

# INDIANA PRESERVATION

MARCH/APRIL 2019



INDIANA LANDMARKS

## Sleek & Stylish

Our annual *Back to the Future*  
tour heads to Columbus

WE GET TO  
LIVE HERE

One-of-a-kind homes

LEARNING  
FROM THE BEST

Evansville hosts  
statewide preservation  
conference



CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM, HEDRICH-BLESSING COLLECTION

# Unparalleled Opportunity

**BUILDING ON THE SUCCESS** of our public/private partnership with the National Park Service that saved four extraordinary homes from Chicago's 1933/34 Century of Progress Exposition, Indiana Landmarks is poised to offer the famed House of Tomorrow for lease to a party that will undertake its restoration.

A forward-looking, 12-sided glass invention, the House of Tomorrow created a sensation at the Exposition. After the fair closed, the house was towed on barge across Lake Michigan to Beverly Shores, Indiana, where it continues to fascinate visitors to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, even in its current unrestored condition. In 2016, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named it a National Treasure and esteemed architectural critic Paul Goldberger hailed it as "one of the true early monuments of American modernism."

Readying the house for a long-term lease from the National Park Service required years of planning. Indiana Landmarks engaged a stellar team of architects and engineers, and we now have the specifications—approved by the National Park Service—to bring yesterday's House of Tomorrow into the future as a living, sustainable home. Leasing the House of Tomorrow offers an unparalleled opportunity to live in a stunning work of architecture that comes with an equally spectacular view.

Interested parties, please contact Todd Zeiger, director of Indiana Landmarks' Northern Regional Office, [tzeiger@indianalandmarks.org](mailto:tzeiger@indianalandmarks.org), or visit [indianalandmarks.org/house-of-tomorrow](http://indianalandmarks.org/house-of-tomorrow).

*Marsh Davis*

Marsh Davis, President

On the Cover

Built in 1959, the mid-century home owned by Julie Aton in Columbus illustrates progressive residential design from the period. It's one of five standouts on this year's *Back to the Future* tour on May 18. PHOTO BY APRIL KNOX PHOTOGRAPHY



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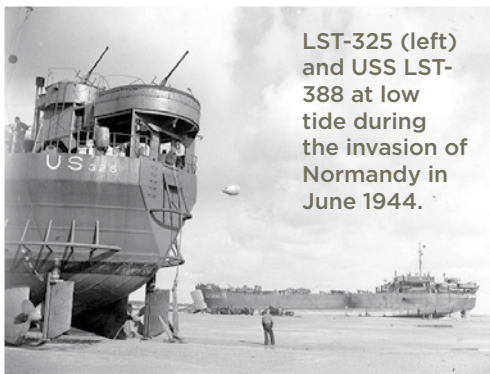
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# History Floats

ALEX MORGAN IMAGING

The USS LST-325, moored on the Ohio River in Evansville, may be the only seaworthy war memorial in Indiana. LST stands for Landing Ship Tank, the amphibious vessels that transported troops and equipment to beaches for invasions of Sicily, Salerno, and Normandy during World War II. LST-325 made more than 40 round trips between England and France in 1944. In fact, it's one of only a few surviving U.S. warships that went ashore on D-Day. Now owned and operated as a floating museum by LST Ship Memorial, Inc., it's the only fully functional example restored to its original design. Visit [lstmemoial.org](http://lstmemoial.org) to learn more, or check out the landmark in person during Indiana's Statewide Preservation Conference in Evansville, April 9-12 (more details on pp. 6-7).



LST-325 (left) and USS LST-388 at low tide during the invasion of Normandy in June 1944.



**Lustron homes** still exist in Indiana—prefabricated steel houses designed as an affordable solution to the post-WWII housing shortage. On May 3, Steve and Laurie Snell will share their Lustron home's story during a talk at the Portage Lakefront Pavilion in advance of Indiana Landmarks' Logs to Lustrons tour on May 4. See more on our website, [indianalandmarks.org](http://indianalandmarks.org).



PHOTO BY PAIGE WASSEL

# STARTERS

## Hop in the Flivver

### SETTLE INTO THE SEAT

of a classy breezer for a one-of-a-kind look at downtown Indianapolis with Indiana Landmarks President Marsh Davis. Ride with Davis and classic car collector Peter Pappas in a 1929 Ford Model A Phaeton and a 1936 Ford Phaeton on a personal tour highlighting the city's preservation and automotive history, with stops for lunch and a private look at a classic and rare car collection. It's just one of the unique experiences we'll auction at Rescue Party on April 27, our annual fundraiser to save endangered places. Learn more at [indianalandmarks.org/rescue-party-2019](http://indianalandmarks.org/rescue-party-2019)



## Columbus Tour Spotlights Mid-Century Standouts

### IT'S INCREASINGLY RARE TO FIND MODERNIST

houses occupied by their original owners. Like time capsules, these homes offer a uniquely intimate and authentic glimpse of an era. The high-style ranch built for Benjamin and Esther Ranck in 1962 in Columbus, Indiana, is one such example. Dr. Ranck passed away in 2015, but Esther continues to live in the home, where virtually all living spaces retain their original

Indiana Modern's annual *Back to the Future: A Mid-Century Modern Home Tour* on May 18 spotlights five exceptional residences of the period in Columbus. The tour includes the 1959 home of Julie Aton (above and left), a post-and-beam design with a unique blond brick fireplace wall separating living room and kitchen. PHOTO BY APRIL KNOX PHOTOGRAPHY



finishes and period furnishings. It's one of five exceptional residences that will be featured on Indiana Modern's 2019 *Back to the Future* home tour in Columbus on May 18.

