

# INDIANA PRESERVATION

JULY/AUGUST 2016



INDIANA LANDMARKS

## TOURING SEASON:

Landmark Looks  
in Pekin

Lake Michigan  
Modern

Fort Wayne  
Experience

DINER

OASIS

# Cruisin'

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# Facing the Future

**IN EARLIER GENERATIONS**, house museums played an outsized role in the preservation movement in America. As historic preservation expanded to embrace neighborhood and community revitalization and economic development, historic sites assumed a less prominent position in the life and work of many preservation organizations, including Indiana Landmarks.

We own four historic sites, and while we strive to model exemplary stewardship, we also must ensure we're putting them to the highest and best use from a mission

and financial perspective. That's the job of our new Historic Sites Task Force. Under the leadership of board member Greg Fehribach (left, with me), a connoisseur of historic sites, the task force will take a fresh look at Morris-Butler House, Huddleston Farmhouse, Veraestau, and Indiana Landmarks Center.

Three guiding principles will underpin the task force's analysis: relevance, sustainability, accessibility. We want our historic sites to

be relevant to our mission and to *people*. That sounds elementary, but people visit historic sites for different reasons than they did 50 years ago.

Balancing the costs of maintenance and operations against the revenues of historic sites can be an exercise in frustration, so the task force will explore how we can increase the sustainability of our sites through innovative programming and new uses and revenue streams.

Improving accessibility of historic properties remains a tough challenge across the nation. We're relying on our task force to bring fresh insights to making our sites accessible to more people.

Our duties as stewards of landmark properties demand this close attention. Stay tuned for the conclusions and outcomes.



Marsh Davis, President

On the Cover

A former 10 Most Endangered site, the Oasis Diner in Plainfield came roaring back to life on a new site, adding visual and culinary zip on the historic National Road. PHOTO BY HADLEY FRUITS

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Indiana Landmarks publishes *Indiana Preservation* bimonthly for members. To join and learn other membership benefits, visit indianalandmarks.org or contact memberships@indianalandmarks.org, 317-639-4534 or 800-450-4534. To offer suggestions for *Indiana Preservation*, contact editor@indianalandmarks.org.

# STARTERS

# 3,000

people found antiques deals, yard sale steals and food truck happiness last year at **Treasure Hunt** on Indiana

Landmarks' Indianapolis campus.

This year's Treasure Hunt is July 9. Add it to your calendar!



PHOTO BY BARBARA BEEKER

## LANDMARK LEXICON

# Baluster

SOUNDS LIKE IT MIGHT refer to a politician full of hot air, but no; it's an architectural term for a curved, often vase-shaped support, commonly occurring in a row called a balustrade. Balustrades can be found high and low—relatively plain or highly decorative—on staircases, around porches, around the top of a building. A graceful balustrade tops the vacant 1927 Loan and Trust building in Wabash.

PHOTO BY LEE LEWELLEN



LEE LEWELLEN

# SHOCK & AWE

**If you're looking for** a head rush, put the Indiana War Memorial in Indianapolis on your “must-experience” list. It took decades to build the place: construction began in 1927 and didn't finish until 1965. The limestone exterior, based on an ancient Persian tomb, grabs attention, but too many people drive around it without ever going inside. Stop. Park. Go inside. The Shrine Room is worth the effort. It's an inspiring, moody place created by dramatic lighting in a soaring volume, deep blue glass windows, and blood-red marble columns centered around the giant Altar to the Flag beneath an enormous, suspended American flag. The Star of Destiny, a massive light fixture, tops the show. The Shrine Room will be featured in an upcoming book of historic hidden gems from IU Press and Indiana Landmarks.



## Exploring the Roots of Historic Landscapes

**TODAY'S GREEN MOVEMENT ADVOCATES TREE** planting and urban parks and trails as environmental and quality of life improvements. This falls under the “everything old is new again,” adage. Over a century ago, the successful City Beautiful movement convinced civic leaders across the nation to counter the negative aspects of industrialization and chaotic urban growth through thoughtful design and the creation of green spaces in cities.

The City of Fort Wayne hired City Beautiful adherent and landscape designer George Kessler in 1912. The city’s Maumee, St. Joseph, and St. Mary’s rivers offered the perfect palette for Kessler, who followed the waterways’ winding routes in designing curving, tree-lined boulevards, parks, and neighborhoods with interesting vistas. On August 27, Indiana Landmarks traces the city’s cultural landscape legacy in our *Fort Wayne Experience: From Kessler to Kiley*, a day-long exploration that includes talks by experts and tours of significant parks and boulevards designed by George Kessler, Arthur Shurcliff, and Lawrence Sheridan.

The day begins at Concordia Theological Seminary, a stand-out Mid-Century Modern campus. In the mid-1950s architect Eero Saarinen and landscape architect Dan Kiley had just

Our Fort Wayne Experience: From Kessler to Kiley on August 27 offers talks and tours that explore cultural landscapes, stopping at Lakeside Park’s famous rose garden and other historic venues.

PHOTO BY FORT WAYNE PARKS AND RECREATION

finished collaborating on St. Louis’s Gateway Arch when they were hired to design the 191-acre Concordia campus. Saarinen designed 28 buildings in clusters centered on a triangular chapel and connected by curving roads near a manmade lake. Saarinen patented a special diamond-shaped brick to create unique façade patterns.

