Thank you for your support!
Fundamental Choice

A NOVEMBER 30 OP-ED PIECE in The New York Times (“When an Enemy’s Cultural Heritage Becomes One’s Own,” by Hugh Eakin) points to historic sites caught in the recent war between Armenia and Azerbaijan. In this case, ancient monuments, built by and for one culture now find themselves in the hands of another. The author holds out hope that both sides may demonstrate, “...awareness of—and admiration for—heritage that is not one’s own.”

Through the ages, wars have concluded with victors facing the choice of destroying or repurposing landmarks of the vanquished. While certainly not the rule, choosing the latter posed by succeeding cultures that inherited them. Today we call it “adaptive reuse.”

What, you might ask, has this to do with historic preservation in Indiana? The fate of our landmarks is not determined by the outcome of wars. Instead, many of our historic places face threats from the perception of functional obsolescence. Time and again we face the choice: destroy or repurpose. Fortunately, we have inspiring examples of adaptive reuse underway right now. Think of the Electric Works Bottleworks District in Indianapolis—all being converted to uses never envisioned by their builders.

Mr. Eakin concludes his op-ed piece with this thought: “It is the natural inclination of human beings to preserve; destruction takes special effort and motivation.” Hopeful.

Marsh Davis, President
Outlook Improves for Endangered Places

IN DOWNTOWN MARION IN

Grant County, the former Marion National Bank towers over the streetscape, a gleaming white, 7-story skyscraper wrapped in glazed terra cotta. Vacancy and neglect by an out-of-state owner landed the building on Indiana Landmarks’ 10 Most Endangered list in 2017, bringing awareness to the site’s plight and attracting the interest of architect Mike Halstead. Today, Halstead’s firm is rehabilitating the building as Ridley Tower, a mixed-use development including offices, retail, and apartments. The transformation is the highest profile project in a wave of revitalization in downtown Marion.

Built in 1917, the Neoclassical-style landmark played a central role in the downtown business district for decades. By the time it landed on our 10 Most list, however, the building stood empty. A leaking roof had destabi-lized the ornate terra cotta cornice, sending chunks falling to the sidewalk below, and water infiltration left crumbling plaster and mold throughout the upper floors.

Halstead Architects, which has had offices in Marion since 2008, purchased the former bank in 2018, viewing an opportunity to reclaim the landmark’s role as a downtown anchor. “It’s a beautiful building in the heart of downtown,” says developer Mike Halstead. “It was silly it was abandoned so long.”

Workers replaced the roof to make the building watertight, restored masonry, and made building elevators operational again. The project is preserving original features, including the two-story interior lobby with its barrel vault central arcade, marble floors and teller stations, and ornamental plaster, as well as bank vaults.

While the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 didn’t slow construction work, it did make it difficult for small businesses and restaurants interested in locating in the building to get start-up funding, which caused some delays in openings, notes Halstead. The first floor is completely leased, with plans for a barbeque restaurant and a coffee and ice cream shop. Halstead expects upper-floor apartments to become available for lease this spring. The $7.5 million project is funded by a mix of federal historic preservation tax credits, state redevelopment tax credits, a tax increment financing bond, and a commercial mortgage.

In recent years, Indiana Landmarks’ Marion affiliate, Save Our Stories, partnered with city leaders, Marion Main Street, and the local housing authority to promote preservation as an economic development tool. The efforts are paying off. The city’s former Wolfe Law Building has been restored as a mix of retail and apartments, and just blocks away the c.1910 Dan-Mar and Cecilian apartments and 1903 Mecca Club are slated to undergo multi-million-dollar rehabilitation as affordable housing for seniors.

Across the state, the outlook is improving for another former 10 Most property, as The Commonwealth Companies start early work to turn Terre Haute’s 1939 YMCA into Historic Walnut Square. The $10 million development will turn the building into 34 apartments, aided by federal historic tax credits, state rental housing tax credits, and a property tax abatement from the City. Vacant since 2006, the building retains many of its original Spanish Revival details, including stenciling, ornamental tile and ironwork, a carved stone fireplace, and concrete ceiling beams. Preliminary plans call for preserving those character-defining features as well as part of the historic gym.

