

INDIANA PRESERVATION

MAY/JUNE 2020



INDIANA LANDMARKS

INN LOVE

Attica's McDonald House
rejuvenated as Airbnb

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Easements provide protection for
historic properties

Rescued & Restored

New book celebrates
stories of revival



A New Context

AS I WRITE, INDIANA IS IN DAY ONE of the Governor's stay-at-home executive order due to the COVID-19 virus. There's no way anyone can predict what our world will be by the time you read these words. Amidst the uncertainty and profound human toll that climbs daily, the routine of our lives and work is forced into a new context. That includes the preservation of historic places we hold dear.

Even in the face of crisis—which we fervently hope will have eased by this publication—historic places can serve a purpose that transcends bricks and mortar. Our landmarks provide a sense of continuity in the sweep of time, and they connect us to critical points in our shared history, times of tragedy and triumph, that attest to human resilience.

On display at Indiana Landmarks Center is a panoramic photograph depicting Indianapolis's Monument Circle during celebrations following the end of World War I. Thousands of people thronged around the Circle (maybe not a good thing in 1918, in hindsight!) on sidewalks, balconies and rooftops, cheering parading soldiers. Forming the centerpiece and backdrop to this spectacle are landmarks we cherish today: the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, Christ Church Cathedral, Kahn/King Cole Building, Merchants Bank Building (now Barnes & Thornburg), and several others.

When we resume working, worshiping, and dining in these and landmarks throughout our state, I believe they will assume greater significance as anchors in the lives of our communities, and with that will arise renewed commitment to care for them.

Wishing you all good health.



Marsh Davis, President

A Message to our Supporters

Two components of the recently passed **CARES Act** provide a new opportunity to support Indiana Landmarks during these uncertain times. See p. 16 for details.

On the Cover

A series of preservation saves lifted downtown Jeffersonville, beginning with rescue of the 1837 Grisamore House. Read about other rescues and rehabs on pp. 8-13. PHOTO BY EVAN HALE



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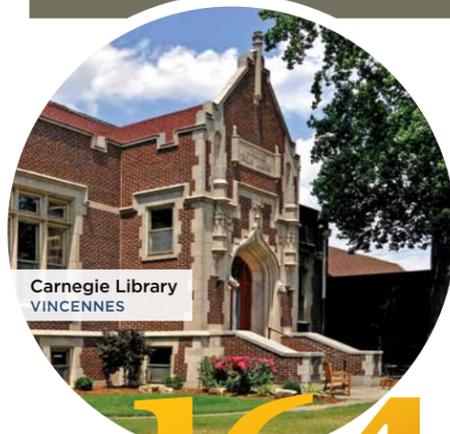
STARTERS

What's in a Name?

High school team nicknames serve as a rallying point of local pride and regional identity, and an outlet for some tongue-in-cheek wit. Indiana claims its share of clever monikers, including the Frankfort Hot Dogs, Epsom Salts, and Fort Branch Twigs, to name a few. The small town of Converse had the Bordermen, likely inspired by the community's geographic location on the border of Grant, Miami, and Howard counties. Constructed in 1926, the Bordermen Gym played a starring role in local basketball lore. In 1944, a crowd of more than 1,000 exuberant basketball fans gathered to watch the state finals, filling the gym to capacity and forcing overflow crowds to wait outside. Today, town officials are looking for ways to save the beloved community landmark, which needs repairs the town can't afford. Read more about the gym at indianalandmarks.org/news.



INDIANA LANDMARKS ARCHIVES



Carnegie Library
VINCENNES

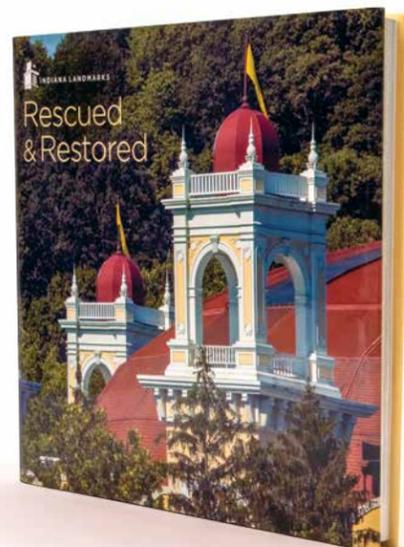
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Carnegie grants given to build libraries in Indiana communities between 1901 and 1922, more than any other state. Read on the back cover about how Rensselaer rescued and restored its former Carnegie library.

PHOTO BY LEE LEWELLEN

IN IT TO WIN IT

Bid on a commemorative edition of our new coffee table book, *Indiana Landmarks Rescued & Restored*, at our special online auction! The book features more than 50 stories of landmarks across the state snatched from the wrecking ball or lifted from decades of neglect and restored to new uses. The special edition, with custom handmade case, will be signed by contributors and personally delivered by Indiana Landmarks President Marsh Davis. Bidding begins May 1 at bit.ly/RescuedRestoredAuction (link is case sensitive). The auction closes May 15, so don't delay!