Benjamin and Esther met in Bloomington while attending Indiana University, choosing after graduation to establish Dr. Ranck's family practice in Columbus—drawn by the community's livability, thriving economy, and suitable schools. An education major, Esther wanted to study botany, and her lifelong passion for plants is reflected in the home's unique interior planters and attached greenhouse.

Typical of its era, the house is strikingly horizontal. A band of floor-to-ceiling windows spans the street-facing wall of the living room, while a nearly windowless stone wall shields

the bedroom wing from the street. A massive skylight illuminates the foyer, which includes a built-in stone fountain the Rancks' daughter Melissa recalls her parents would turn on when they were entertaining guests. A nurse, Melissa grew up in the house with three siblings and now lives there as her mother's caregiver.

Tall windows shed natural light on the living room, which features beamed vaulted ceilings and a stone corner fireplace. Nearby, the formal dining room includes three built-in interior planters along a wall of glass overlooking a freeform pool installed in 1975. The kitchen boasts original streamlined cabinetry by the Nappanee-based Mutschler Company, Formica countertops, and a peninsula with built-in cook-top, stainless-steel counter, and copper vent hood supported by legs resting on the counter. The sunken family room still features pecky cypress paneling, original pendant fixtures and built-in seating. Visitors on the May 18 tour will also see the cabana-like poolside laundry room with stand-in shower, original cabinetry, and tile.

Talivaldis "Ted" Meijers (1926-2012) shaped much of Columbus's residential designs during the mid-twentieth century. His local company, Custom Built Homes, is responsible

**ABOVE:** At least two homes on this year's tour were designed by Talivaldis "Ted" Meijers, a prolific Columbus home-builder whose work includes the 1962 high-style ranch (above) designed for Benjamin and Esther Ranck. She still lives in the home, where several rooms retain original finishes and period furnishings.

**BELOW LEFT:** Inside the foyer of Julie Aton's home, a geometric wooden grid creates a sense of compressed space accentuating the vaulting living room ceiling beyond, a device often employed by Frank Lloyd Wright.



for the Ranck House's distinctive design along with many others. A Latvian native, Meijers and his wife Ruta immigrated to the United States in 1949, arriving in Columbus in 1951, where he worked as a carpenter's apprentice before establishing his construction firm.

Meijers constructed another home on this year's tour in the Noblitt Falls subdivision, known as "The Lagoons" for its man-made lakes. Built in 1959 for orthopedic surgeon Dr. Floyd Mohler and his family, it is now home to local businesswoman Julie Aton. Passionate about Mid-Century Modern design, Aton shares her knowledge as a volunteer tour guide for the Columbus Area Visitors Center. "I knew I had to have this house on the very first day I toured it at the open house back in 2015," Julie says. "I made an offer that same day, and have enjoyed furnishing it with period furniture and art."

An architectural standout, the home's post-and-beam construction supports a broad, central gabled roof with a window wall overlooking the lake behind the house. Coupled with the wide, screened-in back porch, the views give the home the feeling of a lakeside resort.

The house is filled with features considered state-of-the-art in the late 1950s, including a built-in hamper that can be loaded in the master bathroom and unloaded in the adjacent laundry room. A Westinghouse electrical dock in the kitchen includes designated outlets for a coffee maker, popcorn machine, and electric griddle. The floor-plan illustrates progressive ideas in residential design, including a master bedroom separated from the other bedrooms, a finished walkout lower level with family room, and a single informal dining space.

Aton and her fiancé, Chad Heimlich, reconnected during the last *Back to the Future* home tour in Columbus in 2011, both serving as docents at his mother's house, another Meijers design.

Three additional houses will be open for the tour on Saturday, May 18, from 1-6 p.m. Advance tickets are \$20 for non-members, \$15 for Indiana Landmarks members, and \$10 for Indiana Modern members. Day-of-tour tickets will be \$25. For more on the tour's headquarters and ticket outlets, call 317-639-4534 or visit [indianalandmarks.org](http://indianalandmarks.org).





## Celebrating Preservation Wins, Then and Now

**IN 1969, WHEN VANDERBURGH COUNTY** government left its historic courthouse for a newly built Civic Center, local officials planned to demolish the Beaux Arts building in the heart of downtown Evansville. Spared from the wrecking ball when demolition proved too costly, the courthouse found new use as offices, retail, and rental space. Today, one of the city's earliest adaptive reuse projects remains a vibrant gathering space, the perfect conference headquarters for *Preserving Historic Places: Indiana's Statewide Preservation Conference* in Evansville, April 9-12.

Designed by Louisville architect Henry Wolters and built 1888-1890, the stately landmark provided the setting for important events in the city's history. Military established temporary headquarters at the courthouse during the Ohio River flood of 1937. Harry Truman and John F. Kennedy both delivered speeches from its steps on the campaign trail.

