

Ypsilanti Bicentennial 2023
5K and 10K Walks Packet

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(Your option to print) Snippets of history and architecture listed in the order you'll see them on this walk.

After Walking Ypsilanti Bicentennial – Y3192

Be sure to log back into <http://my.ava.org> > my account > finish table to log your walk as completed.

Information about Ypsilanti Food and Lodging

ypsireal.com/blog/post/only-in-ypsilanti-food-and-drink/
www.cityofypsilanti.com

Information about Washtenaw Wanderers

www.facebook.com/washtenawwanderers

Driving Directions to the Ypsilanti Bicentennial Start Point

The start point is from the **Michigan Central Freight House, 100 Market Place, Ypsilanti, MI 48198**.
GPS coordinates = (42.246949°N, -83.610069°W).

From I-94

1. Take Exit 183 S (S Huron St.).
2. Go north on Huron St. to E Cross St.
3. RIGHT at signal on E Cross St., to first left.
4. LEFT on Market Place/Rice Street. Frog Island Parking Lot is on left. The Freight House is across the street, east, from the parking lot.

Additional Information for the Ypsilanti 5K and 10K Walks

- This event may be walked from April 1st through December 31st.
- Trail Description: Rated: 1A.
- Restrooms are available in the coffee shop when it is open. Port-a-potties are located in Riverside Park and Waterworks parks during summer months (also available when restaurants are closed).
- Everyone is welcome. This event is sanctioned by the American Volkssport Association – America’s Walking Club (AVA), a member of the International Federation of Popular Sports (IVV). It counts towards the acquisition of IVV Achievement Credit. No awards.
- Pets allowed, leash required and not inside buildings. Strollers and wheelchairs allowed.
- Special Programs: “Great Lakes, Great Fun, Great Fitness, Great Friendships”, “Town Hall/City Hall”, “Walking with America’s Veterans” and “Walking the USA A-Z”.
- Both the 5k and 10k routes begin and end at the Freight House.
- For your safety, do not walk either Ypsilanti route after dark.
- For additional information about this event contact: Stefan Szumko, 734-649-5024, slugwhisperer@gmail.com.

What You’ll See Along the Way guides

Following the directions and maps are guides that give some historical background to “What You’ll See Along the Way” for each of the walks. These are formatted to print, if you so choose. The 5k is on pages 7-12 and the 10k is on pages 13-20.

Mobile-friendly - you can download the following pdf directly to your phone and it should open nicely in acrobat, optimized for mobile viewing.

[5k What You’ll See Along the Way](#) pdf, optimized for mobile.

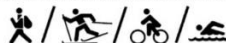
[10k What You’ll See Along the Way](#) pdf, optimized for mobile.

The directions/maps for the 5k and 10k are formatted to print as one duplexed page (each).



**AMERICA'S
WALKING CLUB**
— ESTABLISHED 1974 —

SANCTIONED EVENT
Eligible for credit towards IVV Achievement Awards



YPSILANTI BICENTENNIAL

AVA 5K Directions

Washtenaw Wanderers Volkssporting Club©2023

These instructions may be used only by individuals who have received and signed the AVA Athletic Waiver covering this event. If you have a question about the instructions, call Stefan Szumko at (734) 649-5024.



In case of emergency, please call 911.

Special Programs:

Great Lakes, Great Fun, Great Fitness, Great Friendships

Town Halls/City Halls

Walking with America's Veterans

Start Point: Michigan Central Freight House, 100 Market Place, Ypsilanti MI 48198.

1. Walk south through alley to E. Cross St. Cross to the south side of E. Cross St at crosswalk by clock.
2. LT on E. Cross to corner then follow sidewalk around SideTrack Grill to Photo St.
3. LT to cross River St. (Ypsilanti Food Co-op is in front of you).
4. RT on River St. to North St.
5. LT on North St. to Park St.
6. RT on N Park St. to E. Michigan. Cross Michigan Ave (US 12). Continue on S Park to gate with sign: Ypsilanti Tree Nursery. Go through gate and continue to paved path.
7. LT on path through parking lot on S Grove St.
8. RT on S. Grove St. to signal at Spring/Maus/Factory St.
9. Cross Spring St. continuing on S Grove St to convergence with S Prospect St.
10. Cross S Grove St carefully to see the Woodruff's Grove marker. Retrace steps back across S Grove St.
11. RT on S Grove St back to (and cross) Spring/Maus/Factory St.
12. LT (after crossing) on Factory St (not marked).
13. RT on Catherine St. to entrance to Waterworks Park.
14. RT into Waterworks parking lot.
15. LT on bridge to cross Huron River.
16. LT on path, keeping river on left.
17. At E Michigan Ave, use crosswalk to cross to north side of E Michigan Ave.
18. LT on E Michigan Ave to N Huron St.
19. RT on N Huron St to W Cross St.
20. RT on W Cross St.

