

INDIANA PRESERVATION

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020



INDIANA LANDMARKS



Winning the Battle

Landmarks connected to times of war

MAKING AN IMPACT

Investing in a Wabash
neighborhood

PLACE, SPACE, & RACE

Preserving Indiana's African
American Heritage

Economy of Preservation

ON OCTOBER 7, INDIANA LANDMARKS, in partnership with the Indiana Farm Bureau, presented its 2020 John Arnold Award for Rural Preservation to Gerald and Betty Manning and family for their exemplary stewardship of the historic Stream Cliff Farm in Jennings County (featured in the September/October issue of *Indiana Preservation*). In a typical year we would give the award at the Indiana State Fair. But this year we presented it at the winning farm, thanks to the Mannings who hosted the program in Stream Cliff Farm’s repurposed historic barn that now serves as an events venue. Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch participated in the award presentation before a well-spaced and masked audience.

The Arnold Award honors farmers who couple modern agriculture with the preservation and continued use of historic farm buildings, a combination in full force at Stream Cliff Farm. Add to that a healthy agritourism operation, one can easily see why the Mannings took this year’s prize.

Stream Cliff Farm, as does the John Arnold Award, points to an aspect of our work that often gets overshadowed by our emphasis on heritage preservation. And that is, historic preservation contributes to our state’s economy. Whether it’s a functioning historic farm, a restored neighborhood, or a revitalized downtown—preservation is about commerce as much as heritage. Indiana Landmarks is grateful to the Mannings and so many other Hoosiers who demonstrate that respectful stewardship of our historic resources contributes to the cultural and economic vitality of our state.

Marsh Davis, President

On the Cover

Moored on the Ohio River outside Evansville, the restored LST 325 is an example of the type of ship the city led the nation in building during World War II, growing its population and industry. Read more on pp. 9-11. PHOTO BY ALEX MORGAN IMAGING



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Indiana Landmarks Center
1201 Central Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46202
info@indianalandmarks.org
(317) 639-4534
(800) 450-4534
Northwest Field Office
Gary
(219) 947-2657
Central Regional Office
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(317) 639-4534
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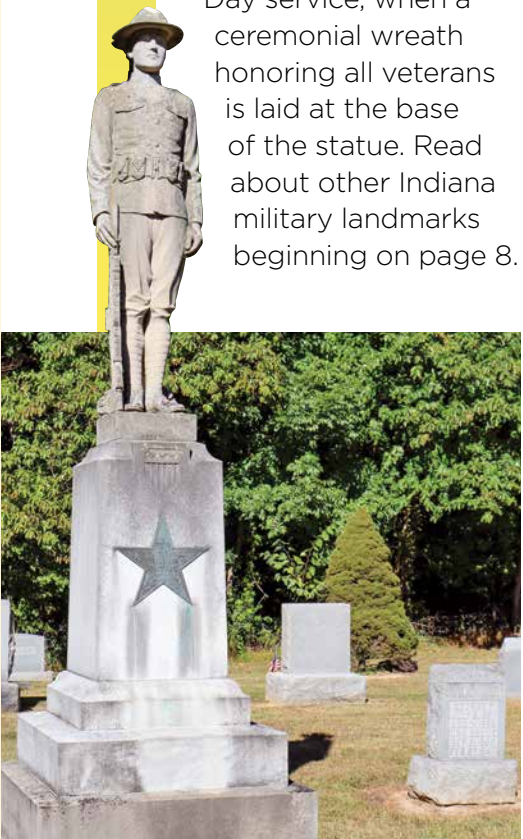
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STARTERS

Lasting Tribute

WHEN 27-YEAR-OLD Patricksburg soldier Carl Kaiser died of pneumonia while serving in France during World War I, his family commissioned a life-sized statue in his likeness to mark his gravesite. Created in the 1920s by a Bedford carver, the limestone figure stands at attention in Owen County’s Patricksburg Lutheran Cemetery. Over time, Kaiser’s statue has become the meeting place for Coal City American Legion Post #141’s annual Memorial Day service, when a ceremonial wreath honoring all veterans is laid at the base of the statue. Read about other Indiana military landmarks beginning on page 8.



JASON KINNEY



BOB COSCARELLI

A TOUCH OF FROST

With its colorful exterior panels, International-style influence, and Knoll interior, the 1964 Frost House in Michigan City defines mid-century cool. Originally owned by Dr. Robert and Amelia Frost, the house is a prefabricated model sold by Akron, Ohio-based Alside Homes Corporation, which marketed the “instant house” that could go from truck to complete assembly, including finishes and appliances, within 48 hours. The Frost House’s architectural significance and original condition recently earned it a spot in the National Register of Historic Places, its nomination supported by a grant from our Indiana Modern affinity group. Current owners Bob Coscarelli and Karen Valentine share the home’s story and photo updates at thefrosthouse.com.

Holiday Herald

AN AIR OF MYSTERY SURROUNDS THE bronze cherub that alights on Indianapolis’s Ayres Clock to usher in the holidays each year. Why a cherub? In 1946, amid a post-war shortage of merchandise to fill the pages of L.S. Ayres’ Christmas catalog, illustrator Virginia Holmes adorned the empty spaces with cherubs. Their popularity inspired Ayres to commission local sculptor David K. Rubins to create a three-foot bronze cherub for the clock the following year. Its appearance the night before Thanksgiving has become a cherished tradition. This year, the bronze figure will get a spa treatment in advance of its arrival. The cleaning and polishing are part of a campaign Indiana Landmarks is spearheading to restore the clock case and cherub. Learn more on the back cover.