After the county moved out, a grassroots group leased the building, supporting its preservation with fundraisers and rental income. In 2000, the county took over management, but the Old Courthouse Foundation continues to assist the

*Preserving Historic Places: Indiana's Statewide Preservation Conference* on April 9-12 explores adaptive reuse of landmarks in Evansville from the '60s and '70s and today. The Beaux Arts Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse, used today as offices and an event venue, serves as our conference headquarters. PHOTO BY ALEX MORGAN IMAGING

landmark's restoration. The combined public-private partnership has fueled the building's renovation over the past decade or so, installing a new roof, updating mechanical systems, and restoring hardwood floors, decorative plaster, light fixtures, and wall and ceiling finishes. The updates include installation of a new catering kitchen, which—paired with the renovated ballroom—give the landmark renewed appeal as an event venue.

In recent years, Evansville's been on a revitalization roll, including several high-profile projects. Along with the reuse of the Art Moderne Greyhound Station as Bru Burger, the city's 1882 Owen Block and 1917 McCurdy Hotel found renewed use as apartments.

"Preservation in Evansville has ebbed and flowed quite a bit," says Amy MacDonell, who served as the city's historic preservation officer in the 1980s. "It's wonderful to see the highly impactful projects that have occurred recently, such as the rehabilitation of upper story spaces along Main Street, and the revitalization of the Greyhound."

At the conference, MacDonell and her husband Randy Shepard, who was Evansville deputy mayor before his judicial career, will reflect on their decades of preservation advocacy and the movement's impact on Indiana in a plenary talk. During her tenure as preservation officer, MacDonell saw federal historic tax credits and housing and urban development money used as dual incentives to fuel preservation. Today she believes market forces, including an increasing demand for urban amenities, and financial tools such as tax increment financing are bigger drivers for redevelopment.

Conference keynote speaker Tom Moriarity will speak to this topic, discussing financial tools and techniques that encourage revitalization through historic preservation, including Historic Tax Credits and the potential of Federal Opportunity Zones. Early in his career, he worked in Indiana as Historic Madison's first executive director. Today, Moriarity is



On April 10, the 1921 Victory Theatre (above) hosts dinner and a talk by Randall Shepard and Amy MacDonell, who will reflect on preservation's impact on Indiana. William Blair Scott, Jr., an expert on the work of William Wesley Peters, will speak on the Evansville architect's national legacy, including the Peters-Margedant House (below left). Conference visitors will have time to explore other recently revitalized Evansville landmarks—we suggest a bite at Bru Burger in the former Greyhound Station (below right).

PHOTOS BY: ABOVE, LEE LEWELLEN; BELOW LEFT, JORDAN BARCLAY; BELOW RIGHT, © EVANSVILLE LIVING

principle of Washington, D.C.-based Retail & Development Strategies and an authority on the redevelopment of historic buildings, communities, and urban districts.

Other speakers will highlight Evansville's history and architectural legacy. William Blair Scott, Jr., an expert on the work of William Wesley Peters—architect of the Peters-Margedant House at the University of Evansville—shares the legacy of Frank Lloyd Wright's first apprentice. University of Evansville Professor James MacLeod will discuss the city's role during World War II. At Evansville's magnificent Trinity United Methodist Church, Jules T. Mominee of Mominee Studios will highlight restoration of some of Indiana's most beautiful historic stained-glass windows.

Three primary partners—Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, Indiana Landmarks, and Indiana University—stage the annual Preserving Historic Places conference, with support from the National Park Service and the City of Evansville. Registration costs \$175 per person, \$100 per student. Registration includes all education sessions, a reception, a luncheon, and two dinners. Register and get the full conference schedule at [indianalandmarks.org/preserving-historic-places-conference](http://indianalandmarks.org/preserving-historic-places-conference).



# WE GET TO LIVE HERE!

## IT TAKES A SPECIAL KIND

of vision to look at a historic house that needs TLC and see what it could become. It requires even more imagination to transform a building constructed for another use into a one-of-a-kind home. Across Indiana, such visionaries have embraced the adaptability of vintage buildings, taking up residence in a former church in Indianapolis, a fire house in New Harmony, a carriage house in South Bend, and a school in Goshen.

### *Saving the Sacred*

No matter the weather outside, stained glass windows cast a golden glow over the dining and living room of Joel and Lauren Harsin's home, located in the former Second Christian Church in Indianapolis's Ransom Place neighborhood. Beneath a newly constructed loft in the former sanctuary, a two-sided fireplace offers a cozy seating area. A sturdy wooden table with mismatched seats sits under a stained glass window. A few steps from the newly built kitchen, a salvaged twentieth-century organ sits on a stage where the choir once sang, while the kitchen pantry occupies the former baptistery. It's a dramatic transformation that those who saw the Craftsman building in its "before" state can hardly believe.

Built in 1910 at the corner of 9th and Camp streets, Second Christian Church held a treasured place in the city's African American community. The church's early pastors served as directors of Flanner House, a pioneering social service agency. While it continued to serve various congregations in the intervening years, by 2007,





Both came to the project with hands-on DIY experience. Joel, a firefighter with the Indianapolis Fire Department, had renovated his 1918 home in Irvington. Lauren, an interior designer, had helped renovate the historic commercial building that holds her mother's home furnishings business, Chatham Home. Though they worked with contractors to complete framing and drywall, they also put in a lot of sweat equity. Lauren wired the building, with an electrical contractor

the building was vacant and decaying, with peeling paint and gaping holes in the roof.

