INDIANA PRESERVATION
MARCH/APRIL 2017

Down the Line
Historic factories retooled and repurposed

Saints Alive!
Catholics save places of worship

Learning from Wabash
State Preservation Conference turns spotlight on award-winning town
Policy Priority No. 1

AS WE MOVE DEEP INTO A PERIOD of uncertainty in public policy, preservationists across the land are rallying to protect the federal Historic Tax Credit (HTC) from potential elimination. Why is this tax credit so important that retaining it is the number one preservation issue at the national level?

The HTC places historic preservation squarely in the realm of economic revitalization. Let’s look at the numbers: since the HTC was enacted in 1981, it has incentivized the rehabilitation of over 41,000 historic places, created nearly 2.3 million jobs, and leveraged more than $117 billion in private investment.

The $24 billion cost of the program to the federal coffers has generated a positive return of $28.6 billion in federal revenues. The credit can’t be claimed until the work is done, which means the government treasuries already have received the additional tax revenue. And the incidental benefits are extraordinary: increase in local tax base, reduction of sprawl, support for local businesses, and preservation of historic community character. Without the HTC, so many of the rehabilitation projects that have transformed cities and towns across America simply would not have been possible.

The current threat to the HTC is real. I’ve spoken with members of Congress who, ignoring the positive returns generated by the HTC, believe that eliminating tax credits will somehow lead to lower taxes and thus to an increase in charitable support for historic preservation. My deeply understated response—unlikely.

Here in Indiana, the condition of cherished places—the West Baden Springs Hotel, Charlie Creek Inn in Wabash, Kokomo YMCA, Hinkle Fieldhouse, and countless other landmarks—would be quite different without the HTC. Since you’re a member of Indiana Landmarks who believe that eliminating the HTC will somehow lead to lower taxes and thus to an increase in charitable support for historic preservation. My deeply understated response—unlikely.

In the words of the Governor of Iowa, the state with the highest HTC activity per capita: “Congress who, ignoring the positive returns generated by the HTC, believe that eliminating the HTC will somehow lead to lower taxes and thus to an increase in charitable support for historic preservation. My deeply understated response—unlikely.”

If you believe the HTC is too valuable to lose, join those of us who are fighting to retain it. We are counting on you to help us protect the HTC. To see our efforts as they develop, please visit indianalandmarks.org or contact membership@indianalandmarks.org.

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INDIANA PRESERVATION
Indiana Landmarks requests your support as we move into a period of uncertainty in public policy.

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NEW ALBANY

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LANDMARK LEXICON

INGLENOOK

Just when you think spring has sprung in Indiana, a March snow and ice storm forces you back indoors. On such days, we recommend grabbing a good book and curling up in an inglenook. The name comes from “ingle”—Old English fireplace. Inglenooks are small, semi-enclosed seating spaces near fireplaces that date to medieval times, when women cooking meals over the hearth wanted a place to sit. Originally as modest as wooden benches, inglenooks over time grew more sophisticated in design, morphing into inviting built-in features rather than merely a cook’s convenience. The sitting room of the 1920s Le Fer Residence Hall at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods is an inglenook, the perfect place to while away a winter day.

STARRTHERS

DISTILLERY FOR A DAY

Our Rescue Party on April 29 (see p. 18) includes a lively auction of unusual experiences. For example, Hotel Tango Distillery in Indianapolis will teach you the science and art of mashing, fermenting and distilling. The full day session for up to six people (assemble a group to bid!) includes lunch at the historic facility, cocktails at the end and, best of all, your own 5-gallon barrel of whiskey or gin that Hotel Tango will age and bottle.

Alert!

Indiana Landmarks begs you to contact your congressional representative and ask him or her to retain rather than eliminate the federal Historic Tax Credit (see facing page). Here’s a look at the impact of the credit in Indiana from 2000 to 2016.

Source: Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

Indiana Landmarks publishes Indiana Preservation semi-annually for members. To request a free trial membership or to volunteer, visit indianalandmarks.org or contact membership@indianalandmarks.org. 1-800-450-4534 or 317-639-4534. To offer suggestions for Indiana Preservation, contact editors@indianalandmarks.org.