When the Peru Circus Winter Quarters landed on our 10 Most Endangered list in 2019, leaky roofs threatened two historic barns and their invaluable collection of artifacts, now maintained by the nonprofit International Circus Hall of Fame. The status helped raise awareness of the group’s plight and boosted its fundraising efforts. The Hall of Fame raised $100,000 to put a new roof on the more immediately threatened north barn, where water infiltration threatened both the structure and the fragile collection of memorabilia it houses, including vintage posters, photographs, advertisements, one-of-a-kind costumes, and a miniature replica of the 1934 Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus. Indiana Landmarks staff provided technical advice on the project.

As 2020 came to a close, Indiana Landmarks approved a loan to the Whitewater Presbytery to help resolve ownership issues that threatenened Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church in limbo and landed the vacant church on our 10 Most Endangered list. Built in 1906, the Gothic limestone church is considered a standout for its extensive collection of stained-glass windows and furnishings by New York’s Tiffany Studios.

“While not yet saved, this is a major step in the right direction,” says Indiana Landmarks President Marsh Davis. “We will continue to work with the presbytery and community leaders to brainstorm new uses to ensure Reid Memorial’s future.”
Finding the Right Approach

WHEN IT COMES TO investing in historic places, Indiana Landmarks’ real estate program employs a variety of approaches. Sometimes we buy the place, stabilize it, and sell it to buyers who can finish the work. Other times, preservation-minded owners donate properties to us knowing we’ll find stewards to ensure their future. Three houses acquired by Indiana Landmarks in the past year illustrate our adaptability.

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In 2020, we led work to stabilize the 1885 Bir House, a Queen Anne home we’re rehabilitating in Vernon. Daniel lives in Seymour with his wife, Melie, and works in North Vernon, Hanover, and Madison, so he was familiar with the area’s architecture and amenities. “I was thinking of flipping the property for my business, but when we got inside, we fell in love,” he says.

Daniel brings technical know-how to the project, and Melie offers input on design. They plan to return the house to its 1830s appearance while adding modern amenities and a rear addition to provide more bedrooms for their family of five. “It’s the perfect house for us and we can’t wait to move in,” says Orellana.

In New Albany’s Silver Grove neighborhood, the 1885 Bir House has a long history on Ekin Avenue. Early residents gathered at the house to vote to incorporate the town of Silver Grove, installing Louis Bir as town board president. Decades later, many visited the place to buy meat at the M&J Market, a small grocery attached to the front of the home. When the house’s owner considered demolition, Indiana Landmarks partnered with Develop New Albany and the Caesars Foundation of Floyd County to acquire the property before selling it to local developer Andy Carter.

“Too many people came to share stories as we started doing the work about how they went to the store or knew the family. It became more evident the more we got into it, there was a longstanding history that needed to be saved,” says Carter. “I’m drawn to a challenge and like to take places people have forgotten and make them become a home again.” He completely renovated the property, removing the market addition and returning the house to single-family use.

Just steps away from the house, pastor Jonah Sage watched the story unfold as he went to work at Sojourn Church, located in the historic Silver Street School.

“My wife and I had been trying to move into this neighborhood for a long time to be close to church. It wasn’t easy because if something was renovated, we couldn’t afford it, but something outdated we couldn’t afford to renovate,” says Sage.

“When we saw this house, my wife said, ‘I think we could do this. I think it could be great,’” they collaborated with Carter and moved into the Bir House in November.

“I’m kind of a dreamer and I like watching things come back to life. Once challenge my wife and I always face is that I want something with character and history, and she wants something safe and not falling apart. This felt like a sweet opportunity,” says Sage. “You had to have a vision to see beyond the mess. It was overwhelming and at times a frightening process, but a lot of fun too.”

In rural Putnam county near Brick Chapel, a lightning strike during a nighttime storm in August 2019 sparked a fire at the 1879 O’Hair House, destroying the roof and much of the second floor. By the time the house’s owner contacted Indiana Landmarks, the house had been roofless for more than a month. Though his insurance company counted the building as a total loss, the owner recognized its historic value and turned to Indiana Landmarks for help. He decided to donate the property to Indiana Landmarks, along with funds towards the cost of a new roof.