Kiley’s Modernist landscape design framed the built spaces and softened them with allées of honey locust and Oriental plane trees along roadways, and wildflower meadows and flowering shrubs bordering open spaces. In recent years, natural threats to Kiley’s landscape—the emerald ash borer infestation and a 2001 tornado that destroyed nearly 800 trees—sent the college back to Kiley for advice. Kiley suggested bringing in mature trees from Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio to

patch holes and, in some cases, substituting trees from his original design with replacements better suited to the environment. “This is a magnificent example of the collaborations between Saarinen and Kiley,” says Rev. Robert Roethemeyer, vice president of strategic planning and mission execution at Concordia, who will lead a walking tour of campus.

After lunch, participants will board a motorcoach to travel along Kessler-designed boulevards, and see the park-like residential area developed by his successors Arthur Shurcliff and Lawrence Sheridan. Alec Johnson, a superintendent for Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation, will provide an insider’s view of the system, with stops at Lakeside Park, Foster Park, and Headwaters Park.

To beautify an area prone to flooding by the St. Joseph River, Henry Doswell designed Lakeside Park in 1912 with features that include a concrete pavilion, footbridges over lagoons, and a sunken garden with classical pergola. Landscape designer and horticulturist Adolph Jaenicke, parks superintendent from 1917 to 1948, saw Lakeside as a place where



**ABOVE:** Concordia Theological Seminary, a Mid-Century Modern collaboration between Eero Saarinen and Dan Kiley, hosts the day’s lectures, lunch, and a walking tour of the campus’s architecture and landscapes.

PHOTO BY CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, FORT WAYNE, INDIANA, WWW.CTSFW.EDU

**LEFT:** Our Aug. 27 experience will include a bus tour of three of Fort Wayne’s historic parks, plus urban landscapes and subdivisions designed by Kessler, Shurcliff and Sheridan that are among the city’s most coveted neighborhoods. You’ll travel along Forest Park Boulevard, for example, where large homes in 1920s revival styles remain in pristine condition.

PHOTO BY JILL MCDEVITT



the public could learn about design and nature, and directed the planting of hundreds of varieties of roses in the sunken gardens and along the pergola and reflecting pools. Named a National Rose Garden in 1928, the site remains a showplace.

Around the same time Lakeside Park was established, Park Board President Colonel David Foster and his brother Samuel Foster donated 67 acres for a park along St. Mary’s River. David Foster’s aspirations for his city included a park within 10 minutes of every home in Fort Wayne. Foster Park’s historic features include pavilions, the city’s first public golf course, and a 1928 footbridge over St. Mary’s River connecting it with Indian Village Park.

Our *Fort Wayne Experience* ends with a stop at Headwaters Park, the newest addition to the system. In his 1912 plan, Kessler specified the creation of a downtown park to help absorb flood waters from St. Mary’s River. His idea finally came to fruition in the late ’90s when Headwaters Park opened in a thumb-shaped parcel of land in a bend of the river.

“It doesn’t look like a Kessler-designed park, but it shows you how a vision can be coordinated and nurtured over time,” says Julie Donnell, Indiana Landmarks board member and chair of our cultural landscape committee. “I hope people come away with an understanding of the richness of Indiana’s landscape heritage and our part in the American landscape story.”

*Fort Wayne Experience: From Kessler to Kiley* is co-sponsored by Indiana Landmarks and Concordia Theological Seminary, with coordination from Indiana Landmarks’ Cultural Landscape Committee. Tickets are \$75 per Indiana Landmarks member, \$85 for nonmembers. The fee covers talks, lunch, and bus tour, though you must get to Fort Wayne on your own. Buy tickets online at [fortwayneexperience.eventbrite.com](http://fortwayneexperience.eventbrite.com) or call 317-639-4534.

# Peek at Rural Retreats

**EVER BEEN TO PEKIN? WE** thought not. You'll find the town in the rolling green hills of Washington County in southern Indiana, and we hope you'll make the trip on August 7 when we're staging a double Landmark Look to showcase two restored historic houses.

In the 1860s, the builder of Bob and Pam French's rural retreat intended to operate it as an inn on the railroad between Salem and New Albany. He constructed the house over a spring, which he dammed to create pools under and around the house, with long porches so guests could fish from their rocking chairs. A reflecting pool in front served as fish hatchery. The place never opened as an inn, but what a great idea!

When the Frenches acquired it in 1977, the house shook when they walked through it. They reinforced the foundation, restored the reflecting pool, and installed hurricane clips in the deteriorating rafters, a move they believe helped the house survive the tornados that tore through Pekin in 2012.

The Frenches plan to nominate the antique-filled house to the National Register of Historic Places. "We've tried to keep it as original as you can keep an old house," says Bob French. And true to the builder's intention, the Frenches enjoy the porches—coffee in the morning, wine in the evening.



On August 7, two restored houses in Pekin will be open to Indiana Landmarks' members and guests. Bob and Pam French's house was originally built over a spring so guests could fish from the porches. Indiana Landmarks promoted the sale of the nearly ruined c.1850 Bowman House and caught the attention of John Rodgers and Melissa Hinshaw. Before-and-after views show their transformation of the country getaway.

PHOTOS BY LAURA RENWICK

Carmel residents John Rodgers and Melissa Hinshaw were searching online for a country getaway and found the Bowman House listed by Indiana Landmarks in 2008. The c.1850 house looked more ruin than retreat, but the setting outside Pekin looked attractive. They directed a rehabilitation that saved the original brick façade and incorporated a rear addition, with exposed original brick comprising the center wall dividing old and new.

"If it wasn't brick, it probably would have been rubble," says John Rodgers. "Our goal was to do something that could be enjoyed for generations to come. It's our lake house without the lake."

