wolf and the skins of deer and wildcat for gaudy trinkets, power and shot and whiskey.

The post was destroyed by fire in about 1815, and a new post was built, which was destroyed by fire in about 1820. By this time the tribes had moved west, and the traders followed. "The first permanent settlers in Ypsilanti," wrote Harvey Colburn in *The Story of Ypsilanti*, "found only a few charred logs and remnants of the bark roof."

The Daughters of the American Revolution decided in 1917 to mark the location of the post in a formal manner. On June 14, 1917, an exercise was held at 64 North Huron Street, at the Detroit Edison Building, now part of the Riverside Arts Center, called Riverside Off Center, when a bronze plaque was unveiled. The *Ypsilanti Record* of June 15, 1917, called it a "Fitting Program."

Highland Cemetery

(943 North River Street)

Washtenaw County - Historic District Commission: *Highland Cemetery is typical of the "rural tradition" cemetery design which emphasizes its natural setting. This design originated in France and was first seen in Greenwood Cemetery in New York. Highland Cemetery, as well as Forest Hill in Ann Arbor, was designed by James Glen, a landscape architect from Niles, Michigan.*

Dedicated on July 14, 1864, Highland Cemetery served as the final resting place for Ypsilanti's pioneer, commercial, social and educational community. Mary Anne Starkweather commissioned the Richard Romanesque chapel, designed by George Mason, in honor of her husband John, which crowns the entry drive.

*The oldest gravesite is that of Walter Oatman. His body and dozens of others were moved to Highland Cemetery from Pioneer and Prospect cemeteries. **Washtenaw County YC-27 Historical Marker.***

Overlooking the City of Ypsilanti, on the edge of a primeval lake, is Highland Cemetery, the final resting place for many who once lived in the city. This is the third burial place in the history of the city, the others being too small to meet the needs of a growing community. The original forty acres were purchased for use as a burial ground in 1864 and landscaped under the direction of Colonel James Lewis Glenn of Niles, Michigan. His design created a natural garden-like setting of winding drives and walkways, with flowers and shrubs. To the original trees were added cypress, willow pine, and cedar. Highland is the premier example of the garden cemetery in the state of Michigan.

The cemetery was dedicated on July 14, 1864, the ceremony held on Block Thirty-Two. The first burial had been held the day before, that of Elias Norton, who was seventy-five years of age. He is interred in Lot One, Block One. Those buried at Highland included soldiers of the American Civil War, outstanding members of the local community, and many who made Ypsilanti their home. Highland Cemetery is recognized as a historic site, and a marker from the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission is on display, at the entrance to the grounds. The plaque was presented to the cemetery in August 1989.



J.T. Lambrou, n.d. [Highland Cemetery Historical Marker](#)

World War I Markers

(Bridge on Cross Street)



IN HONOR OF OUR BRAVE MEN OF THE 107TH FIELD SIGNAL BATTALION U.S.A., WHICH BRIGADED WITH THE 32nd DIVISION, RENDERED DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AT CHATEAU THIERRY, SOISSONS, FISMES, JUVINGY AND THE ARGONNE, AND IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO IN THE CAUSE OF HUMANITY GAVE THE LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION. A roster of the names of these men is preserved in the archives of the City Hall. Erected by the Patriotic Service League - 1919.

IN HONOR OF THE BRAVE MEN WHO SERVED IN THE WORLD WAR AND OF THE DEVOTED MEN AND WOMEN WHO IN HOSPITAL AND HUT HEARTENED AND SUSTAINED OUR FIGHTING FORCES, AND IN

MEMORY OF THOSE WHO IN THE CAUSE OF HUMANITY SEALED THEIR DEVOTION WITH THEIR LIVES. A roster of the names of these men and women is preserved in the archives of the City Hall. Erected by the Patriotic Service League - 1919.

At the south side of the west end of Cross Street Bridge stands this memorial, to the men from Ypsilanti who served their country during the First World War. These men were in the 107th Field Signal Battalion, with the 32nd Division. The men saw action at Chateau Thierry, Soissons, Fismes, Juvigny, and in the Battle of the Argonne. Ten of these men gave the last full measure.

