INDIANA
PRESERVATION
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2025

INDIANA LANDMARKS

10 MOST ENDANGERED

Sounding the alarm for places in jeopardy

Three Cheers
Honoring outstanding preservation achievement

Family Legacy
Clinton County farmers win preservation prize

Sharing Our Vision

EVERY DAY, INDIANA LANDMARKS works to save meaningful places that contribute to our state's unique character, raising awareness of their history and value and offering our expertise on how to protect them for the next generation. Our mission is no small aim, one that cannot be carried out solely by the preservation professionals that work in our offices around the state.

In my first 90 days as president I've traveled over 2,000 miles visiting communities around Indiana, and I've been inspired by meeting like-minded people who've joined Indiana Landmarks to defend the places they love, giving their time, talents, and treasure to ensure community landmarks remain standing.

The Fountain County Art Council, organizational winner of the 2025 Sandi Servaas Memorial Award, embodies this indomitable spirit. When faced with the possibility that one of their county's last covered bridges could collapse, the small-but-mighty group rallied volunteers, sent letters seeking support, and used events and local media to shine a spotlight on the endangered bridge. Over five years, the group raised $575,000 to fully rehabilitate the landmark, a feat that members celebrated at a reopening ceremony in June.

This month, we announce Indiana Landmarks' 10 Most Endangered list (see p.8), places in imminent jeopardy that will require creative ideas, significant funds, and passionate people to save them. If, like us, you believe these landmarks add value in making Indiana a vital place to live, work, and play, consider adding your voice to help raise awareness and share their stories. We can't do it alone.

Brad Ward, President

On the Cover

A new entry on Indiana Landmarks' 10 Most Endangered list in 2025, Marion County's Traders Point Covered Bridge is one of a dwindling number of covered spans statewide. It needs significant funds to secure its future. Read about it and other threatened properties on pp. 8-15. PHOTO BY EVAN HALE

INDIANA LANDMARKS

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MODERN MASTER

When it comes to Modernist design, Indianapolis owes a debt to native architect Evans Woollen III. After studying at Yale University under such pioneering Modernists as Philip Johnson and Louis Kahn, Woollen returned to his home state and began practicing from an office on Monument Circle. He landed his first major commission in 1960, when he was asked to design Clowes Memorial Hall at Butler University. Still considered a masterwork of design, superior lighting, seating, and acoustics, the geometric, limestone-clad building created a stir then and now. Learn more about the architect's Indiana legacy at a talk on October 30 at Indiana Landmarks Center and online (see p.22).

COURTESY INDIANA UNIVERSITY PRESS

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polygonal barns were built in Indiana between 1850 and 1936. The 1910 Rudicel barn in Shelby County is a rare survivor, but its fate remains uncertain. See p.8

CHRISTINE PAGE

Fighting Shape

Before online reviews, viral memes, and search engines attracted tourists and patrons, roadside attractions enticed drivers to pull over to check out a business or town. Around Indiana, large-than-life statuary still draws second looks. In Oolitic, comic strip character Joe Palooka's beloved status in the '40s inspired Indiana Limestone Company to create a 10-foot-tall version in 1948. The "champion of democracy" was relocated to watch over Oolitic's Main Street in 1984. Learn more about Joe, muffler men, and myopic pink elephants at our "Landmarks Off the Beaten Path" talk at Indiana Landmarks Center on September 10, when Indiana road tripper Evan Finch shares anecdotes about some of the state's quirkiest attractions. (see p.18).

LEE LEWELLEN

Protecting Local Heritage

SAVING HISTORIC LANDMARKS CAN BE A daunting challenge, especially in small towns where financial resources and manpower may be limited. For their perseverance in protecting and raising awareness of local heritage, Indiana Landmarks recognizes two groups in the largely rural communities of Fountain County and Union City with our 2025 Sandi Servaas Memorial Awards.

In 2019, a contractor assessing the 1854 Cades Mill Covered Bridge in Fountain County discovered a broken chord putting the entire span at risk of collapse. Members of Fountain County Art Council's historical committee saw saving the pedestrian bridge—one of the county's three remaining covered bridges and the state's oldest in its original location—as an imperative but knew finding the money for rehabilitation would be a tall order.

Fortunately, Fountain County Art Council has a strong track record to draw on. Formed in the 1990s to encourage appreciation of art and heritage, the group rallied in 2001 to save the 1842 Fountain County Clerk's Building in Covington from demolition, raising money to buy the landmark before rehabilitating it as a local history museum. In 2018, the group stepped in again to save county heritage by securing $227,000 in donations and matching grants to clean, repair, and reseal 2,500 square feet of WPA-era murals in the Fountain County Courthouse.

To rescue Cades Mill Covered Bridge, the art council faced its largest fundraising challenge to date. The group partnered with the Western Indiana Community Foundation to set up a fund for repairs and sent out letters seeking support. The campaign attracted statewide attention when Indiana Landmarks added the threatened bridge to its 10 Most Endangered list in 2022 and gave a grant to help develop rehabilitation plans. The art council persisted through pandemic-related labor and materials shortages and unexpected termite damage to raise $575,000 over five years, including $175,000 from Fountain County, with a final "Buy a Beam" campaign pushing the project over the finish line. Members of the art council, community partners, and other supporters celebrated the bridge's completed restoration at a rededication in June 2025.

Fountain County Art Council's impressive work to save the 1854 Cades Mill Covered Bridge is just one example of its longtime commitment to protecting local landmarks. The group raised $575,000 over five years to rehabilitate the endangered span, celebrating the project's completion at a dedication ceremony in June (above).

PHOTOS BY TOMMY KLECKNER

"There were times we thought, 'Are we going to get through this?' But we prayed and prayed, and the money came," says art council member Carol Freese. "We haven't asked for recognition; we just did what we felt was important for us and our community. Knowing it is appreciated makes us feel it has been worthwhile."