In 2020, we led work to stabilize the property, installing the new roof, beginning work on the fascia, soffits, and gutters, and securing window replacements for the fire-damaged openings. With a sale pending at the end of the year, it’s the kind of turnaround we like to celebrate.

Last year, Indiana Landmarks also sold properties in Connersville, Richmond, Vincennes, Indianapolis, Hillsboro, and Ligonier. Visit indianalandmarks.org/properties-for-sale to see historic places currently on the market.
In 2020, Indiana Landmarks tackled exterior restoration of Vernon’s c.1884 Leavitt House, peeling off aluminum siding (above) to reveal original Queen Anne details underneath (right). We reopened the front porch, installed missing elements, and added fresh paint before listing the house for sale. See details at indianalandmarks.org/properties-for-sale.

PHOTOS BY GREG SEKULA

Indiana Landmarks values each and every contributor and all our members. Your support enables us to act quickly when historic places are threatened and help communities use preservation to revitalize neighborhoods and downtowns and reconnect with heritage. The following list reflects gifts above the level of individual and dual membership given between September 1, 2019, and August 31, 2020. Please know that we are grateful for the support of every member. Want to join these individuals? Contact Membership and Annual Giving Manager Jennifer Hawk, 317-822-7922, jhawk@indianalandmarks.org.
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Mr. Dennis S. Gilman

When its congregation dwindled, trustees of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Fountain County donated the 1877 building to Indiana Landmarks. We sold the property with our covenants, and today the former church functions as an events center.

PHOTO BY TOMMY KLECKNER

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Jane T. and Frank Walker
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Mr. and Mrs. David E. Weaver
Mr. and Mrs. Turner Woodward

Mrs. Charles Bookwalter
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When its congregation dwindled, trustees of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Fountain County donated the 1877 building to Indiana Landmarks. We sold the property with our covenants, and today the former church functions as an events center.

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PHOTO BY TOMMY KLECKNER
Financial Report

2020

Budget
Operational
General Fund

800-450-4534.
CFO Mary Burger at
Vice President and
or contact Senior
ments, visit Indiana
audited financial state-
ent draw, supplen-
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zation’s resources.
continue to carefully
finance and invest-
staff and board-level
assets.
invested endowment
positive returns on
million to $90.8 mil-
continued to
Landmarks’ finances
year ending August
IN THE FISCAL

REVENUES
$4,177,800

EXPENSES
$3,973,300

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In September, a socially distanced crowd of alumni and supporters gathered to dedicate a historical marker for Gary Roosevelt High School, one of three Indiana high schools built exclusively for African Americans. A grant from our African American Fund supported the marker’s installation.

PHOTO BY TIFFANY TOLBERT

12 INDIANA PRESERVATION

indianalandmarks.org
Bri and Shannon Zuercher have spent years restoring their Queen Anne-style house in Huntington. To protect their investment, in 2020 they donated a preservation easement on the house to Indiana Landmarks, which charges the organization with safeguarding the architectural character of the home. In 2008, still moving in just before Christmas in 1900. The house was in eye-catching but deteriorated, with peeling paint, rotting wood. Ironically, the house's neglected condition brought Jacob and Amelia Martin built their dream home with its turreted roof and wraparound front porch on Cherry Street, and no functional plumbing or electricity.

Along with ongoing interior rehabilitation, they've also begun restoring the intricate wraparound porch. A hailstorm necessitated a new roof last year. Along with ongoing interior rehabilitation, they've also begun restoring the wood windows.

"I have been involved in a lot of the historic places. Shannon staffs the city's historic review board, and both have served as leaders in Huntington Alert, Indiana Landmarks' local preservation affiliate. "It's nice knowing we can get a second opinion from Indiana Landmarks when we're considering changes to the house, and there's some investment there too, that they will look after us in the future," says Shannon. "We consider ourselves the stewards of this house just as much as the Martins were 120 years ago, and this easement gives us peace of mind that our hard work will be protected."