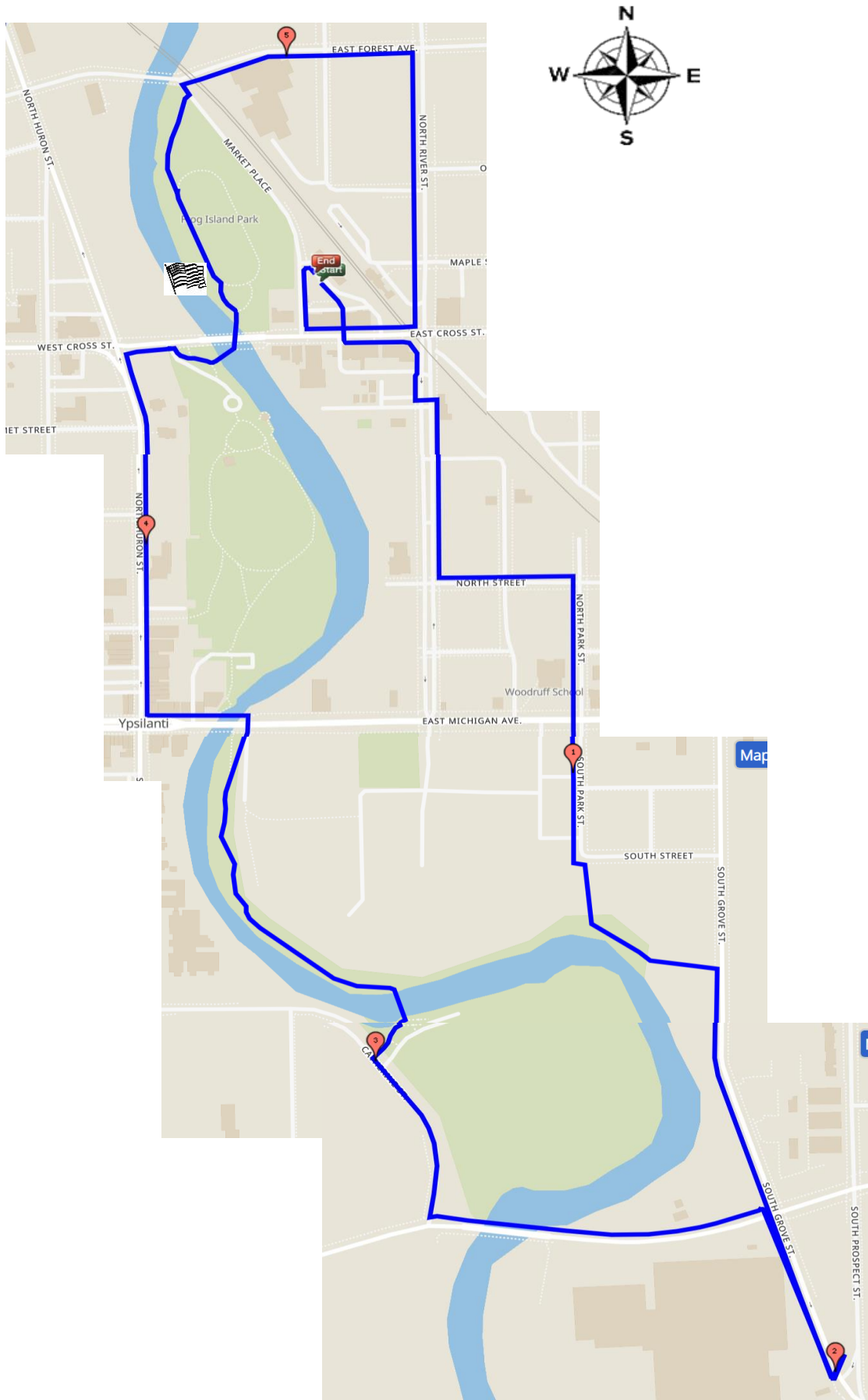


Walking with America's Veterans – pass entrance to Riverside Park and approach bridge. Marker is on your right. Return to park entrance, turning left into the park (down the stairs).

21. Enter Riverside Park.
22. LT to the "Tridge" (3-way pedestrian bridge under the Cross Street bridge).
23. LT on "Tridge" towards Frog Island Park.
24. LT to follow paved path along the Huron River (on your left). Exit the park at E Forest Ave.
25. RT on E Forest Ave to N River St.
26. RT on N River St to E Cross St.
27. RT on E Cross St to Rice St/Market Place.
28. RT after passing the caboose to return to the Freight House (End).

YPSILANTI BICENTENNIAL

Ypsilanti, Michigan AVA 5K Map



YPSILANTI BICENTENNIAL

AVA 10K Directions

Washtenaw Wanderers Volkssporting Club©2023
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Great Lakes, Great Fun, Great Fitness, Great Friendships

Town Halls/City Halls

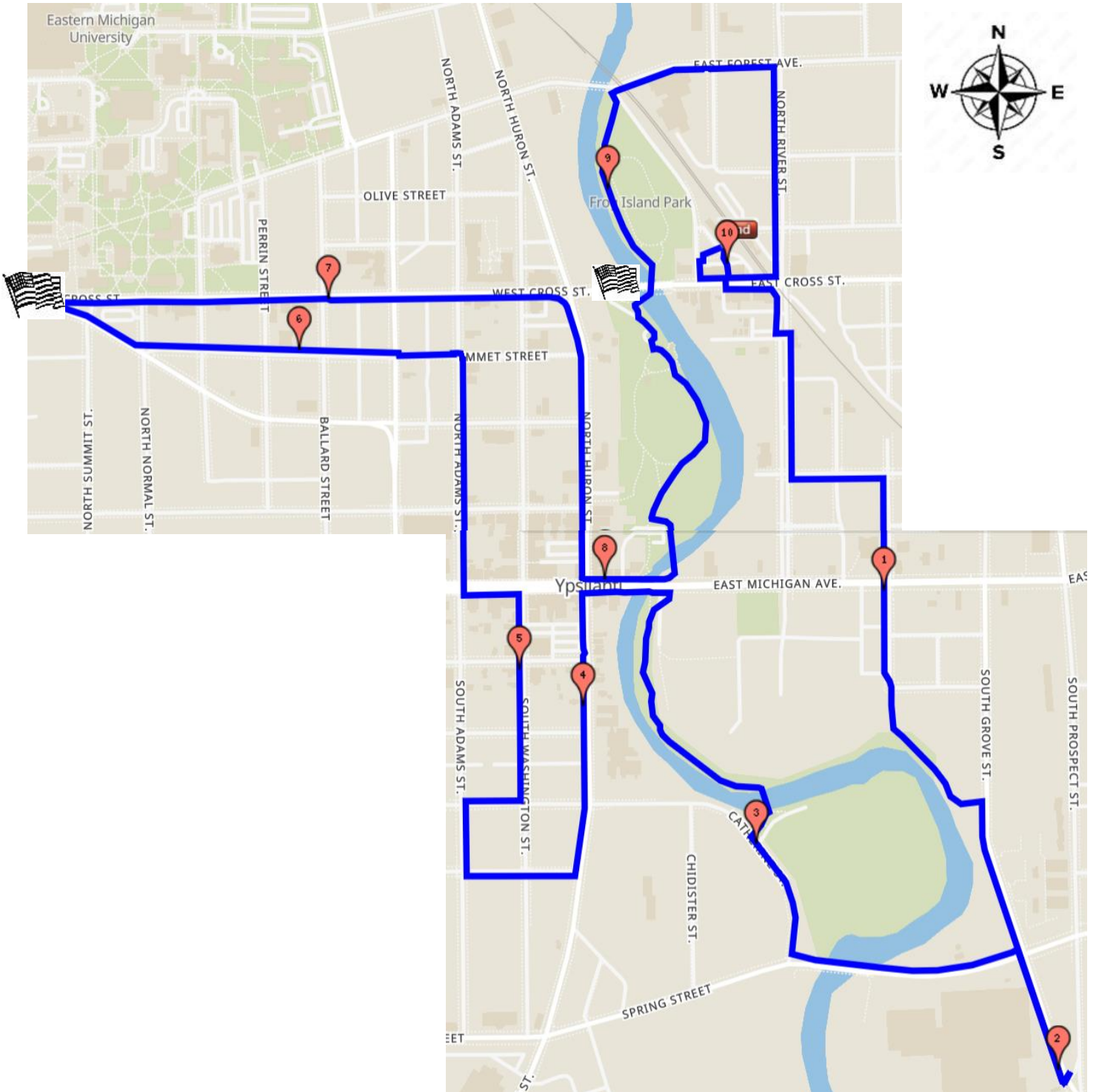
Walking with America's Veterans 

Start Point: Michigan Central Freight House, 100 Market Place, Ypsilanti MI 48198.

1. Walk south through alley to E. Cross St. Cross to the south side of E. Cross St at crosswalk by clock.
2. LT on E. Cross to corner then follow sidewalk around SideTrack Grill to Photo St.
3. LT to cross River St. (to Ypsilanti Food Co-op)
4. RT on River St. to North St.
5. LT on North St. to Park St.
6. RT on N Park St. to E. Michigan.
Cross Michigan Ave (US 12). Continue on S Park to the gate with the sign "Ypsilanti Tree Nursery." Go through the open gate and continue to paved path.
7. LT on path, left to parking lot on S Grove St.
8. RT on S Grove St. to signal at Spring/Maus/Factory St. There is only one street sign at SE corner, "Spring."
9. Cross Spring St. continuing on S Grove St to convergence with S Prospect St. Cross S Grove St carefully to see the Woodruff's Grove marker. Retrace steps back across S Grove St.
10. RT on S Grove St back to (and cross) Spring/Maus/Factory St.
11. LT (after crossing) on Factory St (not marked).
12. RT on Catherine St. to Waterworks Park.
13. RT into Waterworks parking lot.
14. LT on bridge to cross Huron River.
15. LT on path, keeping river on left.
16. LT on Michigan Ave to S. Huron.

