Divine Mission
Caring for a Mid-Century Modern house of worship

SHOPPING LOCAL
Historic retailers endure as downtown anchors

GROWING APPRECIATION
Dearborn County farm wins rural preservation award
The Power of Planning

ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST touching gifts to Indiana Landmarks came by way of a bequest from Zelpha Schoen Mitsch of Georgetown, Indiana. Zelpha, a long-time senior-level member of Indiana Landmarks, died in 2015 at the age of 94. She honored Indiana Landmarks by bequeathing to us her farmstead and several large parcels of land in Harrison and Floyd counties. All the properties have now been sold, including the Sillings-Schoen-Mitsch farmstead where she lived. Proceeds from the sale will benefit Indiana Landmarks’ programs and services. And, as Zelpha wished, Indiana Landmarks will protect her farmstead through a preservation covenant.

Zelpha’s gift stands as a testimony to the power of planned giving as well as the confidence she had in Indiana Landmarks. Since she made her intentions known to us, she was enrolled in our Heritage Society, which recognizes those who include us in their estate plans. Through activities of the Heritage Society, Zelpha enjoyed the company of like-minded people whose planned gifts will sustain Indiana Landmarks in the future.

In this issue of Indiana Preservation you’ll read about a similarly remarkable planned gift by Mary Ellen O’Connell and Pete Bauer of South Bend. As Zelpha did, Mary Ellen and Pete have entrusted the future of their splendid home to Indiana Landmarks, a bequest that does double duty of financially supporting the organization and protecting in perpetuity the level member of Indiana Landmarks, died in 2015 at the age of 94. She honored Indiana Landmarks by bequeathing to us her farmstead and several large parcels of land in Harrison and Floyd counties. All the properties have now been sold, including the Sillings-Schoen-Mitsch farmstead where she lived. Proceeds from the sale will benefit Indiana Landmarks’ programs and services. And, as Zelpha wished, Indiana Landmarks will protect her farmstead through a preservation covenant.

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SACRED PLACES

Making the Impossible Possible

SINCE IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1919 AS THE first parish in Indianapolis to welcome Black Catholics, Saint Rita Catholic Church in the city’s Martindale area has maintained a forward-thinking reputation. Today, the congregation continues to emphasize community service, and at the same time its members are working to make sure the church’s Mid-Century Modern house of worship remains a vital gathering place.

St. Rita’s near northside campus got its start when church leaders moved a former Knights of Columbus chapel from Fort Benjamin Harrison to 19th Street and Arsenal Avenue and added on a small school building. When Father Bernard Strange came to work at the church in 1935, he established its members are working to make sure the church’s Mid-Century Modern house of worship remains a vital gathering place.

In the 1950s, the parish reached 1,500 members. Having long outgrown the chapel, the congregation spent years raising money for a new church, eventually hiring Indianapolis architect Charles M. Brown and engineering firm Wilhelm and Associates to build a new Post-Modern house of worship. Finished in 1958, the brick and limestone bow-shaped structure features a bell tower with gold embossed cross. Inside, the church is a visual feast of mosaics, stained glass, and bronze works designed by artist Peter Recker, whose work on a church in Milwaukee caught the attention of Father Strange. Behind the main altar, Recker’s “Coming of Elijah” mosaic stretches floor-to-ceiling, illustrating Elijah being swept up to heaven. “If you look at the tiny little pieces of stone, you’ll see hands swinging low and going up that symbolize the Negro spiritual ‘Swing Low, Sweet Chariot,’” says parishioner and church historian Caleb Legg. “It’s a nod to the faith, but also a nod to the African American who is marginalized through so much of the past century.”

Along with serving the city’s youth, St. Rita’s congregation aided neighborhood beautification efforts, established a kindergarten and nursery dating to the 1960s, and offered a variety of programs to combat poverty, hunger, homelessness, health problems, and crime. To make sure the church can carry on its work well into the future and maintain its collection of buildings dating from 1919 through 1972, church leaders participated in Indiana Landmarks’ Sacred Places Indiana program, gaining insights on stewardship and fundraising.

“While the church was set aside for African Americans, it was always very civic minded in making sure the mission of the church was carried out throughout the community and not just for Catholics,” says Sister Gail Trippett, institutional advisor and past parish life coordinator. “We know we have a rich history and participating in Sacred Places Indiana has helped us look at our facility and all our buildings and ask how we can repurpose them for what’s needed for the community now.”