Marshall Davis
President

On the Cover

Wabash, a city on a revitalizing roll, offers an attractive setting for the statewide preservation conference, April 25-28, with a diverse agenda of talks, workshops, tours, and meals in interesting historic places. PHOTO BY LEE LEWIS.
Consolidation Saves Landmark Churches

The news caused an uproar, including petitions to the Vatican. Father Johnathan Meyer suggested an alternative to keep the congregations active in their own communities. He convinced the bishop to allow the four churches to remain open and active, and also to restore each of the four historic churches, located just miles apart. Though now viewed as campuses of one parish, the churches operate much as they have in the past, each offering a mass on the weekend, and hosting baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

"People were not so much against becoming one community," says Father Meyer. "They were against seeing these buildings being demolished or sold and not maintained."

All four buildings were restored within an astonishing six months, thanks to countless hours of volunteer work by parishioners from each congregation. Using funds already earmarked for upkeep and asking parishioners for donations, All Saints raised nearly $250,000.

"We wanted to boldly communicate who we are and who we want to be," says Father Meyer. "There's no bolder communication than putting our money where our mouth is."

Each of the churches received a new paint scheme, stark contrasts to the neutral palettes introduced in the last third of the twentieth century. St. Paul's—at 1837, one of the oldest Catholic churches in the state—now features three shades of blue and brick red highlighting ceiling arches and ribs. Remnants of the historic communion rail appear as part of the altar and ambo. The church got new inlaid hardwood floors. A parishioner with an art degree repainted statues.

Parishioners chose a similar palette to enliven the interior of St. John in Dover, built in 1874. Workers painted the ceiling a shade of blue also used at St. Paul. In fact, the color repeats through all four churches, lending a sense of unity to the new All Saints parish. All the churches received upgrades to floors, lighting, and sound systems.

At St. John, the large, ornate reredos returned. The reredos—the tall structure behind the altar—serves as a beautiful backdrop. St. John's original reredos, seen in photographs from the turn of the nineteenth century, had been removed years ago and replaced with a much smaller version, out of scale to the soaring space. Father Meyer tracked down a more appropriately scaled historic replacement salvaged from a church in Pennsylvania. When the new reredos arrived in 24 separate pieces, local teen Matthew Kuebel took on the daunting task of organizing its assembly and installation as part of his Eagle Scout project.

In the small town of St. Leon, renovation at the 1861 St. Joseph's church included a vibrant blue ceiling with golden stenciling, new flooring, and tech upgrades. Artists painted angels above the altar, returning a beloved feature lost when the originals were painted over years ago. Though they aren't the same in location or design, the new angels are a particular favorite among parishioners old enough to remember the originals.

Opened in 1917, Yorkville's St. Martin is the youngest of the churches, a distinction evident in its classical design. The refreshed paint scheme highlights the many Austrian stained-glass windows added to the church in 1929. Renovations at St. Martin also included new paint for the Lourdes Grotto and frames for the Stations of the Cross.

All four churches unveiled their revived interiors last summer. The restoration project fostered a greater connection between the members of the new parish, and the congregation continues to grow, proof that retaining the historic churches was the right thing to do. "The response has been tremendous and credit goes to the community," adds Father Meyer.

For more information on All Saints Parish, visit allsaintscatholic.net.

By Jarrad Holbrook, Director, Indiana Landmarks Southeast Field Office
Learning Lessons in Revival from Wabash

WABASH ESTABLISHED ITSELF AS A FORWARD-thinking place back in 1880 when it embraced a new-fangled technology to become the “First Electrically Lighted City in the World.” Today, as many small towns suffer population loss and the accompanying disinvestment and vacancy, Wabash remains a risk-taking, can-do place known for revitalized buildings, thriving small businesses, and capitalizing on heritage.

The city hosts this year’s statewide preservation conference, April 25-28, and apart from a robust roster of compelling speakers, education sessions, networking opportunities and tours, the community itself is a reason to sign up. The Preserving Historic Places conference, sponsored annually by Indiana Landmarks, Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, and Indiana University, attracts preservation professionals as well as people whose interest is avocational, community leaders, and students who want to explore a broad range of topics related to preservation and community revitalization.

Located 45 minutes southwest of Fort Wayne, Wabash boasts a National Register-listed downtown that includes remnants of the Wabash & Erie Canal and a beautiful assortment of nineteenth- and twentieth-century commercial and residential architecture. The city’s passionate Main Street organization, Wabash Marketplace, oversees a façade improvement program, helps market empty landmark buildings, and uses loans from Indiana Landmarks to rehabilitate buildings.