The *Double Landmark Look* at the two homes, 2 to 5 p.m., is free for Indiana Landmarks members and \$15 for nonmembers. Whether free or paid, you must register in advance at [pekinlook.eventbrite.com](http://pekinlook.eventbrite.com) or by calling 317-639-4534.

# Mid-Century Modern in Miller Beach

## MILLER BEACH DEFIES THE

images that come to mind when you hear “Gary.” Nestled along Lake Michigan between the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Gary’s steel industry, Miller Beach has a resort-like feel. Gary annexed Miller Beach in 1918 and over the decades it developed as a summer getaway, with an outstanding crop of Modernist homes and churches.

On August 20, Indiana Landmarks and the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District present *Lake Michigan Modern: Miller Beach*, a day-long exploration of the area’s modern architecture with an orienting talk on the history and architecture followed by tours of four mid-century private homes and three historic houses of worship.

Miller Beach’s proximity to Chicago attracted people who commissioned architects to build summer homes on the lakefront. Lake Michigan Modern includes visits to houses designed by Keck and Keck and Edmond Zisook, who studied under Mies van der Rohe.

Architect George Fred Keck designed the House of Tomorrow and Crystal House for Chicago’s Century of Progress World’s Fair in 1933. He formed a firm with his brother William and developed a reputation for affordable Modernist residences. Keck and Keck houses feature flat roofs, radiant heat, and fixed ventilation louvers with expansive Thermopane glass windows. Robert and Maureen Farag’s brick and limestone house on St. Joseph Street in Miller Beach, a 1949 Keck and Keck design, features many of the designer’s signatures.

In the 1980s, a realtor friend took the Farags to visit the house that he was getting ready to put on the market. “It had a panoramic view of the lake and the Chicago skyline from the living room,” says Robert Farag. The couple was hooked. In the intervening decades, the Farags have come to appreciate the house’s ahead-of-its-time design, with built-in stor-



**ABOVE:** Lake Michigan Modern on August 20 invites day-long exploration of modern design in Miller Beach, a resort-like area in Gary, including the 1949 Keck and Keck design owned by Robert and Maureen Farag.

**BELOW:** Steve Russell and Bob Figuly’s unusual 1952 home includes a horse-shoe-shaped wet bar, indoor barbecue, and fireplaces of Tennessee limestone.

PHOTOS BY TIFFANY TOLBERT

age throughout and windows that maximize the sun’s heat in winter and cross-ventilation that allows the breeze off the lake to cool the interior in summer.

*Lake Michigan Modern* includes three other mid-century homes, a synagogue, and Catholic and Lutheran churches.

The program costs \$55 per member and includes continental breakfast, lecture, tours, and shuttle transportation between landmarks. Register online at [lakemichmodmiller.eventbrite.com](http://lakemichmodmiller.eventbrite.com) or call 317-639-4534.





# Order

ear the word “diner” or “drive-in” and most of us are transported to first dates, first jobs, first drive-on-your-own adventures. And perhaps you still patronize favorites for burgers, Hoosier tenderloins as big as your head, French fries, and milkshakes, basking in the glow of neon lights.

Diners and drive-ins also hold a rich place in architectural history. Initially shaped in form and function by the railroad cars they resembled, diners grew more stylistically sophisticated in the streamlined Art Moderne era.

The rise of the automobile similarly spurred the development of drive-in restaurants. They first appeared as crude roadside stands, then took more eye-catching forms to draw the interest of passing motorists.

To find drive-in gems that cater to car culture, we recommend historic byways. And there are still standout historic diners, survivors from the railroad era, and places that have used the best of diner traditions to revitalize landmarks. Start planning your gastronomic road trips now!



In architectural terms, true diners emulated streamlined railroad dining cars. You can see the resemblance in Plainfield's restored 1954 Oasis Diner, a former entry on our 10 Most Endangered list.

PHOTO BY LEE LEWELLEN



# Counter Culture

HORSE-DRAWN LUNCH WAGONS AND RAILROAD DINING CARS LED TO THE LUNCH COUNTER

**D**iners are places where you can grab a quick breakfast or lunch, where the staff knows your name and how you take coffee, right? Well, yes, but by strict definition, a diner is a specific building type in addition to an eatery that features fast meals. Diners evolved from horse-drawn lunch wagons that served quick meals to workers near factories in the late 1800s, some becoming sophisticated enough to include lunch counters with stools.

As the railroad came to dominate transportation, diners mimicked railroad or trolley cars—some even took up residence in converted rail cars. They evolved over time by expanding in

**ABOVE:** You can't miss the colorful fiberglass hobo holding a bouquet of balloons in front of Ruben's in Lake Station. That was the point of the historic roadside figure, of course, to make you turn into the diner's parking lot.

PHOTO BY TIFFANY TOLBERT

**LEFT:** In Worthington, Route 67 Ice Cream and Diner reached back to the lunch counter tradition in its creation of a new restaurant in a historic downtown building.

PHOTO BY KIM SMITH

size and incorporating tables and restrooms in addition to the long counter.

In the 1930s, diners adopted streamlined designs borrowed from airplanes. After World War II, the long, low prefabricated buildings



## SIGN OFF

**AT THE TURN OF** the twentieth century, the United States pioneered in constructing illuminated signs to advertise businesses after dark, first relying on different-colored, blinking electric bulbs, then on neon and fluorescent tubes. Dubbed "spectaculars" by sign makers, the most fantastic neon signs capture the hearts, and in this Instagram era, photographic worship of roadside architecture fans.

were in high demand in the surging economy, with a range of models that could be shipped by railroad or truck across the country.