At Union City Jr-Sr High School in eastern Indiana, "Workforce Wednesdays" offers students in grades 7-12 the opportunity to get out of the classroom and participate in community projects. Looking for a way to benefit the town (pop. 3,477) and make history come alive for his students, history teacher Kyler Purdin partnered with the Union City Preservation Society to form the Union City Junior Historical Society in 2022. High schoolers began by setting up a GoFundMe campaign and organizing a student vs. teacher basketball tourney to raise money for a statue commemorating local statesman Indiana Governor Isaac Gray. They helped sort archival documents, assisted in mailings, and were trained to lead downtown architectural tours.

Roughly 60 students have participated in the junior society since its formation, with a core group of 15-20 students driving its efforts. The students are currently creating a Veterans Memorial Wall in the school gym to recognize Union City graduates who are veterans. Raising money for signage through another online campaign and a community competition to pitch their idea, students collected veterans' names and began interviewing them to collect oral histories. In 2024, they organized a Veterans Day program for the community.

"These students went above and beyond with this initiative by being brave enough to call someone they didn't know and ask them to share their history," notes Purdin. "With this Veterans Wall, these students realized they were part of something very important. They took pride in it and the idea of making things better in their community."

Members of the Union City Junior Historical Society worked with the Union City Preservation Society to raise money for a statue commemorating Indiana Governor Isaac Gray (above), and helped update displays and lead downtown architectural tours. Students also interviewed local veterans to create a memorial wall.

PHOTOS COURTESY UNION CITY JUNIOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As winners of the Servaas Memorial Awards, the Union City Junior Historical Society receives $1,000 in the youth-serving category, and Fountain County Art Council receives $2,000 in the organizational category. Both groups will receive the late Evansville artist John McNaughton's original sculpture, "No Doors to Lock Out the Past," at Indiana Landmarks' Annual Meeting on September 6.

Historic Farm Maintains Family Legacy

SOME SAY FARMING IS IN THE BLOOD, AN adage the Anderson family of Clinton County embodies on their 800-acre grain farm southwest of Frankfort, extending a family legacy that stretches back many generations. Recognizing the family's commitment to preserving the historic farm and maintaining its buildings in their operations, Indiana Landmarks and Indiana Farm Bureau selected the Stine-Anderson Family Farm as winner of the 2025 John Arnold Award for Rural Preservation.

Stan and Lois Anderson live in the historic house on the 195-acre farmstead, which serves as home base for the corn and soybean operation and a recently added pick-your-own flower enterprise. Stan's brother, Don, helps manage the day-to-day farm operation while another brother, Phil, and an aunt are also part landowners.

Stan's maternal grandparents, George and Delia Stine, purchased the farmhouse and surrounding acreage in 1944. Roughhewn timber in the room that serves as the farm office dates to the house's construction in the late 1800s, while leaded and art glass windows and the fireplace's green tile surround offer clues to a Craftsman-style makeover in the early twentieth century.

Kenneth and Virginia Anderson, Stan's parents, moved into the house in 1966, and it played a central role in Stan and his three siblings' childhood growing up and working on the farm. During a major upgrade to the home's interior in 2005, the family took care in maintaining the house's original character, retaining pocket doors, and restoring Douglas fir and oak woodwork and a grand staircase.

Making use of materials at hand is a practical approach the Andersons have extended to other historic buildings on the property. They adapted a historic smokehouse to serve as additional office space, incorporating vintage wood siding. A back patio includes brick pavers salvaged from a former nearby school once attended by family members.

A century-old three-bay timber frame barn stands at the heart of the farming operation. The family raised the ceiling of the barn's east hayloft—once used for hay storage and feeding beef cattle—to serve as a farm shop to maintain modern farm equipment. The barn's other bays and three granaries are repurposed to serve as storage for parts, supplies, and other vehicles. The barn was selected in 2016 as one of 200 Bicentennial Barns to celebrate the state's birthday and agrarian values.

Through the years, the farm added two 32- by 64-foot pole barns used for equipment storage, as well as a smaller pole barn for lawnmowers and other small equipment, along with drying and storage bins used for grain storage.

In 2019, after retiring from 40 years of elementary teaching, Lois Anderson collaborated with brother-in-law Don, a landscaper, to create flower beds in former pastureland north of the barn. Their personal passion gave rise to the Anderson U-Pick Flower Farm, started in 2020 just as the COVID-19 pandemic was creating a demand for outdoor activities. Magazine and blog write-ups drew customers from far away, and the flower farm has since expanded into agritourism, hosting outdoor concerts, a plein air paint-out, tours for school groups, and other events. The Andersons repurposed the farm's historic scale building for the flower business, with the vintage Moline scale box on display as a nod to the structure's original use.

In 2023, a tornado damaged the roofs of all the Stine-Anderson Farm buildings and battered doors on the pole barns. The family took advantage of the opportunity to create a cohesive design, reroofing the house and garage and replacing the barn roofs and doors in a matching scheme. "A certain degree of creativity goes into maintaining and redoing these farm buildings," says Phil Anderson. "It's about repurposing them to be used in a different way while maintaining the farm's heritage and viability."

"It takes a lot of faith, family, farm—and now flowers—to thrive in todays' agriculture industry," says Stan.

Recognizing stewardship of their historic grain farm southwest of Frankfort, the Anderson family of Clinton County won the 2025 John Arnold Award for Rural Preservation. Along with managing the farm's 800-acre corn and soybean operation, the family introduced a pick-your-own flower market, using the farm's historic scale building, with its vintage scale box on display, for the business (bottom right).

PHOTOS BY PAIGE WASSEL

Lois and Stan Anderson (above right, from left) live in the late nineteenth-century house (top) at the heart of the farmstead, where Stan grew up with his three siblings (Phil and Don pictured, above right). Along with using their historic barn to support grain farm operations, the family has expanded into agritourism by hosting tours, outdoor concerts, and a plein air paint-out (above left).