17. LT on S Huron St to Buffalo St.
18. RT on Buffalo St to S. Adams St.
19. RT on S Adams St to Catherine St.
20. RT on Catherine St to S Washington.
21. LT on S Washington St to W Michigan.
22. LT on W Michigan Ave to S Adams.
23. RT to cross W Michigan Ave.
24. Continue on N Adams St to Emmet St.
25. LT on Emmet St.
26. Cross N Normal St.
27. Bear RIGHT on Washtenaw Ave. Continue to Water Tower and Demetrios Ypsilanti bust.
 Those seeking "Walking with America's Veterans" qualifier - see "the Hiker" directly west of Water Tower.
28. RT (east) on Cross St to N Huron St.
29. RT on N Huron St to W Michigan Ave.
30. LT to cross N Huron St, continuing on E Michigan Ave. Cross bridge over Huron River; look for bicycle bridge entrance on left.
31. LT on bicycle bridge over Huron River into Riverside Park.
32. RT to follow path towards Huron River. Continue with the river on the right. Pass the gazebo on your right.
Continue through parking area to the entrance of the Tridge.
-  A second qualifier for Walking with America's Veterans (can be used if you repeat this walk) – exit the park to Cross St; RT to see plaque on SW side of bridge. Return to entrance to the Tridge. LT on Tridge. Those not seeking the qualifier continue from #31:
33. RT to enter the Tridge.
All walkers continue:
34. LT on Tridge towards Frog Island Park (go under the bridge).
35. LT to follow paved path along the Huron River (on your left). Exit the park at E Forest Ave.
36. RT on E. Forest Ave to N. River St.
37. RT on N. River St to E Cross St.
38. RT on E. Cross St to Rice St/Market Place.
39. RT at caboose to return to the Freight House (End)

YPSILANTI BICENTENNIAL Ypsilanti, Michigan AVA 10K Map



Ypsi Bicentennial 5K: What You'll See Along the Way

You can download this guide to your phone: [5K What You'll See Along the way - pdf, optimized for mobile.](#)

The following snippets have been gathered from a number of sources, placed in order of where you'll pass them on the walk. This is not a comprehensive historical guide – books have been written (literally!) and websites created that explore Ypsilanti's history, growth, booms and busts, famous and infamous citizens. Sources for these notes and additional resources are listed on the last page.

The following symbols denote existing walks where the information was gleaned. Links are on the last page.

 Historic Downtown  Historic Depot  Historic West Cross  Architectural Highlights


More information (and some pictures) are found at those websites.


Ypsilanti's Start


Established as a city in 1823, Michigan's second oldest city was named after General Demetrios Ypsilanti, a hero in the Greek war for independence. Judge Woodward of Detroit was so impressed and fascinated by General Ypsilanti's military successes that he named this settlement on the Huron River after the war hero. Ypsilanti would eventually encompass several area settlements that were established to take advantage of both the Huron River and existing Indian trails. The most famous of which was the Sauk trail. In 1835 a military road following the path of the Sauk trail opened from Chicago to Detroit, and the railroad followed three years later. Originally named the Chicago Road, the byway would become Michigan Avenue, providing a major source of industry and anchoring Ypsilanti's downtown commercial district.


From the Start Point, Michigan Central Freight House, 100 Market Place, Ypsilanti Michigan 48198


Depot Town

#1  **Market Plaza** serves several purposes. The New York Central caboose is a remnant from the past, acknowledging the acquisition of the Michigan Central Railroad line. The Freight House is now run by the city of Ypsilanti as an event venue and there is a Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings, May – October. Take a moment to enjoy the photo and history display boards in the alley between E Cross Street and Market Plaza. Through the alley, look east across the street to see the **Masonic Block** that stands between Ninde and N River Streets. Built in the 1850's, a classic example of Italianate commercial architecture. The upper floors served at one time as the Masonic Lodge and later the Maccabees Hall. The southeast corner building (The Sidetrack) has always been a saloon, catering to neighborhood customers, railroad workers and travelers. The small outdoor dining area on the northeast side of the building was originally a candy store, but when a train crashed into it (1929) an al fresco dining space seemed a more reasonable choice than rebuilding.

#1  **17-29 E Cross Street – The Follett House Hotel** (look to your right, on the north side of the street) was begun in 1852 and completed in 1859 by Benjamin Follett. Ideally located near the Michigan Central Railroad depot, the Italianate-style building boasted a large ballroom indicated from the exterior by 2-story windows.

#2  At the NW **corner of E Cross and N River** there is an octagonal structure that is a 1991 reconstruction of the late 19th century signal tower that controlled the gates and signals at the crossing. The remaining first story of the Michigan Central Railroad Depot is a bit further up the tracks. Built in 1860, it was a grand 3-story building said to be “the largest and finest between Detroit and Chicago.” It was reduced to one story by a fire in 1910 and further remodeled in 1939 after a train wreck. In its heyday, there were elegant flower gardens where the Maple Street parking lot is today.

#2  **100 E Cross Street - The Ypsilanti Automotive History Museum** building started as a car dealership and from 1927 until 1957 was a Hudson dealership – the last operating Hudson dealership in the world. It remained a dealership until the mid-1990's when the museum opened.

#3  **308-312 N River Street - Ypsi Food Co-op** building was built as the “Empire Mills” in 1847 by Absolom B. Shafer as an iron foundry to produce farm implements and other metal goods. This is one of the oldest buildings in Ypsilanti.

#4 **223 N River Street - Clark Cornwell House** - Built in 1857 for Bernard Whittemore, then owned by Wells Burt and purchased in 1881 by Clara Cornwell, wife of Clark Cornwell, son of Cornelius Cornwell. Cornelius was the founder of the Cornwell Paper Mills. Cornelius' mansion is on N. Huron Street, later on the tour. Clark Cornwell was mayor of Ypsilanti from 1886-1888.

#4 **213 N River Street - Norris House** - Mark Norris and his wife Roccena came to Ypsilanti in 1828 from Covington, NY, seeking opportunities in the growing town. Trained as a land surveyor, he had also owned businesses and within 5 years in Ypsilanti was able to build this beautiful brick house on River Street. Mark's son, Lyman, grew up in this house. Lyman was the first student in the first class of the University of Michigan. He studied law in Detroit, practiced in St. Louis and eventually returned to Michigan. Mark and Roccena were strong supporters of the Temperance and Abolition of Slavery movements, but research indicates that although the Norrises were against slavery, they believed that blacks should be returned to Africa! Lyman's claim to fame was to argue the case against Dred Scott's freedom – and win. See further resources on the last page.

#5 **SE corner of River and North Streets**. The octagon house there was moved from 915 Washington Avenue in 1966. While there, it was purported to be a station on the Underground Railroad. Ypsilanti's first murder took place May 22, 1860 at 114 North River Street. George Washburn, butcher and alcoholic, was convicted of strangling his wife Lucy and placing her at the bottom of the cellar stairs. Sadly, their 7 year-old son found the body.


#6 **110 N Park Street** – Preston Tucker House. The “Tucker Torpedo” (later officially named the Tucker '48 Sedan) was the dream of this futuristic designer who wanted to create automobiles that were faster, safer and with more curb appeal than America had ever seen.


