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 Home 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, but his 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 enduring memory.

On the other hand, the very notion of an enduring memory might have been granted an enduring memory. If not for the wind passing over it, it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

March Davis, President

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PHOTO © ELKHART COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM
PHOTO BY KELLY HARRIS

Driving Force

IN 1912, HOOSIER CARL FISHER COORDINATED the development of America’s first paved transcontinental 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.

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.
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, 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 school students 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 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.

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 woodworking 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.
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, and quinceañeras. Saint Adalbert welcomes visitors to access its campus for weddings, and Polish cultural traditions.

Saint Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church, Michigan City: $400,000 for masonry repairs to halt water infiltration.

North United Methodist Church, Indianapolis: $250,000 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.
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

BUILDING CONFIDENCE
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 the Guaranty Building, Indiana's Monument Circle, constructing Indianapolis's Monument Circle, and churches in Indianapolis, 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 1875 to the 1980s, 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 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 ledgers with project estimates and bid details, and albums documenting buildings in various stages of construction and deconstruction.

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 Planning Mill (top) on Massachusetts Avenue that William P. Jungclaus bought for the business in 1895. PHOTO BY EVAN HALE

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

The road to construction wasn’t always smooth 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-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 paint on homes under construction. Barnes fought the discrimination, paving the way locally for fair housing and building practices.

“The road to construction wasn’t always smooth 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.”

Paying homage to Barnes, architect Ingrid Sengstrom Perry, head of the Fort Wayne program, said, “We wanted to honor someone who worked so hard for so long and was so glad everything he worked so long for is being remembered.”

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 shipappable 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: Gunnnison Homes and National Homes Corporation. Founded in 1935 in New Albany, Gunnnison 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 Gunnnison employees, outpaced them in volume, boosted by wartime contracts for worker housing and the demand for homes 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 1946 "Thrift Home,” a two-bedroom model 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 Cod, 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, changing 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 foreclosed 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 kicking 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.

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 conference 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.”

Nominations for the Sandl 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.

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

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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 Jungclaus-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), Madame C. J. Walker Building, and Circle Tower. Join Bill Nagler, sixth-generation owner of Jungclaus-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. Free 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 6 p.m. followed by Q&A. $10/general public; free with RSVP for Indiana Automotive and Indiana Landmarks members.

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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.

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).

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

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.

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/general public (ages 12 and up); $17/member; $15/child (ages 6-11); free to children 5 and under.

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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/general public (ages 12 and up); $17/member; $15/child (ages 6-11); free to children 5 and under.
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.

AND FINALLY