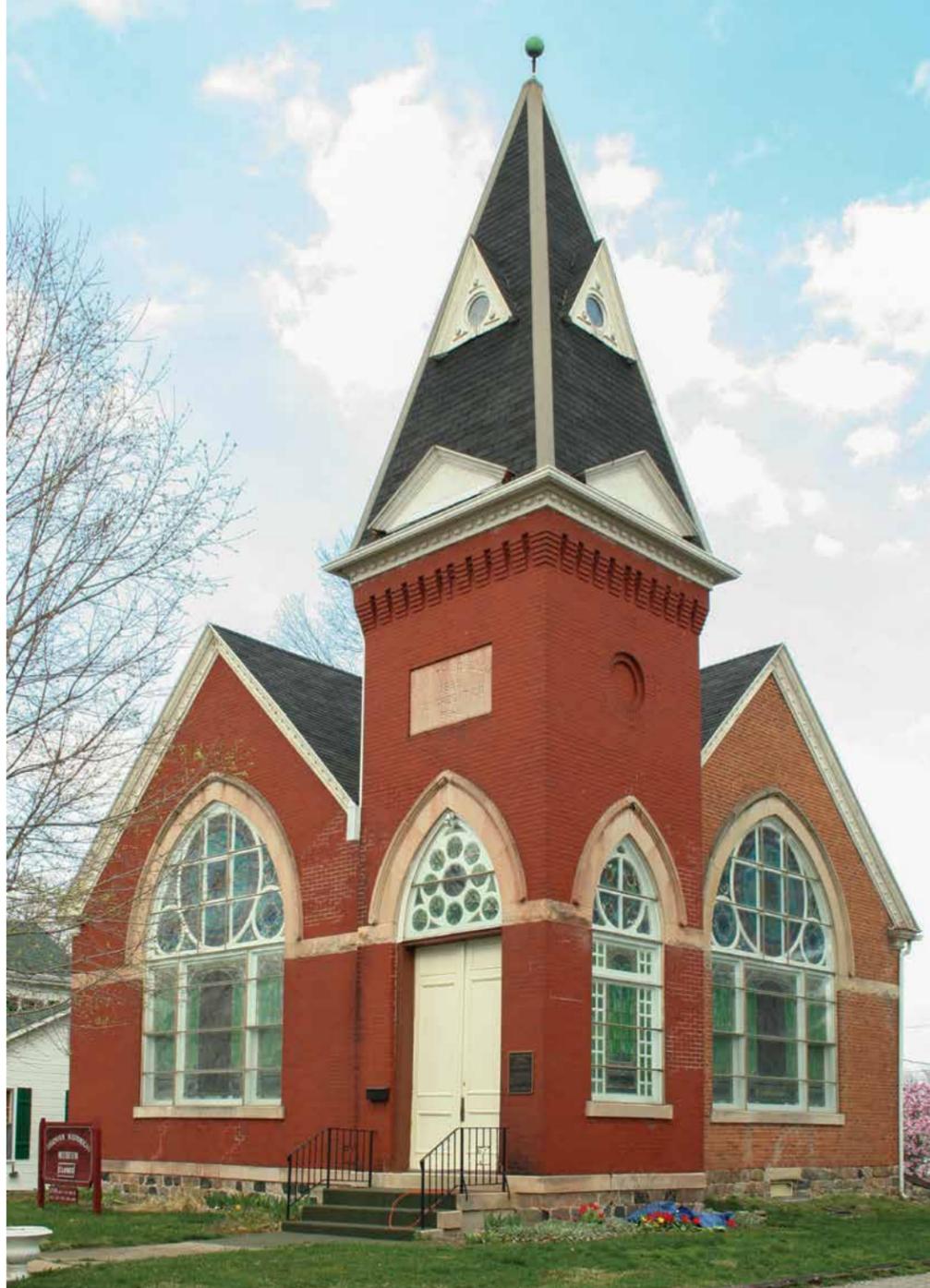


Protecting Their Investment

FOR MOST PEOPLE, CARING for a historic property is a labor of love. After years spent preserving the architectural character and history of a place, owners understandably want to protect their hard work and investment.

A preservation easement serves as a legal tool to protect a historic landmark. Two recently sold properties—a former Jewish synagogue in Ligonier and one of Vigo County's oldest houses—are protected by preservation easements donated to Indiana Landmarks, charging the organization with safeguarding the architectural integrity of these structures in perpetuity.

In the late nineteenth century, Ligonier boasted one of the state's largest Jewish populations, which



Stacey and Greg Merrell (left) were looking for an unconventional home when they found Ligonier's 1889 Ahavas Shalom Synagogue (above) for sale on Indiana Landmarks' website. They appreciate a preservation easement protecting the temple's historic character.

PHOTOS BY TODD ZEIGER

worshiped at the 1889 Ahavas Shalom Synagogue. As numbers began to decline in the mid-twentieth century, the congregation sold the synagogue to a Methodist group in 1954. A number of other protestant churches occupied the building until 1985, when the Ligonier Public Library received it for use as a museum showcasing the history of Ligonier and its once-thriving Jewish community.

Following a major expansion and renovation of its main facility, the public library decided to sell the former temple, concerned it would no longer be able to maintain the aging structure, one of only two nineteenth-century synagogues remaining in Indiana.

The temple is also one of only two religious structures attributed to Fort Wayne architect Harry Matson, who made a name for himself through his designs of opera houses in Garrett, Kendallville, LaGrange, Frankfort, and Muncie. Matson's design for the temple features a tall corner tower and three large stained-glass windows illustrating the story of King David. A preservation easement donated by the library to Indiana Landmarks protects the building's exterior and the original stained-glass windows—features that attracted its new owners, Stacey and Greg Merrell.

After months of searching for a historic property to turn into their primary residence, the Indianapolis couple discovered the real estate listing for the Ligonier temple on Indiana Landmarks' website.

"Originally, Stacey and I were just looking for non-traditional housing. A library, movie theater, or maybe an old schoolhouse that we could put our stamp on and help fund its continued existence. But seeing Ahavas Shalom for the first time was transformative to that mindset," says Greg. "Once inside, we couldn't help but fall in love."

Months of consulting with a preservation-sensitive contractor referred by Indiana Landmarks helped the couple confirm that their vision, and budget, could work within the historic temple.

"You do immediately feel the weight of it all. This place bore witness to some of the most important moments in the lives of thousands," says Greg. "We are incredibly grateful to Indiana Landmarks, thrilled to be the building's new caretakers and proud to become part of Ahavas Shalom's history," he adds.

