

INDIANA PRESERVATION

MARCH/APRIL 2024



INDIANA LANDMARKS

Higher Calling

Sacred Places Indiana boosts restoration
at South Bend's St. Adalbert
Catholic Church

Enduring Memory

RECENTLY I HAD THE PLEASURE of speaking to a college class about historic sites and history-related topics. When I mentioned two bastions of Indiana’s cultural heritage—James Whitcomb Riley and Cole Porter—I was met with blank stares. Never heard of them. Digging myself in deeper, I brought up Jimmy Clark, the legendary Indianapolis 500 winner. Nope.

That experience caused me to recall a sobering passage from Psalm 103:

*As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.*

With all respect to the psalmist, an important role of historic preservation is to defy the oblivion brought on by the passage of time and to sustain memory, in our case through preserving meaningful places and the stories they embody. That’s why our historic sites are so important, even as the preservation movement moves ever farther from the house museum.

If the students I spoke to had visited, for instance, the James Whitcomb Riley Home—a house museum of state and national preeminence—I’d wager the response would have been different. They just might have gained a sense of Riley’s stature in history. And, through the experience of place, they might have been granted an enduring memory.

Marsh Davis, President

On the Cover

To continue its work serving immigrant communities on South Bend’s west side, Saint Adalbert Catholic Church is raising money to repair its 1926 church, aided by a grant from our Sacred Places Indiana fund. PHOTO © CONRAD SCHMITT STUDIOS, INC.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Hon. Randall T. Shepard
Honorary Chair
Doris Anne Sadler
Chair
Sara Edgerton
Past Chair
Gregory S. Fehribach
Vice Chair
Marsh Davis
President
Brett D. McKamey
Treasurer
Hilary Barnes
Secretary
Thomas H. Engle
Assistant Secretary
Judy A. O’Bannon
Secretary Emerita

DIRECTORS

Tyrell Anderson
Gary
Sarah Evans Barker
Morgantown
The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows
Indianapolis
Ron Bateman
Madison
Bruce W. Buchanan
Indianapolis
A’Lelia Bundles
Washington, DC
Joshua A. Claybourn
Evansville
Mike Corbett
Noblesville
Ellen Swisher Crabb
Indianapolis
Cheri Dick
Zionsville

Olon F. Dotson
Muncie
Melissa Glaze
Roanoke
Tracy Haddad
Columbus
David A. Haist
Wabash
Emily J. Harrison
Attica
Tosha Huddleston
Indianapolis
Morris L. Maurer
Indianapolis
Susan Mendenhall
Fort Wayne
Shelby Moravec
LaPorte
Ray Ontko
Richmond

Martin E. Rahe
Cincinnati, OH
James W. Renne
Newburgh
David A. Resnick, CPA
Carmel
Bruce Rippe
Batesville
Sallie W. Rowland
Zionsville
Peter J. Sacopulos
Terre Haute
Robert L. Santa
Bloomington
Kert Toler
Indianapolis
Charlitta Winston
Indianapolis
Beau F. Zoeller
Henryville

OFFICES & HISTORIC SITES

Headquarters
Indiana Landmarks Center
1201 Central Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46202
info@indianalandmarks.org
(317) 639-4534
(800) 450-4534
Morris-Butler House
Indianapolis
(317) 639-4534
Veraestau
Aurora
(812) 926-0983
French Lick and West Baden Springs tours
(866) 571-8687 (toll free)
(812) 936-5870
Central Regional Office
Indianapolis
(317) 639-4534
Eastern Regional Office
Richmond
(765) 478-3172

Northern Regional Office
South Bend
(574) 232-4534
Northeast Field Office
Wabash
(800) 450-4534
Northwest Field Office
Gary
(219) 947-2657
Southern Regional Office
New Albany
(812) 284-4534
Southeast Field Office
Aurora
(812) 926-0983
Southwest Field Office
Evansville
(812) 423-2988
Western Regional Office
Terre Haute
(812) 232-4534

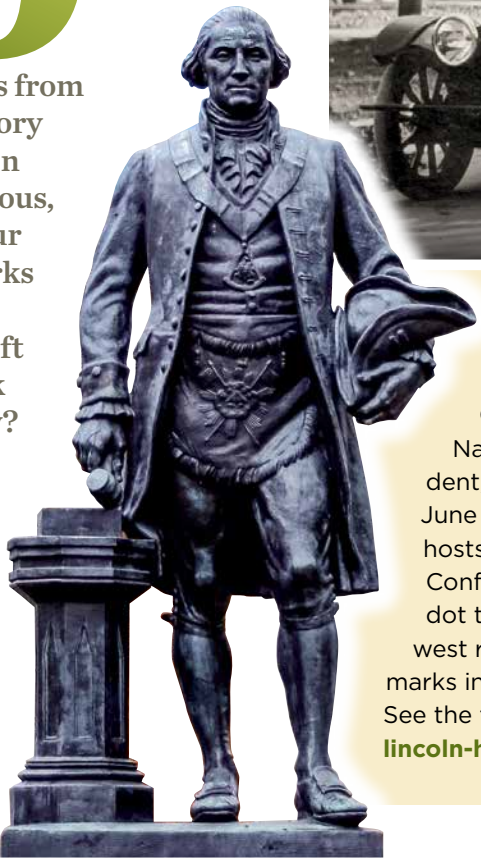
©2024, Indiana Landmarks; ISSN#: 0737-8602
Indiana Landmarks publishes *Indiana Preservation* bimonthly for members. To join and learn other membership benefits, visit indianalandmarks.org or contact memberships@indianalandmarks.org, 317-639-4534 or 800-450-4534. To offer suggestions for *Indiana Preservation*, contact editor@indianalandmarks.org.

STARTERS

16

influential figures from Indianapolis history come into focus on Notable & Notorious, a new walking tour Indiana Landmarks is offering on March 18. Who left the greatest mark on the Circle City? Get to know the contenders as you stroll in downtown Indianapolis, ranking your favorites along the way. Learn more on p. 17.