The two plaques were dedicated on July 4, 1919, after the parade. When the dedication was held, the two Memorial tablets stood across the street from each other, one on the north side of the bridge and the other on the south. The tablets were removed in 1984, when the current bridge replaced the old one. Once construction was completed, the tablets were returned, now side by side on the south side of the new bridge.



Harriet Tubman Statue

(229 West Michigan Avenue)

Harriet Tubman (1820-1913) led slaves to freedom along the Underground Railroad, earning her the name "Moses of her people." The statue of Harriet is found in the courtyard park next to the District Library. Tubman is shown with a walking stick in her right hand and grasping the hand of a young boy with her left hand. The statue was funded by the Friends of Ypsilanti District Library, Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority, and Pfizer, Inc. The statue was dedicated on May 21, 2006 and was created by artist Jane DeDecker.



Prospect Park Plaque

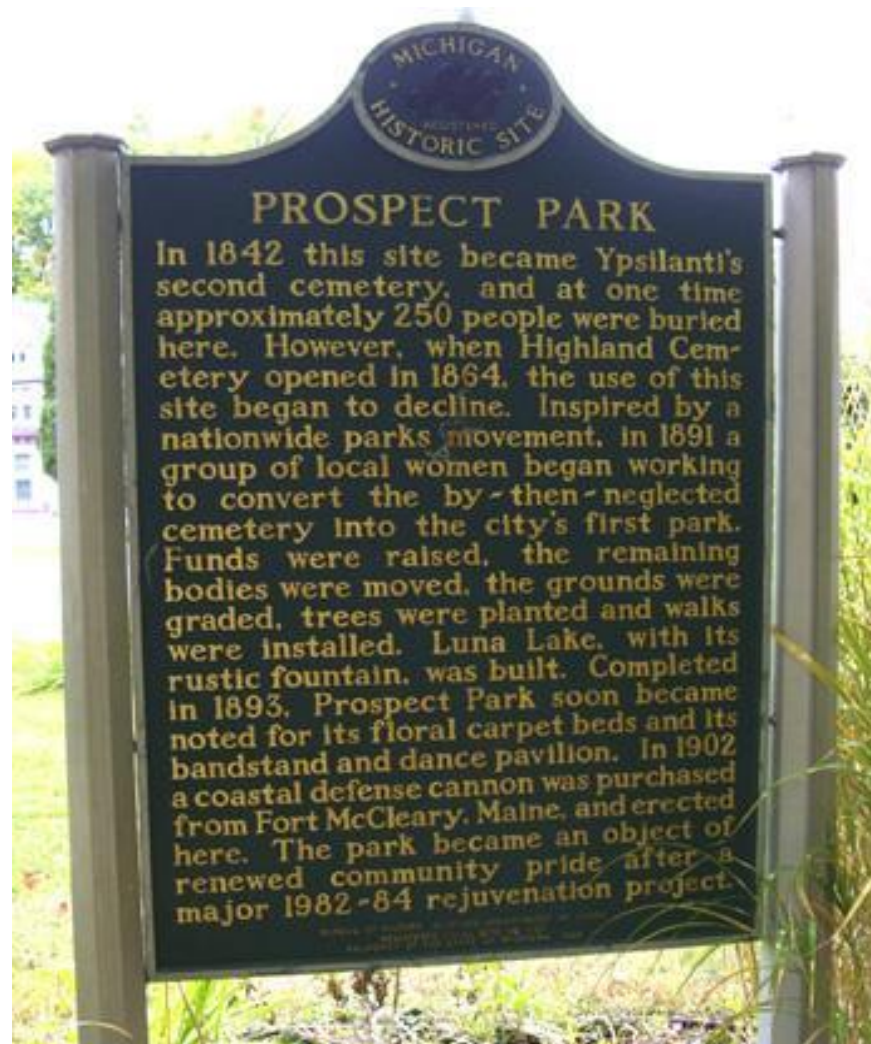
(East Cross Street and North Prospect Road)



Prospect Park: In 1842 this site became Ypsilanti's second cemetery, and at one time approximately 250 people were buried here. However, when Highland Cemetery opened in 1864, the use of this site began to decline. Inspired by a nationwide park movement, in 1891 a group of women began working to convert the by-then-neglected cemetery into the city's first park.