A $1.15 million capital campaign is underway to raise money for the mid-century church and grounds. Phase 1 includes urgent repairs estimated at $500,000 for the church’s signature bell tower, where water infiltration has caused brick to separate from limestone. The church’s front façade, making its repair necessary to protect the face of the building. The church recently received a fundraising boost via a $150,000 matching grant from the National Fund for Sacred Places.

“Saint Rita is the saint of the impossible,” says Legg. “Lots of folks thought it would be impossible to put all this together with the poor congregation we had in the early twentieth century. Out of a neighborhood of factory buildings and tiny shotgun homes, we’ve been able to build this whole campus that’s now being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.”

On November 29, Legg will give a talk at Indiana Landmarks Center highlighting the church’s history and architecture, and on December 3, the church will be one of five historic Indianapolis churches featured on a holiday church tour presented by Indiana Landmarks. See details on both events on p. 19.
Cultivating a Sense of Heritage

AS A YOUNG MAN GROWING UP ON A DAIRY farm south of Morris, Indiana, Andrew Beetz would help his father fill the silo at a nearby farm in Sunman. He admired the property’s rolling hills and picturesque views, so when it came up for auction in 1976, Andrew and his wife Shirley didn’t hesitate to buy the farm and settled down to raise their three children in the historic homestead.

More than 45 years later, Andrew and Shirley Beetz’s dedication to the property, now called White Villa Acres Farm, merited the 2022 John Arnold Award for Rural Preservation, presented by Indiana Landmarks and Indiana Farm Bureau.

Located near the highest point in Dearborn County, the property offers expansive views of the surrounding landscape. “We have extremely beautiful sunsets, and the sunrises aren’t too bad either,” says Andrew. He should know; he farms the property in the early hours and evenings, splitting his time between the farm and his job as business manager at Saint Mary’s Catholic Church in Greensburg.

The Beetzes are just the third family to own the 102-acre farm, which was originally established in 1828. When they bought the property, the Beetzes inherited an extensive collection of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century farm buildings.

Believing the historic structures can continue to be functional and shouldn’t go to waste, the Beetzes incorporated them into modern operations. The c.1870 English-style gambrel roof holds farm equipment and serves as a machine shop, while the historic granary stores the hay baler. “These historic buildings still serve an important function for us. By using them, we don’t have to spend a lot of money to build something new,” says Andrew. His appreciation for vintage things extends to his collection of five tractors dating from 1949 to 1996, all still used in farming operations.

The Beetz family’s conservation-minded approach includes stewardship of their land: they employ a no-till approach in planting crops, rotating corn, wheat, and soybeans across 72 acres to enrich the soil and help prevent erosion. They enrolled 17 acres of woods in Indiana’s Classified Forest program, responsibly harvesting mature trees through timber stand management to ensure a diverse forest. When Hurricane Ike downed popular trees in the forest in 2008, the Beetzes used the wood for new siding on the historic corn crib.

The farm also includes an 1892 brick one-room schoolhouse that was converted to storage space by previous owners. The Beetz family stores hay in the schoolhouse, using the school’s historic outhouse as a small oil shed. They plan to restore the schoolhouse, including its original hardwood floors and slate blackboards.

The family’s thoughtful management includes the farm’s homestead, built in the 1860s and enlarged and remodeled into a bungalow in the mid-1920s. When they decided to further expand the house, the Beetz hired an architect to make sure the addition blended with the house’s historic architecture.

For their stewardship of White Villa Acres Farm (above) near Sunman in Dearborn County, Shirley and Andrew Beetz (below) won the 2002 John Arnold Award for Rural Preservation from Indiana Landmarks and Indiana Farm Bureau. PHOTO BY EVAN HALE

The chicken coop continues to house chickens, guineas, and peacocks. A 1940s brick garage with gambrel roof holds farm equipment and serves as a machine shop, while the historic granary stores the hay baler. “These historic buildings still serve an important function for us. By using them, we don’t have to spend a lot of money to build something new,” says Andrew. His appreciation for vintage things extends to his collection of five tractors dating from 1949 to 1996, all still used in farming operations.