To save the historic church, Indiana Landmarks gained temporary custody through court-ordered receivership. We stabilized the building, repainted the exterior, rebuilt the roof, replicated decorative bargeboard, repaired masonry and addressed structural issues. When the owner couldn't repay the cost of repairs, the 4,400 square-foot landmark went on the market.

The Harsins had been scouring online real estate listings when they came across the church, admittedly last on their list until they saw it in person. They admired the solid construction and saw the former sanctuary as an adaptable open box. "We were intrigued by the idea of having an unusual property that wasn't your typical house," says Lauren.

The biggest obstacle came in trying to secure a construction loan so they could begin adapting the interior for their needs. "It wasn't long after the housing crash and no one wanted to take a chance," says Joel. "It was a months-long process."

The couple closed on the property in late 2013, but Indiana weather threw a wrench in their construction plans. The new loft they planned to construct in the sanctuary needed to have its footers anchored in concrete in the basement to support the weight of the system. Multiple days of subzero temperatures in January made it impossible to pour the concrete, delaying construction for a month and putting the Harsins in a time crunch for completing the project within the parameters of the six-month loan. In the meantime, they completed other jobs as they could in the yet-to-be-insulated space. "We would plead our case every month," says Joel. "We finished up with the required work just as they were sick of us asking for extensions."

"While we were in the demo stage, friends kept asking us, 'Are you sure about this?'" adds Lauren. "We never lost sight of what it could be."



After Indiana Landmarks rehabbed the exterior of Indianapolis's Second Christian Church to save it from deterioration, Lauren and Joel Harsin (above) transformed the inside of the Craftsman church as their home. Beneath a newly constructed loft in the former sanctuary, the couple installed a new kitchen and cozy seating area, filling the space with antique finds.

PHOTOS BY EVAN HALE

checking her work, and installed toilets and faucets. The couple worked with Kokomo Opalescent Glass to recreate missing panes in the stained glass windows. "There's nothing in here that we didn't use or find a way to make part of the building," says Lauren.

The Harsins saved every door they could and any original artifacts they uncovered, including a cabinet on the lower level. Other vintage pieces and hardware came from trips to antique and salvage shops, and Lauren's mother helped scout antiques and repurposed pieces to decorate the space. Inspired by a church they had visited in Edinburgh, Scotland, they painted the ceiling of the sanctuary blue. Their design for the building incorporated unexpected surprises—a tiny loft in



Lauren's office, and, on the other side of the former sanctuary, a spiral staircase behind a false bookcase that leads to a small den on the lower level.

In the process of bringing the property back to life, they've enjoyed meeting and hearing stories from people that hold memories of the building in its church days. "We were fortunate to find it at the time we did and forge a relationship with Indiana Landmarks," adds Joel. "We felt an obligation and responsibility to the building and its very important history as a cornerstone of the neighborhood."

## Living the Dream

Operating an antiques business in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Jeff and Cindy Smotherman traveled the country for work and play, dreaming of one day living in a historic building with their shop below. It was a dream they suspected wouldn't be realized until they retired. But in June 2003, Jeff traveled to New Harmony, Indiana, to participate in the town's annual Golden Raintree Antiques show, a trip that turned out to be providential.

"Our booth was set up outside of this old firehouse, and I was looking at it all day, all weekend, and I fell in love

Jeff and Cindy Smotherman embraced the history of New Harmony's former city building and firehouse, installing their antiques business on the first floor and incorporating references to the 1899 building's history in their living space above. In a nod to the place's early use as a jail, they installed a cell door to separate dining and kitchen areas.

PHOTOS BY: ABOVE, LEE LEWELLEN; RIGHT, STEWART SEBREE

with it," says Jeff. "He kept calling me at home, and sending me pictures of the building, which was for sale," adds Cindy. "When we pulled up in front of the firehouse two weeks later, tears rolled down my eyes. I thought, 'This is perfect.'"

New Harmony's small-town atmosphere, rich history, and strong art scene clinched the deal for the Smothermans. Six weeks after seeing it, the couple had purchased the 1899 former city building and firehouse and moved there with their daughters, Sarah and Andrea. Inspired by HGTV's series *Building Character*, they began making their longtime dream a reality, directing the rehabilitation of the building's upper floor for their home and the lower level for their shop, aptly named Firehouse Antiques.

Volunteer firefighters used to operate out of the building's ground floor, used by various businesses after the town government moved out. The second floor, once used for a variety of town functions, had remained relatively unused in the intervening years. Though few artifacts from the building's history remained, the Smothermans salvaged a vintage wood stove as décor, and part of a 12-foot bench.

In adapting the space for their home, they incorporated several nods to the building's history, installing a (non-working)



fireman's pole in the living room. Next to their dining table, a jail cell door decorates the brick wall separating the space from the kitchen, once used as the building's small jail space. One of the family's favorite features is the former bell tower, accessed via a spiral staircase on the second floor. Complete with the original bell and arched windows overlooking Main Street, the small room served as a secret retreat and site of many sleepovers for Sarah and Andrea in childhood.

The couple's rehabilitation merited the first Jane B. Owen Award for Historic Preservation, given by the town in 2005. That same year, HGTV featured their home in an episode of the series *ReZoned*. "It kind of brought the dream full circle," says Cindy.