PHOTO BY KELLY HARRIS



Driving Force

IN 1912, HOOSIER CARL FISHER COORDINATED the development of America’s first paved trans-continental road for automobiles from New York City’s Times Square to San Francisco’s Lincoln Park. Named the Lincoln Highway in honor of the former president, the highway spanned 3,200 miles and 750 towns. On June 24-28, the Byway takes center stage as Elkhart County hosts the Lincoln Highway Association 30th Annual National Conference, highlighting the history and landmarks that still dot the landscape, including guided tours along the east and west routes in northern Indiana spotlighting historic landmarks in South Bend, Plymouth, Warsaw, Ligonier, and Goshen. See the full itinerary and register: visitelkhartcounty.com/lincoln-highway-association-conference.

PHOTO © ELKHART COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM

RUSTIC RETREAT

Nestled in the middle of Brown County’s scenic Youngman Woods Nature Preserve, an 1880s log home offers a peaceful retreat with over a century of history. Once part of an extensive farm owned by Charles and Elizabeth Youngman, today the property is owned by the McKamey family. Located just minutes from downtown Nashville, the restored home blends the best of old and new, boasting hand-hewn logs and an original stone fireplace alongside a 2017 addition with modern bath, kitchen, and master bedroom. Bid on your chance to stay at the cabin and enjoy other Nashville amenities in one of several one-of-a-kind packages up for auction at Indiana Landmarks’ Rescue Party on April 27. See more on p. 17.



© BRETT MCKAMEY



Tricks of the Trades

IN 2018, A GROUP OF OLD-HOUSE OWNERS IN

South Bend began regularly gathering after work to have drinks and swap stories. As they shared the pride and pitfalls of restoring their historic homes, a common theme emerged around the challenge of finding tradespeople with the skills to repair plaster, rehab wood windows, and address other specialized old house repairs.

“I was working for the historic preservation commission at the time and a lot of people living in historic properties were coming to us for advice and questions,” says Elicia Garske. “We were trying to connect them to others who were doing what they were asking.”

From these Beer and Buildings gatherings, a group emerged in fall 2021 with the idea of addressing this knowledge deficit. Called South Bend TradeWorks, the group’s chief aim is providing training in traditional trades, giving homeowners the ability to undertake their own projects and helping create a pipeline for contractors to fill in the gap. Indiana Landmarks supplied a grant to cover legal costs of forming the new nonprofit and partnered with the group in 2023 to launch a series of trades training workshops offering instruction in such topics as restoring and refinishing wood floors, restoring historic windows, and repairing wood, masonry, and plaster.

A group of old-house owners formed South Bend TradeWorks in 2021 to help address a shortage of skilled preservation tradespeople. They partnered with Indiana Landmarks in 2023 to offer a series of workshops to equip homeowners and contractors with old-building repair skills, such as repairing wood, masonry, and plaster, and restoring historic windows. The groups are launching another series of trades workshops beginning in March.

PHOTO BY TODD ZEIGER

South Bend TradeWorks Secretary Peter Wallace came to the group with his own old-house horror stories. He and his wife Virginia moved to downtown South Bend in 2019 after they purchased an 1892 house on Navarre Street located at the gateway to a historic neighborhood. Owned by an out-of-town bank, the house was encumbered with code violations and questionable modifications. “There was one functioning toilet, sink, and shower—each in a different bathroom—when we moved in with our seven children and dog Henry the Eighth,” recalls Wallace. “We wondered, ‘What are we getting into? Are we crazy?’ The answer was yes, but we seem to fit with other crazy people.”

With no place in South Bend where people could find historic doors, windows, and other vintage furnishings for their rehab projects, Wallace and other South Bend

TradeWorks members identified another need for the local old-house community. To meet the demand, South Bend TradeWorks launched an architectural salvage shop, which is currently stocked through donations. Looking to the future, the group’s members hope to build a network that can thoughtfully deconstruct buildings destined for demolition, selling the historic materials in the shop and saving them from the landfill.

In her current job working for H.G. Christman Construction, Garske has brainstormed with co-workers about how to recruit workers to apprentice with traditional trades craftspeople to help address the shortage of skilled contractors. To introduce the next generation to traditional trades as they consider career options, Garske won a fellowship to plan a South Bend TradeWorks field school for high schoolers last summer, supported by a Historic Preservation Education Grant from Indiana Landmarks and Indiana Humanities. Through in-person demonstrations and field trips to historic sites, the week-long program offered a condensed education on various aspects of preservation and working with old house materials. “I feel like this same program could be tailored to offer to any other audience,” says Garske. “Part of educating people is just helping them learn these things exist.”



South Bend TradeWorks expanded its mission by launching an architectural salvage shop, seeking to fill another void for the area’s old-house community. The group also offered a field school for high schoolers in 2023 to expose them to various aspects of preservation and traditional trades.

PHOTOS BY TODD ZEIGER
AND © SOUTH BEND
TRADEWORKS

Ready for Restoration?

INDIANA LANDMARKS and South Bend TradeWorks offer a series of trades workshops this spring aimed at helping people acquire skills in common old-house repair, restoration, and maintenance, including wood-working basics, repairing wood windows, and tips for hiring a contractor. Taught by experts, the series aims to equip owners of historic homes with DIY knowledge and contractors with in-demand skills to offer clients. See the workshop line-up on page 18.

Divine Direction

FOR NEARLY A CENTURY, the twin steeples of Saint Adalbert Catholic Church have signaled the presence of a robust religious community on South Bend's west side. In the early 1900s, first-generation Polish immigrants founded the church, its largely working-class parishioners contributing money and hands-on labor to construct a combination church and school completed in 1911. In the following decades, the campus expanded to include a Renaissance Revival-style rectory (1915), Neo-Gothic church (1926), and Mid-Century Modern-style Felician convent (1964). Today, Saint Adalbert still carries out its mission of serving first-generation immigrants—primarily from Mexico—with a blended congregation that celebrates Mexican and Polish cultural traditions.

Around 3,000 call Saint Adalbert home, with an average of 900 attending mass any given Sunday. Enrollment is nearly at capacity at the school, which serves students pre-K through 8th grade. The historic church hosts weddings, funerals, baptisms, confirmations, first communions, and quinceañeras. Saint Adalbert welcomes visitors to access its food pantry, take citizenship classes, and have letters translated. Well-kept houses surround the historic church campus, a testimony to the church's stabilizing effect on the neighborhood.