South of Michigan Avenue


#9 **Woodruff's Grove, S Prospect and S Grove Streets** – the DAR sponsored this marker for Ypsilanti's Centennial, which reads: “The pioneer settlement of Washtenaw County occupied this site 1823-1827. Note the word “first” was not appropriate, as this area was a busy trading post for Native Americans.

#12-13 **Waterworks Park** – The 130 mile Huron River rises from the Huron Swamp in northern Oakland County and travels southwest towards Brighton and Pinckney, through Dexter, then heads southeast through Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Belleville and Flat Rock, emptying into Lake Erie. Through time it has served as a Native American trade route, flat-boat conveyance to Lake Erie, power source for many mills in the 1800's and for electrical power for DTE and Ford.

#13 **Independence Island**, christened as such July 4, 1845 by Reverend H. P. Powers, is visible from the entry bridge (look to your right). A semi-centennial celebration was held there on July 4, 1873.


#15  **2 West Michigan Ave** began as the Staebler Building and for the last 50 years housed Materials Unlimited, which is now closed. Haab's Restaurant at **18 W Michigan** closed in 2022, after 87 years as a mainstay eatery.

#16  **Ypsilanti City Hall**, SE corner of S Huron Street and Michigan Avenue, was built in 1877 as the Ypsilanti Savings Bank. City Hall moved from the Quirk House (304 N Huron St) to this location in 1976. Mary Ann Starkweather donated a large (over 12 feet tall) water fountain, with drinking bowls for humans and horses, located on the West side of the building, where the East-bound turning lane is. The fountain was there from 1890 to 1932.

#16  The Worden block is on the NW corner of Michigan Ave and Huron Streets.

N Huron Street

Even house/building numbers are on the East side, odd numbers on the West.

#17  **76 North Huron - Masonic Temple (currently Riverside Arts Center)** - Designed by Osgood and Osgood, this building is in the Beaux Arts style. Extensive interior renovations were done in 1924 and in 1970 after the space was damaged by fire. The Masons used the building for 78 years, until they moved to Ypsilanti Township in 1987. Since 1994, the building has housed the Riverside Arts Center (RAC), a performing and visual arts center and rental facility. To make the space accessible, an elevator was added in 2003. *Note the plaque on the Riverside Off Center (56 N Huron) commemorating the first settlement in Washtenaw County at Woodruff's Grove and noting the location of the original trading post.*

If you stand directly in front of RAC and look west, you'll be looking at . . .

#17 **Corner of Pearl and North Huron** (site of the former Ypsilanti Dress Stay Factory). Now a parking lot, a two-story brick structure stood on this site, where the production of dress stays took place at the turn of the century. The structure later housed the Ypsilanti Press.





(Not on AVA walk, but a quick side-trip)


108 and 110 Pearl - the G.A.R. Hall - Probably built in the mid-1880s, this block served as a tinsmith's shop, a Chinese laundry, an annex of the dress stay factory (now torn down), and a G.A.R. Hall. The G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) was a Civil War veterans association, which wielded social and political power in the 1880s and 1890s.


111 Pearl - Scharf Tag, Label & Box Company (Congden's Hardware since 1913) - This building, circa 1890, and the adjoining brick building to the west housed a large commercial printing establishment. Note the projecting metal cornice, the large arched second story windows, and the delicate convex mortar joints between the stones. A wider mix of manufacturing, retail, and residential uses was common in the 19th century.


Back to the walk...


#17  **120 N Huron Street - St. Luke's Episcopal Church**. One of the many interesting church buildings in our community, this mid-Victorian Gothic Revival building dates back to 1858 and is Ypsilanti's oldest existing church. Eventually the parish hopes to reinstall the spire and bell, removed in 1971 due to building stress. A garth, or memorial garden, is also located here.


#17  **119-121 N Huron Street - Watling Dental Clinic/House**. These elaborate mid-Victorian buildings once were the office and home of dentist Drive. John Watling. It was built around 1872 and represents the Tuscan variety of the Italianate Style. Mrs. Watling helped found the Ladies Library Association, and her husband was instrumental in the establishment of the School of Dentistry at the University of Michigan.


#17  **125 N Huron Street - Ballard/Breakey House**. The original structure was a modest Federal-style house of brick and stone built in 1830. The massive Doric columns were added in the 1840s. The house is listed in the Historic American Buildings Survey. Mr. Ballard was Mayor of Ypsilanti, and Drive. Breakey was a judge.


#17  **130 N Huron Street - Starkweather Home/Ladies Library**. This Italianate-style home was built in 1858 by local merchant Edwin Mills. It was purchased by John and Mary Ann Starkweather in 1875. John died in 1883. Mary Ann Newberry Starkweather came into a significant inheritance in 1886 and, having no heirs, concentrated much of her philanthropy in Ypsilanti. She donated the house to the Ladies Library Association in 1890. The library changed from being the Ladies Library to "Public Library" in 1948. The Public Library was relocated in 1964 to the former Carnegie Post Office at 229 W Michigan Avenue.

#17  **203 N Huron Street - Cornwell Residence.** This Georgian/Queen Anne-style residence was said to be the largest example of its type between Detroit and Chicago. Built in 1883 by Cornelius Cornwell, a local pulp mill owner, it boasted the first telephone in Ypsilanti.

#17  **206 N Huron Street - Showerman/Quirk Residence.** Note the hipped slate roof and Italianate window hoods on this home built in 1863 by Delos Showerman, sawmill operator and builder. The Daniel Quirk family added the large north addition and the neoclassical detailing in 1909.

#17  **214 N Huron Street - Andrews/Drury/Thompson House.** This Italianate-style Victorian frame house has served as the Ypsilanti Teen Center as well as a counseling center and classroom site for Washtenaw Community College. It was built in 1851 by Frederick Andrews and has housed many families since, including Mayor Cheryl Farmer.


#17  **220 N Huron Street - Ypsilanti Historical Museum.** This former brick mansion of the Dow family, built in 1860, has been home to the Historical Museum and Archives since 1970. Several rooms have been furnished to represent gracious homes of the Victorian period. Visitors are welcome between 2pm and 4pm on Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday.

#17  **300 N Huron Street - D.L. Quirk Sr. Residence.** A rare example of the Second Empire Style, this 1860 home was built for Daniel L. Quirk. It features a mansard roof. In 1914, it was donated to the city and served as the City Hall until 1977.

#17 **303 N Huron Street – Towner House.** Said to be the oldest house in Ypsilanti on its original foundation.
<https://aadl.org/ypsicleanings/327794>

#17 Before you turn on W Cross Street, look across the street, kitty-corner. The Firehouse Museum opened 2002 and just west at **110 W Cross Street** is the brick building that served as the main Firehouse for the city from 1898 to 1975. Motorized fire trucks were introduced in 1916.

#18 Just past the stairs down to Riverside Park, there is a WW1 memorial on the right.

#18  **6 West Cross Street** – Ypsilanti’s first City Hall and Jail was located here from 1859 to 1914. City Hall moved to Quirk House at 300 N Huron and then to its current location at 1 S Huron Street.

Riverside and Frog Island Parks

#19 **Riverside Park** is extremely popular and the site of many festivals. Designed in 1913 by the Olmsted Brothers (who designed Central Park in NYC), you’ll often see people fishing in the swift current of the Huron River.

#20 The “**Tridge**” provides pedestrian access between Frog Island and Riverside Parks and Cross Street.