In 1989, Phil Dowty rescued the 1914 Benton School for his home, transforming one of its former classrooms into a great room with space for 50. Original features, including tin ceilings and cove molding, maple floors and oak trim, globe light fixtures, and pieces of chalkboard in the fireplace surround, all speak to the building's earlier use.

PHOTOS BY DEBRA PARCELL



## Class Act

With 13-foot-tall ceilings and room for 50, it's fair to say that Phil and Melissa Dowty's great room isn't your typical living room. Over a century ago, it was a classroom for the small community of Benton in Elkhart County. By 1989, it was vacant, with boarded-up windows, no heat or water, and paint hanging off the ceiling in foot-long sheets. But in it, Phil Dowty saw a diamond in the rough, and bought the two-classroom schoolhouse for his home.

"I grew up on 'This Old House' reruns and have always enjoyed older properties," says Phil. "The biggest challenge was figuring out how to divide what existed into living space while keeping as much character as I possibly could."

Built in 1914, the brick school included two large classrooms flanking a central hallway and home economics room on the main floor, with a lower level that included the original boys' and girls' bathrooms, a coal room, furnace room, and a space where students could gather for recess during bad weather.

Phil largely kept the floor plan from the building's days as a school, leaving one tall-ceilinged classroom open as the great room. The other classroom was subdivided into master bedroom, bathrooms, closet, and laundry space, with more bedrooms, a den, and a sewing room downstairs. The kitchen went into the former home ec space. He and Melissa married four years into the renovation, and she joined him in transforming the space into a comfortable home.

Throughout the process, the Dowtys retained as much original material as they could, including the maple floors and oak trim, globe light fixtures, and tin ceilings. Pieces of



blocks from mansions built for the city's Studebaker, Birdsell, and Oliver families. A century later, previous owners remodeled the carriage house for residential and business use, but in a way that blends the best of old and new. The update highlighted the building's historic character, leaving brick exposed, and retaining interior barn doors that still function on pulleys. One barn door was fixed in place and insulated to serve as an exterior wall.

chalkboard were incorporated into the fireplace surround in the great room. A carved stone marker recording the school's construction date, and names of the school trustee and board, architects, and contractor is set off in a wooden frame. Outside, landscaping incorporates slate salvaged from the roof.

Glass windows enclose the once-open belfry, now an unusual sitting room with window seat. Tucked behind the original school, the Dowtys built a two-story conservatory with Koi pond, family room, and in-ground swimming pool. On the west side, set back from the school's front façade, they added a garage sympathetic in design to the historic building.

Not a museum by any means, the school has provided a great place to raise a family, incorporate heirloom antiques, and entertain friends. In making it their home, the Dowtys saved the abandoned school, giving it new meaning while preserving the building's heritage.

## Stable Living

At the intersection of two brick alleys just blocks from downtown South Bend, a brick building offers a tucked-away retreat for Donnie and Andrea Rogers near the heart of the city. Historic barn doors hint at the building's original use as a carriage house. When the Rogers bought the place for their business Grass Roots Media in 2017, they intended to work in the building and rent out the space they didn't need. But gradually the charms of a live-work arrangement convinced them to sell their Craftsman house and move into the carriage house.

"There's no place like it in South Bend," says Donnie. "It is this interesting little tableau in the city that doesn't look anything like what you see just two blocks away."

Built in the late 1870s, the simple brick structure served as a carriage house for the fancier Second Empire home of Albert and Martha Cushing on West Washington Street, just



Donnie and Andrea Rogers found the perfect live-work arrangement in a historic carriage house in South Bend, where original barn doors separate rooms and form an exterior wall. The couple operates a video production company on the first floor, and lives on the upper level.

PHOTOS BY MATT CASHORE

"You have the benefit of seeing the beautiful old wood without the draft and insecurity of it being open," says Andrea. "It still has a nice rustic feel that no one tried to modernize. The inside still feels like a barn in a good way," adds Donnie.

The Rogers operate their video production company on the first floor and live on the upper level. Their primary updates included paint and minor repairs, laying cable to support the technological needs of their business, and adapting the upstairs to suit their style. "The place is unique and cozy and people enjoy coming over here. It's always a conversation piece," says Andrea.

## Secrets Behind the Scaffolding

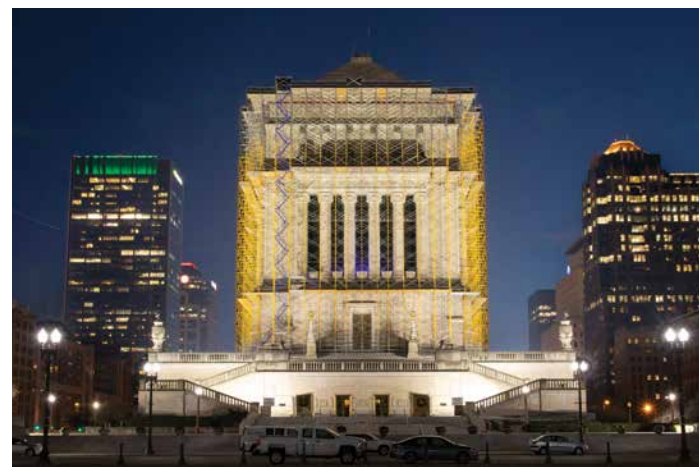
**RIISING 210 FEET ABOVE STREET LEVEL, THE** Indiana War Memorial commands attention in downtown Indianapolis. Based on the design of the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus—one of the original Seven Wonders of the World—the temple-like building serves as the focal point of the Indiana War Memorial Plaza, a National Historic Landmark district. Though it was built to honor Indiana veterans of World War I, today the landmark recognizes the contributions of Hoosier veterans of all wars. In spite of its monumental visage, persistent leaks have plagued the building for years, damaging plaster and threatening its spectacular interior.