PHOTO BY EVAN HALE



Why We Must Preserve our African American Heritage in Indiana

By Dr. Olon Dotson, associate professor of architecture in Ball State University's College of Architecture and Planning, and chairman of Indiana Landmarks' African American Landmarks Committee

THE NOVEMBER 1990 ISSUE OF *EBONY* MAGAZINE featured an article by a young Wynton Marsalis entitled, "Why We Must Preserve our Jazz Heritage." Marsalis, who had, and continues to, devote his life and career to preservation through expression, discussed the critical importance of the conservation of the art form by exploring the devotion of jazz greats including Louis Armstrong, Charlie Parker, Billie Holiday and Duke Ellington. He suggested that Ellington, through his compositions, clearly understood this heritage and demonstrated its legacy by taking the music to the highest level. Marsalis argued that in our constant war for basic dignity, "your ammunition is your imagination." These artists were "defining the greatness available in human terms in this society, regardless of obstacles." Marsalis found the art form of Jazz to be under threat and his article was a desperate plea to "take the time to learn what makes great art and support it."

I was truly inspired by the article, and upon reading Marsalis' suggestions, I felt compelled, as a young designer, to synthesize

Heritage conservation examines not only a site's physical condition but also the history that led to its creation and current state. Ball State University Professor and Indiana Landmarks Board Member Olon Dotson (pictured at the Black Lives Matter mural on Indianapolis's Indiana Avenue) advocates this approach for preserving African American places.

PHOTO BY EVAN HALE

his approach through critical practice not only into my exploration of architecture, but in my understanding of society in general. I began to understand that the development of physical space, after all, is merely a manifestation of what is produced by our society. The organic patterns and configuration of cities and towns where we reside; the civic plazas, parks, and squares where we congregate and interact; and the buildings and homes that we occupy on a daily basis are all reflections of who and what we are.

In the early 1990s, Indianapolis native and internationally recognized artist and activist Claudia Polley approached Indiana Landmarks President Reid Williamson (1935-2017) to explore the urgent need of preserving Indiana's African American heritage. Polley and Williamson joined forces, co-founding the African

American Landmarks Committee in 1992. The mission of this entity was heritage conservation, with the understanding that physical evidence of many Black places and spaces in Indiana were under threat.

The establishment of this committee inspired other preservation organizations to consider heritage conservation as part of their mission. In 1994, The African American Heritage Preservation Foundation was established for the preservation, maintenance, and awareness of endangered or little-known African American historical sites primarily in the mid-Atlantic and southeastern United States. The National Trust for Historic Preservation subsequently established the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund to "support the preservation of sites and stories of Black history" at a national level.

Brent Leggs, executive director of the fund, states:

By preserving historic sites that tell the story of African Americans in this country we draw attention to the contributions of both ordinary and extraordinary people. Such stories might otherwise be lost because urban renewal and the out-migration of blacks destroyed or led to the abandonment of many African American communities. By saving African American landmarks we can stimulate revitalization and foster interest in places that today seem to exist without history or meaning. Indeed, these places can serve as anchors reviving our sense of community.

Concerning historic preservation from an African American perspective, we must look beyond the elements featured in the Euro-centered revival, colonial, and hegemonic structures surrounding us. A rudimentary sense of American history, and more specifically, Indiana history, informs us that many of these spaces and places facilitated systems of oppression, institutional segregation, and other structural barriers designed to impede our progress in society. As we witness the erasure of the remains of Black communities constructed under said systems, we must have the capacity to discover our creative and collective determination to persevere reflected in places and spaces throughout our state. We must embrace the notion of heritage conservation as an approach to recognizing and celebrating Indiana's African American landmarks.

Gary's First African Methodist Episcopal Church was designed by William Wilson Cooke, one of the state's first Black architects. Fragile and deteriorating, it's one of only two buildings designed by Cooke left in the city. As the physical evidence of his work and those by other African American trailblazers declines, we must celebrate their legacy and the heritage of Black communities that managed to "make a way out of no way."

PHOTO BY BRAD MILLER

Heritage conservation involves strategic planning based on the inherited culture of a place or space. It is not only focused on objects, elements, or styles, but on understanding the rich and often troubling history that led to the creation and/or deterioration, abandonment, and demolition of said spaces and places. As we begin to reimagine our approach to preservation of African American landmarks in Indiana, the goals and actions for heritage conservation as established by UN Habitat may be a place to begin. In my new role as chairman of the African American Landmarks Committee and with support of my colleagues on the committee, we will encourage Indiana Landmarks to consider these goals and actions as it strengthens its commitment to preserving Indiana's African American heritage. Our ammunition is our imagination.

Learn more about the goals developed by UN Habitat at placeeconomics.com/un-habitat-goals-and-actions-for-heritage-conservation.





Leading by Example

WHEN INDIANA LANDMARKS ACQUIRES

historic properties, we often target places that are endangered, underused, or blighted—properties that need some improvement to show buyers their potential and whose revival we hope will inspire imitators and investors. So when a number of historic houses recently came up for auction in one Wabash neighborhood, we saw an opportunity to make a big impact.

“By improving a cluster of homes in a two- to three-block area, there’s really an opportunity to transform the neighborhood,” says Dave Haist, an Indiana Landmarks board member who lives in the neighborhood.

The six houses Indiana Landmarks acquired are all located in the East Wabash Historic District, a National Register-listed neighborhood roughly bounded by Walnut, East Market, North Wabash and South East streets. The properties recently served as rental housing, most divided into apartments.