#22 As you enter **Frog Island Park**, you’re in the heart of where many mills were located in the 19th century and trading posts in the 18th century, relying on the power of the Huron River. Frog Island was created to take advantage of this power (a mill race) but legal arguments over rights increased and water-powered mills dwindled. It was never really an island, but frog catching and killing did exist there, so the name stuck. It has been said that during temperance, it was a place where men gathered to drink, but told their wives they were going down to kill frogs. The path along the river and its entrances have recently been paved to improve accessibility.

#23 **12 E Forest Avenue - Michigan Ladder Company**, was in business for 120 years, closing in 2021. A small-town company who, like Jiffy Baking Mixes (Chelsea Milling, Chelsea, MI) prided itself in not laying off employees during down-times. Ladders were a 10-month a year business, so they produced other wooden products – including ironing

boards, toys and ping-pong tables during those times. Is it a coincidence that the “Detroitter” ping-pong table was used in the movie “Forrest Gump” – made on Forest Avenue?

#23 **101 E Forest Street** - Frederick Swaine purchased a malt house at the NE corner of N. River and E Forest in 1872 and built an Italianate house. The malt house was removed in the 1920s, except for a small brick portion now serving (and still visible) to the east of the house.

#23 **600 N River Street** - Shelly Byron Hutchinson, the “H” in S&H Green Stamps, built the house on the SE corner of N. River and Forest Avenue in 1904. His highly successful trading stamps idea made him fabulously wealthy, but only for a short time.

#24  **400 N River Street** - The recently renovated building on the NE corner of Cross and River Streets was originally built by Mark Norris and referred to as the Norris Block. It was rumored that the basement served as a stop on the Underground Railroad. It was built from bricks from Norris’s Great Western Hotel, after the hotel was demolished in 1860 when the Railroad acquired the land it was on. The building has also been known as “The Barracks,” serving as such for the 14th Michigan Infantry Regiment in 1862 and the 27th Regiment in 1863. Oliver Thompson was the next owner and moved his wagon manufacturing business into the building. Thompson’s business and family grew over the years, and he became a dealer in agricultural implements. More recently, the Norris Block is known as the Thompson Block. In 1916, Oliver’s son Joseph opened one of the first Dodge dealerships in the north end of the building, which moved south across Cross street to where the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum is located today.

The South Adams Street Historic Neighborhood and Ypsi water tower/EMU-W Cross Street are on the 10K. If you’ve done this 5K but want to see these areas on a different day, use the 10K map and directions, but start at the corner of Michigan and Huron (City Hall) and at the end, pass N Huron, enter Riverside Park and walk through to Michigan Ave, using the stairs or bicycle bridge.

Sources and further resources for both 5K and 10 K walks are listed on the next page.

Resources

The following sources were found at the **Ypsilanti District Library**:

Hidden History of Ypsilanti, 2011 Laura Bien

Old Ypsilanti Town, 1974 Hazel Proctor et al

Our Heritage: Down by the depot in Ypsilanti – Volume I, 1999 Thomas Dodd and James Thomas Mann

Tales from the Ypsilanti Archives, 2010 Laura Bien

Wicked Ypsilanti, 2014 James Thomas Mann

Ypsilanti A History in Pictures, 2002 James Thomas Mann

Ypsilanti in the 20th Century, 2003 James Thomas Mann

The **Ypsilanti Historical Museum and Archives**, 220 N. Huron St. Ypsilanti MI 48197 is a treasure-trove of information!

<https://ypsihistory.org>

Many thanks to the Ypsilanti Historical Society for information from “A Walking Tour of Central Ypsilanti.”

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Historic Self-guided Walking Tours of Ypsilanti are available at:

<https://cityofypsilanti.com/326/Historic-Walking-Tour>

At this writing, there are 3 self-guided tours and maps posted. Each contain photographs and more detailed information. Many thanks to the City of Ypsilanti’s Preservation Planner for these resources.



Historic Downtown Walking Tour (25 page pdf)



Historic Depot Town Walking Tour (12 page pdf)



Historic West Cross Walking Tour (25 page pdf)

Architectural Highlights of S Huron, N Huron West Side, N Huron East Side

There is a wealth of information about the South Adams Street Historic Black Neighborhood, circa 1900 at:



Southadamstreet1900.wordpress.com - Thanks to Matt Siegfried for this rich site.

Some Historic Maps of Ypsilanti

[1856 washtenaw county plat map](#)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2012593013/> Bechler, G. R., Wenig, E. & Bechler & Wenig. (1856) Map of Washtenaw County, Michigan: from actual surveys. Philadelphia: Bechler, Wenig & Co. [Map] Retrieved from the Library of Congress.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2007633240/> **1895 South part of Ypsilanti** - labels Independence Island.

Geo. A. Ogle & Co. (1895) Standard atlas of Washtenaw County, Michigan: including a plat book of the villages, cities and townships of the county, map of the state, United States and world, farmers directory, reference business directory and departments devoted to general information, analysis of the system of U.S. land surveys, digest of the system of civil government, etc. Chicago: Geo. A. Ogle & Co.

[Map] Retrieved from the Library of Congress,.

[1915 south part of Ypsilanti](#) - Standard atlas of Washtenaw County

As stated at the beginning, this is not intended as an all-inclusive guide. It was compiled for a sanctioned walk sponsored by the American Volkssport Association, Washtenaw Wanderers chapter.

Nancy Howard and Stefan Szumko


Ypsi Bicentennial 10K: What You'll See Along the Way

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 Historic Downtown  Historic Depot  Historic West Cross  South Adams Street 1900

 Architectural Highlights More information (and some pictures) are found at those websites.


Numbers (#1 etc.) correspond with steps on the AVA 10K walk directions.


Ypsilanti's Start


Established as a city in 1823, Michigan's second oldest city was named after General Demetrios Ypsilanti, a hero in the Greek war for independence. Judge Woodward of Detroit was so impressed and fascinated by General Ypsilanti's military successes that he named this settlement on the Huron River after the war hero. Ypsilanti would eventually encompass several area settlements that were established to take advantage of both the Huron River and existing Indian trails. The most famous of which was the Sauk trail. In 1835 a military road following the path of the Sauk trail opened from Chicago to Detroit, and the railroad followed three years later. Originally named the Chicago Road, the byway would become Michigan Avenue, providing a major source of industry and anchoring Ypsilanti's downtown commercial district.


From the Start Point, Michigan Central Freight House, 100 Market Place, Ypsilanti Michigan 48198


Depot Town

#1  **Market Plaza** serves several purposes. The New York Central caboose is a remnant from the past, acknowledging the acquisition of the Michigan Central Railroad line. The Freight House is now run by the city of Ypsilanti as an event venue and there is a Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings, May – October. Take a moment to enjoy the photo and history display boards in the alley between E Cross Street and Market Plaza. Through the alley, look east across the street to see the **Masonic Block** that stands between Ninde and N River Streets. Built in the 1850's, a classic example of Italianate commercial architecture. The upper floors served at one time as the Masonic Lodge and later the Maccabees Hall. The southeast corner building (The Sidetrack) has always been a saloon, catering to neighborhood customers, railroad workers and travelers. The small outdoor dining area on the northeast side of the building was originally a candy store, but when a train crashed into it (1929) an al fresco dining space seemed a more reasonable choice than rebuilding.

#1  **17-29 E Cross Street – The Follett House Hotel** (look to your right, on the north side of the street) was begun in 1852 and completed in 1859 by Benjamin Follett. Ideally located near the Michigan Central Railroad depot, the Italianate-style building boasted a large ballroom indicated from the exterior by 2-story windows.