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For their stewardship of White Villa Acres Farm (above) near Sunman in Dearborn County, Shirley and Andrew Beetz (below) won the 2002 John Arnold Award for Rural Preservation from Indiana Landmarks and Indiana Farm Bureau. PHOTO BY EVAN HALE

The third family to own the farm since it was established in 1828, the Beetzes incorporate its collection of nineteenth- and twentieth-century buildings into their farming operation, which includes raising horses, goats, and registered breeding stock cattle, and planting crops of corn, wheat, and soybeans. PHOTO BY EVAN HALE

“Andrew and Shirley Beetz have been tremendous stewards of their historic farm,” says Tommy Kleckner, director of Indiana Landmarks’ Western Regional Office and Arnold Award coordinator. “Their deep appreciation and continued use of the historic landmarks built by past owners is impressive and deserving of Arnold Award recognition.”

Indiana Landmarks presented the Arnold Award to the Beetzes on August 4 at the Indiana State Fair. The award is named in memory of John Arnold, a Rush County farmer who combined progressive architectural practices with a deep respect for the natural and historic components of rural landscapes, including the farm owned by his family since 1820.
In 1891, Jeffersonville resident Charles Schimpff wrote to his brother Gustav “Gus” Schimpff Sr., that the city needed a confectionery to replace the one he’d recently closed, inviting Gus to move up from Louisville to open a shop of his own. It worked. Gus opened Schimpff’s Confectionery on Spring Street that year, and it’s been a downtown mainstay ever since.

In 1989, on the eve of its centennial, Schimpff’s future appeared in jeopardy when owner Catherine Schimpff died, and the business briefly closed. To save it, her nephew Warren Schimpff and his wife, Jill, purchased the business in 1990 and relocated from California to run it. They restored the shop to its 1891 appearance, rehabbing the pressed tin ceiling, refurbishing the vintage soda fountain, and adding period-appropriate lighting. A decade later, they purchased and rehabbed the adjacent building to the north for use as a demonstration area and candy museum, with thousands of pieces of memorabilia on display.

In 2015, the couple seized an opportunity to expand the business again, this time buying and rehabbing the neighboring commercial building to the south as space for additional retail, seating, manufacturing, and storage. The Schimpffs took pains to bring back the building’s original character, restoring its terrazzo floor and returning the front façade to its historic appearance. Historic photos revealed the space once had a tin ceiling, so they recreated it using a period pattern manufactured by W.F. Norman Company of Missouri.

Schimpff’s remains a popular destination, whether customers come in for a meal at the 1920s-era lunch counter or drop by to watch confectioners make Schimpff’s signature candies: cinnamon red hots, hard fish candies (an Ohio River region tradition), and Modjeskas—caramel-dipped marshmallows named for a nineteenth-century Polish stage actress who performed in Louisville. “It’s been such an integral part of down-

Historic small businesses contribute essential character to their communities as a hub for local traditions and favored destination for generations of customers. They play a vital economic and preservation role, as well, by drawing shoppers downtown and giving continued purpose to historic buildings. To promote their importance to the economy, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution in 2011 recognizing Small Business Saturday, a shopping holiday traditionally held the Saturday after Thanksgiving to encourage consumers to visit local stores.

Heading into the holiday shopping season, we salute several historic shops that have served their communities for decades, some for more than a century.

**Talking Shop**

**Sugar High**

At Schimpff’s Confectionery in Jeffersonville (above and opposite) and Martinsville’s Candy Kitchen (left), customers can watch production of signature treats and embrace sweet nostalgia. One of the oldest family-owned candy businesses in the U.S., Schimpff’s has operated in its original location since 1891. The Martinsville Candy Kitchen dates to 1919.

Photos © Visit Morgan County
town Jeffersonville. People have been coming here all their lives,” says Warren Schimpff. “We wanted to keep that family history and community history alive.”

A similar desire to keep a Main Street anchor in operation led John and Pam Badger to purchase the Martinsville Candy Kitchen in 2004. Established by Greek immigrant Jimmy Zapapas in 1919, the confectionery is known for its candy canes, still made from Zapapas’s recipes and hand-crafted using his original wall hook, copper kettle, marble table, wood paddles, and Vulcan gas stove. The candy canes come in a variety of flavors, including fruity, clove, cappuccino, and butterscotch, with peppermint and cinnamon dominating during November and December. Lucky customers who visit the business at the right time may get to see candy canes being poured and shaped. The shop also serves up other toothsome treats such as buckeyes and tiger butter, along with pie by the slice. Indiana Landmarks recognized the Badgers’ work to improve the nineteenth-century building that houses their business with a restoration award in 2016.