In 2016, the state of Indiana hired crews from Indianapolis-based Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates (WJE) to identify the source of water infiltration. A professional daredevil crew—dubbed by WJE as the Difficult Access Team—climbed out of an observation window near the very top of the structure, scaling down its stepped face in an operation that would have looked at home in a Hollywood blockbuster. Their verdict: over time, lead sheet metal covering tops of the limestone cladding had expanded and contracted, resulting in fractures that let water drip through.

The professionals recommended carefully removing the limestone, replacing the sheet metal, and installing a water-proofing material behind it. During the process, crews will salvage original material that can be saved and replace spalled limestone with new pieces matching the original aesthetic and profiles. “The wonderful thing about Indiana limestone is that it’s very uniform no matter which quarry it comes from, so

Last summer, workers began making repairs to halt water infiltration threatening the show-stopping interior of the Indiana War Memorial. On March 7, a free talk at Indiana Landmarks Center highlights the challenges of preserving the Indianapolis icon.

PHOTOS BY: ABOVE, WISS, JANNEY, ELSTNER ASSOCIATES; BELOW, EVAN HALE



finding matching Indiana limestone for historic buildings is one of the easiest things you can do from a preservation perspective,” says Logan Cook, professional engineer with WJE.

Construction on the Memorial began in 1926 and continued into the 1960s. While the exterior is impressive in its own right, the interior is an architectural thrill ride dominated by the Shrine Room, a cavernous space with dramatic lighting, deep blue glass windows, and blood-red marble columns. At its center stands the Altar of Consecration, a giant marble box beneath an enormous suspended American flag, all topped by the massive Star of Destiny. The building’s renovation aims to protect this awe-inspiring hidden gem.

Last summer, workers from WJE and STRUCTURAL shrouded the monument in scaffolding to begin repairs. The project is temporarily on hold as cold weather prevents necessary masonry work but is expected to be completed later in 2019.

In the meantime, Indiana Landmarks highlights the War Memorial’s preservation with a free talk on March 7, where Cook will discuss the challenges of repairing the Indianapolis icon. Get details on the event on page 19.

## Built for Speed

### AUTO RACING IS BIG IN

central Indiana, drawing thousands to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway each year to watch drivers compete for fame and fortune. Many of those big-name drivers get their start racing go-karts at much smaller tracks around the country.

Established in 1958, Whiteland Raceway Park is believed to be the oldest consecutively operated kart track in America. It’s been a testing ground for professional drivers including Tony Stewart, John Andretti, and Lyn St. James. It’s also a destination for families introducing their children to the sport, a tradition that led former IndyCar team owners Sarah Fisher and Andy O’Gara to visit the park with their son and daughter last year.

O’Gara raced at Whiteland Raceway Park in his youth, so when he and Fisher heard the track might be bulldozed for a parking lot, they joined with business partner Wink Hartman to buy the place last



Last year, former IndyCar team owners Sarah Fisher and Andy O’Gara and business partner Wink Hartman bought Whiteland Raceway Park to save it from demolition. They’ve been making improvements to return the kart track, believed to be one of the oldest in America, to its 1950s footprint.

PHOTO © WHITELAND RACEWAY PARK

September. The new owners banished weeds overtaking the track and performed a general facelift.

Now, the partners are working to return the track to its 1950s footprint, using physical clues and aerial images to rebuild portions of the nine-turn layout buried in recent years. They also plan to rebuild the track’s banked turn wall, build new rental garages, and add a check-in building with pro shop and technical center.

“We value the historic background the facility has, and in talking with others that started there, it means a lot to them too,” says Fisher.

You can hear more from Sarah Fisher about the project and other racing adventures when she joins Donald Davidson for a free talk sponsored by Indiana Automotive at Indiana Landmarks Center on April 4 (details on p. 19).



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## A Match Made in Preservation

**RANDY SHEPARD AND AMY MACDONELL** LIKE to say that old buildings brought them together. Fresh out of graduate school in 1982, MacDonell was visiting Evansville to interview for the city's historic preservation officer position. Then serving as a local judge, Shepard was emceeding a banquet where they were introduced. "It was National Historic Preservation Week, so it was meant to be," jokes MacDonell.

Both gained an appreciation of historic buildings in their formative years. MacDonell grew up in a Colonial Revival-style home on Lima, Ohio's Market Street and credits family trips to Maine and Vermont with sharpening her interest in old buildings, a frequent subject of vacation photos taken on her Kodak

A lifelong passion for history and preservation brought Randy Shepard and Amy MacDonell together and led to a decades-long relationship with Indiana Landmarks that led them to include us in their estate plans. As deputy mayor of Evansville in the 1970s, Shepard advocated for the city to take on the Old Post Office (left) when the federal government moved out. MacDonell oversaw the building's rehabilitation as the city's preservation officer.