“These homes today are detractors for that neighborhood,” says Parker Beauchamp, Wabash native, business owner, and past chairman of Indiana Landmarks’ board of directors. “Once Indiana Landmarks has fixed them up, I hope the biggest detractors will become the biggest attractors, the reason why people would move to that neighborhood.”

Built from the 1870s to the 1910s, the houses illustrate the range of architectural styles in the historic district. “There truly is something for everybody, from a modest, wood frame house to larger Victorians,” says Paul Hayden, director of our north-east field office in Wabash, who will head the project. “It’s a mad mix of styles and sizes.”

When 23 historic houses came up for auction in Wabash, Indiana Landmarks seized an opportunity to make a big impact, buying six of the most architecturally significant in the East Wabash Historic District. We plan to rehabilitate the exteriors before putting them back on the market this spring.

PHOTOS BY EVAN HALE

A c.1900 brick and stone Queen Anne-style duplex at 106-108 East Hill Street retains original fireplaces, woodwork, staircases, and built-ins, as well as fine masonry work and a wide front porch outside. Its design offers an opportunity for an owner to live on one side and rent the other.

In addition to its striking exterior, the c.1870 Second Empire-style house at 189 North Wabash Street includes unusual interior details added during a 1920s remodel, including a sculpted iron staircase, Art Deco light fixtures, and seven elaborately tiled bathrooms with period fixtures. “You expect Joan Crawford to come down the front staircase,” says Hayden.

We will make exterior improvements to all of the properties to address deterioration and add curb appeal before offering them for sale with exterior covenants to safeguard their historic appearance.

We expect the project—acquiring the six Wabash houses and rehab-



bing the exteriors—to cost approximately \$770,000, funded by Indiana Landmarks, the City of Wabash, and donations from private individuals and organizations. Local government leaders have supported our past preservation efforts. We previously partnered with the City to acquire and repair the 1848 Alber House, Wabash’s oldest extant house, and with the Wabash County Commission on the 1880 Wabash Sheriff’s House and Jail, a former entry on our 10 Most Endangered list now on the market for \$79,000.

“From our past experience with Indiana Landmarks, we know that these houses are going to be returned to a much better condition and standard once they are done with them,” says Wabash Mayor Scott Long. “Wabash is seeing a resurgence of people who want to take on historic homes and repair them to their former grandeur, but it’s been tough to buy in certain categories. We hope this fills a need.”

Wabash’s vibrant downtown includes a variety of shops and restaurants, as well as the Charley Creek Inn, and historic entertainment venues including the Honeywell Center and

The houses acquired by Indiana Landmarks most recently served as rental housing, many of them divided into apartments. The architecturally diverse selection includes a c.1900 Queen Anne duplex (above) on Hill Street with original built-ins and c.1890 Classical Revival (below) on Main Street overlooking downtown. Many of the houses retain fine features, including seven elaborately tiled bathrooms from a 1920s remodel in a c.1870 Second Empire-style house on Wabash Street (facing page).

PHOTOS BY EVAN HALE



recently restored Eagles Theatre. But options for homebuyers have been limited, particularly for those seeking historic houses.

“As leaders of Wabash look for what is needed to attract people to live and work here, the number one issue is having housing that is affordable and livable. Our amenities are fantastic, but people can’t find a home,” notes Haist. “When restored, these houses will fit that right price point and be in high demand.”

We expect to list the properties for sale in early 2021, once exterior improvements are complete. Watch our website, indianalandmarks.org, for updates.



ON THE HOME FRONT



Multiple wartime industries swelled Evansville's population during World War II. Along with its remarkable LST industry (see cover), Evansville led production of P-47 Thunderbolt aircraft, generating half of the country's supply. Already geared towards assembly-line operations, the building's layout aided its adaptation as a refrigerator plant after the war.

COURTESY OF THE HAROLD MORGAN COLLECTION

All around Indiana,

you can find landmarks connected to times of war. Some directly supported military operations, including factories that manufactured parts for planes, ships, and tanks, plants that produced ammunition, and transportation complexes that stored and shipped munitions. There are entire neighborhoods built for workers of wartime industries, or that provided returning veterans with affordable options to pursue the American dream of homeownership. In downtown squares and in cemeteries, monuments and statues commemorate the fallen. Indiana even counts a plane and a landing ship tank used in the war effort among a rare group of non-building landmarks.

As 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, we examine the history and fate of landmarks connected to it and other wars, looking at structures preserved and endangered, and how an industrious home front fueled the creation of so many places still telling the story of a nation's bravery and sacrifice.

★ WARTIME BOOMTOWN

At the outset of World War II, Evansville was at a tipping point. As the country's manufacturers transitioned to supporting the war effort, the city mobilized industry in an unprecedented way, becoming a nationwide leader in the production of landing ship tanks (LSTs), P-47 aircraft, and ammunition.

"There was a very deliberate and targeted campaign by city, business, political, and union leaders to



make sure the city of Evansville didn't get left behind when the war orders started rolling in," says Dr. James MacLeod, University of Evansville history department chair and author of *Evansville in World War II*.

The city's inland location and easy access to rail and river transportation routes made it an ideal hub for manufacturing. Thousands moved to the city, swelling the industrial pre-war workforce from 18,000 to over 80,000 by 1944.

While multiple Evansville factories did their part, the city's 45-acre shipyard was its biggest employer, primarily building LSTs, amphibious vessels that transported troops and equipment to beaches for invasion. At its peak in 1944, the shipyard produced roughly one ship every four days, completing 167 LSTs by the war's end. Today, only a crane and a marker remain to note the shipyard's location. However, the restored LST 325, used in the D-Day invasion, is moored on the nearby Ohio River as a floating museum representing the kind of ships built in Evansville.