The Zuerchers believe in preservation as a tool to help revitalize historic places. Shannon staffs the city's historic review board, and both have served as leaders in Huntington Alert, Indiana Landmarks' local preservation affiliate. "It's nice knowing we can get a second opinion from Indiana Landmarks when we're considering changes to the house, and there's some investment there too, that they will look after us in the future," says Shannon. "We consider ourselves the stewards of this house just as much as the Martins were 120 years ago, and this easement gives us peace of mind that our hard work will be protected."

In the past year, Indiana Landmarks also received a preservation easement from Sallie Cox on the Markle House, one of Vigo County's oldest intact historic residences, which she and her late husband Don spent years rehabilitating. For more information on donating a preservation easement, contact our regional office nearest you.
In Fort Wayne, our affiliate ARCH is using a $75,000 loan to return the c.1840 Mary Rockhill-Tyler House on Van Buren Street to single-family use. Since acquiring the property in 2007, the group has restored the exterior to its original appearance and is now embarking on interior renovation.

In Anderson, Paramount Heritage Foundation is using a $75,000 loan to repair decorative plaster and paint in its 1929 theater, designed by architect Alvin Strauss with an interior credited to John Eberston, known nationally for his atmospheric movie palaces.

If you’re a non-profit interested in learning more about Indiana Landmarks’ loans, download our informational guide at indianalandmarks.org/grants-and-loans.
Indiana Landmarks’ affiliate Historic New Carlisle used one of our loans to acquire a downtown commercial building, removing an unsightly 1970s facade and returning its historic appearance. Opened last summer, the building now serves as a local history museum, gift shop, and programming space for the group.

PHOTO BY TODD ZEMON

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Sue Ellen Greenlee
Dr. and Mrs. Jim Gregar
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S

eeing a need to support shrinking congregations struggling to maintain historic houses of worship, in 2015, Indiana Landmarks partnered with Philadelphia-based Partners for Sacred Places to establish Sacred Places Indiana, supported by funding from Lilly Endowment. For congregations caring for historic buildings, Sacred Places Indiana serves as an advisor, cheerleader, and trouble-shooter, offering technical expertise, training, and grants to maintain these vital landmarks before they reach a crisis point.

Since its creation, Sacred Place Indiana has helped 35 congregations, advising them in community engagement, fundraising, and building stewardship. In a year when so many learned how to offer distanced, virtual options for traditional programming, Sacred Places Indiana was no different, working with Partners for Sacred Places to develop an online version of the New Dollars/New Partners program, which helps congregations explore their role in the community and reach a crisis point.

In the past fiscal year, Sacred Places Indiana also provided $140,000 in grants. Of that total, five $25,000 capital grants will help repair and rehabilitate churches in Seymour, Muncie, Indianapolis, and Madison, and two $7,500 planting grants are helping congregations in South Bend and Fort Wayne study ways to adaptively reuse their buildings and prioritize maintenance needs.

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downtowns statewide. The list below reflects gifts received between September 1, strengthen our ability to save historic places and rejuvenate neighborhoods and 2019, and August 31, 2020. Want to join these donors? Contact Membership and Annual Giving Manager Jennifer Hawk, 317-822-7922, jhawk@indianalandmarks.org

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to develop design guidelines, consulting with property owners, and aiding in training and continuing education for commission members. Around the state in 2020, 18 communities contracted Indiana Landmarks staff for their expertise.

Last year, Indiana Landmarks staff collaborated to create model design guidelines for the communities they serve, aiming to streamline the process for building owners seeking approval for restoration, construction, and demolition projects. “It makes the process more accessible and efficient so that when someone wants to make a change in a historic district, they aren’t trying to guess what’s expected or waste through jargon to know what they can and can’t do,” says Todd Zeiger, director of Indiana Landmarks’ Northern Regional Office.

When it comes to safeguarding community landmarks, local historic districts and preservation commissions are a powerful tool, protecting the architectural character of individual buildings and entire neighborhoods and downtowns—a measure proven to boost property values and encourage investment.