The Oasis Diner in Plainfield, an Art Moderne gem, arrived in Indiana by rail from the New Jersey-based Mountain View Diner Company in 1954. In 2010, the dilapidated but largely original diner landed on our 10 Most Endangered list—closed and on the market, on land more valuable without the structure.

Indiana Landmarks recognized only a move would save it. To find a new site, we worked with town leaders motivated to keep the landmark in Plainfield, and at the same time hunted for a buyer up for such an adventure. We found Doug Huff, owner of L.D. Huff Construction, Inc., and Don Rector.

The seller Wally Beg donated the diner to Indiana Landmarks. We attached our protective covenants to the deed and sold it to Doug and Don for \$1. They moved it four miles down the National Road (U.S. 40), restored the original green and pink tiled interior, and rehabbed the stainless steel exterior. A sign maker refabricated the original palm tree sign.

The Oasis menu emphasizes made-from-scratch dishes and baked goods, hand-crafted sodas (butterscotch root beer, anyone?), and plenty of diner staples like burgers, tenderloins, and ice cream floats. “A lot of people, including the sign maker, had an emotional tie to the diner, and felt like they had ownership of it,” says Huff. “Our goal was to make it feel like it had never



**ABOVE:** East Coast natives Nick and Charity Boyd bought a 1910 Goshen building that had housed a restaurant since the 1940s, then created an addition in the classic diner profile. South Side Soda Shop has been featured on the popular television show *Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives*.

PHOTO BY LEE LEWELLEN

been moved and to offer the best of then and now.”

Textbook-definition diners are found in greater numbers in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, closest to the companies that manufactured and shipped the gleaming chrome pre-fab buildings. In Indiana, the more expansive idea of “diner” prevails—quick service, lunch counter with stools, local news central, places where the wait staff knows how you take your eggs—and you’ll find examples all over the state.

Route 67 Ice Cream and Diner in Worthington (Greene County) features burgers and hand-dipped shakes in a setting inspired by the historic drug-stores that functioned as the nation’s

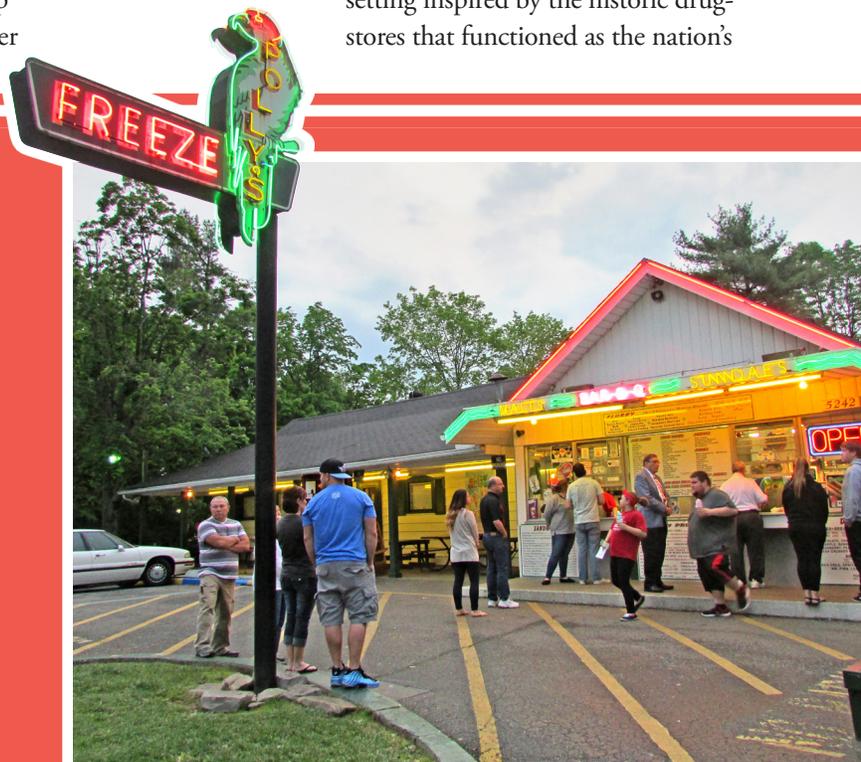
## THE TIMES

One of our favorite Indiana spectaculars draws diners to a historic drive-in on the Ohio River Scenic Byway. Just follow the neon parrot to Polly’s Freeze on State Road 32 in Georgetown. Named after the original owners, Polly and Elmer Gleitz, the roadside stand opened in 1952, and adopted the green parrot sign soon after to lure highway travelers.

Drive-in favorites dominate the menu—burgers, fries, onion rings, milkshakes. On a hot summer night, try Polly’s classics—chocolate and vanilla soft serve and orange sherbet—or sample the rotating menu of more unusual flavors like strawberry cheesecake soft serve and watermelon sherbet.

Ready to go? Visit [pollysfreeze.com](http://pollysfreeze.com) to learn more.

PHOTO BY LAURA RENWICK



first “fast food” purveyors, with an updated lunch counter design, tin ceiling, and black-and-white checkered floor. The diner brought new life to a nineteenth-century commercial building that had housed an Oddfellows Lodge on the upper floor.

In Goshen in northern Indiana, South Side Soda Shop has earned a national reputation for its menu, featured on Food Network’s *Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives*. Years before people came for award-winning chili and lemon meringue pie, they were buying groceries, waiting for the bus, or mailing letters from the 1910 building. A soda fountain and lunch counter were added in the 1940s. Nick and Charity Boyd bought the building and opened the South Side Soda Shop in 1986, retaining the original lunch counter and layout.