"This church's history of serving the foreign-born rings true with our Spanish-speaking families," says parish-

Founded to minister to South Bend's Polish community, Saint Adalbert Catholic Church continues to serve a congregation of primarily first-generation immigrants, today from Mexico. The congregation is raising \$2.7 million to address urgent exterior repairs to its 1926 Neo-Gothic church so it can continue to carry out its mission.

PHOTO © KIL ARCHITECTURE



ioner Don Popielarz. "They are drawn by the art, architecture, and history of this immigrant parish and knowing people who attend here have done this before and welcome them. It's in our DNA."

Though vibrant, the congregation's resources are limited, making the restoration needs of its landmark campus seem daunting. When plaster began raining down during a recent confirmation, it illuminated the growing need for repairs. Kil Architecture assessed the church, noting an immediate need for a new roof to halt the water infiltration causing significant plaster deterioration. Rotting window frames and brickwork require repair, one of the steeples is moving, and aging heating and cooling systems need to be replaced.

"The study showed that if we delay five years, the cost of repairs doubles. If we wait ten years, we may not have a

Grant Awards

Supported by funding from Lilly Endowment Inc., Indiana Landmark's Sacred Places Indiana Fund awarded over \$2 million in capital grants in 2023 to support congregations in historic houses of worship.

Broadway United Methodist Church, Indianapolis: \$400,000 for bell tower and limestone façade restoration.

First Christian Church, Bloomington: \$250,000 to replace heating and cooling systems.

Meridian Street United Methodist Church, Indianapolis: \$40,000 to remove and repair an exterior ramp and reconstruct limestone steps and iron handrails.

North United Methodist Church, Indianapolis: \$250,000 for masonry repairs to halt water infiltration.

Park Place Church of God, Anderson: \$300,000 for masonry repairs on the church steeple.

Saint Adalbert Catholic Church, South Bend: \$400,000 for exterior repairs.

Saint Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church, Michigan City: \$400,000 for repairs to the twin bell towers.

Applications are being accepted through July 2024 for the next round of funding. Interested congregations can determine eligibility by submitting a letter of interest at indianalandmarks.org/sacred-places-indiana.



church, which would be devastating to our congregation, neighborhood, and South Bend," says Popielarz.

The first phase to make the building watertight will cost an estimated \$2.7 million, with an overall \$14 million needed to address other maintenance issues, add accessible bathrooms, and restore the church interior. The long-term plan would repair its extensive stained glass and decorative elements and conserve artwork including a 1940 mural painted by Chicago artist Jan Malin depicting workers receiving instruction from a priest under a fallen Christ, with smoke rising from a factory in the background, likely inspired by parishioners' role in South Bend's industry.

By joining one of Indiana Landmarks' Sacred Places Indiana training cohorts, Saint Adalbert leaders received direction in fundraising and participated in asset mapping. Church leaders paired English- and Spanish-speaking parishioners together with translators to share congregational strengths and assemble an action plan. The session boosted morale and showed church leaders a new way to hold meetings with its multilingual congregation. "We often think about what we lack, so it's important to see the assets we have," says Father Ryan Pietrocarlo. "We're not starting from zero, and this showed us we have a lot to offer the community."

To support the first phase of restoration, Saint Adalbert received \$400,000 from the first round of grants from Indiana Landmarks' Sacred Places Indiana fund, and a \$250,000 matching grant from the National Fund for Sacred Places, a program of Partners for Sacred Places and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

"Many of our parishioners were part of a historic church that closed in 2003 because the repairs it needed were too immense, and they don't want to see the same thing happen at Saint Adalbert," says Pietrocarlo. "There's a lot of excitement and buy-in, while at the same time we seek additional support to reach our goals."

Once the church gets a new roof and other exterior repairs to halt water infiltration, the congregation will focus on the next phase of restoration, addressing interior maintenance and accessibility issues and repairing stained glass and artwork, including a 1940 mural (above) depicting workers receiving religious instruction with a factory in the background, likely inspired by the Polish workers who attended the church at the time.

PHOTO © KIL ARCHITECTURE



BUILDING CONFIDENCE

To abbreviate a quote from British architect Stephen Gardiner, “Good buildings come from good people.” Creating buildings requires the labor of many hands, including the architects and draftsmen who work with clients to create the designs, plans, and blueprints, and the builders, contractors, and craftspeople who execute them. In telling the stories of places that shape our historic downtowns and neighborhoods, knowing the motivation behind their development enriches our appreciation.

In this issue, we examine driving forces behind the creation of several Indiana landmarks: the general contractor that built most of Indianapolis’s notable architecture, a pioneering builder who fought discrimination to create quality housing for Black homeowners in Fort Wayne, and a prolific prefabricated home-building company that helped make the American dream accessible to home buyers around Indiana and beyond.

Founded in 1875 and still in operation, general contractor Jungclaus-Campbell Construction Co. built many of Indianapolis’s most recognizable landmarks, including Murat Shrine Temple. A talk at Indiana Landmarks Center on March 14 delves into the company’s history and archives.