PHOTOS: PAIGE WASSEL AND © ANDERSON FAMILY

Each year, Indiana Landmarks uses the 10 Most Endangered list to call attention to the state's highly threatened historic places. The designation brings these landmarks to the forefront and helps rally advocates and funding for their preservation. You can help us save these sites by sharing their stories with others and voicing your support with decision-makers who can influence their fates. See more photos of the places on this year's list at **indianalandmarks.org.**

PHOTOS BY EVAN HALE

10 MOST ENDANGERED

Kiwanis Field

LA PORTE

FOR 75 YEARS, STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND FANS have gathered at La Porte's Kiwanis Field to cheer on the local high school's football team, the mighty Slicers—named for a local meat-slicing equipment company that supported construction of the original school in the late 1800s.

La Porte's Kiwanis Club spearheaded construction of the stadium in 1950, and architects O'Keefe and Keil delivered a striking Streamline Moderne fieldhouse, with locker rooms tucked under a sloping grandstand.

After decades of hard use by home and visiting teams, the stadium needs repairs and improvements to meet modern standards. Recently, school officials have suggested that building a new football stadium elsewhere would be more cost-effective than investing in the old facility. Indiana Landmarks and our local affiliate Preserve Historic La Porte have offered to pay for an engineering study to determine the cost of renovating Kiwanis Field and to help nominate the historic fieldhouse to the National Register of Historic Places, but so far, the school board has declined to accept.

More than 750 community members have signed a petition in support of rehabbing the fieldhouse to incorporate updated locker rooms and athletic facilities while preserving it as the high school's signature sports venue. The school board has not offered further comment on the facility or shared any plans to address deferred maintenance. Left unattended, repairs will only become more costly.

Traders Point Covered Bridge

INDIANAPOLIS

IN THE 1830S, INDIANA'S EARLY SETTLERS began putting the state's abundant timber to practical use creating covered bridges to cross its waterways. The covered design not only protected the wooden spans from the elements but, in many communities, doubled as sheltered meeting space. As modern roads and bridges supplanted them over time, the wooden structures became widely endangered, falling victim to deferred maintenance, arson, and natural disasters. In Marion County, Traders Point Covered Bridge stands as a rare survivor that needs intervention to halt its decline.

Local bridge builder Josiah Durfee constructed Traders Point Covered Bridge c.1880, originally located over Fishback Creek in northwest Marion County. The bridge first faced demolition in 1959, when the state highway commission began making improvements to West 86th Street to feed traffic onto a newly built Interstate 65. To save the covered bridge, farmer DeWitt V. Brown bought and moved it to his land nearby, where it remains on private property today.

Of more than 600 covered bridges believed to have been built in Indiana during the nineteenth century, only 90 are estimated to remain. Around the state, revitalized covered bridges are tourist attractions and picturesque sources of local pride, a role local advocates believe Traders Point Covered Bridge could play if it was relocated to Eagle Creek Park. In 2022, Indiana Landmarks funded a study that showed rehabilitating and moving the bridge would cost an estimated $2 million, a significant fundraising challenge to save one of the state's iconic landmarks.

Rudicel-Montgomery Polygonal Barn

SHELBY COUNTY

HISTORIC BARNS ARE ICONIC REPRESENTATIONS of Indiana's agricultural heritage, but as changing farming practices leave many barns without use or incentive for maintenance, they are disappearing at an alarming rate. In Shelby County, the 12-sided Rudicel-Montgomery Polygonal Barn is an exceptional example and a repeat entry on this year's 10 Most Endangered list.

Between 1850 and 1936, 67 polygonal barns were built in Indiana, prized for their efficiency and cost-effective design before round barns eventually outpaced them in popularity. In 1910, George Rudicel worked with local carpenters Roy and Earl Henderson to build a polygonal barn, using the lower level to pen livestock and the upper level to store hay and straw. Today, the barn is vacant and believed to be one of a dwindling number of polygonal barns that still dot Indiana's rural landscape. Though its appearance on the 10 Most Endangered list last year attracted admiration and interest in rehabilitating the site, it needs significant investment.

In 2024, Indiana Landmarks, our affiliate Indiana Barn Foundation, and Shelby County's Blue River Community Foundation funded a study by a timber restoration specialist to assess the barn's condition and rehabilitation needs, estimated to range from $80,000 for stabilization to $125,000 for full restoration. The community foundation has announced plans to support fundraising for the Rudicel-Montgomery Polygonal Barn with a matching gift campaign that will double donations towards its preservation. But until full funding is secured, the barn's future remains precarious.