PHOTOS BY: ABOVE, EVAN HALE; LEFT, LEE LEWELLEN



Brownie camera. An Evansville native, Shepard recalls becoming interested in historic buildings as a high school freshman, traveling down the city's historic Washington Avenue to attend Central High School, at that time the oldest public high school in continuous operation west of the Alleghenies. It was torn down in the '70s for a parking lot.

In their early professions, both played key roles in fostering preservation in Evansville. As deputy mayor in the 1970s, Shepard helped find people to staff the city's first preservation commission, and he advocated for the city to take title to the Old Post Office and Customs House after the federal government moved out of the 1870s Gothic building. As the city's historic preservation officer (she got the job), MacDonell oversaw the rehabilitation of that landmark and many others along Main and Washington streets. Today, the Old Post Office thrives, housing offices and serving as an event venue.

Through their work in Evansville, Shepard and MacDonell learned about Indiana Landmarks and became fervent supporters of its mission. Shepard chaired Indiana Landmarks' board of directors in the 1990s and continues to serve as honorary chairman. As former Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice, Shepard chaired the state's Courthouse Preservation Advisory Commission, a group charged with studying the condition of the state's historic courthouses and offering recommendations for their preservation. The couple practices what they preach, living in a mid-1920s Colonial Revival-style home in

Indianapolis and including Indiana Landmarks in their estate plans.

Thirty-seven years after first meeting, supporting preservation remains central to the couple's interests. For their 20th wedding anniversary, Shepard surprised MacDonell by endowing a fund supporting a preservation lecture series in both their names with the Vanderburgh Community Foundation. The pair reflect on their decades of preservation advocacy and the movement's impact on Indiana in a plenary talk at this year's statewide preservation conference in Evansville, April 9-12 (see pp. 6-7).

"The way in which we connected goes back to a core belief in the importance of historic buildings as assets in a community's life," says MacDonell.



### BRIEFLY NOTED

Indiana Landmarks sadly notes the passing of several dynamic civic leaders in recent months: **Eugene Busche** of Carmel and **Henry Ryder** of Indianapolis, who both chaired Indiana Landmarks' board of directors, as well as **Joy Sacopulos** of Terre Haute, another former board member and winner of our Servaas Memorial Award for Historic Preservation. We also lost **Patsy Powell** of Butlerville, another former Servaas Award winner who founded Owen County Preservations.

# FOR SALE

## LANDMARKS ON THE MARKET

see more at [indianalandmarks.org/for-sale](http://indianalandmarks.org/for-sale)



### 17 Tweedy Lane Anderson

Mid-Century Modern ranch designed from 1954 Indianapolis Home Show architectural plans on corner lot. Original features carefully preserved including floor-to-ceiling windows, abundant cabinets and closets, tiled bathrooms, parquet floors, marble window sills, slate entryway. 4 Beds, 2 Baths. 2,752 square feet.

**\$204,900 / Ted Moss / [tmoss@bhhsin.com](mailto:tmoss@bhhsin.com) / 765-730-6677**



### Suzane Thomas House 828 East Adams Street, Muncie

Alfred Grindle-designed 1896 Colonial Revival gem in National Register district has 5,400 square feet (plus third floor and basement), original woodwork and hardware, large rooms with lots of natural light, eight fireplaces, and large carriage house. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Saved from exploitation, and largely restored.

**\$300,000 / Frank Meeker / 765-702-0717**

Want to see your historic property for sale here?

Advertising in Indiana Landmarks' magazine and on our website puts your vintage property in front of an ideal audience—people who love historic places. Contact [editor@indianalandmarks.org](mailto:editor@indianalandmarks.org) to learn more about our ad options and rates.

# Tours & Events

## Rescue Party

Apr. 27, Indianapolis

**P**arty for a great cause—saving endangered places—during A Hot Time in the Big Easy. Expect NOLA-inspired music and food, free wine and Upland Brewery craft beer, plus traditional New Orleans cocktails at cash bars. Check out the newly announced 10 Most Endangered and applaud this year's winner of the Cook Cup for Outstanding Restoration before bidding on one-of-a-kind Indiana experiences. Finish the evening with dessert buffets and dancing to the music of Sunset Stomp Jazz Band. Rescue Party raises money for our Endangered Places programs, and this year we're donating a portion of the proceeds to continuing Katrina recovery in historic New Orleans. 6-11 p.m. Before April 5, tickets are \$75/friend, \$125/patron; After April 5, tickets are \$85/friend, \$150/patron.

### INDIANAPOLIS TOURS

[Indianalandmarks.org/ongoing-tours-events](http://Indianalandmarks.org/ongoing-tours-events)

### Monument Circle

Saturdays, 10 a.m., May-October  
Free guided tours depart from South Bend Chocolate Co., 30 Monument Circle. No reservation required.

### City Market Catacombs

1st and 3rd Saturdays, May-October, and an additional Saturday, October 26, 10 & 10:30 a.m., 11 & 11:30 a.m., noon, 12:30 & 1 p.m.  
Advance ticket required. \$12/general public, \$6/child (age 6-11), \$10/member, \$5/child of a member.

### Athenaeum

2nd Saturdays, May-September, noon  
Advanced ticket required. \$10/general public age 12 and up, \$5/child (age 6-11), \$8/member, \$4 for children of members (age 6-11).