PHOTO BY JUNGCLAUS-CAMPBELL IMAGE COLLECTION, IUPUI UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

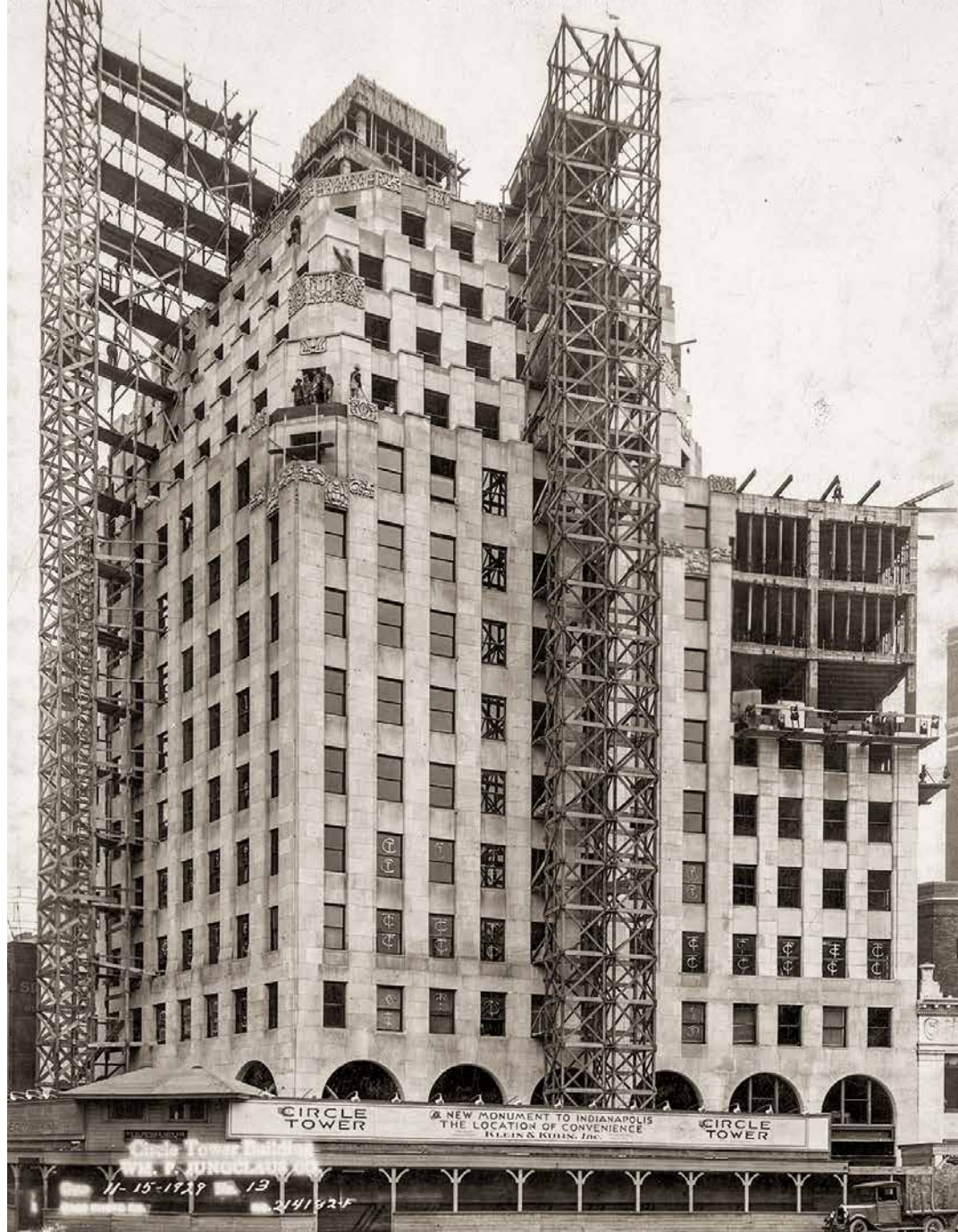
SHAPING A CITY

IT'S SAFE TO SAY INDIANAPOLIS would look very different without the Jungclaus-Campbell Construction Co. Founded in 1875, the firm is responsible for many of the capital city's highest-profile landmarks including Madam C.J. Walker Building, Indiana State Library, the Illinois Building, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Murat Shrine Temple, the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant and its additions, Perry Stadium, and—on Monument Circle alone—the Guaranty Building, Columbia Club, and Circle Tower.

Beyond its robust portfolio of commercial buildings, schools, and churches in Indianapolis, Jungclaus-Campbell took on other projects around the state, including an addition to French Lick Hotel, the Purdue University's Agriculture Building in West Lafayette, and the now-demolished Terre Haute House, among others.

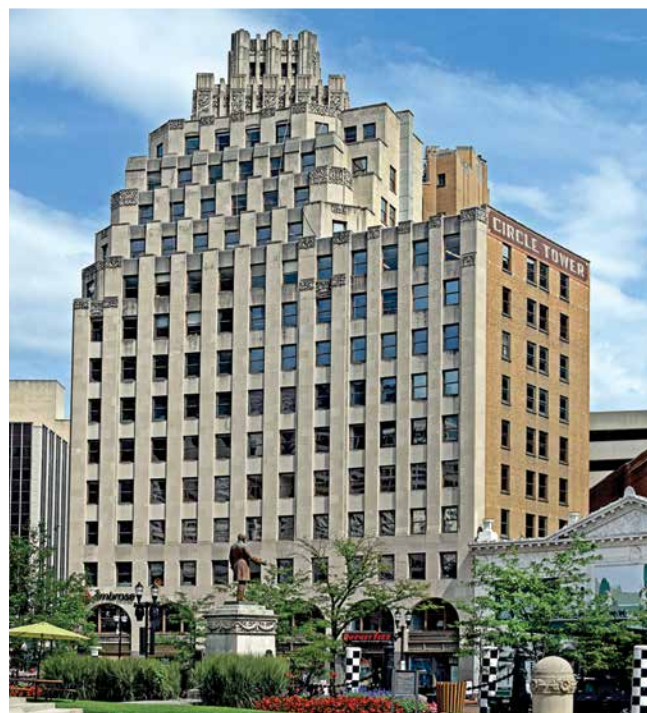
Researching Jungclaus's history became a passion project for Ed Fujawa, author of the book *Vanished Indianapolis*, who was invited by neighbor and sixth-generation company owner Bill Nagler to see the records kept at Jungclaus's Indianapolis offices. "He knew I had started writing history articles for our neighborhood newsletter," says Fujawa. "I went downtown, and they had all this stuff laid out and I realized, this is not going to be a one-day project."

Spanning the company's work from the early 1900s to the 1980s, the collection proved to be a treasure trove of resources related to construction of some of the city's greatest landmarks,



Jungclaus-Campbell left a significant mark on Indianapolis's Monument Circle, constructing high-profile landmarks that remain today including the Guaranty Building, Columbia Club, and Circle Tower (above). A recent project to digitize decades of company records and photos provides a new resource for researching the city's historic architecture.