Mineral Springs Hotel

PAOLI

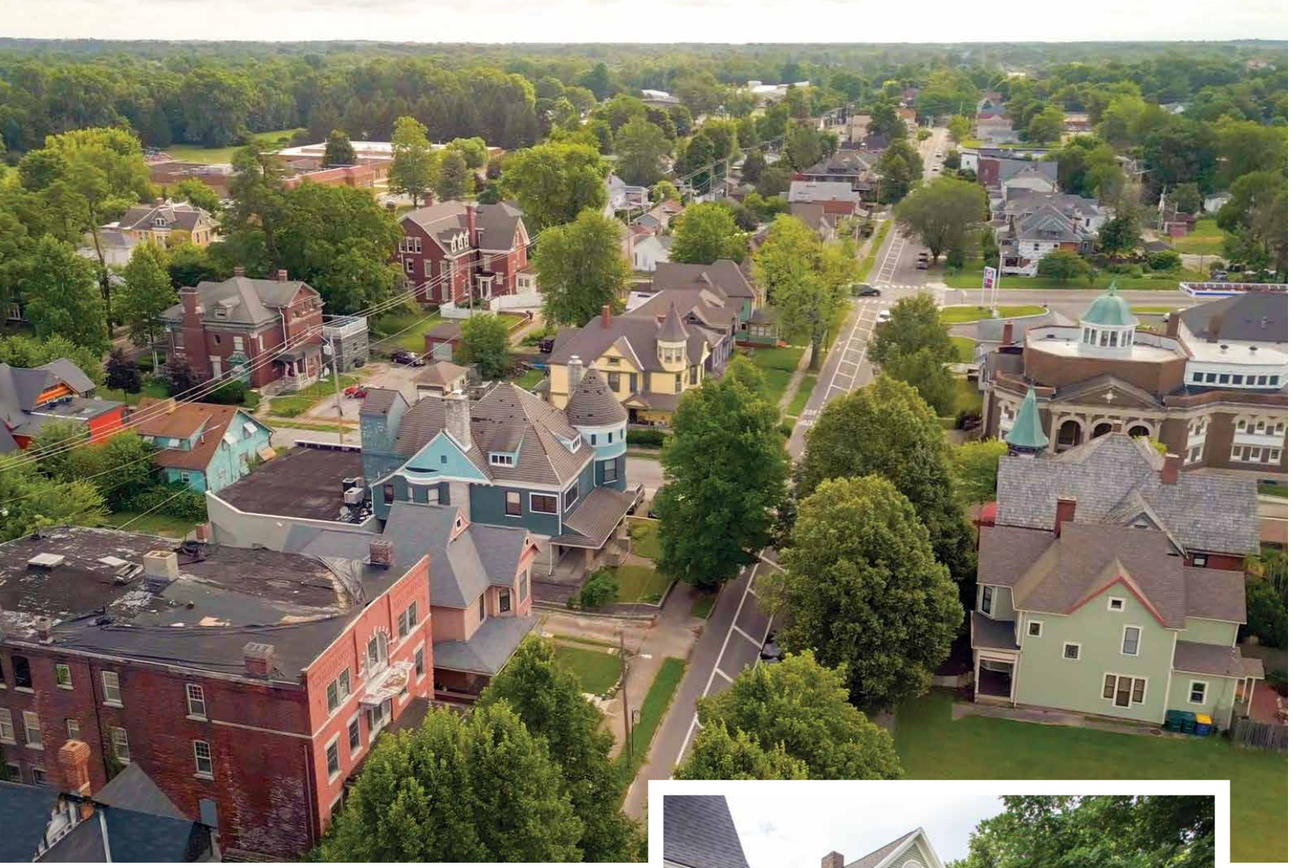
IN SOUTHERN INDIANA, RECENT EVENTS HAVE propelled a former 10 Most entry back into the spotlight. The Mineral Springs Hotel is one of the most architecturally distinctive buildings on Paoli's courthouse square, but damage from spring storms has heightened the need for urgent action to secure the structure and identify a plan for its future.

Hoping to boost local tourism and compete with nearby resorts at French Lick and West Baden Springs, a group of local businessmen constructed the Mineral Springs Hotel in 1895. At a time when the town had no electricity, the hotel offered the luxury of electric lighting in each room, courtesy of a steam-powered generator in the basement, and guests could bathe in local mineral waters from a well piped directly into the hotel.

With an opera house in the lobby, a billiard hall, ballroom, bowling alleys, and even a Greyhound bus stop, Mineral Springs served as the community's social and recreational center for decades. The hotel closed in 1958, though various businesses continued to occupy its ground floor for a time.

More recently, the vacant hotel has been taking on water through a leaky roof and broken windows. In March 2025, strong storms blew a temporary roof off the building, and heavy rain soaked the upper floors, accelerating the distressing decline.

Reviving the Mineral Springs Hotel could be the catalyst for rejuvenating an entire courthouse square. It needs someone with the creative vision and financial resources to give it new use.



Emily Kimbrough Historic District

MUNCIE

MUNCIE'S EMILY KIMBROUGH HISTORIC DISTRICT takes its name from the nationally known novelist whose Victorian home remains in the neighborhood. Established during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries following the city's prosperous "Gas Boom," the area retains a mix of high-style houses in Queen Anne, Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, and Prairie styles alongside more modest bungalows and cottages. It's a rich architectural and cultural legacy that residents worry may be diminished by a proposal to install four roundabouts along State Road 32 in the heart of the neighborhood.

As a solution to improve traffic flow and reduce crashes, in 2023 the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) suggested installing roundabouts along Main and Jackson streets where they intersect with Madison and Hackley streets. Neighborhood residents believe the roundabouts would dramatically alter the character of the National Register-listed historic district, compromise its walkability, and undo decades of preservation efforts by local groups including the East Central Neighborhood Association, which maintains the Emily Kimbrough Home Museum.

The association and other advocates are calling for INDOT and the City of Muncie to conduct an updated review of local traffic data, believing lane reductions installed since the initial study have already reduced crashes. Residents also want greater community input on potential changes to the streetscape, seeking design solutions that protect the district's walkability and historic character. With road improvements targeted to begin in 2028, the time is right to chart a course that ensures the Emily Kimbrough Historic District retains its distinctive heritage.

Sposeep & Sons Building

WABASH

IN SPITE OF LOCAL SUPPORT FOR SAVING IT, one of Wabash's oldest commercial buildings remains at risk. The Sposeep Building, another repeat entry on this year's list, is a highly visible landmark on Water Street at the edge of the city's historic commercial district.

Constructed of rugged beige limestone cut from the banks of the Wabash River, the building dates to 1890, when Russian immigrant Simon A. Cook built it as a warehouse for his scrap business. Abe Sposeep & Sons took over the recycling business in 1924 and operated out of the building for nearly a century before closing in 2018. The City of Wabash acquired the site, and now the Wabash Redevelopment Commission is marketing the property for development.

A century of hard use has taken its toll, but with rough-hewn stone walls, exposed wooden beams and columns, and original plank floors, the Sposeep Building presents a picturesque backdrop for any number of adaptive new uses. Tall ceilings and a vast open floor plan offer possibilities for retail, entertainment, restaurants, offices, or mixed development.

City officials hope to see the landmark preserved and repurposed, but the building's prime location near the city's thriving downtown also makes the site attractive for new construction. If no viable plans emerge soon, officials will consider demolition to clear the site for redevelopment.

With a renaissance happening nearby in downtown Wabash, it would be a shame to lose a one of the city's oldest landmarks, especially one with potential to contribute to the ongoing revival.

West Side Recreation Club

SOUTH BEND

ON SOUTH BEND'S WEST WASHINGTON STREET, a vacant commercial building offers little clue of its legacy as a political and social hub for South Bend's Black community in the early twentieth century.