Indiana Landmarks’ Commission Assistance Program supplies professional assistance to small towns that don’t have city staff to manage their preservation commissions, helping

Indiana Landmarks staff advise historic preservation commissions around the state, helping create design guidelines and providing advice to property owners in 18 communities, including Angola.

PHOTO BY TODD ZEIGER

OFFERING OUR EXPERTISE

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Indiana Landmarks staff advise historic preservation commissions around the state, helping create design guidelines and providing advice to property owners in 18 communities, including Angola.
Like what you’ve read?

Help Indiana Landmarks achieve even more by:

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

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**Gifts in Honor & Memory**

Members and friends elected to honor the living and remember the departed with a gift to Indiana Landmarks between September 1, 2019 and August 31, 2020. For information on honorary and memorial gifts, contact Membership and Annual Giving Manager Jennifer Hawk, 317-822-7922, jhawk@indianalandmarks.org.

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Jane Rowan Cox Glossbrenner, Mary Jane Glossbrunner, Phillips and A. Warren Phillips
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The Heritage Society

**SINCE OUR FOUNDING IN 1960, Indiana Landmarks has grown into the nation’s largest statewide preservation organization in part because of generous bequests.**

For those who have included Indiana Landmarks in their estate plans, please let us know so we can properly thank you and add you to the Heritage Society.

Contact Vice President for Development Sharon Gamble, 317-822-7921, sgamble@indianalandmarks.org.

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When demolition loomed for Indianapolis’s historic Drake Apartments in 2019, Indiana Landmarks joined preservation advocates and city leaders to persuade the property’s owner, the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis, to give the building a second chance. In 2020, the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission voted to protect the building as local landmark.

Affiliate Organizations
Indiana Landmarks counts on local preservation advocates to help us save meaningful places. Across the state, 57 groups have allied with us as affiliates, a status that brings benefits, including preservation workshops, talks, and preferred interest rates on our Endangered Places Loans. Know of an organization that should be affiliated with us? Contact the regional office in your area (see p. 2).

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For a list of all Indiana Landmarks grants made during the fiscal year: indianalandmarks.org/resources

Visit indianalandmarks.org/tours-events to RSVP and receive information on upcoming events.

It’s the Real Thing January 28
Celebrate the opening of the new Bottleworks District in Indianapolis during a virtual talk about restoration of the former Coca-Cola bottling plant’s radiant terra cotta facades. Emily Byl of ARSEE Engineers will discuss the creative methods artisans used to match and repair historic terra cotta and the difficulties crews had to overcome to restore an iconic Indianapolis landmark. Noon-1 p.m. The free program offered via Zoom is part of the Preserving Historic Places Conference virtual sessions.

If These Walls Could Tell February 28
Storyteller Kim McCann shares an original story about the Indianapolis Naval Armory and its renovation as Riverside High School, the spectacular transformation that won Indiana Landmarks’ 2020 Cook Cup for Outstanding Restoration. Indiana Landmarks and Storytelling Arts of Indiana, with support from Frank and Katrina Basile, developed the If These Walls Could Tell series in 2011. 4 p.m. Tickets for the virtual program cost $15/person, $25/household and are available at storytellingarts.org.
SINCE ITS CONSTRUCTION IN 1959, THE dramatic curved roof of St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church has captured attention in Gary’s Tolleston neighborhood. Chicago architect Edward Dart deliberately designed the church’s roof silhouette to represent hands folded in prayer, working with engineer Richard Johnson, a member of the congregation, on the curved support beams. When it was built, the church represented the first “home of their own” for its African American congregation, who were not allowed to join the established Episcopal church in Gary.

Last year, when water infiltration began damaging the church’s original bowed beams, red cedar ceiling, and oak pews, a $10,000 grant from the Dovie Stewart Cox & Chester A. Cox, Sr. Memorial and Standiford H. Cox funds of the Central Indiana Community Foundation helped with roof and chimney repairs. Indiana Landmarks’ African American Landmarks Committee serves as preservation advisor to the fund, which awarded $135,000 to 15 projects throughout the state in 2020.