The revitalization momentum ramped up when Wabash won Stellar Community status in 2014, a designation that gave the city priority for technical support, grants, and tax credits from a multitude of state agencies, based on a master plan that looked at everything from economic development, accessibility, and trails, to historic district design guidelines and public art. As a Stellar Community, Wabash gained access to $1.3 million in matching funds for façade improvements, fueling the transformation of 23 historic buildings downtown and resulting in an estimated $25 million in private investment.

City leaders had long eyed a commercial block at the corner of Huntington and Market streets, across the street from the Wabash County Historical Museum. As part of the Stellar submission, Wabash proposed turning the upper floors of the landmark buildings into apartments to bring more housing to downtown. Dubbed Rock City Lofts in honor of Rock City Café, long a popular destination in the building, the project will incorporate senior apartments, the restaurant, retail space, and Living Well Downtown, a satellite of the city’s senior services agency.

“The desire to live in a place within walking distance of so many amenities is very attractive. We knew that in order to remain relevant to the next generation of seniors, we needed to be downtown,” says Beverly Ferry, CEO of Living Well in Wabash County Council on Aging. “There’s a momentum growing, and by being on the ground floor, we send a message that we’re open to the community and in the middle of things.”

Rock City Lofts’ partners—AP Development, Partnership for Affordable Housing, R&B Architects, and Community Construction—are using both low-income housing and historic rehabilitation tax credits. The latter credit requires the preservation of the historic façade and important interior architectural elements. Although it won’t be complete until this fall, Rock City Lofts will be included among the tours for conference attendees.

Wabash got another boost in 2016 when it won the popular vote among nearly 10,000 entries in the national Small Business Revolution contest sponsored by Deluxe Corporation. The contest prize included $500,000 and in-kind expertise in marketing, sales, and building improvements for six small businesses. Deluxe filmed the stories in an eight-episode series. At a conference dinner on April 26, Deluxe Corporation’s Vice President of Public Relations Cameron Potts will share the company’s conviction that the future of community revitalization belongs to Mom and Pop shops like the ones in Wabash.

Preserving Historic Places includes plenty of opportunities to explore local businesses and restaurants, as well as architectural gems like the Honeywell Center, an Art Deco-standout that hosts most conference sessions. Wabash industrialist Mark Honeywell established the Honeywell Foundation, which built the 1951 center designed by Fort Wayne architect A.M. Strauss. Today the foundation also operates the historic Honeywell House, Dr. James Ford Historic House, Charley Creek Gardens, Eagles Theatre, and 13-24 Drive-In. One of the conference tours focuses on the Honeywell Center, including backstage and other seldom-seen spaces like the Olivette Room, a replica of Mark Honeywell’s yacht.

Get the full conference agenda and registration prices on the conference pages under the Tours and Events section of Indiana Landmarks’ website, indiana.landmarks.org.
When you think of landmarks, historic factories may not be the first building type that comes to mind, yet they embody the essential characteristics of places that tell a community’s story. They’re visually dominant behemoths, made of sturdy brick, metal, and concrete, with smokestacks, skywalks, saw-tooth roofs, water towers. They employed dozens to hundreds of people at a time, often for generations, turning out products famous and obscure and dispensing paychecks that kept families afloat.

Although some historic factories remain in service, the decline of manufacturing in the late twentieth century means that some have been demolished—large chunks of South Bend’s Oliver and Studebaker manufacturing complexes, for example—and others sit empty and deteriorating. One—the 1915 Ford assembly plant in Indianapolis—made our 10 Most Endangered list last year.

There’s an upside, however: these places were built to last and often feature open floor plans and large windows that make them ideal for reuse. Developers have turned factories into places where people live, eat, shop, and play. Check out several cool examples—and one that needs an imaginative rescuer.

Repurposed in the late ’60s as the 100 Center, Mishawaka’s massive Kanm & Schallinger Brewery—brewery, ice house, stables, garages, and boiler house—has survived recessions and competition from new strip malls, a testament to its original historic buildings and connection to the city’s heritage.
The Blue Bell factory, built in 1932 on South Whitley Street in Columbia City, produced denim goods—overalls, jackets, coats, jeans. At its prime in 1940, the factory employed more than 800, around 19 percent of the city’s population.