Funds were raised, the remaining bodies were moved, the grounds were graded, trees were planted, and walks were installed. Luna Lake, with its rustic fountain, was built. Completed in 1893, Prospect Park soon became known for its floral carpet beds and its bandstand and dance pavilion.

In 1902 a coastal defense cannon was purchased from Fort McCleary, Maine, and erected here. The park became an object of renewed community pride after a major 1982-84 rejuvenation project.



Bureau of Michigan History, Michigan Department of State, Registered State Site No. 642, Property of the State of Michigan - 1984.

Vietnam War Memorial

(7200 South Huron River Drive)

The only memorial in the County to those who served during the war in Vietnam stands on the grounds of the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center, at 7200 South Huron River Drive. The Washtenaw County Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America at first hoped to construct the memorial in Veterans Park, in Ann Arbor. This plan was aborted after the Ann Arbor City Parks Advisory Commission failed to support the project. The Ypsilanti Township Board of Trustees approved a resolution to locate the memorial on the Civic Center grounds, in October of 1990.

The memorial is similar to the Vietnam Memorial in Washington D.C. but on a smaller scale. The memorial is made of black granite and is triangular in shape. The wall of the memorial has five sides, to represent the five branches of the armed forces, and is eight feet high and twenty-two feet long. The names of those who died are listed under the name of the community from which they came.

Three flags at the memorial honor the memory of the three soldiers from Washtenaw County listed as missing in action. Benches at the memorial are set twenty-one feet away from the wall, as this was the average age of soldiers in the war. The Memorial was dedicated on November 10, 1991, the day before Veterans Day. “There was a flag raising and a 21-gun salute: there was a helicopter flyover from the Selfridge Air National Guard base; there were teary-eyed family members who laid flowers at the foot of the memorial in honor of the brothers and sons the war took from them,” reported The Ann Arbor News of November 11, 1991. The keynote speaker was retired General William Westmorland, who said: “One can conclude that a soldier’s reward is honor proudly won and that is the sentiment behind the memorial we dedicate today.”



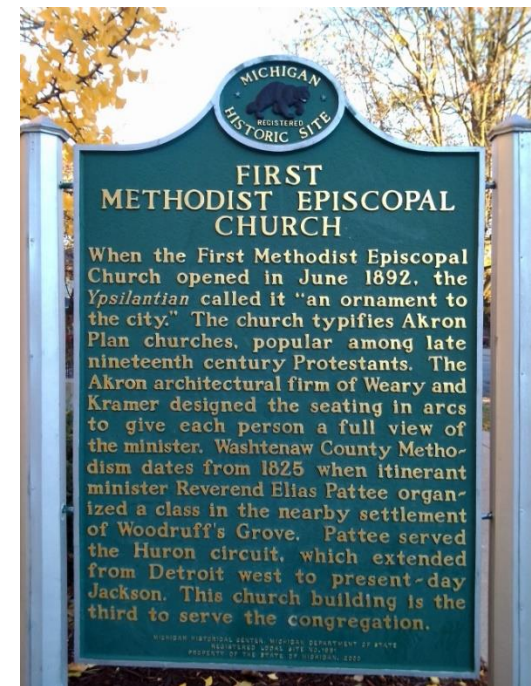
John F. Kinzinger, 2019.

First Methodist Church

(209 Washtenaw Road)

In 1825, Elias Pattee, a Methodist traveling preacher, organized a society of five members in Woodruff's Grove. In the 1830s, the congregation's first chapel was built on River Street. In 1843, the chapel floor collapsed, and the congregation began constructing a new church at 209 Washtenaw. The historical marker was placed in 2000 and reads:

"When the First Methodist Episcopal Church opened in June 1892, the *Ypsilantian* called it "an ornament to the city." The church typifies Akron Plan churches, popular among late nineteenth century Protestants. The Akron architectural firm of Weary and Kramer designed the seating in arcs to give each person a full view of the minister. Washtenaw County Methodism dates from 1825 when itinerant minister Reverend Elias Pattee organized a class in the nearby settlement of Woodruff's Grove. Pattee served the Huron circuit, which extended from Detroit west to present-day Jackson. This church building is the third to serve the congregation."