#2  At the **NW corner of E Cross and N River** there is an octagonal structure that is a 1991 reconstruction of the late 19th century signal tower that controlled the gates and signals at the crossing. The remaining first story of the Michigan Central Railroad Depot is a bit further up the tracks. Built in 1860, it was a grand 3-story building said to be "the largest and finest between Detroit and Chicago." It was reduced to one story by a fire in 1910 and further remodeled in 1939 after a train wreck. In its heyday, there were elegant flower gardens where the Maple Street parking lot is today.

#2  **100 E Cross Street - The Ypsilanti Automotive History Museum** building started as a car dealership and from 1927 until 1957 was a Hudson dealership – the last operating Hudson dealership in the world. It remained a dealership until the mid-1990's when the museum opened.

#3  **308-312 N River Street - Ypsi Food Co-op** building was built as the “Empire Mills” in 1847 by Absolom B. Shafer as an iron foundry to produce farm implements and other metal goods. This is one of the oldest buildings in Ypsilanti.

#4 **223 N River Street - Clark Cornwell House** - Built in 1857 for Bernard Whittemore, then owned by Wells Burt and purchased in 1881 by Clara Cornwell, wife of Clark Cornwell, son of Cornelius Cornwell. Cornelius was the founder of the Cornwell Paper Mills. Cornelius’ mansion is on N. Huron Street, later on the tour. Clark Cornwell was mayor of Ypsilanti from 1886-1888.

#4 **213 N River Street - Norris House** - Mark Norris and his wife Roccena came to Ypsilanti in 1828 from Covington, NY, seeking opportunities in the growing town. Trained as a land surveyor, he had also owned businesses and within 5 years in Ypsilanti was able to build this beautiful brick house on River Street. Mark’s son, Lyman, grew up in this house. Lyman was the first student in the first class of the University of Michigan. He studied law in Detroit, practiced in St. Louis and eventually returned to Michigan. Mark and Roccena were strong supporters of the Temperance and Abolition of Slavery movements, but research indicates that although the Norrises were against slavery, they believed that blacks should be returned to Africa! Lyman’s claim to fame was to argue the case against Dred Scott’s freedom – and win. See further resources on the last page.

#5 **SE corner of River and North Streets**. The octagon house there was moved from 915 Washington Avenue in 1966. While there, it was purported to be a station on the Underground Railroad. Ypsilanti’s first murder took place May 22, 1860 at 114 North River Street. George Washburn, butcher and alcoholic, was convicted of strangling his wife Lucy and placing her at the bottom of the cellar stairs. Sadly, their 7 year-old son found the body.


#6 **110 N Park Street** – Preston Tucker House. The “Tucker Torpedo” (later officially named the Tucker ’48 Sedan) was the dream of this futuristic designer who wanted to create automobiles that were faster, safer and with more curb appeal than America had ever seen.


South of Michigan Avenue


#9 **Woodruff’s Grove, S Prospect and S Grove Streets** – the DAR sponsored this marker for Ypsilanti’s Centennial, which reads: “The pioneer settlement of Washtenaw County occupied this site 1823-1827. Note the word “first” was not appropriate, as this area was a busy trading post for Native Americans.

#12 & 13 **Waterworks Park** – The 130 mile Huron River rises from the Huron Swamp in northern Oakland County and travels southwest towards Brighton and Pinckney, through Dexter, then heads southeast through Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Belleville and Flat Rock, emptying into Lake Erie. Through time it has served as a Native American trade route, flat-boat conveyance to Lake Erie, power source for many mills in the 1800’s and for electrical power for DTE and Ford.

#13 **Independence Island**, christened as such July 4, 1845 by Reverend H. P. Powers, is visible from the entry bridge (look to your right). A semi-centennial celebration was held there on July 4, 1873.

#15  **2 West Michigan Ave** began as the Staebler Building and for the last 50 years housed Materials Unlimited, which is now closed. Haab’s Restaurant at **18 W Michigan** closed in 2022, after 87 years as a mainstay eatery.

#15  **Ypsilanti City Hall**, SE corner of S Huron Street and Michigan Avenue, was built in 1877 as the Ypsilanti Savings Bank. City Hall moved from the Quirk House (304 N Huron St) to this location in 1976. Mary Ann Starkweather donated a large (over 12 feet tall) water fountain, with drinking bowls for humans and horses, located on the West side of the building, where the East-bound turning lane is. The fountain was there from 1890 to 1932.

#15  The Worden block is on the NW corner of Michigan Ave and Huron Streets.

S Huron Street

See also “Architectural Highlights of S Huron St” at cityofypsilanti.com/326/Historic-Walking-Tour

#16 **202 S Huron Street - Larzelere Residence.** In 1830, this Federal-style house was built in two stages: front and back. It rests on heavy oak beams, and the basement is paved in brick which, it is believed, may have been imported from France. Pioneers Jacob and Abraham Larzelere owned this house.

#16 **206 S Huron Street - Childs residence** - Lewis Childs, a local florist and grain dealer, built this Eastlake style home sometime between 1873 and 1878. A multiple-family dwelling since the early 1950s, the building is being restored by the present owner.

#16 **212 S Huron Street - Griffin Residence** - Begun in 1903, this distinctive stone house was completed in by local attorney Darwin Griffin in 1905. It defies a particular style but has elements of Queen Anne and perhaps Tudor influence. Note the slate roof and the beautiful relief carving above the front porch entry.

#16 **220 S Huron Street - Barnes residence**, then the **Newton residence**, currently The Queen’s Residence Bed & Breakfast. Built around 1879 for Samuel Barnes, vice president of Peninsular Paper, this house is in the Italianate style. Charles Newton, chief buyer for Greenfield Village in the 1930s and 40s, did extensive remodeling of this home to reflect his interest in the Classical Revival style. The interior of a colonial New England kitchen is a novel feature of the basement.



#18 **South Adams Street Historic Black Neighborhood** - The corner of Buffalo and South Adams holds three significant buildings; the First Ward School, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Good Samaritan Hall. The current hall was originally built in 1893 by The Order of the Good Samaritans and Daughters of Samaria and replaced an earlier meeting-house at the same site that was destroyed in the devastating tornado that destroyed much of downtown Ypsilanti in April, 1893.

The addresses you’ll pass on the walk are detailed on Matt Siegfried’s website:

southadamstreet1900.wordpress.com

S Washington Street

#20 **221 S Washington Street - Kishlar Residence** - This home, built in 1860, is an excellent example of Italianate style.


#20 **118 S Washington Street** - This home was built by Charles Glover, son of former Ypsilanti Mayor Henry P. Glover. Henry Glover was also the President of the Ypsilanti Dress Stay company, which was one of the largest employers in the city at the time. Construction of the house began in 1891 with the demolition of the existing house on the property, the former house of Ypsilanti’s first mayor, Parmenio Davis. The house has been painstakingly restored, with “greener” energy options utilized where possible.


#20 **112 S Washington Street - Dr. Parmenio Davis residence** - This charming brick house of 1845 features handmade bricks and a beautiful classical revival porch.


#20 **106 S Washington Street - Sherwood residence** - Built in the mid-1880s by Philo Sherwood, a boot and shoe dealer on Michigan Avenue, this house is a handsome example of Queen Ann style. Notice the ornate sawn brackets, shingles, and porch details. Note also the excellent example of 19th century carriage barns in the rear lots of 106, as well as 112, South Washington.