In 1942, demand for fighter airplanes prompted construction of Republic Aviation on U.S. 41 North near the local airport. Distinguished by rows of blue glass windows, the factory featured an open interior with long bays for assembly-line operations, and two hangers where workers modified and finished airplanes. The plant emerged as a leader in creating P-47 Thunderbolts, assembling 6,670 aircraft, half of the country's Thunderbolts. It became one of the nation's largest wartime airplane manufacturing facilities, prompting a visit from President Roosevelt in 1943. The plant was repurposed after the war, building refrigerators for International Harvester and Whirlpool until 2010. Today a portion of the historic factory houses multiple small businesses.

In under five months in 1942, Evansville's Chrysler plant went from making Plymouth cars to making bullets

During World War II, Evansville's Chrysler plant (above left) became the Evansville Ordnance plant, producing roughly 96 percent of the United States' .45-caliber ammunition from 1942-44. Other connections to the city's wartime industry remain, including the former Republic Aviation, a P-47 factory (below), and concrete remnants of city's munitions depot (above right).

PHOTOS BY CANDICE CROIX (ABOVE LEFT AND BELOW) AND STEWART SEBREE



as the Evansville Ordnance Plant. Over the next two years, the site produced about 96 percent of all .45-caliber ammunition made in the U.S. Portions of the building with its sawtooth roofline remain today, now housing a sporting goods manufacturer and distributor.

Ammunition produced at the ordnance plant was transported to a 30-acre site near the Chicago & Eastern Illinois railroad line in northern Vanderburgh County, complete with warehouses, administration buildings, watch towers, and bunkers for the explosives. Today, a collection of concrete struc-

tures on the site of the present-day Vanderburgh County Fairgrounds are all that remain of the munitions depot. The military constructed three such facilities during WWII; the remnants of Evansville's complex are believed to be the only ones still standing.

"The exact combination of factors that happened in Evansville was certainly unique, leading to the rapid transition from civilian to military manufacturing. Nowhere else in the world was building both P-47s and LSTs," notes MacLeod. "What could have been a ghost town became a boom town."

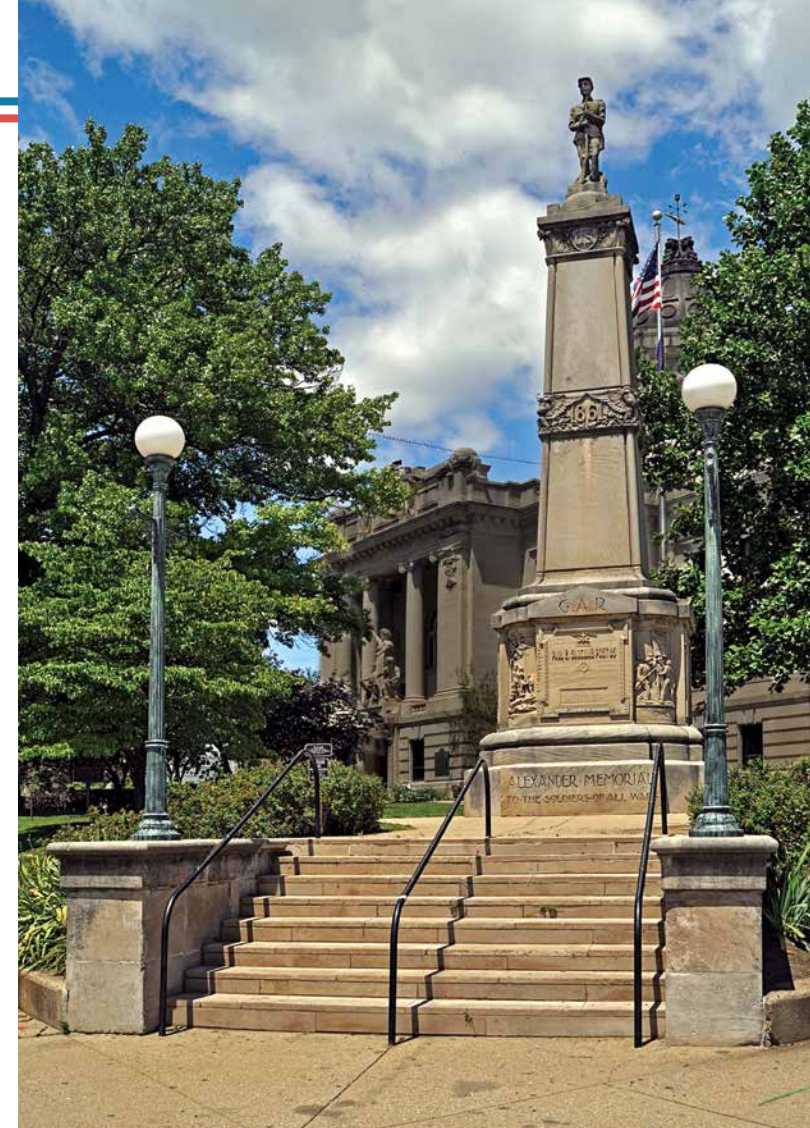
★ MONUMENTAL EFFORT

On the southeast corner of the Monroe County Courthouse square in Bloomington, the Alexander Memorial comprises a 35-foot-tall limestone monument topped by a carved Civil War soldier. Created at the bequest of Civil War veteran W.M. Alexander, the monument was dedicated in 1928 to commemorate Monroe County veterans of all wars. Today, its eroded surface is a tribute in disrepair. Happily, restoration is on the horizon.