PHOTO BY JUNGCLAUS-CAMPBELL
IMAGE COLLECTION, IUPUI
UNIVERSITY LIBRARY AND LEE
LEWELLEN



including ledgers with project estimates and bid details, and albums documenting buildings in various stages of construction and deconstruction.

The records inspired a series of articles on Fujawa's blog *Class 900* exploring the history of the Jungclaus family and deeper research into the company's high-profile commissions, such as the Art Deco-style Circle Tower completed in 1930 on Indianapolis's Monument Circle. Because the firm documented buildings it would demolish before beginning construction, the collection included images of the tower's predecessors: the State Savings and Trust Company and Franklin Building. Looking at newspaper accounts of Circle Tower's construction, Fujawa discovered the difficulties the firm had in demolishing the former bank on site, stymied by the building's steel-reinforced concrete foundation and concrete and metal vault. "The vault and its concrete foundation did not want to go easily, and Jungclaus's demolition crews spent several weeks chipping away at the concrete," he writes in a blog post about the project. After days of attacking the foundation with sledgehammers and drills, workers blasted the site with dynamite.

Today, the Jungclaus-Campbell collection is available to anyone with Internet access. The University Library of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis worked with the firm in 2023 to digitize the records and photographs. Not only do the images provide a unique perspective on construction of some of the state's greatest landmarks, they also reveal buildings that have been lost from the surrounding landscape. Company records include

Along with showcasing landmarks under construction, Jungclaus-Campbell's archives document deconstruction of prior landmarks, workers on site, and contain details of project bids and architects. The company's offices anchor the historic Capitol City Planing Mill on Massachusetts Avenue. William P. Jungclaus bought the building for the business in 1895.

PHOTO BY EVAN HALE

notes on project architects and construction costs, potentially filling in missing gaps for researchers. "They captured a moment in time for these buildings in Indianapolis's history," says Deedee Davis, digital scholarship services specialist with Herron Art Library. "It's a treasure to any architectural historian."

"It's a powerful experience for me to see those people who were physically working on these old jobs," says Nagler. "Then as now, this company is not just a bunch of brick buildings on Massachusetts Avenue. It's the people who work in the office and out in the field who put the work in place."

Jungclaus-Campbell still occupies the 1865 Capitol City Planing Mill on Indianapolis's Massachusetts Avenue. William P. Jungclaus bought the building for the business in 1895. There, the company could create cabinetry, windows, doors, trim, and other millwork for its various projects. Located just steps from the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant later constructed by the firm, today the complex is a mixed-use development anchored by the company's offices.

Learn more about the rich history of Jungclaus-Campbell and the history captured within its extraordinary archives during a talk at Indiana Landmarks Center in Indianapolis on March 14. See p. 16 for details.

EXPLORE MORE

Jungclaus-Campbell collection at IUPUI University Library:

ulib.iupui.edu/digitalcollections/JC

Class 900 Blog by Ed Fujawa:
class900indy.com

The Jungclaus Mill:
jungclausmill.com



PAVING THE WAY

The road to construction wasn't always smooth for for minority builders in Indiana, who encountered discrimination and roadblocks from banks, local government, and neighbors. Despite these challenges, Black homebuilder Roosevelt Barnes Sr. persevered to develop a neighborhood of Ranch houses and more on Fort Wayne's southeast side in the 1950s-70s.

Barnes moved to the city from Alabama as a teenager, working at the Studebaker and International Harvester factories while moonlighting at secondary jobs that eventually gave him the skills to establish his own plastering and construction companies. His reputation as a builder prompted Black families to hire him to construct custom-built homes in what became known as the city's Southern Heights neighborhood, an area where redlining practices had restricted African American families from owning and developing property.

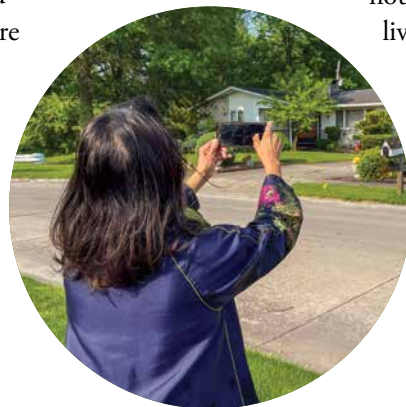
In 2023, a coalition of organizations partnered to bring greater recognition to Barnes' local legacy, including the Fort Wayne committee of Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program (ILBHPP), local preservation affiliate ARCH, Inc., the African American Genealogical Society of Fort Wayne, and the African/African-American Historical Society & Museum.

Supported by a ILBHPP grant, the group undertook a survey of Barnes-built homes, starting with a list of homes credited to him in the Southern Heights neighborhood. Committee members researched the properties to confirm their provenance, taking photos of still-standing homes and conducting interviews with homeowners, many of whom are original owners or their descendants.

They shared stories of how their families were denied home loans by banks, and how Barnes would use his own money to finance materials and subcontractors until he could receive payment, often at a project's end. When the City would not grant him licensing to proceed, Barnes took his case to court at the state level to get permission to build. He continued to face other challenges, as vandals sabotaged equipment, broke windows, and threw

Fort Wayne home-builder Roosevelt Barnes Sr. fought racial barriers to offer quality housing to Black homeowners in the 1950s-70s in what became known as the city's Southern Heights neighborhood, including the home (above) of plumbing contractor Harold Stith and his wife, Hana, a local schoolteacher. The Fort Wayne committee of Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program joined several local organizations in 2023 to undertake a survey (below) documenting Barnes' work, photographing houses and interviewing homeowners.

PHOTOS © ARCH, INC.



paint on homes under construction. Barnes fought the discrimination, paving the way locally for fair housing and building practices.

"Hearing what these people were up against in trying to build a house, Barnes was their saving grace," says local genealogist and committee member Roberta Ridley. "He did more than just give them a home, he helped to provide them pride of ownership and hope."

Last fall, the committee shared its research at a public talk. Members are considering ways to further recognize Barnes' work in Southern Heights and elsewhere in the city, where he also constructed churches and a grand estate called "The Hill," completed in 1972 for Dr. James and Marjorie Graham. In the '70s, he also opened a grocery store to improve access to food in the middle of town. Beyond Fort Wayne, Barnes worked as general contractor remodeling all Indiana's Merry Miller Manor nursing homes.