In Lafayette, McCord Candies calls itself “the sweetest corner in town,” an apt description for a place that’s been selling confections at the intersection of Sixth and Main streets since 1912. The Second Empire-style building originally housed Glatz Candies, until Ivey McCord, an employee of the Glatzes, purchased the building in 1947, prompting the store’s first and only name change. Taking advantage of downtown foot traffic, in the 1950s the McCords added the soda fountain and lunch counter still in operation today.

While McCord Candies has changed hands multiple times over the years—Billie and Angie Pattengale became the current proprietors this summer—little else has. A trip to the shop—still furnished with vintage cupboards, display cases, and tin ceiling—is like stepping back in time. Beginning November 12 and running through December 23rd, the shop offers candy cane tours, sharing McCord’s history and letting participants test their skills in shaping the confection. You can make a reservation at mccordcandies.com/candy-cane-tours.

In 1879, Frank Winfield Woolworth opened his first “Five Cent Stores” in New York and Pennsylvania, launching a retail empire and introducing the great American institution of the “five-and-dime.” In Rockville’s historic downtown, the tradition endures at G&M Variety.

G&M Variety occupies an 1870 building that previously housed a G.C. Murphy store, another longtime variety chain. G&M owner Gary Nicola was working for G.C. Murphy when he learned that the Rockville store was one of several the company was closing across the county. Seizing the opportunity to fulfill a lifelong dream of owning a five-and-dime, he and his wife Mary bought the place in 1991. It’s been a staple of downtown Rockville ever since, and a popular destination for those traveling to Putnam County’s annual covered bridge festival. The store is so beloved that when COVID cancelled the festival in 2020, tourists still trekked to G&M Variety for their annual shopping trips. “The community here is incredibly supportive of the store,” says Gary Nicola. “They take ownership of it.”

Located in a nineteenth-century building in downtown Rockville, G&M Variety offers a little bit of everything, from crafting supplies and toys to craft sodas, jigsaw puzzles, and local souvenirs. The Saturday before Thanksgiving marks the store’s annual holiday shopping event, with giveaways, food, and 20 percent off all items. Happy shopping!
If you’re looking to add a certain sparkle to your holidays, we suggest a visit to one of Indiana’s historic jewelers. Here’s a sampling of local shops in vintage buildings, landmarks that continue to attract repeat business across generations.

On the south side of Indianapolis’s Monument Circle, a sign reading “Windsor Jewelry since 1919” proclaims the business’s longevity. Founded by Sig Asher to serve the rapidly growing city, Windsor Jewelry has survived the Great Depression, World War II, and two pandemics. Historic images of the store’s first location on Illinois Street include a horse-drawn delivery wagon parked in front. When that original location was targeted for new development, Windsor Jewelry moved to a high-profile location on first floor of the 1923 Guaranty Building, where it remains today. “With the monument as a backdrop for our sign, it’s easy for everyone to find us,” says current owner Greg Bires.

A destination store, the business specializes in custom work—repairing inherited jewelry for clients or adapting it to suit current styles—as well as watch and jewelry repairs and maintenance. “We have several fifth generation customers that still come to us,” says Bires. “For a lot of people, jewelry has a real emotional connection. They don’t want to leave it just anywhere to be cleaned or repaired.”

In the heart of Brookville, Ritzi Jewelers’ reputation for personalized service and quality jewelry draws walk-in customers and longtime patrons to its historic location on Main Street—a Neoclassical storefront with handsome leaded glass windows and oak wood façade.

Watchmaker Caspar Ritzi founded Ritzi Jewelers in 1881, moving the shop to its present location in 1900. It remained a family business for over a century, until current owners Jim and Teresa Lubic purchased it from Ritzi’s granddaughter in 2012. Inside the store, fine jewelry is displayed in century-old showcases and stored in a safe that legend suggests Caspar Ritzi acquired at the 1893 World’s Fair in Chicago. Along with selling and repairing jewelry, Ritzi Jewelers is known for offering clock repairs. Jim Lubic is a Swiss-trained master watchmaker and jeweler. “We have nineteenth-century décor and twenty-first century technology. It’s a store with a massive amount of history and we are honored to carry on the Ritzi name,” say the Lubics.