To expand, the Boyds—East Coast natives steeped in diner culture—envisioned a chrome addition. When they couldn’t find a historic diner to fit the lot, they built their own. A ’50s theme ties the two sections, where the Boyds serve up chili, the previous owners’ sloppy joe recipe, and more adventurous fare, like the liverwurst and bacon sandwich on Swedish Limpa bread.

For no-frills dining in a mid-century gem, check out Ruben’s in Lake Station, located in a Googie-esque building with sweeping roof lines. The diner’s mascot, a cheery fiberglass hobo holding balloons, toppled last year in high winds. He’s back in place now, a roadside icon and visual cue to flip on your turn signal and think about your order—hot dog (the specialty) or sub?



# Curb Appeal

DRIVE-INS WITH ROLLERSKATING WAIT STAFF FLOWERED IN THE 1950s

Like gas stations, motor courts, and comfort stations, drive-in restaurants began sprouting early in the twentieth century with the exploding population of automobile owners.

Believe it or not, curbside service goes back to the early 1900s, reportedly linked to a Memphis drugstore owner who offered to bring soda fountain drinks to waiting carriage owners. But the idea of constructing restaurants that specifically catered to people in cars didn’t take off until the 1920s, beginning with simple, rectangular roadside stands.

To attract the attention of motorists, drive-ins took on more eye-catching shapes beginning in the late ’20s and early ’30s. Some employed the popular architec-

**ABOVE:** Roll down your window, speak your order into the sticky car-side microphone, and await a carhop—on foot or roller skates—delivering your burgers and shakes on a tray that hooks on your window. You can still find classic carhop service at Mishawaka’s Bonnie Doon Ice Cream. Great sign, too.  
PHOTO BY TODD ZEIGER

tural styles of the day while others used quirky features that reflected the restaurant name or menu specialty, like Indianapolis's Tee Pee, a '30s-era drive-in demolished in the 1980s that featured a tee pee on the roof.

In the 1940s, South Bend ice cream makers Herman and Andrew Muldoon capitalized on the drive-in craze and found a new market for their product by opening the city's first drive-in restaurant, the Bonnie Doon. It was a hit, expanding to as many as nine locations in St. Joseph and Elkhart counties. The Muldoons' ice cream factory is gone and now there's now only one Bonnie Doon, open during the warm weather months at 2704 Lincolnway West in Mishawaka. A flat canopy stretches from the small rectangular building and a curvy vintage sign points the way. Diners can still order Bonnie Burgers and hot dogs from individual speakers and wait for carhops who bring the meal to the car, or inside at

**RIGHT:** At the Char-Bett in Logansport, you can dine in your car with a window tray or at picnic tables after you order at the walk-up window. We recommend the chocolate malt!

PHOTO BY JIM GREY

**BELOW:** While curbside service is long gone, the onion burger still draws customers to Anderson's sunny Lemon Drop drive-in.

PHOTO BY SUSAN LANKFORD



booths or the counter. Ice cream remains the star of the menu, made by local manufacturer Valpo Velvet.

Drive-ins surged in the '50s as the automobile reached previously unseen heights in the post-World War II prosperity. The design of the decade's examples often reflected Modernist influences, like Kunkel's Drive-In in Connersville, built in 1954. Two slightly angled canopies flank the rectangular, flat-topped restaurant to shelter customers in their cars, who use classic individual speakers to order such delicacies as the Kunkelburger (a double-decker), marshmallow vanilla Coke, and pies. Connersville's role in early automobile manufacturing earned it the nickname "Little Detroit," and Kunkel's provides a natural rallying point for car clubs and summer classic cruise-ins.

In Anderson, the 1954 Lemon Drop reflects the styling of its era in signage and architecture, a tiny cinder-block structure with a flat roof and slightly curved edges. Curb service went away in 1965, but the restaurant kept the "drive-in" moniker,





and still draws a crowd (27 people at a time) for its lemon shakes and onion burgers (the onion is stuffed inside the patty).

In Logansport, the Char-Bett began life as a grocery store and filling station on the historic Michigan Road in 1951, named for its original owners, Charlie and Betty Streu. When the business outgrew the building in 1958, the Streus offered curbside service. Today, customers walk up to order pork tenderloin sandwiches and thick chocolate malts, with the option of dining in the car with a window tray or at picnic tables.

The 1960s marked the beginning of the end of the drive-in's reign, supplanted by the even more quick and convenient chain fast-food restaurants with drive-thru windows. You can find survivors, however, usually beloved local institutions.

Vintage cars are regular fixtures at Johnsen's Blue Top in Highland, built in 1964 at the end of the drive-in's reign. It displays Google-influenced design in the inverted rooflines and folded-plate canopy.

PHOTO BY TIFFANY TOLBERT

Highland, in the northwest corner of the state, boasts one of Indiana's best examples of Googie architecture in Johnsen's Blue Top Drive-In.

The Googie style name derives from an eponymous chain of California coffee shops that feature glass walls, bold signage, inverted triangles, and gravity-defying angles. Named for the blue-shingled roof on its original location, the Blue Top dates to 1936. Its present structure, built in 1964 with inverted rooflines, draws motorists with a 28-foot tall neon sign and roof canopy shaped like a folded plate. Car culture recognizes the Blue Top as one of its own: regular cruise-in nights draw hundreds of vintage cars.