"He was a remodeler. Then he decided, 'I think I can build some houses, so others have a better way of living,'" says daughter Ann Barnes-Smith, who moved with her family to Southern Heights to live in one of her father's designs when she was in elementary school. "He was always a visionary and he worked with clients to figure out what they wanted. I'm so glad everything he worked so long for is being remembered."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In the mid-twentieth century, the introduction of factory-made housing sped development of neighborhoods around Indiana, helping many achieve the American dream of owning a home. By using assembly lines to create shippable panels that could be constructed by contractors or homeowners at building sites, manufacturers of prefabricated homes offered a solution for affordable housing.

Two of these prolific manufacturers were based in Indiana: Gunnison Homes and National Homes Corporation. Founded in 1935 in New Albany, Gunnison claimed to be the first commercially successful mass-produced housing prefabricator in the U.S. But National Homes, established in Lafayette in 1940 by three former Gunnison employees, outpaced them in volume, boosted by wartime contracts for worker housing and the demand for houses that qualified for federal government home loans.

As millions of veterans returned home from World War II, an urgent need for housing emerged. National Homes responded with the 1949 "Thrift Home," a two-bedroom model

Beginning in 1940, National Homes Corporation of Lafayette offered prefabricated homes aimed at providing affordable housing in Indiana and beyond. Its "Thrift Home" model (below) sold for \$5,750 including the lot. Today, Lafayette's Vinton Homes neighborhood retains several National Homes models from the 1940s, while nearby Vinton Woods includes high-end models (bottom) built for company executives.

PHOTOS © TIPPECANOE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, LAFAYETTE, IN AND TOMMY KLECKNER

priced at \$5,750 including lot, with house payments at \$35 per month. Savvy marketing alongside such forward-thinking practices as home financing offered directly to buyers helped National Homes gain a 25 percent share of the prefabrication market in the 1950s.

National Homes lived up to its name by adding manufacturing plants in New York and Texas and creating a network of dealer-builders in other states, recruited through national ad campaigns. The company hired architects to create two-, three-, and four-bedroom models with options to add on porches and garages, designed in popular period styles including Cape Cods, Colonials, split-levels, Ranches, and Contemporary. Lafayette's Vinton Homes subdivision retains examples of National Homes styles popular in the 1940s, while Vinton Woods includes high-end models constructed for company executives.

National Homes' sales started dropping in the 1960s, hampered by a shift towards apartment living, chang-



ing preferences for larger single-family homes, and rising cost of land. Attempts to expand and diversify as the housing market declined in the '70s put the company in deep debt, and the Lafayette plant closed in 1984. But today, houses developed by National Homes still stand in neighborhoods around Indiana and beyond, testifying to a unique chapter in America's home-building history.

Protecting a Labor of Love

WHEN ARLINE NATION SAW

Fort Wayne’s historic Becker House in 2012, she knew she wanted it for her home. However, the road to owning the 1886 Queen Anne wasn’t easy.

After years of vacancy, the fore-closed property was a wreck, with broken plumbing and radiators, damage from frozen pipes, and cracks in almost every window. But, beneath the damage, Nation saw her dream Victorian home. “It took almost a year from the time I put my offer in to get the house in my name and fix to a point it was livable,” says Nation.

Since her teen years, she’s devoured information about renovating old houses, using her informal knowledge and advice from local preservation experts to guide the home’s transformation. After closing on the property, Nation started ticking off repairs, replacing the boiler and broken radiators, fixing plumbing, masonry, and windows, and repairing the collapsed roof on the carriage house. With exterior work largely complete, she’s now focusing on interior renovations. A retired nurse, Nation manages rental properties and puts the proceeds back into ongoing house repairs.

“People told me I was crazy for putting money in a house that I was never going to get back, but I didn’t care because I love this house,” says Nation.



Since purchasing her Victorian dream home in Fort Wayne in 2012, Arline Nation has carefully repaired the 1886 Queen Anne to bring back its historic features. To protect her hard work, Nation plans to leave the house as an estate gift to Indiana Landmarks, which will attach protective covenants to the property.

PHOTO BY SIERAH BARNHART PHOTOGRAPHY

The home remained in the Becker family for nearly a century before it was divided into four apartments. Fortunately, the conversion retained original features previous owners were able to reclaim in the 1990s: hidden fireplaces, perfectly preserved pocket doors, and even a walled-up staircase.

Her love for the property inspired Nation to hire Indiana Landmarks’ affiliate ARCH to nominate the house to the National Register of Historic Places.

Nation regularly attends Preserving Historic Places, Indiana’s statewide preservation conference, where she likes to visit the historic downtowns that host the confer-

ence and gather preservation ideas for her hometown. While serving as leader of a local neighborhood advocacy group, Nation learned how historic preservation can play a role in vibrant communities, insight that prompted her to become a member of Indiana Landmarks.

She extended her interest in local history to researching every parcel in her neighborhood, a personal project that has also made her aware of the area’s history as home to many of Fort Wayne’s Irish immigrants, and the zoning policies that destroyed some of that heritage. Fearing a similar fate for her home, Nation decided to donate her property to Indiana Landmarks as an estate gift, which will be protected with our preservation covenants.

“I’m not married, and I don’t have children. When I’m gone, I don’t want this house to end up in worse shape than I got it or be sold to someone who will tear it down,” says Nation. “Indiana Landmarks’ preservation easements help me know that’s not going to happen to my house.”

FOR RENT

LANDMARKS ON THE MARKET

see more at indianalandmarks.org/for-sale



Frost House

Michigan City
Available for rent

Mid-Century Modern standout just five minutes from the Lake Michigan shore offers a unique getaway for architecture enthusiasts. Named Dwell’s 2017 #1 Prefab Home, this timeless 1964 design by architect Emil Tessen features spacious bedrooms, time-capsule interiors, and a luxurious heated saltwater pool. Part of the exclusive Beachwalk Vacation Rentals Collection. Book your stay at beachwalkvacationrentals.com.