Built c.1912 as a dry goods store, the building became the West Side Recreation Club in 1929. In an era of segregation, it quickly became a gathering space for many African American social clubs, as well as a place where Black professionals could socialize and rent office space. The club housed offices for attorney and politician J. Chester Allen, attorney Zilford Carter, and dentist Dr. Bernard Streets, all leaders in efforts to desegregate the nearby Engman Public Natatorium. The West Side Recreation Club stopped meeting at the location in the 1980s, and the building later served briefly as a food pantry before becoming vacant. A repeat entry on Indiana Landmarks' 10 Most Endangered list, it is one of the last commercial remnants of a once-thriving Black business district.

Water continues to infiltrate the building through holes in the roof, damaging masonry and compromising the structure. Members of Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program task force in South Bend have been in communication with the owner to partner in developing a vision for the site's reuse. In the meantime, without swift action to repair the roof and flashings, the building's upper walls are at risk of collapse, putting the notable Black landmark in imminent jeopardy.

TOMMY KLECKNER

College Hall

MEROM

GENERATIONS OF PEOPLE HAVE ATTENDED camps, retreats, classes, and special events at College Hall, a five-story brick building at the heart of Merom Camp and Retreat Center in western Indiana. The surrounding community affirmed its love for the landmark and support for its preservation after College Hall appeared on Indiana Landmarks' 10 Most Endangered list last year. Now, the towering structure needs a fundraising boost as camp leaders seek expert advice to prioritize repairs.

Constructed between 1859 and 1863 for Union Christian College, the hall's design spoke to the founders' lofty aspirations as one of the state's earliest places of higher education, open to both male and female students. After the college closed in 1924, the Romanesque Revival-style building reopened as Merom Institute, a religious camp and retreat.

Since the building's 10 Most listing last year, the nonprofit organization has secured a $24,500 grant from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs to make improvements to College Hall's theater, recognizing the building's potential as a valuable community gathering space in the rural community. But urgent work is still needed to address crumbling and collapsed masonry, leaky windows and plumbing, and failing mechanical systems. Securing funding for a rehabilitation assessment to determine next steps is a top priority to safeguard College Hall and halt further deterioration.

Sollman School

GIBSON COUNTY

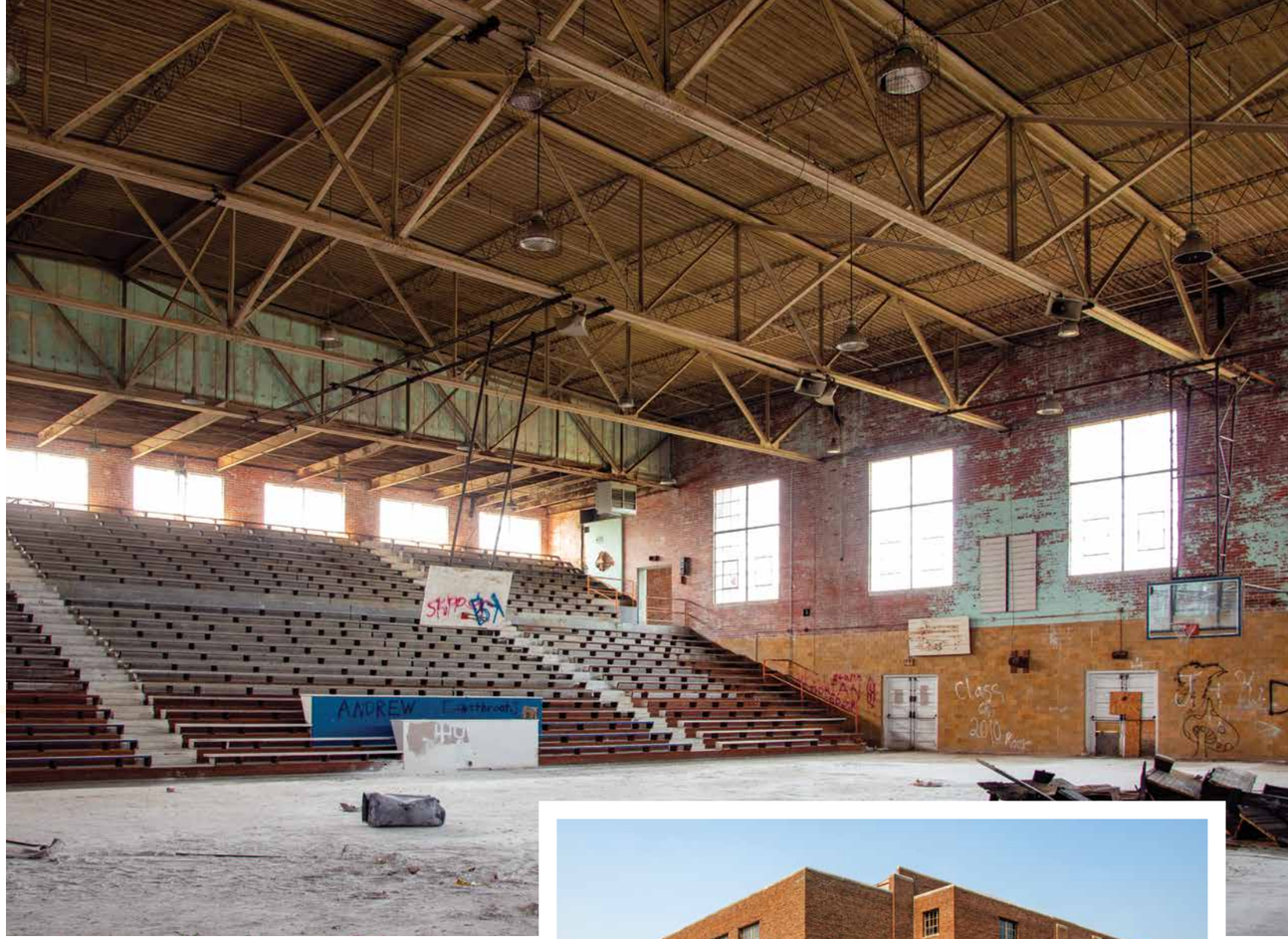
AT ONE TIME, HUNDREDS OF COUNTRY schoolhouses dotted the Indiana landscape. Today, they are a rarity, which makes efforts to save one such landmark in Gibson County even more important.