The Markle House on Mill Dam Road near Terre Haute is one of the



After spending decades rehabilitating the 1848 Markle House outside Terre Haute, Sallie Cox wanted to ensure the next owner didn't undo the hard work, so she donated a preservation easement to Indiana Landmarks. She found buyers that shared her desire to protect the property, one of the Vigo County's oldest residences.

PHOTO © EVERHART STUDIO

oldest intact historic residential structures in Vigo County. Built in 1848 by Frederick and Sarah Markle, the house originally served as the Markles' residence, as well as Frederick's office for the mill operation across the road on Otter Creek, and a stagecoach stop on the line he operated between Terre Haute and Lafayette. The Markle's mill burned in 1938, but its stone and concrete foundations and dam remain. The house and mill site are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Sallie and Don Cox bought the Markle House in 1983 and embarked on a complete rehabilitation of the property. After Don passed away in 2011, Sallie continued stewardship of the house. In recent years, as she considered selling the property, she reached out to Indiana Landmarks about donating a preservation easement.

"I wanted to help prevent the Markle House and the land from ever being destroyed by an unsympathetic future owner and donating a preservation easement to Indiana Landmarks was the best way to ensure this," says Sallie.

The property's new owners, Ben and Rachel Porter, share her concern for safeguarding the landmark, which they intend to make their home.

"We are excited to see our dream of preserving a historic home become a reality, and we're honored to carry responsibility for this important Terre Haute treasure," says Rachel. "We want to carry on the work Don and Sallie did for so many years to protect and cherish it."

To learn more about preservation easements, visit indianalandmarks.org/resources/preservation-advice and download our free brochure, or call the regional office nearest you (see p. 2).

A Turnaround Tale for Attica's McDonald House

AT THE END OF JANUARY, NEARLY 600 PEOPLE toured Attica's McDonald House, marveling at its transformation from decaying manse to revitalized landmark.

"I knew that this was going to be a colossal project. It was going to be my Mount Everest," says Katy Kays, owner of Achieve Marketing and Consulting.

In the past seven years, Kays has managed around 30 house "flips," buying homes with potential for rehabilitation, investing in repairs, and selling them to buyers that could finish the work. When she decided to take on Attica's McDonald House, she knew it would require a different approach.

Built in 1855 on a hill overlooking Attica, the grand house spoke to the family's elevated status in the community. James McDonald was an Attica powerbroker, donating land for the city's park and providing its first public water supply from a spring on his property. Considered one of the state's exceptional Greek Revival-style houses, the McDonald House captured the attention of old-house observer Wilbur Peat in his 1962 book *Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century*. Among

Vacancy and decay put Attica's McDonald House on Indiana Landmarks' 10 Most Endangered list in 2014. Even with a gaping hole on the back of the house (above), Katy Kays saw potential. After buying the place in 2019, Kays and her crew reworked every inch of the place, including the master bedroom (below), for use as an Airbnb.

PHOTOS © KATY KAYS



other fine features, he praised the house's high-ceilinged second floor with tall doors opening onto a balcony with cast-iron railings.

Years of decay and disinvestment landed the McDonald House on Indiana Landmarks' 10 Most Endangered list in 2014. Its beautiful staircase, fireplaces, woodwork, and original windows remained, but water infiltration and failing masonry threatened its future. Hoping to buy time for the property, preservation advocate James DeGrazia bought the house at tax sale in 2013 and searched for a buyer capable of taking on the restoration. In 2019, DeGrazia found the right match in Kays, who was in Attica examining another house she was thinking of flipping.

"He said, 'You want one you can sink your teeth into?'" says Kays.

Walking through each room of the McDonald House, Kays could see the property's potential. A self-described bargain shopper, Kays agreed to go

against her nature and paid DeGrazia his asking price for the McDonald House with one condition: that he would oversee her crew as consultant on the project.

Early on Kays realized that finding someone who wanted to take on the nearly 5,000 square-foot, 8-bedroom home as a single family residence in Attica might be a tall order, so she developed a new vision for the property, recasting the McDonald House as an Airbnb vacation rental. Community and civic leaders offered vocal support for the proposal, convincing Kays to take the leap.

"It's such a beautiful home. It needs to be enjoyed by the community," says Kays. "The idea was embraced by everyone around who had seen the house dilapidated for the past dozen years. They said, 'We'll do anything to support you.'"

Kays and her crew focused first on making the McDonald House weathertight, putting on a new roof and framing and rebuilding a gap-

Hundreds of people toured the McDonald House in January to admire its rehabbed interior. Work continues outside, where crews will add fresh paint, rebuild the balcony, and install landscaping. Along with service as an Airbnb, the house will be available for tours and small events.

PHOTO © KATY KAYS

ing hole on the back of the house. Inside, workers installed a new kitchen and new heating and cooling systems as unobtrusively as possible. They fixed character-defining features, including original woodwork and fireplaces, and glazed and replaced missing panes on the house's numerous historic windows.

"Almost no day went by that someone didn't stop by and say, 'Thank you for doing something,'" says Kays. "When the electricity came on, people were so excited."

With the first phase of the project complete and the Airbnb up and running, Kays aims to finish the exterior work next, adding fresh paint, rebuilding the house's distinctive balcony, repairing its Greek Revival features, and installing landscaping. Working with Indiana Landmarks' western office, Kays is applying for a state historic renovation grant she hopes will cover part of the remaining rehabilitation costs.

Along with regular use as an Airbnb, Kays envisions the property as a gathering place for all sorts of community events. Earlier in the year, the house hosted a bridal expo highlighting local businesses that could offer their services at weddings. She sees it as a fixture on tours in the historic district, and a venue for luncheons, small events, and weddings.

"People can stay here, take a horse and buggy to Cottrell Village to get married, then come back for wedding pictures at the McDonald House," says Kays. "We're ready for people to come in and love the house the way we have enjoyed it."