Joel S, November 14, 2015, [First Methodist Episcopal Church Historical Marker \(hmdb.org\)](http://hmdb.org)

Ladies Literary Club

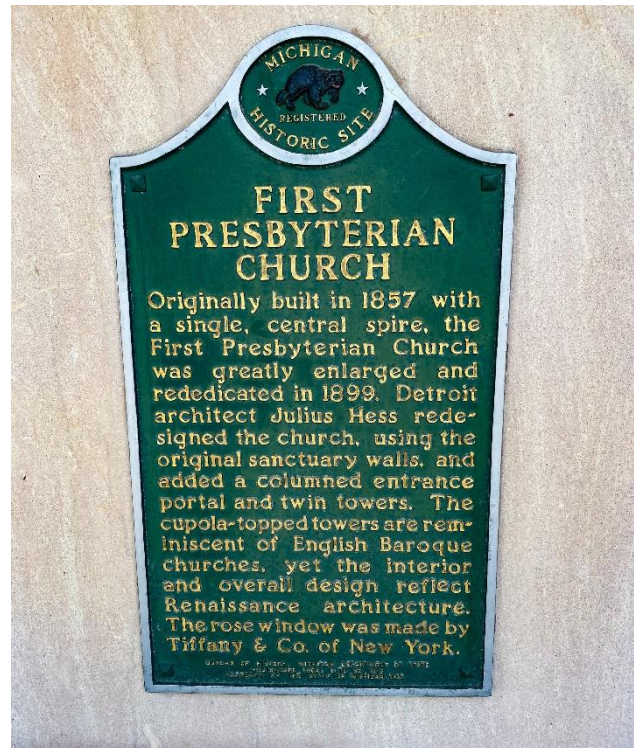
(218 North Washington Street)

The Greek Revival structure at 218 N Washington St. has housed one of the oldest women's organizations in Michigan. The Ladies Literary Club in Ypsilanti was created by Mrs. Daniel Putnam in 1878 in an attempt to inspire women and mutually improve members through the study of literature, art, science and current affairs. In 1913, the home at 218 N Washington was purchased for the club. The home was built by Ardeen Ballard in the 1840s and was considered one of the most luxurious homes in the city. The home was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.



(300 North Washington Street)

In 1829, Reverend William Page organized a congregation of twelve members at the corner of Michigan Avenue and Washington. The Congregational and Presbyterian denominations practiced jointly. In 1830, the church was organized as the Congregational Society of Ypsilanti. Then 1832, the congregation voted to adopt the Presbyterian form of government. The first church for the Presbyterian Church was on the north side of Pearson Street between Adams and Hamilton Streets and was dedicated in 1836. After a quarter of a century, the church had outgrown its first building. The church moved to its present location at 300 North Washington in 1857 and was renovated and expanded in 1899.



J. T. Lambrou, May 12, 2021, [First Presbyterian Church Historical Marker \(hmdb.org\)](#)

Michigan Interurbans Plaque

(Michigan Avenue)

Michigan Interurbans: Michigan's first interurban, the Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor, began operating in 1890. Pulled by a steam engine, the cars went west on Packard Road to the Ann Arbor city limits. Because of the low fares (10 cents one way) and frequent service (cars leaving every 90 minutes) the line was soon carrying over 600 passengers daily. Electric power was adopted in 1896. In a few years a network of interurbans was built in southern Michigan. The "Ypsi-Ann" became part of a Detroit to Jackson Road that carried 5,300 passengers a day in 1902. It became possible to go from Detroit to Kalamazoo or from Bay City to Cincinnati on connecting lines. But the automobile, bus, and truck put the interurbans out of business in Michigan in the 1920's. The last interurban from Ypsilanti ran in 1929. *Michigan Historical Commission registered site No. 128.*



Joel Seewald, November 14, 2015,
[Michigan's Interurbans Historical Marker
\(hmdb.org\)](http://Michigan's Interurbans Historical Marker (hmdb.org))

Virgin Mary Statue

(Cross Street)

On the southwest corner of Cross and Hamilton, across the street from St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, is a small lot that might, at first glance, appear empty. A second look will reveal the figure of the Virgin Mary, standing in the corner atop a wall. She stands with hands outstretched and her head slightly bowed. The shrine was dedicated on the afternoon of Sunday, September 20, 1942.