#20 **100 - 104 S Washington Street - Towne Residence** - Built in 1840 by Dr. Thomas Towne, this Federal-style brick house has simple lines, little or no detail, a central entry, and six-over-six windows. It is currently undergoing restoration.


Downtown – Michigan Avenue


#21  On the **SE corner of Washington Street and Michigan Avenue** (113 W Michigan), is an example of an historic façade restoration. The First National Bank of Ypsilanti was built in 1907 in Neoclassical style, “modernized” in 1963, then returned to its original façade in 1985.

#21  On the **NE corner of Washington Street and Michigan Avenue**, Walter Hewitt built a boot/shoe factory and store in 1860. He included an auditorium (Hewitt Hall) on the 3rd floor that hosted many community concerts, public speakers and performances, including Frederic Douglass in 1877, speaking on “Perils to the Republic.” Fire destroyed the 3rd floor.

#21  Also built in 1879, the **Union Block building sits at the NW corner of Washington Street and Michigan Avenue**. The most well-known of its occupants was the S.S. Kresge department store from 1921 to the mid-1960’s.

#21  The building on the **SW corner of Washington Street and Michigan Avenue** is a 3-story Italianate commercial building erected in 1880 and has served as a public gathering place for over 100 years. The storefront of the Tap Room was added in 1941, with its historic, distinctive neon sign.

#21  **214-218 W Michigan Avenue** – (across the street) you would have found the Hawkins House Hotel, erected in 1879. The West façade is mostly intact, but recessed portion of the building (which was a verandah) has been “bumped out” to house retail shops.

#21  **229 W Michigan Avenue - The Ypsilanti Downtown Library** was built in 1915 as a US Post Office, which moved to S Adams Street. The library opened here in 1963.

North Adams to Emmet Street

#23 **123 N Adams Street** – currently Ekklesia (a non-denominational church). Previously a Church of Christ Scientist.

#23 **218 N Adams Street – First Congregational Church of Ypsilanti**, built in 1822-23. The tower was added in 1899. It is currently the Ypsilanti Performance Space.


#23 **209 N Washington Street** (Large edifice, seen from the back) First United Methodist Church built in 1892 after the congregation outgrew the original church on N River Street.

#24 **420 Emmet Street – Elias Rouse house** was the home of John and Mary Washington Gay. Elias was a member of the Massachusetts 54th Regiment. He was wounded in its most famous battle but survived to continue fighting in the Civil War. When Elias was mustered out, John asked him to carry a letter to Mary in Ypsilanti. John did not survive but Elias delivered the letter and stayed with Mary, helped her raise John’s children and they eventually had a child of their own. Elias is buried in Highland Cemetery.


<https://udemancipationproject.wordpress.com/resources/family-histories/elias-rouse/>


#24 **NW Corner of Emmet and Ballard Streets** – Boulder with bronze plaque noting the site of the house of Reverend John D. Pierce (from 1867-1880), founder of the public school system of Michigan.


Water Tower and Eastern Michigan University


#24  The **Ypsilanti Water Tower** is possibly the city's most iconic structure. It has been featured on post cards, publications, and at one-time, the City logo. It is difficult to ignore its resemblance to a portion of male anatomy. One wonders if the city's namesake, Demetrios Ypsilanti, would be proud or embarrassed at the placement of his pedastalled bust on the west side of the tower.

#24 **953 Washtenaw Avenue – The Hiker** (aka The Traveler, Spanish American War memorial) was dedicated May 18, 1940 at a reunion of the Michigan Spanish War Veterans held in Ypsilanti in 1940. It honors the 31st Michigan Volunteer Infantry who were the first to be mustered for the war with Spain. http://www.macch.org/?page_id=25

#27  **Eastern Michigan University** was founded in 1849 and opened as the Michigan State Normal School in 1853 as a teachers college.

#27  **Got Burger!** (corner of W Cross and Ballard) is on the site of the original pizza restaurant (Dom's) that became Domino's Pizza.

#27  **210 W Cross Street** - The "Old High School." The Tecumseh Hotel was built on this site around 1840 to serve a railroad that was never built. Since 1844, the land has been used for schools. The current building started as a Central School in 1915, with numerous renovations and expansions. It was part of Ypsilanti Community Schools until 1995, when it was sold and transformed into senior citizen housing.


#27  **110 W Cross Street** – This served as the main Firehouse for the city from 1898 to 1975. Motorized fire trucks were introduced in 1916. The Firehouse Museum opened 2002.


#27  Before you turn on N Huron Street - **6 West Cross Street** – Ypsilanti's first City Hall and Jail was located here from 1859 to 1914. City Hall moved to Quirk House at 300 N Huron and then to its current location at 1 S Huron Street.


N Huron Street


Even house/building numbers are on the East side, odd numbers on the West.


#28 **303 N Huron Street – Towner House**. Said to be the oldest house in Ypsilanti on its original foundation. <https://aadl.org/ypsiganings/327794>


#28  **300 N Huron Street - D.L. Quirk Sr. Residence**. A rare example of the Second Empire Style, this 1860 home was built for Daniel L. Quirk. It features a mansard roof. In 1914, it was donated to the city and served as the City Hall until 1977.


#28  **220 N Huron Street - Ypsilanti Historical Museum**. This former brick mansion of the Dow family, built in 1860, has been home to the Historical Museum and Archives since 1970. Several rooms have been furnished to represent gracious homes of the Victorian period. Visitors are welcome between 2pm and 4pm on Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday.


#28  **214 N Huron Street - Andrews/Drury/Thompson House**. This Italianate-style Victorian frame house has served as the Ypsilanti Teen Center as well as a counseling center and classroom site for Washtenaw Community College. It was built in 1851 by Frederick Andrews and has housed many families since, including Mayor Cheryl Farmer.


#28  **206 N Huron Street - Showerman/Quirk Residence.** Note the hipped slate roof and Italianate window hoods on this home built in 1863 by Delos Showerman, sawmill operator and builder. The Daniel Quirk family added the large north addition and the neoclassical detailing in 1909.


#28  **203 N Huron Street - Cornwell Residence.** This Georgian/Queen Anne-style residence was said to be the largest example of its type between Detroit and Chicago. Built in 1883 by Cornelius Cornwell, a local pulp mill owner, it boasted the first telephone in Ypsilanti.

#28  **130 N Huron Street - Starkweather Home/Ladies Library.** This Italianate-style home was built in 1858 by local merchant Edwin Mills. It was purchased by John and Mary Ann Starkweather in 1875. John died in 1883. Mary Ann Newberry Starkweather came into a significant inheritance in 1886 and, having no heirs, concentrated much of her philanthropy in Ypsilanti. She donated the house to the Ladies Library Association in 1890. The library changed from being the Ladies Library to “Public Library” in 1948. The Public Library was relocated in 1964 to the former Carnegie Post Office at 229 W Michigan Avenue.

#28  **125 N Huron Street - Ballard/Breakey House.** The original structure was a modest Federal-style house of brick and stone built in 1830. The massive Doric columns were added in the 1840s. The house is listed in the Historic American Buildings Survey. Mr. Ballard was Mayor of Ypsilanti, and Drive. Breakey was a judge.


#28  **119-121 N Huron Street - Watling Dental Clinic/House.** These elaborate mid-Victorian buildings once were the office and home of dentist Drive. John Watling. It was built around 1872 and represents the Tuscan variety of the Italianate Style. Mrs. Watling helped found the Ladies Library Association, and her husband was instrumental in the establishment of the School of Dentistry at the University of Michigan.