Rescued & Restored

The coronavirus turned the world upside down and when we emerge from isolation, we'll be glad for the reassuring sight of friends and family and the landscapes and landmarks that define the places we call home. Indiana Landmarks published a coffee-table book this spring to mark our 60th year and inspire readers with before-and-after stories in pictures of down-to-the wire rescues, dramatic transformations from ruin to resplendence, and entire neighborhoods revitalized by historic preservation.

The book shows Indiana Landmarks in its various roles—emergency room for historic buildings, first-in and last-out lender, rescue and development strategist, restorer and turn-around specialist, and partner with local preservation groups. Since the pandemic derailed our plan to debut *Indiana Landmarks Rescued & Restored* and an accompanying exhibit at our annual fundraising event in late April, we offer a handful of stories that we hope will convince you to buy the book for yourself and as a gift for friends. You can buy the book online at bit.ly/RescuedRestored (link is case sensitive).

We've rescheduled the exhibit for September, and we plan to celebrate our 60th anniversary at an expanded annual meeting on September 12 (see p. 19). We hope you'll join us then. In the meantime, enjoy this bit of armchair tourism, and be well.

For over 170 years, pleasure boaters and cargo ship captains relied on Michigan City's lighthouse. When storms lashed the pier, the lighthouse keeper traversed a catwalk to reach the building. Automation of the light in 1960 rendered the catwalk unnecessary and untended (right). Citizens to Save the Catwalk, the Michigan City Historical Society, and Indiana Landmarks rallied to save the community icon, restored in the '90s using a federal grant.

PHOTOS BY LEE LEWELLEN AND INDIANA LANDMARKS ARCHIVES (RIGHT)





association. Indiana Landmarks also enlisted participation in the revival from the Indianapolis Garden Club, the Junior League of Indianapolis, Women in Construction, and the City.

Over a 15-year period from 1965-1980, Indiana Landmarks bought and sold 40 houses and vacant lots in the small district then bounded by New York, College, Michigan



RIPPLE EFFECT

Envision this dismal neighborhood scene: dilapidated and vacant houses bordered by broken sidewalks and trash-filled empty lots, roamed by a thriving rat population. In the heart of the area sits the James Whitcomb Riley Museum Home, a well-tended house where the Hoosier poet lived from 1893 until his death in 1916. That was Lockerbie Square in the 1960s.

Creating museums in landmark houses was the M.O. of the historic preservation movement in those days, but Indiana Landmarks pioneered a different approach to saving historic places, starting with Lockerbie Square. The model featured several key elements: treat landmarks as real estate; help create a supportive network, specifically municipal preservation commissions, local preservation nonprofit organizations, and neighborhood associations; and seek broad community participation. The approach proved successful in Lockerbie and elsewhere in the city and the state.

Indiana Landmarks lobbied the state legislature for the creation of the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission (IHPC) in 1967 and helped pave the way for the commission's first local landmark designation—Lockerbie Square. It provided support for the Lockerbie Square People's Club, a neighborhood

Indiana Landmarks initiated a new approach to preserving historic places in the '60s, beginning with Indianapolis's Lockerbie Square neighborhood. We bought and sold properties to well-intentioned buyers, restoring the worst house on the block, the Holler Cottage (above), as an example, and enlisted help from nonprofits, neighborhood associations, and the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL WILTROUT (ABOVE, LEFT) AND INDIANA LANDMARKS ARCHIVES (ABOVE, RIGHT)

and East streets. After restoring the Holler Cottage—the worst house on the block—we loaned it for use as the headquarters of the city's 1976 national bicentennial celebration, bringing public awareness to the area. The attention helped attract more do-it-yourself restorers to the neighborhood.

The transformations, Indiana Landmarks' institutional presence, and the partners it enlisted created confidence that the neighborhood could be an inviting place to live.

Visit Lockerbie Square today and you'll see restored structures—Italianate brick houses and story-book frame cottages—and new buildings that blend with the old, set on streets shaded by trees, including many planted during the 1976 bicentennial.

In Jeffersonville in the 1980s, restoration of the historic Grisamore House on West Chestnut Street

proved to be the catalyst for revitalization of an entire downtown. Brothers David and Wilson Grisamore each owned half of the unusual double house they commissioned in 1837.

Long recognized as a landmark in the river town and beyond, the Grisamore House was documented in 1934 by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), a New Deal program that photographed and produced architectural drawings of landmarks nationwide.

After a 1981 fire destroyed nearly half the house, it languished until local history buffs Rosemary Prentice and Harvey



In Jeffersonville, restoration of the fire-damaged Grisamore House in the '80s (left and below) triggered a domino effect in downtown and spawned Jeff-Clark Preservation, which teamed up with Indiana Landmarks on several more key rescues. Today, the revitalized area (see cover) includes restaurants, bars, and offices in refurbished landmarks.

PHOTOS BY INDIANA LANDMARKS ARCHIVES (LEFT) AND EVAN HALE (BELOW)

edge of a park not far from Grisamore House. Renamed Preservation Station, the building serves as a meeting and rental venue operated by Jeffersonville Main Street.

In 2005, Indiana Landmarks sold Grisamore House in order to rescue the endangered Willey-Allhands House. Hoping to give a boost to downtown, depressed from a devastating fire in 2003 that destroyed several commercial buildings, we moved the c.1890 house to a vacant lot next door to Grisamore and relocated our offices there. A few years later, we added the endangered 1914 Varble House to the block, moving it to a vacant lot next to the Willey-Allhands House.

The plan worked. Through a series of public and private partnerships, the revitalized area now includes the Big Four pedestrian and bicycle bridge connecting Louisville to Jeffersonville,

Russ stepped up to restore it. With help from Indiana Landmarks, they established Jeff-Clark Preservation, Inc., a nonprofit organization, and deeded the house to the group. Jeff-Clark later asked Indiana Landmarks to take over the Grisamore property so it could tackle other projects. Indiana Landmarks finished the restoration for use as its Southern Regional Office.