BRIEFLY NOTED

Noah Nobbe recently joined Indiana Landmarks as community preservation specialist in our Western Regional Office. Nobbe holds a bachelor’s degree in public history from Ball State University and master’s degree in public history from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. He brings experience gained from internships with the James Whitcomb Riley Museum Home, the National Council on Public History, and the Indiana State Museum.

Nominations for the **Sandi Servaas Memorial Award** for outstanding achievement in historic preservation and John Arnold Award for Rural Preservation are due April 15, 2024.

The annual Servaas Memorial Award recognizes winners in two categories: an organizational award, which comes with a \$2,000 cash prize, and a youth-serving award, which comes with a \$1,000 cash prize. Both winners also receive the Servaas Memorial Award sculpture, “No Doors to Lock Out the Past.”

The annual **John Arnold Award** recognizes the preservation and continued use of historic farming-related buildings in an active farming operation. The award winner receives an outdoor marker and feature coverage in Indiana Landmarks’ member magazine, *Indiana Preservation*.

Find nomination forms for both awards at indianalandmarks.org/awards.

Tours & Events

March/April 2024



KELLY HARRIS

Visit indianalandmarks.org/tours-events to RSVP and learn more about upcoming events. All event times are Eastern unless otherwise noted.

If These Walls Could Tell

March 3, Indianapolis and online

Storyteller Celestine Bloomfield comes to Indiana Landmarks Center to share an original story about Indianapolis's Bottleworks, winner of Indiana Landmarks' 2023 Cook Cup for Outstanding Restoration. Indiana Landmarks and Storytelling Arts of Indiana host the If These Walls Could Tell series with support from Frank and Katrina Basile. 4-5:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$15/person at storytellingarts.org.

Building Indianapolis

March 14, Indianapolis and online

As Indianapolis's oldest general contractor, the Junglaus-Campbell Company holds a treasure trove of resources related to the construction of some of the city's greatest landmarks, including the Coca-Cola Bottling Company (now Bottleworks), Madam C. J. Walker Building, and Circle Tower. Join Bill Nagler, sixth-generation owner of Junglaus-Campbell Construction; Ed Fujawa, author of *Vanished Indianapolis*; and Deedee Davis, digital scholarship services specialist with Herron Art Library, for a look into the company's history. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center and talk begins at 6 p.m. \$5/general public; free to members with RSVP.

Indy's Notable & Notorious

March 18

Part historic walking tour, part imaginary showdown, discover Indianapolis history through the lives of some of the most memorable characters to shape the Circle City. Get to know our 16 contenders as you stroll downtown on a guided interactive tour. Tourgoers will rank their favorites tournament-style to reveal their choice for Indianapolis's most notable—or notorious—historical figure. Tours depart at 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. \$20/adult (ages 12 and up); \$17/member; \$15/child (ages 6-11); free to children ages 5 and under.

Conversations in Indiana African American History and Culture

March 21 & April 18

Freetown Village presents historians, researchers, and educators sharing their knowledge of Indiana's Black heritage, followed by a question-and-answer session. Sponsored by Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program, Indiana Humanities, and IUPUI Africana Studies. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center and talk begins at 6 p.m. in person and online. Free with RSVP.

Talking Track

April 4, Indianapolis and online

Curt Cavin, motorsports writer, and Paul Page, veteran broadcaster, take the stage at Indiana Landmarks Center to chat about racing and track culture at the famed Brickyard, a National Historic Landmark. Sponsored by our Indiana Automotive affinity group. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center and talk begins at

FRENCH LICK & WEST BADEN SPRINGS TOURS

Discover the fascinating history of two turn-of-the-century hotels and their award-winning restorations on daily guided tours. (Wed.-Sat., Jan.-May and Tues.-Sat., June-Dec.)

West Baden Springs Hotel

2 & 4 p.m.

French Lick Springs Hotel

Noon

Tickets cost \$15/adult, \$13/member, \$8/child ages 6-15, and are free to children ages 5 and under.

Behind-the-Scenes Tours

Get an exclusive peek at spaces not normally open to the public at West Baden Springs Hotel on a two-hour tour beginning at 2 p.m. on select Thursdays, March-December. Mar. 28 and Apr. 25. Tickets cost \$50/person, \$45/member.

indianalandmarks.org/french-lick-west-baden

6 p.m. followed by Q&A. \$10/general public; free with RSVP for Indiana Automotive and Indiana Landmarks members.

First Friday Art Show

April 5, Indianapolis

Indiana Landmarks Center's Rapp Family Gallery hosts a free art show and reception featuring local artists' paintings of Indiana waterways. 6-9 p.m.



JESSICA KRAMER

RESCUE PARTY

April 27, Indianapolis

Help us save endangered landmarks and enjoy an evening of convivial Hoosier hospitality during our annual Rescue Party at Indiana Landmarks Center, featuring food, drinks, music, and more inspired by this year's "Home in Indiana" theme. Support even more endangered places by bidding in a live auction of one-of-a-kind experiences at historic Indiana locales. All proceeds support Indiana Landmarks' work to save meaningful places. 5-10 p.m. Early bird pricing is \$100/person through April 1.

Indianapolis German Heritage Bike Tour

April 20, Indianapolis

During the second half of the nineteenth century, Germans immigrated to Indianapolis in large numbers, coinciding with a period of intense growth for the city. Bike through downtown Indy and Fountain Square on a leisurely guided tour exploring the enduring impact of German heritage on the city’s landmarks, economics, politics, culture, and more. Groups will cover approximately eight miles over three hours, including stops at multiple interiors. Departure times vary. \$35/general public (ages 16 and up); \$30/member (ages 16 and up).

SAMARA TOURS

Apr.-Nov.
West Lafayette

Explore Samara, one of Frank Lloyd Wright’s most fully realized Usonian designs, on regular public tours offered at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., Wed.-Sun., except when the house is closed for private events. \$20/general public; \$18/member; \$5/child (ages 6-11); free to children ages 5 and under.

samara-house.org



TODD ZEIGER

Trades Training Workshops

March-November, South Bend

A series of trades training workshops presented by Indiana Landmarks and South Bend TradeWorks aims to equip historic homeowners with DIY knowledge and contractors with in-demand skills to offer clients with historic building repair needs. Pricing and locations vary. Visit our website for individual workshop details.