In downtown Goshen, two enduring jewelry stores—Snider’s Leading Jewelers (above) has been owned by the Snider family since 1900, expanding into Goshen and Elkhart. For all three stores, they have commissioned the same blade sign proclaiming “Sorg Jewelers.” The business includes an Art Moderne front façade, with “Sorg” spelled out in terrazzo in front of the door. "He was a man ahead of his time, creating a similar look and branding in his businesses,” says Sigmund’s great-grandson Darin Sorg, who leads the business today along with his father John. “I like to say the sign is our hardest working employee. People see it and it draws them in.”

A few years ago, Sorg’s owners gave the exterior a new period-appropriate paint scheme, following downtown design guidelines. The community’s attention to its historic architecture and promotion of local businesses through events such as First Fridays have contributed to Sorg’s decision to remain in Goshen’s core. “The community has embraced us and continues to love us the way they have for decades,” says Darin Sorg.
A Message to the Future

AFTER LIVING IN GERMANY
and historic Midwestern communi-
ties, Mary Ellen O’Connell and Pete
Bauer appreciate quality craftsmen-
ship and walkable cities. So, in 2005,
when Mary Ellen accepted a teaching
position at the University of Notre
Dame’s law school in South Bend,
the couple made finding a historic
home within biking distance of the
university a top priority. They found
it in the city’s West North Shore
Drive Historic District: a 1905
Neoclassical Revival-style house with
views of the Saint Joseph River and
overlooks the river and in the conservatory, named the “winter
garden” as it would be called in Germany. In the historic
garage that retains its mechanic’s pit, the room that originally
was the property’s chauffer now serves as Pete’s photogra-
phy studio. “I want something to last 50 years before it breaks,
so I’ve always preferred historic houses,” jokes Mary Ellen. “Pete designed
bookshelves for the room we call the library, one of our
favorite spaces.” The couple enjoys relaxing on a balcony that
and a nineteenth-century residence in Columbus’s German
Village. Since moving in on their house’s 100th anniversary,
Mary Ellen and Pete have restored nearly every inch, from
the foundation to the roof, working with Buccellato Design,
LLC, on the design. They removed 1960s alterations, includ-
ing a drop-ceiling in the kitchen and exterior aluminum
siding, exposing the original clapboard underneath. They
uncovered and restored pocket doors—which had been
blocked by plywood—and returned the house’s historic win-
dows to working order.

“The house was originally built for a banker, but apparently
he didn’t believe in books,” jokes Mary Ellen. “Pete designed
bookshelves for the room we call the library, one of our
favorite spaces.” The couple enjoys relaxing on a balcony that
overlooks the river and in the conservatory, named the “winter
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was the property’s chauffer now serves as Pete’s photogra-
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so I’ve always preferred historic houses,” adds Pete.

To ensure their hard work doesn’t go to waste, Mary Ellen
and Pete have made estate plans to leave the property to
Indiana Landmarks. “We feel like restoring this house has
become members of Indiana Landmarks.

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To protect the work
they’ve put into restoring their 1905
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that we can do things differently,” says
Mary Ellen.

The couple looks forward to opening
their house to Indiana Landmarks
members at a holiday open house on
December 15. To RSVP to attend, visit
indianalandmarks.org/tours-events.

Pete and Mary Ellen credit their par-
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Their interests naturally led them to
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The couple looks forward to opening
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Their interests naturally led them to
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2022 Board Elections

EACH YEAR, INDIANA LANDMARKS CONDUCTS elections at its annual meeting to select individuals to serve on the organization’s board of directors. In 2022, the governance committee, chaired by Charlitta Winston, recommended four candidates confirmed by Indiana Landmarks’ membership to serve three-year terms expiring in 2025:

Tyrell Anderson of Gary, an operational excellence specialist at U.S. Steel, is co-founder and president of Decay Devils, Inc., an affiliate of Indiana Landmarks. The grassroots preservation group focuses on restoring unoccupied landmarks through advocacy, place-making, and art. He is the 2019 recipient of the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s American Express Aspire Award, and in 2018 he was included in the National Trust’s list of 40 under 40. He serves as vice president on the board of trustees of the Gary Public Library and vice president of the Calumet Heritage Partnership.