The tag-team rescue by the two organizations became the first in a long list of revitalizing saves in downtown Jeffersonville. Jeff-Clark used a series of loans from Indiana Landmarks to rehabilitate other key landmarks, including the Maschmeyer House, a Victorian-era home slated for demolition, and the Lewman Building, a fire-damaged commercial structure on a key corner of Spring Street. The group also moved and restored a 1929 former Pennsylvania Railroad station to the



as well as a park and restaurants, bars, and offices. In 2018, a private buyer purchased the Willey-Allhands house, with our protective covenants to ensure its historic character.

It's the type of sea change we hope to generate along New Albany's State Street, where we opened our southern office in the 1899 Kunz Hartman House last year after restoring the fire-damaged landmark.

POWER OF PERSEVERANCE

From its founding in 1837, Allen Chapel was a potent force in the life of Terre Haute's African American population. A station on the Underground Railroad, the church created the city's first school for black children when segregation excluded them from public schools. The congregation sponsored prominent abolitionist speakers, including Frederick Douglass, who spoke twice to raise money for the church. After a 1913 fire, Allen Chapel's members built the current church on the previous foundation, reusing the pews and altar.

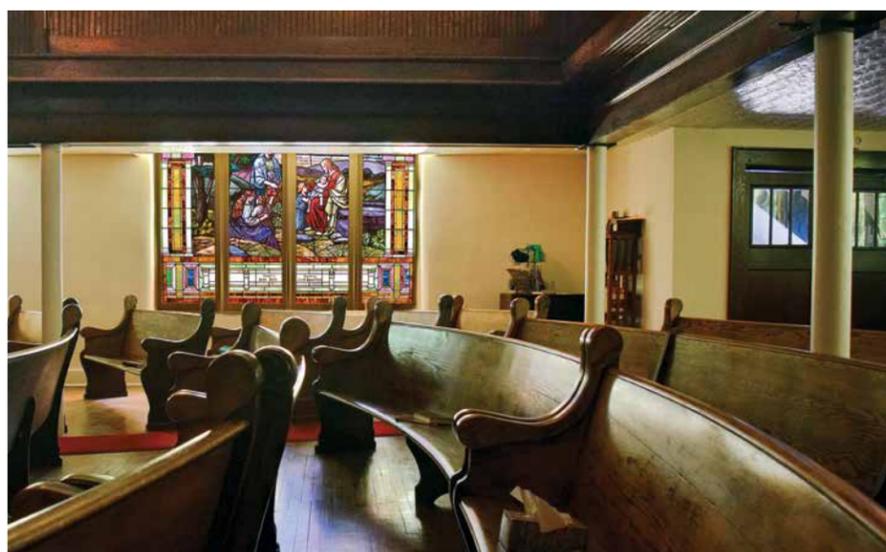
Urban renewal decimated the African American neighborhood around the church in the 1960s and '70s, causing a decline in membership that made maintenance of the aging structure a challenge. By the time the Friends of Historic Allen Chapel formed to help in 1997, the building was in dire straits.

Indiana Landmarks supplied an early challenge grant to the nonprofit Friends group, along with a grant for a restoration plan and ongoing assistance. The determined, volunteer-led group continued to raise money and ticked off projects one by one over two decades: a new roof, masonry repair, refurbished pews and restored stained-glass windows, updated systems, a new kitchen, and accessibility improvements. A matching grant

Restoration of Allen Chapel in Terre Haute started more than 20 years ago, when the Friends of Historic Allen Chapel partnered with the congregation to save the 1913 church (below). It's a powerful testimony to the building's significant heritage as the region's oldest African American church.
PHOTOS BY LEE LEWELLEN

from the state's Historic Preservation Fund in 2017 covered the final phase that included rebuilding staircases, repairing interior plaster, painting, and refinishing doors and trim.

Indiana Landmarks offered ongoing support, providing design advice, connecting the Friends group with experienced contractors, acting as project manager, and helping write the proposal for the Historic Preservation Fund Grant. A generous grant from the Wabash Community Foundation and a gift from a private donor helped the Friends group match the state preservation grant.



Older church members recall that when the church was on the ropes, someone offered to buy and demolish it for a parking lot. The congregation stood fast, and with help from its Friends group, donors, and the community, so does historic Allen Chapel.

SPANNING HISTORY

Covered bridges seem to signify a bygone, less hurried time. After settling in Rush County, Archibald McMichael Kennedy constructed many such bridges. He launched a family bridge building dynasty that stretched for three generations and produced nearly 60 covered bridges in Indiana and Ohio.

Locals call them the Cadillacs of covered bridges. Painted white, with brackets at the roofline and decorative scrollwork near the entry, the clapboard spans built by the Kennedy family in the late 1800s and early 1900s offer sturdy paths across waterways and picturesque hallmarks of Rush County.

Today, the county carefully tends its six remaining Kennedy covered bridges, all listed in the National Register of Historic Places. But they weren't always safe. In 1986, Rush County Commissioners voted to destroy the 1873 Ferree Covered Bridge. In fact, they intended to replace all but two of the county's covered bridges and assumed little opposition. Wrong. The vote triggered the formation of a preservation organization, Rush County Heritage, Inc., and a grassroots campaign that unseated incumbent commissioners in favor of pro-heritage candidates.

In 1991, Indiana Landmarks helped bring attention to another span's peril, placing the 1877 Smith Covered Bridge on our 10 Most Endangered list after fire, vandalism, and neglect placed it in jeopardy. We declared it a save after a federal transportation program granted money for rehab. And when

In the '90s, when Rush County officials proposed razing four Kennedy bridges, local preservationists used a festival near the Moscow Covered Bridge to rally support for the spans. When a 2008 tornado splintered the 1886 Moscow Covered Bridge into the Flatrock River (above), officials didn't hesitate to rebuild the span, restored and reopened in 2010 (top).