"This means a great deal to Monroe County's veterans, who have fought in every way in every war the United States has been involved in," says Mary Elftman, Monroe County Veterans Affairs director, who helped launch the restoration initiative.

Next spring, workers will remove stains from the limestone and repoint mortar joints, and volunteer stonecarvers will re-create carved limestone panels depicting military scenes on monument base, where erosion has blurred fine details on the once-crisp scenes. Unable to locate design drawings, the restoration committee made a public appeal for photos, scouring newspaper, museum, and historical archives. The search produced images of three of the corners, but no clear photos of the northeast corner, which depicts a cavalry charge. "We're still holding out hope that someone will find a photo in their basement or attic to offer a clue," says Danielle Bachant-Bell, a preservation consultant and restoration committee member.

The project is supported by \$73,450 from the county government, \$100,000 worth of stone and labor donated from area limestone companies, a \$49,850 state Historic Preservation Fund grant, and individual donations. The Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County is still accepting donations.



Restoration will soon commence on Bloomington's 1928 Alexander Memorial commemorating Monroe County veterans of all wars. The project aims to repair and repoint the eroded limestone and recreate carved scenes at the monument's base, blurred by erosion and damage from previous well-intentioned but inappropriate cleaning attempts.

PHOTOS BY LEE LEWELLEN (ABOVE) AND DANIELLE BACHANT-BELL



★ PURSUING THE AMERICAN DREAM

During World War II and in the years immediately following, demand for housing skyrocketed, fueled first by population booms in areas where workers moved to become part of the wartime industries, and later by the return of veterans ready to start families. Many of those neighborhoods built in the '40s and '50s remain, a lasting testament to the American dream.

In 1941, an influx of workers for the new Indiana Army Ammunition Plant swelled the population of Charlestown from 900 to 14,000. To house them, the federal government constructed the optimistically named Pleasant Ridge neighborhood on the edge of town, using pre-fabricated housing to speed construction. New Albany's Gunnison Housing Corporation won the contract in 1942 to manufacture 750 "Gunnison Victory Homes"—single units, duplexes, and triplexes—for the new subdivision. Made of tough plywood panels, with windows and doors installed at the factory, houses could arrive by truck to be assembled on site and move-in ready within three days.

After the war, the homes appealed to families as an affordable housing option. Though several houses have been demol-

The federal government built Charlestown's Pleasant Ridge (above) to address a housing shortage for ammunition plant workers in 1942. One of the country's largest collection of pre-fabricated Gunnison Homes, it gained National Register listing in 2019 (below).

PHOTO BY BAUGHMAN COLLECTION, CHARLESTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY



ished, Pleasant Ridge remains one of the largest collections of Gunnison Homes in the country.

It's a distinction in jeopardy, as in recent years a local developer targeted vacant homes in Pleasant Ridge to be replaced with more upscale housing. Concerned for their neighborhood's heritage, residents established the Pleasant Ridge Neighborhood Association and partnered with Indiana Landmarks to nominate the neighborhood to the National

Register of Historic Places, achieving listing in 2019. Now, some have joined Indiana Landmarks in appealing to community leaders to design infill housing that complements the neighborhood.

Josh Craven, who grew up in Pleasant Ridge, lives in the same house owned by his grandparents and father. As neighborhood association president, he's led efforts to increase recognition for the neighborhood, worried that upscale designs alongside the historic manufactured homes might put pressure on Pleasant Ridge homeowners to sell their houses. "My hope is that we'll be able to come up with something that will not affect the historic value of the neighborhood but still attract new residents," says Craven.

Like other cities around the state, Mishawaka faced a housing shortage for returning veterans. In 1946, the city's American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars groups joined forces with the local labor union for U.S. Rubber Company—Mishawaka's biggest employer at the time—to create Normain Heights, an affordable housing subdivision located on 80 acres of farmland north of the city. Working with architect Karl Schwartz, the group developed seven home designs, locating lots along new streets named for World War II battle sites. From 1947-1949, 315 houses were constructed in the preapproved designs. A unique development created by veterans for veterans, it's believed to be the largest National Register district of its type in the country.

When the City moved to tear down a house in the subdivision, the neighborhood association supported making Normain Heights a local conservation district to safeguard its character. "We wanted everyone to understand the importance of this neighborhood,"



ABOVE: Veterans groups created Mishawaka's Normain Heights to provide World War II veterans an affordable housing option. Today, descendants of the original owners continue to occupy many of the houses. Ruth Pavich, Mary Beth Torma, Arlene Martin, Jerry Enders, and Rachel Fredenburg (pictured above) advocated for the neighborhood to become a conservation district.

PHOTO BY TODD ZEIGER



RIGHT: During a period when many African Americans were denied access to home ownership, Black homebuilder Andrew Means paved the way for Gary's African American middle class with his Means Manor subdivision (right middle and bottom), offering a variety of house styles on large, landscaped lots.

PHOTOS BY BRAD MILLER

says Mary Beth Torma, who helped lead conservation district efforts. Like a number of others in the neighborhood, Torma lives in the home built for her parents. "It's still a really good place to live," says Torma. "I was raised in this neighborhood and all my kids have been raised here."