Ron Bateman of Madison is a real estate developer and retired architect, originally from Frankfort, Indiana. Before retiring to Madison in 2015, Ron previously worked as an architect and developer in Texas and Alaska. He and his wife Marlene restored Madison’s 1884 Eagle Cotton Mill, recently opened as a Fairfield Inn & Suites. Ron currently serves on the Jefferson County Board of Tourism and as a trustee at Madison Presbyterian Church.

Morrie Maurer of Indianapolis is co-founder of The National Bank of Indianapolis and served for 25 years as president, chief executive officer, and director. He retired in 2018 and continues to serve on the bank’s board of directors. Morrie is a returning past board member of Indiana Landmarks and currently serves as chair of Indiana Landmarks’ investment committee. His other civic involvement includes service as emeritus director of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce and as vice chair of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce finance committee.

Bruce Rippe of Batesville is chairman and CEO of Trinity Guardian, and he previously served as CEO of Romweber. In addition to his experience in furniture manufacturing and product development, Bruce works as a real estate developer with a proven track record of adapting historic properties for use as housing, including Brownsville’s Valley House Flats and Batesville’s Romweber Flats. Bruce also serves as board chair for Batesville Senior Café, Inc.—a developer of affordable senior housing in southeast Indiana—and is a past board member of Margaret Mary Health.

To lend continuity, board members generally serve consecutive terms. Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows of Indianapolis, Candace Chapman of Evansville, Mike Corbett of Noblesville, Melissa Glaze of Roanoke, and Ray Ortko of Richmond were re-elected to second terms, and Hilary Barnes of Indianapolis, Cheri Dick of Zionsville, Brett McKamey of Westfield, Marty Rahe of Indianapolis, Candace Chapman of Evansville, Mike Corbett of Noblesville, Melissa Glaze of Roanoke, and Ray Ortko of Richmond were re-elected to second terms, and Hilary Barnes of Indianapolis, Cheri Dick of Zionsville, Brett McKamey of Westfield, Marty Rahe of Cincinnati, and Jim Renne of Newburgh were re-elected to third terms, all ending in 2025. Parker Beauchamp of Wabash retired from the board this year after serving 12 years, including terms as chair and past chair.

Indiana Landmarks’ bylaws allow terms to be extended for those in officer positions. The governance committee proposed re-election of three board members for one-year terms as officers: Sara Edgerton, Doris Anne Sadler, and Randall Shepard, all of Indianapolis. In addition, the governance committee recommended for approval by the board itself the following officers for the coming year: Randall Shepard, honorary chair; Sara Edgerton, past chair; Doris Anne Sadler, chair; Greg Fehribach, vice chair; Hilary Barnes, secretary; Thomas Engle, assistant secretary; Brett McKamey, treasurer; Marsh Davis, president; and Judy O’Bannon, secretary emerita. See the full board slate on p. 2.

Help Indiana Landmarks achieve even more by:

- Renewing your membership
- 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

A gift of Indiana Landmarks membership delivers our bimonthly magazine, e-letters featuring the latest preservation news, and discounts on special events. Best of all, it supports our historic preservation work around the state. For the holiday season, we’re offering gift memberships at a discounted rate: $10 off the regular price for individual and household memberships. Purchase by December 9 and we’ll notify recipients of your gift before the holidays. Contact Jennifer Hawk, jhawk@indianalandmarks.org, or call 800-450-4534.
Tours & Events

November/December 2022

Visit indianalandmarks.org/tours-events to RSVP and receive information on upcoming events. All event times are eastern unless otherwise noted.

Automotive Heritage Talk
Nov. 3, Indianapolis and online
Speakers from Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust, Allison Branch and Marian University highlight the legacy of automotive entrepreneur and Indianapolis Motor Speedway founder James Allison and his 64-acre Riverdale Estate, now part of Marian University. Program beings at 6 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center with brief highlights from our Indiana Automotive members. Join us in person or watch online via Zoom.