“A line of evergreens makes an effective background,” reported The Ypsilanti Daily Press of Monday, September 21, 1942. “From individuals came vases of flowers, two large arrangements standing nearly as high as the foot of the statue and consisting of beautiful gladioli in light colors while the lower bouquets were asters, deeper in shade,” noted the account.

“Leading from this spot,” continued the account, “are walks which begin at the two streets which begin at the two streets bordering the location, with small evergreens at each entrance.” The Rev. John Bradley made the introduction to the ceremony, and the Rev. Bernard Kearns explained the meaning of the shrine. The shrine was unveiled by Joyce Dupont and Margaret Wills who represented the sponsors, the members of Our Ladies Solidarity. Then a procession went to the church for Benediction and rosary.

“There is considerably more to be done on the location of the shrine,” concluded the account. “Roses will be planted and as soon as the roots of the hedge are well fixed it will be trimmed.”

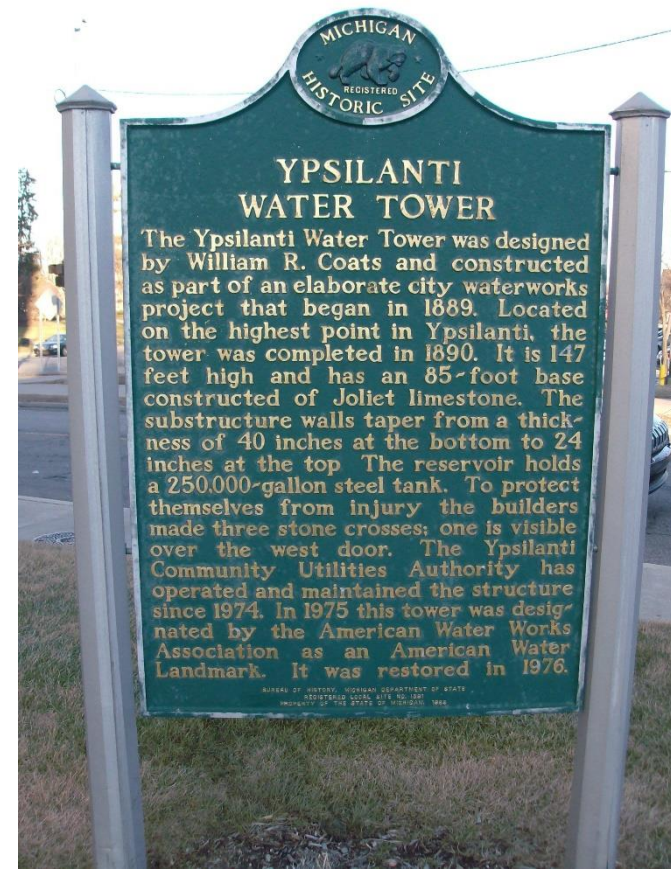


Waymarking, n.d. [Zoom In](https://www.waymarking.com)
([waymarking.com](https://www.waymarking.com))

Water Tower

(Intersections of Cross and Ballard Streets)

The Ypsilanti water tower was completed in 1890 and has been in service ever since. The 147-foot tower contains a 250,000-gallon capacity. The water tower acts as a water reserve for water mains and emergencies. The Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority gained control over the tower in 1974 and renovated it in 1976. The water tower has gained a number of accolades over the years. In 1975, it was selected as an American Water Landmark by the American Water Works Association. It was also designated as an example of historic architecture by the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation in 1987. One year later in 1988, the tower became a registered Michigan Historical Site.



Joel S., February 1, 2016,
[Ypsilanti Water Tower Historical
Marker \(hmdb.org\)](http://hmdb.org)

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