PHOTOS BY LEE LEWELLEN (TOP) AND MIKE FENDER, INDY STAR (ABOVE)

an arson fire gutted the Offutt's Ford Bridge in 1995, we joined county officials and local preservation advocates in rallying for its rehabilitation.

The official change of attitude showed in 2008 after a tornado blasted the 1886 Moscow Covered Bridge into Flatrock River. Rush County Commissioners quickly voted to rebuild the bridge, not knowing where they'd find the money. Indiana Landmarks joined Rush County Heritage, Inc., in raising much of the \$1.4 million cost, and the state Division of Forestry contributed timber to supplement wood salvaged from the original bridge. Riding his motorcycle, then-Governor Mitch Daniels led the parade to dedicate the restored bridge in 2010.



Taking Flight

SINCE 1906, THE EAGLES THEATRE HAS BEEN an anchor in downtown Wabash. Today, on the heels of a sweeping restoration, the landmark is poised to become an even wider regional attraction.

Constructed in 1906 as an aerie for the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the building boasted a large auditorium on the first floor used for live vaudeville shows, offices and meeting rooms on the upper floors, and an ornate banquet hall on the fourth floor. Conversion of the auditorium to feature “talkies” in the 1920s drew more theater patrons, but the upper floors did not fare as well. Officials closed the banquet hall in the 1940s due to fire and safety concerns.

After more than a century of service, time had taken a heavy toll on the building. The movie theater continued to operate, but the second and third floors had been turned over to storage and the fourth floor sat empty. The Honeywell Foundation acquired the aging structure in 2010, and in late 2017 the foundation closed the theater and embarked on a two-year, \$10 million restoration encompassing all 30,000 square feet of the building.

Wabash's Eagles Theatre reopened this year following a two-year, \$10 million restoration by the Honeywell Foundation. The project returned the top-floor banquet hall to its former opulence, enlarged the lobby, restored hidden features, reappointed the grand auditorium, and mounted a pair of custom marquees.

PHOTO BY PAUL HAYDEN

The project restored original architectural elements and uncovered previously hidden features, including an original staircase, pressed tin ceilings, and a mosaic tile floor in the enlarged lobby. Ornate plaster crowns the soaring space in the auditorium, where two upper balconies have been completely renovated and reopened for public use. The banquet hall on the top floor, vacant for almost 80 years, was a virtual time capsule, with elaborately painted floral wreaths still visible in spite of damage from roof leaks. Today, the restored space is a picture postcard of its original opulence.

To provide accessibility and emergency egress, Honeywell constructed an elevator tower and fire-proof stairwell in the adjacent alley. Other modernizations include new restrooms, carpet and wall treatments, a state-of-the-art sound system, and updated utility systems. The result is a landmark property that functions as well as any new building, while still retaining its classic appearance from the past. Not a bad way to begin its next 100 years!

See more photos of the restoration at indianalandmarks.org/news.

Like what you've read?

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- **Making a donation in addition to membership**
- **Including Indiana Landmarks in your estate plans**

For more information talk to Sharon Gamble, 800-450-4534 or visit indianalandmarks.org

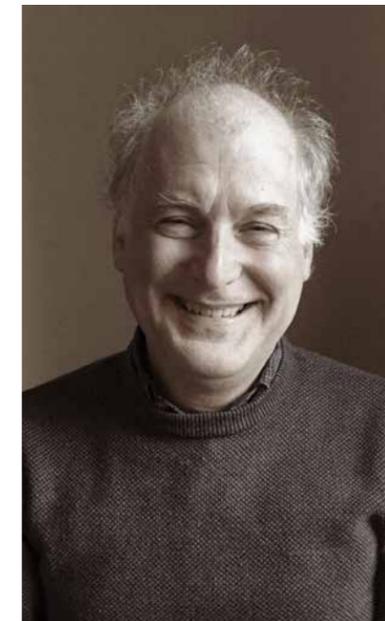
Penchant for History Becomes Educator's Passion

A PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT Ball State University, Ron Morris values historic places as physical manifestations of our forebears' dreams, values, and stories. When he moved back to Indiana from Texas in 2002, his search for home drew him to an 1830 Federal-style rowhouse in Centerville. The property's provenance sealed the deal: it was the former home of James Rariden, an Indiana congressman who hosted Henry Clay overnight as he campaigned for President along the National Road in 1844.

With technical advice from our staff, Morris restored the rowhouse inside and out. To protect his hard work, he donated a preservation easement on the property to Indiana Landmarks.

The experience gave him the confidence to take on another significant property in 2011, when he purchased the 1848 Centerville home of Indiana Governor Oliver P. Morton from Indiana Landmarks, which had purchased the long-neglected Greek Revival-style house on the National Road to ensure its future. We attached protective covenants before selling the property to Morris with confidence he could return the house to its former splendor.

Morris removed intrusive interior additions, reading ghost marks on floors and walls to puzzle out the original layout. Tearing down a wall



Ball State University History Professor Ron Morris's appreciation of heritage led him to membership in Indiana Landmarks. He rehabbed his Federal-style rowhouse in Centerville, where he also recently completed restoring Indiana Governor Oliver P. Morton's home (top right). A winner of our Sandi Servaas Memorial Award, Morris has included Indiana Landmarks in his estate plans. PHOTOS © RON MORRIS



added in the 1920s, he discovered a scrap of historic wallpaper he had replicated and applied in its original location in the back hall. Physical clues guided work throughout, as Morris aimed to return the home to its early appearance. He incorporated modern heating, cooling, and lighting in a way that minimizes their intrusion. He's leaving a 1970s addition in place for now, until he can figure out how the space it adjoins originally looked. Morris wrapped up the years-long restoration in April. The house will be used for programs illuminating Morton's story and available to rent for events.