Vacant for the past decade, the landmark reopens early this spring as Blue Bell Lofts, 52 one- and two-bedroom apartments for seniors, with exposed brick walls and rehabbed original elm floors. Wisconsin-based Commonwealth Management Companies used a trio of tax credits—for rental housing, historic rehab, and the state’s Industrial Recovery Tax Credits, an incentive for rehabbing long-vacant industrial structures—in its financing package.

“When we presented our proposal to the planning commission, it was a packed house,” says Kevin McDonell, Commonwealth’s Vice President of Development. “Everyone there was passionate about this building being saved. When we said we were there to preserve the building, there was a huge collective sigh of relief.”

The American Can Factory, built in 1931 on the Wabash River in Terre Haute, first produced tin cans, then Pillsbury products, until its last use as a storage facility. Vacant since the early 2000s, the sawtooth-roofed landmark sits next to Indiana State University’s new Gibson Track and Field Facility. Indianapolis-based Core Redevelopment saw not blight but opportunity in the long-vacant structure. The firm, led by former Indiana Landmarks chairman John Watson, plans to create a central three-story light well in the 186,000-square-foot masonry building, allowing for 178 loft-style inward- and outward-facing market-rate apartments. Called One Sycamore, the project also uses the Industrial Recovery Tax Credit.

Core Redevelopment had factory repurposing experience in the Harding Street Lofts, a transformed 1890s industrial complex in Indianapolis, not far from the Indianapolis Zoo. Core retained the character-defining features of the buildings’ industrial past—masonry and brick walls, heavy timber columns and framing, the smokestack. In the center of the complex where the truck dock was located, Core removed the roof but left the steel framing in place, creating an enclosed courtyard.

If you like factories or the idea of living in an industrial space, visit indianalandmarks.org to learn about other factories being converted to apartments.
Do you have the kind of vision and imagination that lets you squint at bulging nineteenth-century factory and see places to live, shop, eat, even have a wedding? Needless to say, we love such visionaries.

From her frame shop on Thornport's Main Street, Karen Wright used to look across the street and imagine possibilities for what locals called “the old garment factory” where workers sewed clothes for J.C. Penney, Sears, and Bobbie Brooks. In 2005, Wright and others proposed transforming the vacant turn-of-the-century Jacques Building into Sugar Creek Art Center.

A donor helped the all-volunteer group buy the site, which they rehabbed for artists’ studios. They installed a gallery in the former machine room on the open-plan second floor. With the recent installation of an elevator, the group made the site handicapped accessible and began renting the gallery for weddings and special events.

On the St. Joseph River in Mishawaka, the Kamm and Schellinger Brewery is an early example of industrial reuse of buildings that dated from the mid-1800s to early 1900s. The brewery closed in 1951. Redeveloped as the 100 Center in the late ‘60s, the site included residences, a theater, restaurants, shops and businesses, with the old brewery equipment reused as public art.

The 100 Center lost tenants to newer shopping centers beginning in the late ‘80s. In recent years, a second wave of revival brought Smokeystack Brew, a speakeasy-bar-restaurant-live music venue to the former boiler room, and Morgans and the Little Black Dog Tavern, a restaurant and banquet hall specializing in European cuisine to the brewery’s 1930s garage and the stables that once sheltered draft horses and beer wagons. “Back in the ’70s and ’80s this was really a hot spot. A lot of people remember that, and we’re starting to regain that,” says owner MaryLou Stevens, who lives across the street in a historic home once owned by the Kamm family.

The Old Bag Factory in Goshen, another early example of industrial reuse, was built as a soap factory in 1896 and later produced containers, from burlap sacks to paper used in Hershey’s Kiss wrappers, until 1982. After it closed, a 1980s restoration turned it into a hub for artisans. The campus—the factory, boiler building and historic log cabin—included antiques shops, cafes, and specialty stores.

Walkers stroll past on a walkway made atop the railroad track that ran alongside the factory.

In South Bend, Kevin Smith rescued the six-story Studebaker Body Assembly Building, which he’s turning into an International Thought Center, which houses technology offices, data centers, advanced manufacturing, telecommunication interconnects, and a higher education portal. The project builds on Smith’s previous success in repurposing the nearby Art Deco-style Union Station as an event center and data hub for telecommunications providers. The immense factory—480,000 square feet—turned out automobile bodies, so its sturdy construction can support the considerable weight of the data center.