MARCH 6 – Woodworking Basics

APRIL 3 – Hiring a Contractor and Planning Your Project

MAY 1 – Wood Window Restoration 101

MAY 17 – Wood Window Restoration 201

White River State Park Tour

April 24, May 11, & May 15;
Indianapolis

Explore the cultural significance of White River State Park on a guided walking tour highlighting the area’s history from Indianapolis’s settlement to the present day. Take a closer look at landmarks within the park including the historic Washington Street bridge, limestone-lined river promenade, 1870 pumphouse, and more. Presented in partnership with White River State Park Development Commission. Departure times vary. \$12/adult (ages 18 and up); \$10/member; \$7/child (ages 6-17); free to children 5 and under.

Indianapolis Saturday Morning Strolls

April-September

Old Northside Neighborhood Walking Tour

Explore the history of one of the city’s most fashionable early residential areas on a 90-minute guided tour of the Old Northside Historic District, where business rivals, publishing magnates, and influential women competed for prestige in the late nineteenth century and formed an enduring community. Observe architectural styles and learn how the preservation movement spurred the community’s post-1960s revitalization. Tours depart at 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on April 13 and July 20. \$20/general public; \$17/member; \$15/child (ages 6-11); free to children 5 and under.

Save the date to explore other Indianapolis neighborhoods in 2024: May 9 in Woodruff Place, May 18 and August 10 in Chatham-Arch, and June 1 and September 14 in Herron-Morton Place.

Logs to Lustrons Talk & Tour

May 3-4, Indiana Dunes National Park

On May 4, Indiana Landmarks partners with the National Park Service to present the annual Logs to Lustrons tour, featuring 13 sites and 6 interiors highlighting a century of architecture in the Indiana Dunes—from log homes to Victorian-era houses to Modernist residences. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Central Time. Tourgoers park at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. State Road 49, Porter, and join a ranger-led group tour on buses, with last tour bus departing at 1:30 p.m. \$30/general public, \$25/member, free to children or youth under age 16 with RSVP.

The evening before the tour, learn about the historic and contemporary pathways of Indiana’s Calumet Region during a “Trails to Rails” talk at the visitor center. Guest speakers will trace the centuries-old routes used by native inhabitants, freedom seekers, and rail lines, exploring their impact over time. 6-8 p.m. Central Time. \$15/general public, \$10/member.

HELP INDIANA LANDMARKS ACHIEVE EVEN MORE

- Renew your membership
- Make a donation in addition to membership
- Include Indiana Landmarks in your estate plans

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



KELLY HARRIS

Indianapolis Walking Tour Wednesdays

April-September

Monument Circle Historic District

One-hour guided walking tours explore Indianapolis’s most recognizable historic district, highlighting how and why these blocks have become a symbol of the city. Tours depart at 6 and 6:30 p.m. on April 3, May 1, and June 5. \$10/adult (ages 12 and up); \$8/member; \$5/child (ages 6-11); free to children 5 and under.

Downtown Safari Tours

Discover animals in architecture and sculpture on a one-hour guided tour exploring downtown Indianapolis. Guides share stories and symbolism behind these creatures and explain what they reveal about the city’s history. Tours depart at 6 and 6:30 p.m. on April 10, May 8, and July 17. \$10/adult (ages 12 and up); \$8/member; \$5/child (ages 6-11); free to children ages 5 and under.

Decoding Downtown

Explore the hidden history of downtown Indianapolis landmarks on a 90-minute guided tour. Along the way, learn about architectural styles and compete for fun prizes. Tours depart at 6 and 6:30 p.m. on April 17, May 22, and June 26. \$20/adult (ages 12 and up); \$17/member; \$15/child (ages 6-11); free to children 5 and under.



INDIANA LANDMARKS

1201 Central Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Nonprofit Org.

PAID

U.S. Postage
Indianapolis, IN
Permit No. 3464

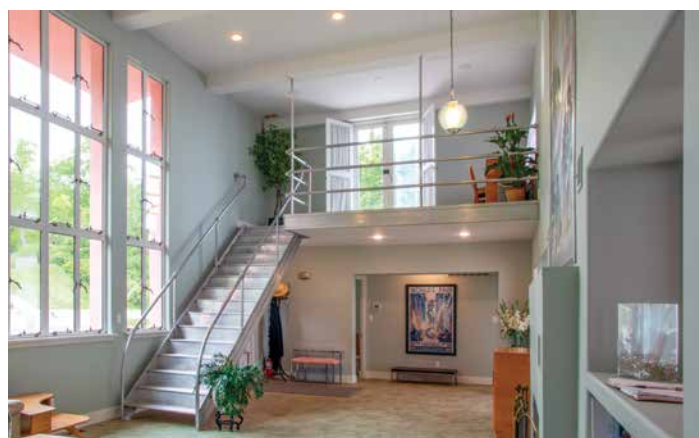
AND FINALLY



Pretty in Pink

NEAR THE SHORE OF LAKE MICHIGAN WITHIN Indiana Dunes National Park, five homes built for the 1933-34 Century of Progress World's Fair in Chicago stand in a unique architectural enclave. Moved to Beverly Shores after the fair's end, the houses remained in private hands until the land they occupied became part of the park in the '60s and '70s.

In the 1990s, Indiana Landmarks pitched an unusual idea to save the languishing properties: partnering with the park to find private parties to restore them in exchange for long-term leases. The pink Florida Tropical House became the first property available, and Bill and Marci Beatty signed the first lease. After Marci's passing, Bill married Lisa, who insisted they complete the unusual challenge. With restoration complete, the Beattys are ready to find someone to assume their sublease, now available for \$2.5 million—an amount that reflects their investment in the property.



Indiana Landmarks and Indiana Dunes National Park will review and approve a new lessee, including their financial capacity to maintain the house and undertake repairs. Check out the listing at indianalandmarks.org/florida-tropical-house.

Now completely restored, the Florida Tropical House in Indiana Dunes National Park is available for long-term lease for \$2.5 million.

PHOTOS BY LEE LEWELLEN
AND EVAN HALE