Athenaeum Tour
Nov. 6, Indianapolis
One-hour guided tour explores the history, architecture, and preservation of the Athenaeum and its evolution from German clubhouse to a hub of modern urban life. Tours depart at 1:45 p.m. and 2 p.m. Advance ticket encouraged. $10/adult; $8/member; $5/child (age 6-11); free for children ages 5 and under.

Indianapolis Architecture Talk
Nov. 14, Indianapolis and online
Architectural historian and author Dr. James Glass leads a pictorial journey through Indianapolis's residential architecture from 1820-1920, highlighting influential architects of the era while exploring decades of design evolution, from modest vernacular structures to high-style mansions to apartment buildings. $5 general public, free for Indiana Landmarks members. Join us in person at Indiana Landmarks Center or watch online via Zoom. Read more on p. 4.

House of Worship
Nov. 29, Indianapolis and online
Caleb Legg gives an overview of the history and architecture of Saint Rita Catholic Church, established by its African-American congregation in 1919 and expanded into Indianapolis's near northside with construction of a Mid-Century Modern house of worship in the 1950s. $5 general public, free for Indiana Landmarks members. Join us in person at Indiana Landmarks Center or watch online via Zoom. Read more on p. 4.

First Friday Reception
Dec. 2, Indianapolis
Group tour by 67th Street Printmakers exhibits a variety of examples of the printmaking art form. 6-9 p.m. in the Rapp Family Gallery, with an option to see Indiana Landmarks’s restored headquarters and enjoy light refreshments.

Holiday Church Tour
Dec. 3, Indianapolis
Explore the architecture, history, preservation, and tradition at five historic Indianapolis churches, many dressed for the holidays. Participants can go at their own pace in this self-guided tour, with church interiors open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pipe organ builder Goulding and Wood will also open its historic business on Massachusetts Avenue for a behind-the-scenes look. Tourgoers must provide their own transportation. $20/adult, $15/member, $10/child (age 6-11) in advance, with all prices increasing by $5 on day of tour.

Holiday Sing-Along
Dec. 15, Indianapolis
Immerse yourself in holiday cheer at “The Holly & The Ivy,” a popular annual concert featuring singers, hand-bells, and instrumentalists, including the historic organ in Indiana Landmarks Center’s Grand Hall. Colorful lighting and holiday décor set the stage for a merry evening, which includes a sing-along of favorite carols. $18 general public, $15/member, free for children age 10 and under. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., concert begins at 7 p.m.

Holiday Open Houses
IN DECEMBER, JOIN US for good food and seasonal cheer at holiday open houses for Indianapolis Landmarks members around the state. This year’s open house locations illustrate a range of architectural styles and preservation stories, including a former automotive factory, a collection of Greek Revival-style buildings, a National Historic Landmark mansion near the Ohio River, a Gothic church with Tiffany Studios interior, and a private Neoclassical-style home. Free with RSVP for members of Indiana Landmarks. 5-7 p.m. Learn more about open house sites at indianalandmarks.org/tours-events.

Dec. 1, Indianapolis
Stutz Building, 1060 North Capitol Avenue

Dec. 2, Attica
Cottrell Village, 306 East Main Street

Dec. 8, Aurora
Hillforest, 213 Fifth Street

Dec. 13, Richmond
The Reid Center, 1004 North A Street

Dec. 15, South Bend
129 West North Shore Drive
ON SEPTEMBER 15, SOUTH BEND RESIDENTS and elementary school students lined city sidewalks, cheering as a two-story brick house traveled oh-so-slowly nearly a quarter-mile from Park Lane to its new address in the city’s Chapin Park Historic District. Built in 1929 for attorney Arthur May and his wife, Elba, the stately Georgian Colonial occupied a corner of a Memorial Hospital parking lot—the last house standing in a formerly residential area. Indiana Landmarks initiated discussions with owner Beacon Health System about the house’s future in 2014. After its tenant, the Junior League of South Bend, moved out of the house in 2019, Beacon Health and Indiana Landmarks formed a plan to save the historic building and restore it to use as a single-family home.

Indiana Landmarks identified a new site for the house, secured contractors, and lined up permits. Beacon Health donated the building and contributed to the cost of the move, conducted by Wolfe House and Building Movers. “It’s a happy ending to a long and challenging project that’s involved many people,” says Todd Zeiger, director of Indiana Landmarks’ northern office. Look for it for sale at indianalandmarks.org/for-sale after we stabilize the property.