The American dream was less accessible to some. Post-war housing options were even more limited for African Americans, who were often excluded from new developments due to restrictive covenants and segregation. In Gary, Black homebuilder Andrew Means made his mark, creating quality housing for the city's African American middle class. An Army veteran and steel mill worker who had also attended the



prestigious Tuskegee Institute, Means created Means Brothers, Inc. with his brother Geter in 1925. By the 1950s, the company was creating whole subdivisions, including Means Manor, a nearly 300-home neighborhood of traditional, split-level, and ranch houses on large, landscaped lots. Today, many of the neighborhood's residents have lived there for generations, a fitting tribute to Means' impact on his adopted hometown.

"Means was instrumental in lobbying Indiana politicians locally and in DC to help get Federal Housing Authority-backed financing for his developments intended for Black homeowners," notes Brad Miller, director of our northwest office in Gary. "This is important because we now know the inability of Black Americans to buy homes following the post-war boom contributed to dramatic racial economic inequities. He was a trailblazer."

★ SPIRITUAL RETREAT

In southern Johnson County, near the Camp Atterbury Fish and Wildlife area, the diminutive Chapel in the Meadow—measuring just 11 by 16 feet—represents an outsized history. During World War II, the chapel provided a spiritual retreat for hundreds of prisoners of war (POW).

During World War II, Italian prisoners of war at Camp Atterbury in Johnson County built a modest chapel out of leftover brick and stucco, using berries and flowers to create pigments for hand-painted religious frescos. Descendants of the POWs gather at the chapel each fall for an event honoring the prisoners and camp's history.

PHOTO BY RAINA REGAN

From 1943-1946, the camp served as an internment center housing German and Italian prisoners. In addition to working on the grounds, in the kitchen, and doing laundry and other maintenance, some POWs worked on area farms and in local factories.

In 1943, Italian POWs received permission to build the modest chapel, using leftover brick and stucco. Inside, they painted the altar to look like it was made of marble and used berries, flowers—even blood, it's rumored—to create pigments for hand-painted frescos of cherubs, Madonna, angels, the dove of peace, and, on the ceiling, the eye of God. Open on the south end with cross-shaped cutouts on the east and west sides, the chapel became a gathering place for daily services and Sunday Mass.

By 1989, the neglect and decades of exposure had nearly erased the frescos. The Indiana National Guard and Italian Heritage Society of Indiana partnered to repair the chapel and conserve the art, enclosing the building's open side with glass. Of the more than 100 buildings constructed for the internment camp, it's the only one still standing; all the other structures were sold to other Army complexes or auctioned off at the end of World War II.

Each fall, descendants of the POWs gather at the chapel to honor the prisoners and the camp's heritage. "The Italian POWs were treated really well by the American forces and some of them carried guilt because of how their families overseas were being treated by comparison," says Guy Tedesco, a Louisville sculptor and artist whose father was an Italian POW at Camp Atterbury. "This chapel gave them their own place where they got better. It's an important chapter in Italian, military, and world history."

MEMBER PROFILE

Passion for Places Inspires Couple to Support Preservation

DURING LIFELONG CAREERS IN INTERNATIONAL banking, Indiana Landmarks members Marty and Maribeth Rahe have lived in Chicago, New York, London, and Europe, giving them first-hand perspective on how historic buildings offer a sense of history.

"Wherever we've lived, we've always looked for homes with historical significance," says Maribeth. "We've rehabbed almost every property we've owned." Their current residence in Cincinnati is no exception. Known locally as "The Castle," their house was built in 1929 for Otto and Catherine Luedeking. Cincinnati architect Bloodgood Tuttle took inspiration from French King Francis I's chateaux for the house's design, and the Rahes' restoration won Cincinnati Preservation Association's restoration of the year award in 2009.

The move to Cincinnati in 2003 brought the couple closer to Aurora, Indiana, where Marty spent his childhood. Hillforest, an 1855 mansion built for industrialist Thomas Gaff overlooking downtown, was one of the first historic houses that Marty remembers making an impression on him. Years later, he and Maribeth purchased a neighboring home rumored to be built around an early log house. Under the later additions, workers uncovered the c.1820 Harris Cabin, which the Rahes donated to Hillforest to help tell the story of the community's early pioneers.

After his father passed away in 1985, Marty purchased the 1930s downtown building he had owned, rehabbing it with an apartment and elevator so his mother could stay in Aurora and maintain easy access to shops, businesses, and her church. Since then, he's invested in dozens of downtown properties, including a gym, a century-old furniture store, a boutique clothing shop, a flower shop, an ice-cream parlor, and an event center. "It's become really hard for businesses in small town America to compete with big box stores," notes Marty. "I've focused so much of my energies in restoring and preserving structures in Aurora because I'd like to see it make it. Aurora and other small towns have a history and significance that's worth preserving."

The Rahes became active in preservation while working in Chicago in the late '80s, restoring the 1928 Noble Judah Estate where they lived in Lake Forest and nominating it to the National Register of Historic Places. They utilized state incentives



International bank-ing careers took Marty and Maribeth Rahe around the world, fostering their appreciation for historic places. They restored "The Castle," their 1929 house in Cincinnati, even buying back and reinstalling original leaded glass windows. Their passion for preserving small towns like Marty's hometown of nearby Aurora led them to join Indiana Landmarks.

PHOTO BY JARRAD HOLBROOK

that froze property assessment on their house for 12 years, provided money saved on property taxes went towards restoration efforts. "It was a great tool we tried to educate others on how to use," notes Marty. "If we could get it established in all states, we could be saving properties across the country."

The two have been members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Cincinnati Preservation Association, with Marty serving as a director on both boards. Through their efforts in Aurora, the Rahes became acquainted and involved with Indiana Landmarks, where Marty also serves on the board of directors, offering his financial and preservation expertise.