First to come online in Smith’s adaptation are two lower-rise additions to the Body Assembly Building on the south that housed receiving docks, assembly lines, the tool room, and paint lab. Slated to open this summer, the two-story buildings already house a biotech firm, F Cubed, and CupPrint US, a customizable paper cup company.

Smith recruited Gordon Gill of Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture to oversee the rehabilitation of the entire complex, appreciating the firm’s focus on sustainability and energy efficiency. The design features green elements, including a rooftop garden, collection of rainwater for reuse in the complex, and new plantings to create a park-like atmosphere along the still-functioning elevated train tracks next to the building. In one of the south buildings, Smith introduced an atrium by cutting through heavy concrete floors—and had the concrete reshaped into benches for the corporate campus.

This year, exterior rehab begins at the Body Assembly Building, the six-story factory designed by famed Detroit architect Albert Kahn. Continuing the focus on sustainability, Woodsmith, a wood manufacturing tenant, is using wood flooring salvaged from the building to create custom furniture, coffee and conference tables, cabinets, and other products.

Because the data hub in the building will produce heat, Smith intends to recapture it to help heat the site. “My goal is to make history in a way that builds on the shoulders of those that came before us,” says Smith, “and to prove that architecture should be understood, studied, saved, and reimagined, so we have continuity.”
Activists and True Believers

Preservation Architect James "Jim" Kienle loves landmarks and imagining new uses for old buildings. It's a passion he passed on to his wife, Marjorie, first on dates where they'd tramp through his favorite historic buildings, and later in nightly conversations at the dinner table about his latest project. Their fervor for heritage and architecture made them natural allies of Indiana Landmarks.

“We live preservation,” says Marjorie, a retired speech/language pathologist. “We’ve restored three historic houses, haven’t killed each other, and are still married fifty years later.”

The couple’s first home was an apartment in Columbus’s German Village neighborhood, an early model in using preservation to reverse urban blight in the 1960s. After working in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C., the Kienles relocated to Indianapolis in 1975, when Jim’s architecture firm won the contract to develop a master plan for the Indiana State Capitol complex.

Searching for a historic residence near downtown, they chose a house that Indiana Landmarks had saved from demolition and moved to a vacant lot in the Lockerbie Square neighborhood, which at the time was characterized by vacant lots and boarded-up homes. The couple moved in after nine months of night and weekend DIY renovation work.

“Both sets of our parents thought we were crazy,” says Marjorie. “But we had lived other places and seen them reborn and knew it could be done.”

They witnessed the resurgence of Lockerbie, and became involved with efforts to revitalize downtown. Jim Kienle helped restore Morrison Opera House, one of the state’s first historic theaters, then convinced the city to create a preservation ordinance. He particularly likes the challenge of finding a reuse for historic theaters, then convincing people to share the vision, playing a professional role in the revival of Indianapolis’s Circle Theatre and Elkhart’s Lerner Theatre, a project that won Indiana Landmarks’ Cook Cup for Outstanding Restoration.

“In finding a new use for historic buildings, you’re defining places that are essential to the identity of a community. It’s the essence of placemaking,” says Jim.

Because the Kienles believe in Indiana Landmarks’ mission to save places that matter and connect people to heritage, they’ve included us in their estate plans, becoming members of our Heritage Society.

“If you are interested at all in cultural history, there’s no better investment you can make than supporting Indiana Landmarks,” says Jim. “Your support goes statewide to the areas that need it.”

Like what you’ve read?
Help Indiana Landmarks achieve even more by:

• renewing your membership
• making a donation in addition to membership
• including Indiana Landmarks in your estate plans

Talk to Sharon Gamble, 800-450-4534 or visit indianalandmarks.org
Walk or Bike, Your Choice

THANKS TO ALEXANDER RALSTON’S 1821 DESIGN OF THE capital city and those who followed his lead, Indianapolis presents a practical, easy-to-navigate grid of ruler-straight streets. Which makes the areas that deviate from the grid—like Irvington, an 1870s planned suburb on the city’s east side—all the more inviting.

In May, Indiana Landmarks and Historic Urban Neighborhoods of Indianapolis offer two ways to explore Irvington, a National Register-listed district where Craftsman bungalows and standout period revival homes line the curving, tree-lined streets. We stage a walking tour on May 18 and a bike tour on May 20.