“Taking something from imagination to finished project is a really fun process. It's very satisfying, as a steward of these historic properties, to be able to turn back the clock so the houses have integrity again,” says Morris.

Growing up on Indianapolis's south side, Morris first encountered Indiana Landmarks in the '70s, when he joined his father, a professor of American Education at Butler University, on a field trip to our Morris-Butler House in Indianapolis. He became better connected with the organization as an elementary school teacher, attending the statewide preservation conference and participating with his students in a nationwide survey documenting outdoor sculpture. His work to help educators bring history alive for their students merited our Sandi Servaas Memorial Award in 2012. Morris has included Indiana Landmarks in his estate plans, becoming a member of our Heritage Society.

“Indiana Landmarks is relevant to the cultural integrity of Indiana,” says Morris. “It is the best voice we have to try to create communities that are stellar visually, aesthetically, and historically.”



Recipe for Success

AFTER YEARS OF VACANCY, PROSPECTS ARE ON the rise at the former Miller-Parrott Baking Company in Terre Haute, where work is underway to convert the 1915 factory building into residential units. The project—a development partnership between Flaherty & Collins and the Sisters of Providence—is also expected to boost the surrounding neighborhood.

In 1883, brothers Christian and Henry Miller opened the “Miller Bros. Cracker Bakery,” in downtown Terre Haute. After the National Biscuit Company absorbed the growing business

Developer Flaherty & Collins and the Sisters of Providence partnered to transform the 1915 Miller-Parrott Baking Company in Terre Haute into affordable housing.

PHOTO BY TOMMY KLECKNER

in 1905, the Miller brothers formed a new company with Indianapolis businessman Burton E. Parrott.

In 1915, the prominent Indianapolis architecture firm D.A. Bohlen & Son designed “one of the most modern bakeries in America,” for the Miller-Parrott Baking Company. The use of reinforced concrete construction allowed for broad open spaces, with an abundance of natural light and clean air through large expanses of windows. The state-of-the-art facility featured all-new machinery and modern utilities. At its opening, the company had the capacity to produce 45,000 loaves of bread, 1,800 cakes, and 1,200 boxes of crackers in 24 hours.

The building served as headquarters and main production facility for the Miller-Parrott Baking Company until 1957, when the company moved several miles east to Seelyville. A string of owners occupied the building over subsequent decades, and by the time Light House Mission of Terre Haute acquired it in 1991, the former factory had been vacant several years. The nonprofit mission used the building to provide food, shelter, and other services to the homeless, until the organization

suspended services there in 2016. Not long after, an arson fire damaged an addition, further clouding the building’s future.

The former factory is one of only a few historic industrial buildings on the Historic National Road in western Indiana. In other parts of the state, former factories have been successfully adapted to a number of new uses. Recognizing the building’s potential for development and its importance to the surrounding area, Indiana Landmarks reached out to prospective developers with a track record of transforming historic structures. Indianapolis-based Flaherty & Collins has adapted several historic structures for residential use, including a plan to create affordable senior housing in historic Owen Hall at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College.

The company is partnering with the Sisters of Providence again to turn the Miller-Parrott building into affordable senior housing as well. Work began last year to create approximately 54 residential units, some featuring elements from the building’s days as an industrial bakery. The new Miller-Parrott Lofts is expected to open in late 2020.

FOR SALE

LANDMARKS ON THE MARKET

see more at indianalandmarks.org



Wabash Sheriff's House & Jail

31 West Main Street, Wabash

Located across the street from the county courthouse, the 1880 Sheriff's House could be reborn as offices. Completely renovated exterior, including new roof, paint, gutters, repaired masonry, storm windows, and new front porch. Interior rehabilitation needed. Limestone jail with original cell blocks at rear of house. 4,500 square feet.

\$89,000, Paul Hayden, 260-563-7094, phayden@indianalandmarks.org



Romweber House

507 North Walnut, Batesville

Architectural stunner needs owner with a vision to rescue and restore it. Built in 1911, the eclectic house retains original woodwork, curved and stained glass, Shingle-style shake siding, half-timbering, and Craftsman features. House includes 6,000 square feet, 9 bedrooms, 2 full baths, 2 half-baths, and parking lot.

\$259,900
Tudor Square Realty
812-932-8000



Leavitt House

230 East Co. Rd. 20 North, Vernon

Two-and-a-half-story house on 2-acre lot overlooking the Muscatatuck River. c.1884 house offers original woodwork, hardwood floors, pocket doors, corner living room fireplace and built-in window seat, built-in cabinetry. Complete rehabilitation needed. Exterior restoration underway to uncover original siding. 3,456 square feet.

\$64,500
Greg Sekula
812-284-4534
gsekula@indianalandmarks.org



A Message to our Supporters

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES, H.R. 748) was signed into law by President Trump on March 27 of this year. The Act is intended to help Americans deal with the economic impact and health crisis brought on by the outbreak of COVID-19. Among its provisions are two opportunities of particular note for charitable giving:

The legislation includes a universal (or non-itemized, above-the-line) deduction allowing all taxpayers to deduct up to \$300 in charitable contributions (cash donations, not in-kind contributions) made in 2020.

For those who claim itemized deductions, the CARES Act also raises the charitable deduction limitation from 60 percent of adjusted gross income to 100 percent; and

for corporations, raises the annual limit from 10 percent to 25 percent.

If you would like to discuss a charitable gift to Indiana Landmarks, please contact Sharon Gamble, Vice President for Development, 317-822-7921, sgamble@indianalandmarks.org. Please consult your own tax advisor for advice.



A Day of Gardens and Art, June 20



OUT OF CONCERN FOR THE health and safety of our staff, visitors, and guests during the COVID-19 outbreak, all Indiana Landmarks offices and properties will be closed to the public through early May, with many events planned for May and June postponed and/or cancelled. Events listed below are subject to change per updated regulations regarding public gatherings. For the latest updates on events, visit indianalandmarks.org/tours-events or call 800-450-4534.