"I think Indiana Landmarks leads the pack of preservation groups across the country," says Marty. "Its reach throughout the state is unmatched. We must continue to get the word out and educate people on how preservation can help their communities."



Safeguarding a Treasure

OUR RESTORATION OF SAMARA, THE FRANK Lloyd Wright-designed John and Catherine Christian House in West Lafayette, is getting a \$1 million boost.

The National Park Service recently awarded a \$500,000 Save America's Treasures grant for repairs at the house, which Indiana Landmarks co-stewards with the John E. Christian Family Memorial Trust, Inc. The public grant will be matched by \$503,000 in private funds from the John E. Christian Family Memorial Trust, Inc.

"Samara is truly one of America's treasures, not only because the home was designed by America's most famous architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, but because it's one of the most complete, fully implemented Wright-designed projects, with original landscape, graphic motif, interior furnishings and exterior

More than \$1 million—including a \$500,000 Save America's Treasures grant—will spur restoration of Samara (above), West Lafayette's Frank Lloyd Wright-designed house. This summer, a team of students (right) from Washington University in St. Louis and Purdue University used ground-penetrating radar and cloud mapping to create digital models that will help analyze structural issues, including cracks in concrete pavers (below).

PHOTOS BY LEE LEWELLEN (ABOVE) AND LINDA EALES



details," says Marsh Davis, president of Indiana Landmarks. "We're pleased that it has risen to such national prominence."

Dr. John and Catherine Christian commissioned Wright as architect, working with him from 1950-1956 to develop design and construction details. During a visit to Taliesin, Catherine gave the famous architect a 28-page booklet, "What We Need for How We Live," detailing the couple's space needs and how they would use each room—from family gatherings to hosting faculty and students from nearby Purdue University, where Dr. Christian was a Bionucleonics professor. Stressing that they were on a budget, the couple struck a bargain with Wright: they would build it and over time would implement every aspect of his design.

Samara is an exceptional example of one of Wright's Usonian homes, which the architect defined as a sensible, modest, uniquely American dwelling. Visited by thousands annually, Samara affords guests a rare insight into Wright's design philosophy. Indiana Landmarks led a years-long effort to get the building design-

nated a National Historic Landmark in 2015, which made it eligible for federal grants like the Save America's Treasures Grant.

"Dr. Christian provided exceptional care for the home until his health began to fail in later years," says Davis. "Thanks to his care, the home remains stunning, but, as one might expect with a 64-year-old home, it is ready for some structural restoration."

Harboe Architects—noted for its restoration of the Wright-designed Unity Temple and Robie House in Chicago—conducted a conditions assessment in 2019 to determine the most pressing repair needs and outline a restoration plan. Settling of the southeast corner foundation has escalated in recent years, resulting in several exterior and interior conditions that demand attention to ensure the long-term integrity of the landmark home. Repair work is expected to begin next spring. Follow the work online at facebook.com/WrightsSAMARA.



FOR SALE

LANDMARKS ON THE MARKET

see more at indianalandmarks.org



Rumpe House

510 Main Street, Rising Sun

\$49,900
Rider Realty
812-438-HOME

Virtually untouched since construction in 1857, this Carpenter Gothic-style home retains original interior and exterior woodwork, windows, and doors. 1,800 square feet on 2 stories. No modern systems; retains cistern-fed hand pumps and outhouse. Property holds preservation covenants.



Hill Place

1523 Southeastern Avenue, Indianapolis

National Register-listed all-brick Italianate offers prime location less than a mile to Fountain Square, Fletcher Place, Mass Ave. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, two-story library, 8 slate fireplaces, spacious kitchen and catacomb-feeling basement. With original hardwoods, full walk-up attic, 3-car garage. Won Indiana Landmarks' Sensitive Rehabilitation Award in 2004. Inquire for price.

Kristin Glassburn
317-513-4251



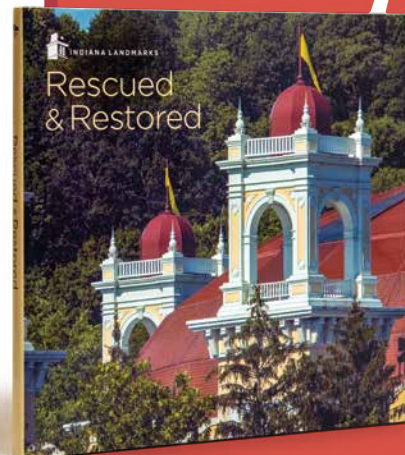
McCormick's Tavern

306 Walnut St., Vevay

First licensed as a tavern in 1815, two-story frame house offers potential for residential and commercial endeavors. Steps away from downtown Vevay and the Ohio River. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath. Some rehabilitation needed. Property holds preservation covenants.

\$59,000
Scott Lynch
812-701-0081

Gifts that Inspire



Looking for the perfect feel-good gift? *Indiana Landmarks Rescued & Restored* shares the stories of more than 50 historic places saved and restored

to new uses, with captivating photos that help tell the story. Proceeds from the sales of the coffee table book support the work of **Indiana Landmarks**, helping us save and revitalize more historic Hoosier places.

\$29.95

plus shipping & handling

Order online at bit.ly/RescuedRestored
(link is case sensitive)
or call **800-450-4534**

A gift of membership

in **Indiana Landmarks** delivers our bimonthly magazine, e-letters full of interesting news, and discounts on special events, and it supports our historic preservation work around the state. For the holiday season, buy gift memberships at a discounted rate: \$10 off the regular price for individual and household memberships. Purchase by December 11 and we'll notify the recipients of your gift before the holidays.