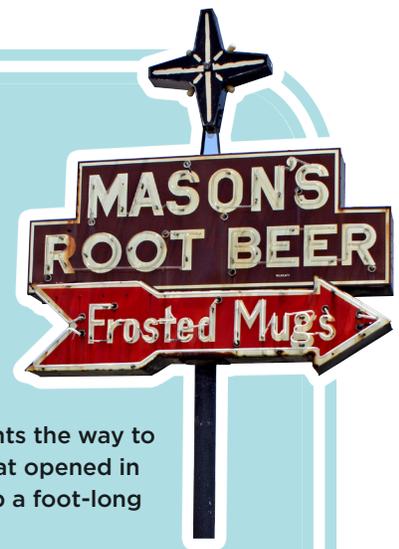
## ROOT OF THE MATTER

**IN 1919, THE PROLIFERATION OF** automobile owners looking for food-on-the-go collided with Prohibition to produce an enduring favorite on drive-in menus everywhere: root beer. The nation's first A&W Root Beer stand opened that year in Lodi, California, and the chain quickly became one of the first drive-in franchises. And that frosty mug design? You can thank Indiana. Beginning in the late '10s and early '20s, Indiana Glass Company in Dunkirk in eastern Indiana produced root beer mugs, both adult and baby size, for A&W.

If you consider yourself a root beer connoisseur, make plans to visit three historic drive-ins where the sweet, spicy drink takes pride of place.

### Mason's Root Beer WASHINGTON

Where East National Highway (Old US 50) meets State Road 257 in Washington in southwest Indiana, a vintage neon sign with a red arrow points the way to Mason's Root Beer, a roadside stand that opened in 1951. Along with your frosted mug, grab a foot-long coney dog, a Mason's specialty.



### Mug 'N Bun • INDIANAPOLIS

On East 10th Street near the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, turn on your headlights for car-side service at Mug 'N Bun, a roadside staple since 1960. They make the root beer on the premises, the perfect accompaniment to breaded tenderloins, burgers, catfish platters, star-shaped tater tots, and hand-made shakes.

### Gene's Root Beer • ANDERSON

Neon signage and a flat-topped canopied drive-in layout mark Gene's Root Beer on Anderson's Scatterfield Road. Opened in 1964 with curbside service that continues today, Gene's proclaims itself "Home of the Spanish Hot Dog," a tasty combo with root beer.



SUSAN LANKFORD

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MARKET**

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[indianalandmarks.org](http://indianalandmarks.org)



# Ligonier Temple

**503 South Main Street, Ligonier**

1889, former Ahavas Sholom Reform Temple. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Brick and stone building includes decorative stained glass and elaborate woodwork. Sold with preservation easement protecting historic features.

**\$85,000**

**John Mangona, John's Realty**  
260-894-4133  
[johnreal@ligtel.com](mailto:johnreal@ligtel.com)



## New Cottage-Sickles Hotel

**4 South Perry Street, Medora**

Colonial Revival-style frame building includes 15 rooms on 2 floors and is ideal for an inn, bed-and-breakfast, or live-work opportunity. 4,073 square feet. 47 miles northwest of Louisville, 30 miles southeast of Bloomington. Sold with preservation covenants.

**\$79,000**

**Greg Sekula**  
812-284-4534  
[gsekula@indianalandmarks.org](mailto:gsekula@indianalandmarks.org)



## 106 North Main Street Farmland

This wonderful old relic, constructed in 1919, is still standing strong and tall and needs a new owner who'd love a historic, rustic setting for their business and/or home. Located near the junction of SR32 and SRI, by the tracks.

**\$130,000**  
765-625-0800



## 404 West 2nd Street North Manchester

Rehabilitated two-story Victorian is move-in ready. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. 1,515 square feet. New baths, flooring, furnace, and kitchen with stainless steel appliances. 2-car garage with storage loft.

**\$113,500**

**MLS#201552520**  
**Erica Garber**  
260-578-3009  
[ericagarber@ymail.com](mailto:ericagarber@ymail.com)



## Second Chance

**IN CROTHERSVILLE IN SOUTHERN INDIANA,** it's hard to miss the two-story brick building anchoring the corner of Howard Street and U.S. 31 at the only stoplight in town. If you're a native, you went there to get a haircut, shop, buy medicine, get your licence, and check out a book. You headed upstairs if you belonged to the International Order of Odd Fellows.

By 2015, caution tape and construction barricades surrounded the place to protect the passing public from falling chunks of the cornice. The town considered demolition, but Indiana Landmarks convinced leaders to park the wrecking ball while we made the place safe and found a buyer. The town even threw in the \$40,000 budgeted for demolition toward our repairs.

In May as part of the Jackson County United Way Day of Caring, volunteers from Cummins Engine in Seymour helped Indiana Landmarks clean out the building and scrape storefronts to prepare them for a new coat of paint. After we put on a new roof, fix deteriorating brick, and make the 1891 building structurally sound, we'll put it on the market.

Check out the real estate section of our website, [indianalandmarks.org](http://indianalandmarks.org) for other historic places that need new owners.

Crothersville's Odd Fellows lodge faced a crossroads when the cornice started crumbling (below). Instead of paying for demolition, the town gave the building to Indiana Landmarks. In May, volunteers from Cummins Engine (above) helped us clean out the building.