#28  **120 N Huron Street - St. Luke's Episcopal Church.** One of the many interesting church buildings in our community, this mid-Victorian Gothic Revival building dates back to 1858 and is Ypsilanti's oldest existing church. Eventually the parish hopes to reinstall the spire and bell, removed in 1971 due to building stress. A garth, or memorial garden, is also located here.

#28  **76 North Huron - Masonic Temple (currently Riverside Arts Center)** - Designed by Osgood and Osgood, this building is in the Beaux Arts style. Extensive interior renovations were done in 1924 and in 1970 after the space was damaged by fire. The Masons used the building for 78 years, until they moved to Ypsilanti Township in 1987. Since 1994, the building has housed the Riverside Arts Center (RAC), a performing and visual arts center and rental facility. To make the space accessible, an elevator was added in 2003. *Note the plaque on the Riverside Off Center (56 N Huron) commemorating the first settlement in Washtenaw County at Woodruff's Grove and noting the location of the original trading post.*

If you stand directly in front of RAC and look west, you'll be looking at . . .

Corner of Pearl and North Huron (site of the former Ypsilanti Dress Stay Factory). Now a parking lot, a two-story brick structure stood on this site, where the production of dress stays took place at the turn of the century. The structure later housed the Ypsilanti Press.

 (Not on AVA walk, but a quick side-trip)

108 and 110 Pearl - the G.A.R. Hall - Probably built in the mid-1880s, this block served as a tinsmith's shop, a Chinese laundry, an annex of the dress stay factory (now torn down), and a G.A.R. Hall. The G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) was a Civil War veterans association, which wielded social and political power in the 1880s and 1890s.

111 Pearl - Scharf Tag, Label & Box Company (Congden's Hardware since 1913) - This building, circa 1890, and the adjoining brick building to the west housed a large commercial printing establishment. Note the projecting metal cornice, the large arched second story windows, and the delicate convex mortar joints between the stones. A wider mix of manufacturing, retail, and residential uses was common in the 19th century.

Riverside and Frog Island Parks

#29-30 Riverside Park is extremely popular and the site of many festivals. Designed in 1913 by the Olmsted Brothers (who designed Central Park in NYC), you'll often see people fishing in the swift current of the Huron River.


#32 **The "Tridge"** provides pedestrian access between Frog Island and Riverside Parks and Cross Street.

#33 As you enter **Frog Island Park**, many mills were located in the 19th century and trading posts in the 18th century, using the power of the Huron River. Frog Island was created to take advantage of this power (a mill race) but legal arguments over rights increased and water-powered mills dwindled. It was never really an island, but frog catching and killing did exist there, so the name stuck. It has been said that during temperance, it was a place where men gathered to drink, but told their wives they were going down to kill frogs. The path along the river and its entrances have recently been paved to improve accessibility.

#35 **12 E Forest Avenue - Michigan Ladder Company**, was in business for 120 years, closing in 2021. A small-town company who, like Jiffy Baking Mixes (Chelsea Milling, Chelsea, MI) prided itself in not laying off employees during down-times. Ladders were a 10-month a year business, so they produced other wooden products – including ironing boards, toys and ping-pong tables during those times. Is it a coincidence that the "Detroitter" ping-pong table was used in the movie "Forrest Gump" – made on Forest Avenue?

#35 **101 E Forest Street** - Frederick Swaine purchased a malt house at the NE corner of N. River and E Forest in 1872 and built an Italianate house. The malt house was removed in the 1920s, except for a small brick portion now serving (and still visible) to the east of the house.

#35 **600 N River Street** - Shelly Byron Hutchinson, the "H" in S&H Green Stamps, built the house on the SE corner of N. River and Forest Avenue in 1904. His highly successful trading stamps idea made him fabulously wealthy, but only for a short time.

#36  **400 N River Street** - The recently renovated building on the NE corner of Cross and River Streets was originally built by Mark Norris and referred to as the Norris Block. It was rumored that the basement served as a stop on the Underground Railroad. It was built from bricks from Norris's Great Western Hotel, after the hotel was demolished in 1860 when the Railroad acquired the land it was on. The building has also been known as "The Barracks," serving as such for the 14th Michigan Infantry Regiment in 1862 and the 27th Regiment in 1863. Oliver Thompson was the next owner and moved his wagon manufacturing business into the building. Thompson's business and family grew over the years, and he became a dealer in agricultural implements. More recently, the Norris Block is known as the Thompson Block. In 1916, Oliver's son Joseph opened one of the first Dodge dealerships in the north end of the building, which moved south across Cross street to where the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum is located today.

Resources

The following sources were found at the **Ypsilanti District Library**:

Hidden History of Ypsilanti, 2011 Laura Bien

Old Ypsilanti Town, 1974 Hazel Proctor et al

Our Heritage: Down by the depot in Ypsilanti – Volume I, 1999 Thomas Dodd and James Thomas Mann

Tales from the Ypsilanti Archives, 2010 Laura Bien

Wicked Ypsilanti, 2014 James Thomas Mann

Ypsilanti A History in Pictures, 2002 James Thomas Mann

Ypsilanti in the 20th Century, 2003 James Thomas Mann

The **Ypsilanti Historical Museum and Archives**, 220 N. Huron St. Ypsilanti MI 48197 is a treasure-trove of information!

<https://ypsihistory.org>

Many thanks to the Ypsilanti Historical Society for information from “A Walking Tour of Central Ypsilanti.”

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Historic Self-guided Walking Tours of Ypsilanti are available at:

<https://cityofypsilanti.com/326/Historic-Walking-Tour>

At this writing, there are 3 self-guided tours and maps posted. Each contain photographs and more detailed information. Many thanks to the City of Ypsilanti’s Preservation Planner for these resources.



Historic Downtown Walking Tour (25 page pdf)



Historic Depot Town Walking Tour (12 page pdf)



Historic West Cross Walking Tour (25 page pdf)

Architectural Highlights of S Huron, N Huron West Side, N Huron East Side

There is a wealth of information about the South Adams Street Historic Black Neighborhood, circa 1900 at:



Southadamstreet1900.wordpress.com - Thanks to Matt Siegfried for this rich site.

Some Historic Maps of Ypsilanti

[1856 washtenaw county plat map](#)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2012593013/> Bechler, G. R., Wenig, E. & Bechler & Wenig. (1856) Map of Washtenaw County, Michigan: from actual surveys. Philadelphia: Bechler, Wenig & Co. [Map] Retrieved from the Library of Congress.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2007633240/> **1895 South part of Ypsilanti** - labels Independence Island.

Geo. A. Ogle & Co. (1895) Standard atlas of Washtenaw County, Michigan: including a plat book of the villages, cities and townships of the county, map of the state, United States and world, farmers directory, reference business directory and departments devoted to general information, analysis of the system of U.S. land surveys, digest of the system of civil government, etc. Chicago: Geo. A. Ogle & Co.

[Map] Retrieved from the Library of Congress,.

[1915 south part of Ypsilanti](#) - Standard atlas of Washtenaw County

As stated at the beginning, this is not intended as an all-inclusive guide. It was compiled for a sanctioned walk sponsored by the American Volkssport Association, Washtenaw Wanderers chapter.

Nancy Howard and Stefan Szumko