Contact Jennifer Hawk at jhawk@indianalandmarks.org
or call **800-450-4534**



BRIEFLY NOTED

CARES ACT SUPPORTS CHARITABLE GIVING

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 Sharon Gamble, 317-822-7921, sgamble@indianalandmarks.org. Please consult your own tax advisor for advice.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

To help slow the potential spread of COVID-19, all **Indiana Landmarks** offices and properties remain closed to the public. However, as our staff continue to work from home, you can reach us at 800-450-4534, 317-639-4524, or check our staff directory at indianalandmarks.org/staff.

Our sincere apologies for the inconvenience. We appreciate your ongoing support of **Indiana Landmarks** and hope you will work with us to stay safe and healthy!

OTHER WAYS TO CONNECT

Though you may not see us at our usual public events this year, rest assured **Indiana Landmarks'** staff is still hard at work saving the places you love. Keep up with what we're working on by following our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts or by signing up for our e-letters at indianalandmarks.org/e-newsletter-signup. We'll share photos of works-in-progress, celebrate buildings saved, and alert you to opportunities for virtual talks and tours.



Century of Progress

Tours & Events

Nov/Dec 2020

Century of Progress Virtual Talk & Online Look

In lieu of our popular in-person tour of the five Century of Progress houses in the **Indiana Dunes National Park** this year, we're offering a short, free behind-the-scenes online look at the 1933-34 Chicago World's Fair homes before, during, and after restoration. Bonus: Watch "Our Fair House," a conversation with lessees of the Florida Tropical and Rostone houses, as they share the laughs and headaches in converting temporary show houses into weekend retreats. We hope the talk and preview will bring you deeper appreciation for these unique homes when our tour returns in 2021. Registration required. Visit indianalandmarks.org/tours-events for details.

Virtual Talks

Free via Zoom. Visit indianalandmarks.org/tours-events to RSVP and receive information to join the talks.

NOV. 5 "Chain Reaction"

The addition of paved trails and city bike lanes around the country is increasing the popularity of bicycling, a transportation mode that took off in the nineteenth century. Thanks to Arthur Newby and

his Indianapolis Chain and Stamping Company, today's bikes are a lot safer than those early high-wheeled contraptions. Join Matty Bennett, **Indiana Automotive** board member and owner of National Moto + Cycle Company, and Jalaine Kane, product engineer at Diamond Chain, for a look at how Newby revolutionized bicycling and made Indianapolis a leader in chain production. Hosted by our **Indiana Automotive** affinity group, the talk includes a brief update on the group's work. 5:30-6:30 p.m.

DEC. 3 "The Magic of Ayres"

Join Ken Turchi, author of *L.S. Ayres and Company: The Store at the Crossroads of America*, for a delightful discussion of Christmases past, present, and future at the historic building on the corner of Meridian and Washington streets in Indianapolis. Joining the conversation will be Dan Evans, Jr., whose father worked at Ayres from 1948-1976, rising through the ranks from personnel staff to president and CEO; and Paul Smith, restoration project manager for the iconic Ayres Clock. Reminisce about the glory days of the department store and find out what it takes to give a 3-foot-tall cherub a facelift. 5:30-6:30 p.m.

FRENCH LICK & WEST BADEN SPRINGS

Ongoing tours for overnight guests:

West Baden Springs Hotel

Wednesday-Saturday, 2 & 4 p.m.

French Lick Springs Hotel

Wednesday-Sunday, noon

Tours depart from our Landmarks Emporium shops in the hotels. Discount for members on tours and in shops. Reservations recommended. 812-936-5870, swoodward@indianalandmarks.org. Please note Landmarks Emporium and Tours will be closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve beginning at 4 p.m., and Christmas Day.

Twilight Tours & Behind-the-Scenes Tours

All Twilight Tours and Behind-the-Scenes Tours in 2020 have been cancelled.

NOTE: All tours are subject to hotels being open to the public and only open to overnight guests of French Lick Resort. Check our website for current status and ticket info.



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AND FINALLY

Watching the Clock

IN 2016, INDIANA LANDMARKS SPEARHEADED a campaign to repair the inner workings of Indianapolis's iconic Ayres Clock. This year, we turned our attention to the exterior, where a team of local craftsmen assembled to repair, clean, and wax the clock's historic bronze case.

L.S. Ayres Department Store installed the 10,000-pound, 8-foot-tall clock at the southwest corner of Washington and Meridian streets in 1936. The store added to the clock's cachet in 1947 with the addition of a bronze cherub, which magically appeared to perch on the clock from Thanksgiving through Christmas (read more on page 3).

Along with the clock's case, the cherub is being cleaned and waxed in preparation for its Thanksgiving eve arrival.

Indiana Landmarks is leading repair and financing efforts for the project, which is estimated to cost around \$65,000. Donations of \$100 or more will receive a custom commemora-

Indiana Landmarks is coordinating restoration of the bronze case of Indianapolis's 1936 Ayres Clock, aiming to complete work in time for the arrival of its signature cherub—fresh from its own spa treatment—on Thanksgiving eve. Donations of \$100 or more to the project will receive a custom pin (right) of the Ayres clock and cherub.

PHOTO BY EVAN HALE

tive pin depicting the Ayres clock and cherub, a perfect holiday accessory! To learn more and contribute to the project, visit indianalandmarks.org/ayres-clock.