A repeat entry on this year's list, the Sollman School in Snake Run was built c.1875 during a post-Civil War boom of school construction. A modest white frame building with simple classical details and belltower, it played an important role in the daily life of the surrounding farming community. Beyond serving as the local school, the building also functioned as a venue for events and civic gatherings.

The school's tenure ended in 1927 when Sollman consolidated with the nearby Fort Branch system. Local families continued to use the site as a woodshop, but decades later the former school now stands vacant.

Picturesque even in its decay, the landmark continues to be a favorite in the community. Since the school first appeared on the 10 Most Endangered list, county officials have identified a plan to move the building to Hopkins Family Park in nearby Francisco, Indiana, and restore it as field trip destination. But in a rural community with limited resources, funding the project is a significant challenge.

MARSH DAVIS



Shields Memorial Gymnasium

SEYMOUR

SEYMOUR'S SHIELDS MEMORIAL GYMNASIUM returns to the 10 Most Endangered list after first appearing in 2021. Though local support for saving the gym remains strong, the clock is counting down on prospects for its reuse. The owner has indicated they may soon auction the property to the highest bidder, but with no assurances that the gym will be protected from demolition.

In other areas of the state, historic high school gyms have found new use as community recreational centers, event centers, and restaurants. Shields Memorial Gymnasium occupies a city block in the National Register-listed Walnut Street Historic District, surrounded by open land that gives it potential for reuse while also making it a target for developers seeking to demolish the existing structure.

One of Indiana's largest high school gyms when it was built by Works Progress Administration workers in 1941, Shields Memorial served as home court for the Seymour Owls until the school closed in 1970. A local family purchased the long-vacant property in 1996 and later had to demolish the seriously dilapidated 1910 high school nearby, leaving the gym as the last tangible tie to the site for many Seymour alumni.

Today, the gym remains empty. Though roof leaks have allowed water to infiltrate the building, an architectural assessment showed the steel and concrete gym to be structurally sound. Despite attempts to secure the property, vandals continue to break windows and cover walls with graffiti—an ignominious state for a beloved community landmark.

Thoughtful Legacy

DEB LAWRENCE TRACES HER AFFECTION FOR grand old homes back to her teenage years in Elkhart, where she helped a neighbor with household tasks around a Gatsby-esque property known locally as Foster's Point, and where she regularly visited Ruthmere, a mansion owned by family friends. That interest deepened in 2002 when she took a job at Marian University's advancement office in Indianapolis, working inside Riverdale, the 1911 estate built for auto mogul James Allison.

"There's just a spirit about historic places—whether it's the accumulation of lives lived there or the care with which they were built—that adds a richness and depth to our lives and communities," says Lawrence.

When some of Jens Jensen's original landscape plans for Riverdale were discovered in the college's operations office, Lawrence became part of an initiative to restore the famous architect's designs. The Friends of Riverdale group raised $1.4 million to rebuild a garden fountain—reestablishing perennial beds and walks around it—as well as constructing a replica of the original arbor and rehabbing a limestone colonnade and circular gardens.

As part of a local group coordinating a 2005 national conference highlighting area landscapes, Lawrence's work brought her into contact with Indiana Landmarks staff. Since then, she's been an enthusiastic member of Indiana Landmarks.

In a prior job at the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Lawrence visited historic sites around the state, which she credits for raising her awareness of landmarks and the important roles local communities play in their preservation.

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"I worry generally about the cultural landscapes and structures in smaller communities that are so critical to that city or town but that cannot attract the attention, funding, tourism, and other things that help preserve them," says Lawrence. "These landmarks, central to their communities, need to be preserved and infused with new life. Indiana Landmarks is really good about supporting small communities across the state and reminding people that supporting what's happening in your neighborhood is key."

Lawrence feels keenly the destruction of such places as her childhood historic home in Elkhart, and Foster's Point next door. To help safeguard other landmarks from meeting a similar fate, she's included Indiana Landmarks in her estate plans.

"When my mom died three years ago, it prompted the rest of the family to think carefully about our estates and legacy and what we want to support after we're gone," says Lawrence. "Indiana Landmarks is one of five institutions I picked to support because their work is so important and if we lose something, it's gone forever."

BRIEFLY NOTED

INDIANA LANDMARKS BLACK HERITAGE Preservation Program awarded $5,000 scholarships for the 2025-26 school year to help cover education-related expenses for African American students majoring in the preservation field at accredited colleges and universities to four students: **Sierra Ivy, Binta Balde, Dayli Marshall, and Keagan Powell.** Scholarship applications for the 2026-27 school year will open in January 2026.

Indiana Landmarks and Indiana Humanities jointly award historic preservation education grants for public programs educating Indiana citizens about historic places and properties and their preservation. Applications for the next round of grants are due September 30, 2025. See more details and apply online at **indianahumanities.org/grant/historic-preservation-education-grant.**

Tours & Events

September/October 2025

Samara
After closure earlier this year for roof restoration, tours have resumed at the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Samara in West Lafayette. See p. 21.

NATHAN ALLAIRE

Visit **indianalandmarks.org/tours-events** to learn more and register. All times are Eastern unless noted.

Indiana Landmarks Annual Meeting

Sept. 6, Indianapolis and online

Join fellow Indiana Landmarks members and friends in Indianapolis for our 65th Annual Meeting. We'll elect new directors, applaud winners of the Sandi Servaas Memorial Awards, Williamson Prize, Cook Cup for Outstanding Restoration, and Renaissance Award, and hear updates from Indiana Landmarks' new president, Brad Ward. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. for a members' reception at Indiana Landmarks Center with program beginning at 3:30 p.m. in person and online. Free with RSVP.