PHOTOS BY LAURA RENWICK



## BRIEFLY NOTED

### MEMBERS TAKE NOTE:

at Indiana Landmarks' Annual Meeting on September 11 in Indianapolis, each member may vote to elect the directors. Board members serve three-year terms and are eligible for a second three-year term. According to Indiana Landmarks' by-laws, members may vote for candidates proposed by the Governance Committee of the board, or by at least 10 voting members. To nominate a candidate for election to the board of directors, submit your nomination in writing 10 days in advance of the Annual Meeting to Carl Cook, Chairman of the Board, Indiana Landmarks, 1201 Central Avenue, Indianapolis, IN, 46202.

### IF YOU'VE CALLED US

recently, you may have noticed a new voice greeting you. That's LaChelle Carter, who joined us as receptionist and administrative assistant and helps direct your calls to the appropriate staff member. She's a graduate of Tennessee State University and Art & Fashion Institute of Atlanta, GA.

### THOSE WHO ATTENDED

our annual Rescue Party on April 30 witnessed the Cook Cup for Outstanding Restoration presented to the Prairie Preservation Guild for its transformation of the Fowler Theatre and saw an inspiring and heartwarming video by Road Pictures about the effort. If you have 5 minutes, check it out: [bit.ly/FowlerCookCupVideo](http://bit.ly/FowlerCookCupVideo).

# Lawyer Advances Preservation

## ANDREW POTTS LIVES IN

Washington, D.C., and finds connections to his Indiana roots everywhere. Across the street from his turn-of-the-century apartment building, a Scottish Rite Temple brings to mind the Indiana War Memorial (both buildings are modeled on the ancient Tomb of Mausolus at Halicarnassus). He recently attended a black tie gala held in a Paul Cret-designed building, reminding him of the architect's Indianapolis Central Library. He sees Indiana limestone buildings throughout the capital.

A history-lover since he was a kid, he grew up to become a historic preservation lawyer, and he remains in touch with his state and with Indiana Landmarks. "I knew at least one other person that had done preservation law—Randy Shepard," says Potts.

"Luckily, I got to work for him while he was Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice and it really changed my life."

In the '90s, Shepard connected Potts with Indiana Landmarks, where then President Reid Williamson showed him how we used historic and affordable housing tax credits to finance the transformation of a complex of dilapidated historic buildings in Indianapolis. Today, the approach is an everyday part of Potts' work as a partner at D.C. law firm Nixon Peabody, where he specializes in the use of tax credits to finance revitalization of historic places.

"I give Reid credit for embracing what at the time was novel, this idea that preservationists must understand real estate development and finance and find ways to make it profitable to redevelop historic places," says Potts. Potts returned the favor by serving two terms on Indiana Landmarks' board. He helped bring the national preservation conference to Indiana in 2013 and his role in developing innovative sessions helped make it a success. He and his partner Steve Clark were also financial sponsors of the conference.



Andrew Potts' love of history and historic places led to a career as a preservation lawyer. He specializes in advising people on how to use tax credits to finance revitalization of historic places as a partner in Nixon Peabody, a D.C. law firm. Potts, a long-time Indiana Landmarks donor, completed two terms as a board member.

Potts is completing a two-year leave of absence from the law firm to serve as the director of the U.S. National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). Potts' time with the group has informed his global perspective on preservation, and Indiana Landmarks' role within the movement. "I think Indiana Landmarks does a good job trying to tell the stories of all Hoosiers, and making sure we protect places that reflect the values of the whole community."



## 5-Alarm Save

### MISHAWAKA'S OLD NO. 4 FIRE STATION AT

Lincolnway East and South Brook Avenue opened in 1929. When the city decommissioned the station in 2013, planning consultant and lifelong Mishawaka resident Douglas Merritt envisioned the landmark as a home. He and his wife Ann had renovated a 1928 bungalow and they were looking for another challenge, so they bought the Tudor Revival-style firehouse in 2014.

The fire station needed the usual kinds of old-building maintenance—new wiring, plumbing, masonry tuckpointing. With the addition of a few interior walls, the second-floor dormitory turned into the family's living quarters. The shaft where hoses dried in the '20s and '30s made a perfect location for an additional bathroom on each floor.

The fire station's sturdy construction—brick walls 12 to 18 inches thick, and even thicker concrete floors that supported heavy fire-fighting equipment—proved the biggest challenge in repurposing the property. "Anytime we want to make a change, it's a substantial effort," notes Douglas Merritt, "and we also wanted to preserve the original layout as much as possible."

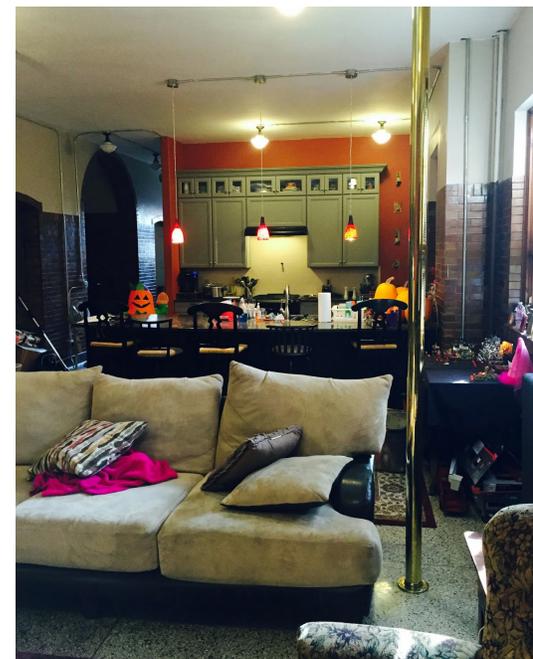
The Merritts' elementary-age children have their own secret play space above the third floor, through a scuttle hole into an attic loft via an original steel ladder. "The kids adore the place," says Douglas. "They really enjoy telling friends, 'Hey, I live in an old fire station.'"