Irvington experienced a building boom in the 1870s when Butler University relocated to the area and retains landmarks from this period, including the university’s library, and the 1873 Second Empire-style Benton House, built for a Butler president.

George Kessler’s design for Ellentberger Park and Pleasant Run Parkway highlighted the creek’s natural contours and furthered the growth of the charmingly non-gridded area. During the ’20s and ’30s, artists and writers gravitated to Irvington, including painters William Forsyth, Clifton Wheeler, Helene Hibben and, most famously Kin Hubbard, creator of the syndicated comic strip Abe Martin.

Walking tour tickets cost $8 for Indiana Landmarks members, and $10 for the general public. The bike tour is $15 per member and $20 for the general public. Our walking and bike tours usually sell out, so make your reservation soon at IndianaLandmarksEvents.eventbrite.com or call 317-639-4534.

BRIEFLY NOTED

INDIANA LANDMARKS recognizes our volunteers throughout the state, with special awards to those who contribute substantial chunks of their time. The three at the very top were Jan Owalt, Indianapolis; Janet Tibbs, French Lick-West Baden; and Mike Hess, Cambridge City. Other 2016 volunteers in the highest echelon in Indianapolis, French Lick-West Baden, and South Bend include Sherril Adkins, Craig Barker, Carolyn Barnett, Charlotte Carmichael, Garry Chlutt, Fred Clark, Nancy Curran, Jesse Day, Steve Fox, Mary Lou Garrett, Barbara Goddard, Peggy Jones, Eric Manterfield, Barbara Maxwell, Margaret McGirt, Dave and Debra Parcell, Laura Poland, William Powell, Barbara Thompson, Cliff Zenor, and Rich Steininger, who received the Dorothy P. Linke Outstanding Volunteer Service Award.

Volunteers provided Indiana Landmarks with more than 8,300 hours of service in 2016, and we’re grateful for every single minute.

WE REGRET TO NOTE: the recent passing of James Conley, first director of our northern office and later vice president in Indianapolis, and I.U. Professor Emeritus Bill Wiggins, a former board member who once chaired our African American Landmarks Committee.

Diversity in the Dunes

IN PAT AND MIKE SHYMANSKI’S kitchen, modern appliances and cabinetry frame a wall of hand-hewn oak logs. The dichotomy points to the property’s evolution from a Swedish immigrant cabin to a restored retreat. You can see the cabin on a tour in the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore that features eight interiors and a dozen sites, from early buildings to mid-century glass and steel houses. Indiana Landmarks and the National Park Service (NPS) sponsor the second annual Logs to Lustrons tour on May 13 and 14.

After the National Lakeshore was established in 1966, NPS acquired properties within the boundaries to establish the Park. To save many of the places deemed historic, Indiana Landmarks leased them from NPS, then subleased them to people, like the Shymanskis, who restored them.

Retirees from Chicago, the Shymanskis discovered the Oscar and Irene Nelson Site for lease in the Old House Journal. The wall in the Shymanskis’ kitchen displays logs locked together with a v-shaped channel for a tight fit, a common construction method used by those of Nordic descent and different from notched round logs used in other building traditions.

“This site represents eighty years of vernacular architectural development, from logs cut on site to a modular concrete block garage,” says Mike Shymanski, a retired architect. “We enjoy architecture. We enjoy interpreting it. And we’ve had a lot of fun finding the pieces that tell the story of this house.”

Nearby, the Field Station Cooperative, an environmental curriculum-based pre-school, moved to the Gust Lindstrom House and Wahl Barn over a decade ago, drawn by the area’s rich ecosystems and the turn-of-the-century house and World War I-era barn. The barn serves as the primary classroom. In rehabbing the house, workers uncovered hand hewn log walls, believed to be part of the original log cabin built by Swedish immigrant Gust Lindstrom.

In addition to the Nelson and the Lindstrom sites, Logs to Lustrons includes two Lustrons, pre-fabricated World War II-era enameled-steel houses, and International-style houses constructed in 1948 and 1961.

Timed-entry tickets are $25 per Indiana Landmarks member. Make a weekend of it and come to a Friday evening talk on the architecture in the Indiana Dunes. Your ticket to the talk, $30 per member, includes the tour. Buy online at IndianaLandmarksEvents. Eventbrite.com or call 317-639-4534.
First Friday
Indianapolis
Each month through December (except July), our Bapp Family Gallery hosts free art shows, with an option to tour our restored headquarters, 6-9 p.m.