## RSVP & BUY TICKETS

for events at [indianalandmarks.org/tours-events](http://indianalandmarks.org/tours-events) or by calling (800) 450-4534 or (317) 639-4534

### First Friday

Indianapolis

Our Rapp Family Gallery hosts free art shows, with an option to tour our restored headquarters. 6-9 p.m.

**MAR. 1** "Landmark," a group show exploring the idea of "What is a Landmark?" in fine art, photography, metalwork, fiber and jewelry

**MAY 3** "Indiana's 10 Most Endangered" artistic illustrations show idealized depictions of threatened landmarks, juxtaposed with photography of the historic sites in their current, perilous conditions

### Landmark Look

Mar. 2, Indianapolis

Tour the restored South Side Turnverein, a formerly endangered landmark repurposed as headquarters for Point Comfort Underwriters. 3-5 p.m. \$10/person; Free for members.

### Behind the Scaffolding Talk

Mar. 7 Indianapolis

Logan Cook, professional engineer with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, presents a behind-the-scenes look at the challenges of preserving the Indiana War Memorial (see p. 14) during an illustrated talk at Indiana Landmarks Center. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for a cash bar and light refreshments before talk begins at 6 p.m., followed by a Q&A session. Free.

### Behind the Scaffolding Tour

**SOLD OUT**

On this 60-minute guided tour, guests will learn about recent work to preserve the Indiana War Memorial, as well as its history, architecture, and contributions of veterans recognized in its halls.

### Talking Track

Apr. 4, Indianapolis

Indianapolis Motor Speedway historian Donald Davidson interviews retired driver and former team-owner Sarah Fisher, on stage at Indiana Landmarks Center. Davidson always provides an entertaining evening of insights and humorous digressions. Sponsored by our Indiana Automotive affinity group. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with cash bar and light refreshments available; talk begins at 6 p.m. Free with RSVP.

### FRENCH LICK & WEST BADEN SPRINGS TOURS

Tours depart from our Landmarks Emporium in each historic hotel on IN 56 in southern Indiana. Combo ticket available. Discount for members on tours and in shops. Reservations recommended. 812-936-5870.

**January-March**  
Wed.-Sun.  
**WBS** - 2 p.m.  
**FLS** - Noon

**April-December**  
**WBS** - Mon.-Sat., 2 & 4 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.  
**FLS** - Noon

### Twilight Tours

Costumed characters depict famous guests at West Baden Springs during its heyday in the 'teens and '20s.

Timed tours:  
7, 7:10, & 7:20 p.m.  
May 25, June 22, July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 14.

\$20/general public, \$18/member

[Indianalandmarks.org/french-lick-west-baden](http://Indianalandmarks.org/french-lick-west-baden)

### State Preservation Conference

Apr. 9-12, Evansville

Attend the conference and see revitalized landmarks in this Ohio River town, where you'll have choices in educational session topics, workshops, meals in interesting places, and tours that educate and entertain. \$175/person, \$100/student. See pp. 6-7.

### Logs to Lustrons Tour & Talk

May 3-4, Indiana Dunes

Indiana Landmarks partners with the National Park Service to present the fourth annual Logs to Lustrons tour, featuring thirteen sites and eight interiors highlighting a century of architecture in the Indiana Dunes—from log homes to Victorian-era houses to Modernist residences. Hands-on activities for kids, who can earn Junior Ranger badges. 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Central Time. Tourgoers park at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and are shuttled to tour sites, with last bus departing at 2 p.m. \$30/general public, \$25/member, Free for children under age 16 with RSVP; box lunches available for an additional cost during some tour times.

Come on May 3 for talks by experts offering additional background and details about the tour sites, 7-9 p.m. at Portage Lakefront Pavilion. \$10/general public, \$5/member

### Back to the Future

May 18, Columbus

See five private Mid-Century Modern homes in Indiana's Modernist Mecca on our 12th annual *Back to the Future* tour. 1-6 p.m. Tickets in advance are \$20/general public, \$15/Indiana Landmarks member, \$10/Indiana Modern member. \$25/person on day of tour. See pp. 4-5.



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# Recognition for County Homes

**IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY,** before federal programs existed to care for the poor and disabled, Indiana's 92 counties operated poor farms where people in need could live and work. These places gradually lost their purpose as federal agencies supplanted them, making county homes increasingly threatened landmarks statewide. By 2013, only 48 remained.

Often handsome complexes with a rich heritage, historic county homes deserve a better fate. To lend a hand, Indiana Landmarks added the buildings to our 10 Most Endangered

Only 10 of Indiana's 92 counties continue to operate functioning county homes. Many have been demolished, even more have been closed or sold. The c.1918 Clinton County Home in Frankfort (above), one of five county homes added to the National Register last year, still serves residents with special needs.

PHOTO BY TOMMY KLECKNER



list in 2014. Using a grant from the Efroymson Family Fund of the Central Indiana Community Foundation, we hired preservation consultant Dr. James Glass to prepare a multiple property National Register nomination for all of Indiana's county homes. By detailing their history and architecture statewide, the nomination paves the way for other county homes to be listed in the National Register, a designation that brings honor and, in some cases, opportunities for tax credits for rehabilitation. Indiana Landmarks concurrently nominated homes in Carroll, Clinton, Hendricks, Knox, and Randolph counties—all added to the National Register late last year.

Learn more about Indiana's county homes at [indianalandmarks.org/news](http://indianalandmarks.org/news).