Landmarks Off the Beaten Path

Sept. 10, Indianapolis and online

Back by popular demand, inveterate Indiana road tripper Evan Finch shares his amusing takes on some of the state's quirky roadside attractions and out-of-the-way landmarks—from muffler men and myopic pink elephants to limestone cartoon prizefighters. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center and talk begins at 6 p.m. in person and online. $10/general public; free to members with RSVP.

Mass Ave Walking Tour

Sept. 10 & 13, Indianapolis

Discover the unique history of Indianapolis's Massachusetts Avenue, a flourishing cultural and commercial corridor that anchors the historic district affectionately known as Mass Ave. Departure times vary. $20/general public (ages 12 & up); $17/member; $15/child (ages 6-11); free to children ages 5 and under.

White River State Park Tour

Sept. 13 & 24, 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 the park's landmarks including the historic Washington Street bridge, limestone-lined river promenade, 1870 pump-house, and more. Presented in partnership with White River State Park Development Commission. Departure times vary. $12/general public (ages 18 & up); $10/member; $7/child (ages 6-17); free to children 5 and under.

First Friday Art Show

Oct. 3, Indianapolis

Indiana Landmarks Center's Rapp Family Gallery hosts a free opening reception for *Embracing the Journey: Threads of Joy and Sisterhood!*, a quilt exhibit featuring works by members of Akoma Ntoso Modern Quilt Guild of Central Indiana. Founded in 2018 for people of color in the Indianapolis area to create and connect through quilting, guild members range from novice to professional and include quilters who have exhibited nationally and internationally. 6-9 p.m.

Indianapolis Downtown Tours

Monument Circle Historic District

One-hour guided walking tour explores Indianapolis's most recognizable historic district, highlighting how and why these blocks have become the heart of the city. Tours depart at 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 13 and at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 18. $10/general public (ages 12 & 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 10:30 a.m. on Sept. 6 and at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 11. $20/general public (ages 12 & up); $17/member; $15/child (ages 6-11); free to children 5 and under.

Indy's Notable & Notorious

Part historic walking tour, part imaginary showdown, discover Indianapolis through some of the city's most memorable characters on a 90-minute guided tour. Get to know our 16 contenders and rank your favorites tournament-style to reveal Indy's most notable—or notorious—historical figure. Tours depart at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 4 and at 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 20. $20/general public (ages 12 & up); $17/member; $15/child (ages 6-11); free to children ages 5 and under.

Propylaeum Building Tour

Sept. 14, Oct. 12 & Nov. 2; Indianapolis

Take a deep dive into Indianapolis history at the Indianapolis Propylaeum, a Queen Anne-style landmark in the

Athenaeum Building Tour

Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16; Indianapolis

Discover Indianapolis's German roots on a one-hour guided tour exploring the history, architecture, and preservation of the Athenaeum as it evolved from German clubhouse to hub of modern urban life. Tours depart at 1:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. Advance tickets encouraged. $15/general public (ages 12 & up); $12/member; $10/child (ages 6-11); free to children ages 5 and under.

Indianapolis German Heritage Bike Tour

Sept. 28, 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 & up); $30/member.

Athenaeum Bier & Building Tour

Oct. 26 & Nov. 9, Indianapolis

Sample German-American heritage through beer, appetizers, and activities on this adults-only version of our Athenaeum tour, highlighting the history, architecture, and preservation of one of the city's most beloved landmarks. Tours depart at 1:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. Advance tickets encouraged. $40/general public (ages 21 & up); $35/member.

PHOTOS BY KELLY HARRIS AND MIKE WILTROUT

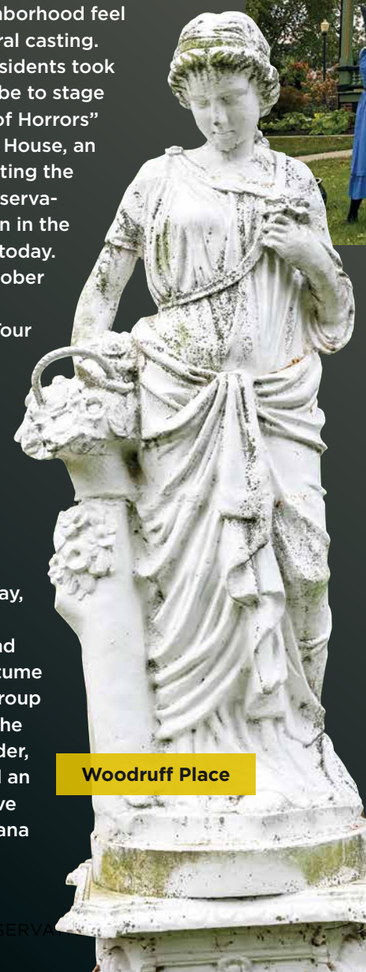
Seasonal Spirit

THIS OCTOBER, GET IN THE spirit of the season on spooky strolls through Indianapolis's Woodruff Place and Old Northside neighborhoods highlighting haunting tales—from local lore and true crime to creepy architecture and truly scary renovations.

On Friday evenings, follow lantern-carrying guides through Woodruff Place Historic District, where you'll discover elements of Victorian-era architecture that make the neighborhood feel straight out of central casting. In the late 1980s, residents took advantage of the vibe to stage the annual "House of Horrors" Halloween Haunted House, an iconic event supporting the neighborhood's preservation that still lives on in the memories of locals today.

On Saturday, October 18, our popular Old Northside Spooky Tour returns, a guided exploration of one of Indianapolis's oldest neighborhoods with stops at select building interiors, including Indiana Landmarks' 1865 Morris-Butler House. Along the way, capture the mood at photo stations and participate in a costume contest with your group before concluding the evening with hot cider, seasonal treats, and an eerie serenade of live organ music at Indiana Landmarks Center.