Mar. 3 "Nature of Art: Painted Parks" by Rick Wilson
Apr. 7 "Artist Boxer—This is My Parkinson’s," by Wendell Lowe
May 5 "Indiana 10 Most Endangered"
June 2 "Restoring Culture," by WE ARE 2.0, a group show of African American artists

Heart City Heritage Talks
Elkhart
Indiana Landmarks and Ruthmere sponsor a series of talks that explore Indiana’s shared heritage and ways to help save important places. 6-7:30 p.m. at Havilah Beardsley House, 102 W. Beardsley Ave.

Mar. 14 Historic Preservation 101
May 9 Deep Building Research
July 19 Historic Cemeteries
Sept. 12 Indiana Byways and Heritage Tourism

Storyteller Extraordinaire
Mar. 30, Indianapolis
Indianapolis Motor Speedway historian Donald Davidson’s annual talk and Q&A, an entertaining evening of insights and humorous digressions. An exclusive reception with Mr. Davidson precedes the talk at 5 p.m. Sponsored by our Indiana Automotive affinity group. Grand Hall at Indiana Landmarks Center. 5:30 cash bar and light refreshments. 6 p.m. (5 p.m. reception, limited to first 25 people who register in advance.)

State Preservation Conference
Apr. 25-28, Wabash
Preserving Historic Places conference offers education sessions on a variety of topics, inspiring plenary talks, meals in interesting places, and tours that educate and entertain. See p. 6 for more information, or visit the Tours and Events tab at indianalandmarks.org.

Logs to Lustrons
May 12-14, Indiana Dunes
See a century of architecture on our second annual tour, including a dozen sites (eight interiors) from early settlers’ houses to Modernist abodes. Come Friday evening for an orienting talk on the log, glass, and metal architecture featured on the tour (ticket to talk includes tour). See p. 17.

Irvington Tours
May 18 and 20, Indianapolis
Historic Irvington, a nineteenth-century suburb on Indianapolis’s east side, features lovely vistas created by curving streets and great period architecture. Check it out on a walking tour on May 18, or cover more ground on our bike tour on May 20. See p. 16.

Indiana Modern Lecture
June 1, Indianapolis
Dr. Dale Gyure presents "Serenity, Surprise, and Delight: The Humanist Architecture of Minoru Yamasaki." Yamasaki’s most famous work, the World Trade Center, was destroyed on 9-11. Indiana has an example of his design genius in Irwin Library at Butler University. Gyure is a professor of architecture at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, Michigan. Free lecture, sponsored our Indiana Modern affinity group and Indianapolis Museum of Art, takes place at the Toby at IMA. 6 p.m.

Mid-Century Modern Tour
June 3, Terre Haute
Back to the Future Tour shows you its heyday in the ‘teens and ‘20s. 7 p.m. May 29, June 17, July 22, Aug. 26, Sept. 16

For details on events, to RSVP for free tours, or to buy tickets, visit IndianaLandmarksEvents.eventbrite.com or call 800-450-4534!

Indianapolis
May through October

Monument Circle Catacombs tour offered 1st and 3rd Saturdays except July, when tours are on 2nd and 4th Saturdays, and an additional Saturday, Oct. 28. Tours take place at 11 & 11:30 a.m., noon, 12:30 and 1 p.m., and require ticket in advance.
IN 2014, FIVE CAN-DO WOMEN—SUE ROBINSON, Karen Baker, Suzy Fueling, Cherienne Scherry and Sandy Collier—decided to do something about the old depot in Decatur, a town in northeastern Indiana near the Ohio state line. The 1902 Classical Revival-style depot held a central spot in town, but it had been vacant and deteriorating for more than 50 years.

Calling themselves the Pennsy Girls, the five created a rehab and reuse plan. They pursued grants and convinced a host of local and regional organizations to help, raising $100,000 for the restoration. Indiana Landmarks provided advice and a grant to nominate the depot to the National Register.

Last August, the Pennsy Girls achieved their vision: through the local parks department, you can rent the restored Pennsy Depot for weddings, reunions, and all sorts of community events. Get the full story at indianalandmarks.org.