A Day of Gardens and Art June 20, Attica

Fountain County Landmarks sponsors a day celebrating local art and architecture. Tour neighborhood and country gardens, a 5-acre estate landscape, and historic Cottrell Village. See local art and take part in gardening and food demonstrations. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Advance tickets are \$20/person; Day-of-tour tickets are \$25/person. Visit fountaincountylandmarks.org for more information.

We're sorry to announce the postponement and/or cancellation of these events in 2020; watch our website for updates on rescheduling.

POSTPONED

Logs to Lustrons Talk & Tour
May 1 & 2, Indiana Dunes National Park

Indiana Automotive South Bend Tour
June 26 & 27, South Bend

CANCELLED

Indiana Modern Talk
May 28, Indianapolis

Back to the Future: A Mid-Century Modern Home Tour
May 30, Indianapolis

DATES TO SAVE

Rescued & Restored Gallery Show & Book Signing
Sept. 4, Indianapolis

Join us to celebrate the publication of *Indiana Landmarks Rescued & Restored* with an art show in the Rapp Family Gallery at Indiana Landmarks Center. Purchase a copy of the book, have it signed by Editor Tina Connor and Indiana Landmarks' President Marsh Davis, and hear from those involved in capturing the stories featured in the book.

Annual Meeting

Sept. 12, Indianapolis
Join us for our annual year in review, elect new officers and directors, and cheer the winners of the Cook Cup for Outstanding Restoration, Servaas Awards, and Williamson Prize.

Rescued & Restored Book Signing: Rensselaer Carnegie Library

Sept. 20, Rensselaer
Join Indiana Landmarks and the Jasper Newton Foundation for a free open house showcasing Rensselaer's Carnegie Library, one of the sites featured in the new coffee table book *Indiana Landmarks Rescued & Restored*. Take a self-guided tour of the 1905 library, see art on display in the Lilian Fendig Gallery, purchase a copy of the book and chat with the authors, and enjoy light refreshments. 2-4:30 p.m. at 301 N. Van Rensselaer Street. Free with RSVP.

Preserving Historic Places: Indiana's Statewide Preservation Conference

Oct. 13-16, South Bend
Rescheduled from April, Indiana's statewide preservation conference explores creative adaptive reuse projects preserving South Bend's industrial and manufacturing legacy for the twenty-first century, with inspiring lectures, educational sessions, tours, and networking opportunities. Visit indianalandmarks.org/preserving-historic-places-conference for ongoing updates.



DAVE DECARO

FRENCH LICK & WEST BADEN SPRINGS TOURS

NOTE: All tours are subject to hotels being open. Check our website for current status and ticket info.

Daily through December beginning May 9

West Baden Springs Hotel
Monday-Saturday, 2 & 4 p.m.;
Sundays, 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.

French Lick Springs Hotel
Noon
Tours depart from our Landmarks Emporium in each historic hotel on IN 56 in southern Indiana. Combo ticket available. Reservations recommended, 812-936-5870.

Twilight Tours
Costumed characters depict famous guests at West Baden Springs during its heyday in the 'teens and '20s. Timed tours depart at 7 p.m., 7:10 p.m., and 7:20 p.m. May 30, June 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12. \$20/general public, \$18/member.

Behind-the-Scenes Tours
On select Sunday afternoons, Indiana Landmarks offers a two-hour behind-the-scenes tour of the West Baden Springs Hotel, arranging access to spaces not normally open to the public, including exclusive peeks at the Presidential Suite and stunning views of the atrium from a sixth-floor

balcony. Rooms included on the tour are subject to change due to availability. 2-4 p.m. May 17 & 31, and June 14 & 28. \$30/general public, \$27/member.

indianalandmarks.org/french-lick-west-baden

INDIANAPOLIS TOURS

NOTE: Tours are planned to resume in July, but schedule is subject to change pending safety directives and health concerns.

Monument Circle

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

City Market Catacombs

Select Saturdays, July-October, and an additional Saturday, Oct. 31
10, 10:30, 11 & 11:30 a.m., noon, 12:30 & 1 p.m.
Advance ticket required. \$12/general public, \$6/child (age 6-11), \$10/member, free for children ages 5 and under

Athenaeum

2nd Saturdays, July-September, noon
Advance ticket required, \$10/general public, \$5/child (age 6-11), \$8/member, free for children ages 5 and under



CHRIS BUCHER

Tours & Events

May/June 2020

LEE LEWELLEN



INDIANA LANDMARKS

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AND FINALLY

Novel Idea

IN 1902, RENSSELAER OFFICIALS BEGAN

corresponding with philanthropist Andrew Carnegie regarding the steel magnate's library construction program, and by 1905 the city boasted a handsome new Carnegie library.

When the city opened a new library in 1993, the Jasper Newton Foundation, Greater Rensselaer Chamber of Commerce, and Prairie Arts Council hatched a plan to reuse the old building but needed help from Indiana Landmarks to make it work. We funded a restoration plan and won a \$375,000 Lilly Endowment renovation grant before the partners took over in 1999.

Today, the Carnegie Center includes an art gallery and a restored auditorium for community events. The groups recre-



ated the long-missing stained-glass ceiling and wood front doors, replaced banks of fluorescent tubes with period light fixtures, and restored dozens of century-old windows. The library is one of more than 50 sites featured in our new book, *Indiana Landmarks Rescued & Restored*. On September 20, join us at the Carnegie Center, where you'll have a chance to pick up a copy and meet the authors. See more details on p. 19.

After Rensselaer opened a new library in 1993, community leaders turned the city's 1905 Carnegie library into an art gallery and community gathering place. On September 20, the restored library hosts an open house and book signing for *Indiana Landmarks Rescued & Restored*, our new coffee table book.

PHOTO BY LEE LEWELLEN