Douglas and Ann Merritt bought Mishawaka's Old No. 4 fire station in 2014, which they've adapted as their family home. Their eye for detail included rescuing a vintage fire pole to replace the missing one in their fire house. Although installed where the original stood (right), it's non-functional, at least while their kids are small.

PHOTOS: ABOVE BY DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND ARCHAEOLOGY, RIGHT BY ANN MERRITT

The fireman's pole was gone when the family moved in—a casualty after a fire truck backed into it and a major disappointment to the Merritts, because the pole is central to any firehouse. Douglas Merritt circled a newspaper classified ad about a sale at a vintage fire station in Elkhart. Score! He bought its fire pole and had it cut to fit the Mishawaka station, installing the pole where the original stood, but beneath a sealed circular opening in the ceiling. "For insurance reasons, it's inoperable. And having a working fire pole with young children in the house didn't seem like the best idea anyway," adds Merritt.

The Merritts are waiting to hear whether the fire station will be added to the National Register of Historic Places, a nomination supported in part by Indiana Landmarks' Partners in Preservation National Register program. "We see ourselves as stewards and keepers of Old No. 4," says Douglas Merritt.



For details on events and to RSVP for free tours or buy tickets: [IndianaLandmarksEvents.eventbrite.com](http://IndianaLandmarksEvents.eventbrite.com) or 800-450-4534

# Treasure Hunt

**July 9**

Annual antiques market, with 50+ vendors, entertainment and food on Indiana Landmarks campus, joined by 40+ y'arrrd sales throughout the historic Old Northside neighborhood. \$5 for early buyer entry, 8-9 a.m.; free, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



BARBARA BEEKER

## Annual Meeting Sept. 11, Indianapolis

All members are invited to elect directors, hear about great saves, and applaud Servaas Award and Williamson Prize winners. Light refreshments at 2:30 p.m., program at 3 p.m. Free but RSVP online.

## AROUND INDIANA

### Double Landmark Look Aug. 7, Pekin

See two rural landmarks—c.1850 Bowman Farm restored by John Rodgers and Melissa Hinshaw and the unusual c.1863 Campbell-Gill Farm owned by Bob and Pamela French. 2-5 p.m. Free for members, \$15 general public (see p. 6).

### Restorations & More

**July 23, Crawfordsville**

Make a day of it, touring Kevin Parker's Route 32 Restorations auto museum—muscle cars, restored gas pumps and more—and Doc McGrady's deluxe barn holding his private truck, tractor, and farm implement collection. \$35/Indiana Automotive member, \$42/Indiana Landmarks member (lunch included; transportation on your own).

## Lake Michigan Modern

**Aug. 20, Miller Beach**

A talk and tour showcases Miller Beach, a lakeside area of Gary, with visits to private homes and houses of worship. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. CST. \$55/member includes breakfast, lunch, and tour transportation (see p. 7).

## From Kessler to Kiley

**Aug. 27, Fort Wayne**

Our *Landmarks Experience* explores cultural landscapes, including talks and tours of parks and boulevards designed by George Kessler, Arthur Shurcliff, and Lawrence Sheridan. \$75/member includes lunch and bus tour (see p. 4).

## Wine Down on the Farm

**Sept. 16, Cambridge City**

Huddleston Farmhouse hosts an evening of art, wine, music and a local harvest spread. 6-9 p.m.

## FRENCH LICK & WEST BADEN SPRINGS

Daily through December

**West Baden Springs Hotel Tour**  
10 a.m., 2 & 4 p.m.

**French Lick Springs Hotel Tour**  
Noon

**Tours depart** from our Landmarks Emporium in each historic hotel on IN 56 in southern Indiana. Combo ticket available. Reservations recommended: 866-571-8687.

### Twilight Tours

7 p.m., July 23, Aug. 13, Sept. 17

Rub shoulders with some of the rich, famous and notorious guests who visited West Baden Springs during its heyday in the early 1900s on a 75-minute tour where you'll meet costumed characters. \$14/member.

### FIRST FRIDAY

Each month through December (except July), free art shows in the Rapp Family Gallery, Indiana Landmarks Center. 6-9 p.m.

### MONUMENT CIRCLE & CATACOMBS TOURS

Indianapolis, May-October

Monument Circle tour is free, every Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m. City Market Catacombs tour—offered 1st & 3rd Saturdays at 11 & 11:30 a.m., Noon, 12:30 & 1 p.m.—\$10/member. Buy ticket in advance.





INDIANA LANDMARKS

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AND FINALLY



## Good Neighbors

**A STROKE OF LUCK AND A COMMUNITY-MINDED** family led to a new preservation project for Richmond Neighborhood Restoration, Inc. The nonprofit group formed last year with help from Indiana Landmarks to revitalize historic neighborhoods through strategic rehabs of historic homes that then go on the market and back on the tax rolls.

A board member spotted the McGuire House—a property on its wish list—for sale on Craigslist and reached out to seller George Steele. Having raised his family in the c.1900 Queen Anne-

style home, Steele loved Richmond Neighborhood Restoration's goal and generously sold the property to the group at a significantly reduced price.

The McGuire House at 1903 East Main Street is the group's second project on Millionaire's Row, following its rehab and sale of a c.1906 house.

A Craigslist ad led Richmond Neighborhood Restoration, Inc., to a house on its target list. The group will rehab and sell the c.1900 house to spark revitalization in the area.

PHOTO BY J.P. HALL