Old Northside



Woodruff Place

Old Northside Spooky Tour

Oct. 18, Indianapolis

Enjoy an evening of spooky fun and local lore in Indianapolis's Old Northside on guided tours with Indiana Landmarks, including trick-or-treating at designated stops, an eerie organ serenade, and a look inside the 1865 Morris-Butler House. Costumes encouraged (but not required). Departure times vary. $23/general public, $20/member, $17 child (ages 6-11), free to children 5 and under.

Woodruff Place Walking Tour

Oct. 3, 10, 17, & 24; Indianapolis

Known as the city's first planned residential suburb, entrepreneur James O. Woodruff created Woodruff Place in 1872, an upscale, park-like neighborhood with stately homes and tree-lined esplanades that remains largely intact today. On a 90-minute guided tour, learn about the neighborhood's cultural importance with extra spooky insights and haunting historic tales. Departure times vary. $20/general public, $17/Indiana Landmarks member, $15/child (ages 6-11), free to children 5 and under.

PHOTOS BY JESSICA KRAMER AND KELLY HARRIS

city's Old Northside. Built in 1890 as a private residence, the building has served as a hub for arts, culture, and women's leadership since 1923. Tourgoers will explore the main building, carriage house, and grounds, as well as learn about prominent movers and shakers associated with the site over time. Presented in partnership with the Propylaeum Historic Foundation. One-hour tours begin at 1:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. $15/general public (12 & up); $12/member; $10/child (ages 6-11); free to children 5 and under.

Conversations in Indiana African American History and Culture

Sept. 18 & Oct. 16, Indianapolis and online

Freetown Village presents monthly discussions led by historians, researchers, and educators sharing their knowledge of Indiana's Black heritage. 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.

Landmarks Along the Indianapolis Cultural Trail

Sept. 20 & Oct. 18, Indianapolis

Explore downtown Indianapolis on a leisurely five-mile bike tour featuring the Indianapolis Cultural Trail and surrounding landmarks. Tourgoers will travel the trail's main loop, stopping along the way for guides to share architectural details and stories of preservation and revitalization, including how the trail serves as an asset to the city and its place in Indy's biking history. Presented in partnership with Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc. Tours depart at 10 a.m. $45/general public (ages 16 & up); $40/member. Ticket price includes Pacers Bikeshare Bike rental.

SAMARA TOURS

West Lafayette, Jul.-Nov.

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. Wednesdays-Sundays, 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

Preserving Historic Places

Sept. 30-Oct. 3, Fort Wayne

Hear from preservation experts on Main Street revitalization, interpreting cultural districts, archaeology and mitigation techniques, attracting developers to historic properties, and more. Sponsored by Indiana Landmarks, the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, and Indiana University. Visit **indianalandmarks.org/preserving-historic-places** to register and view the full conference agenda.

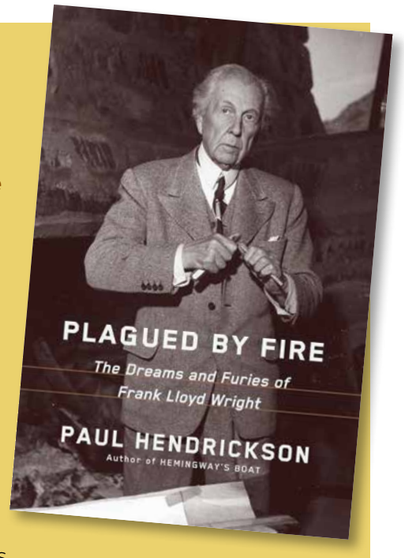
The Mid-Century Modern Campus

Oct. 24, Valparaiso

Valparaiso University hosts an all-day symposium on the history, architecture, and preservation of Mid-Century Modern campus design with multiple speakers presenting on the topic, including Blake Swihart of Indiana Landmarks. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in campus walking tours and attend

Frank Lloyd Wright Talk

Oct. 5, Indianapolis and online



Author Paul Hendrickson shares insights from his book *Plagued by Fire: The Dreams and Furies of Frank Lloyd Wright*, a biography delving into lesser-known aspects of the famed architect's life. Sponsored by the Kurt Vonnegut Museum & Library, The Penrod Society, Don Knebel, and Diane Thompson. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center and talk begins at 6 p.m. in person and online. A book signing with the author follows the presentation. $10/general public; free to members with RSVP.

Visit **indianalandmarks.org/tours-events** to learn more and register. All times are Eastern unless noted.

an evening reception at the campus's 1959 Linwood House, designed by architect Charles E. Stade and home to Indiana Landmarks' Northwest Field Office. 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Central Daylight Time. Free with registration required.

Evans Woollen Talk

Oct. 30, Indianapolis and online

The impact of prolific Modernist architect Evans Woollen can be seen in sites throughout Indianapolis from iconic public landmarks like Clowes Hall and the Minton-Capehart Federal Building to custom private residences. Authors and photographers Phillip Cox and Niall Cronin present an in-depth look at Woollen's legacy from their newly published book, *What a Building Does: The Hoosier Modernisms of Evans Woollen*. Sponsored by Indiana Landmarks' affinity group Indiana Modern. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center and talk begins at 6 p.m. in person and online. $10/general public; free to members with RSVP.

South Bend Trades Workshops

Monthly workshops presented by Indiana Landmarks and South Bend TradeWorks equip homeowners and contractors with skills to address historic building repair needs. Visit our website for individual workshop details.

SEPT. 10 – Wood Window Restoration 101
Expert window restorers cover the basics of wood window restoration and repair.

OCT. 1 – Wood Floor Repair
Learn to care for vintage wood floors including tips for cleaning, sanding, repairing, and staining.

NOV. 5 – Plaster Repair 101
Learn the basics for completing common plaster wall repairs.

NOV. 5-6 – Plaster Repair 201
Apply and practice techniques for plaster wall repair in a hands-on setting.

Note: Workshops will proceed with 10 registrants or more and will be rescheduled, or tickets refunded, if minimum attendance is not met.

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. Advance tickets encouraged. (Tues.-Sat., June-Dec. & Wed.-Sat., Jan.-May)

West Baden Springs Hotel
2 & 4 p.m.

French Lick Springs Hotel
Noon

$18/adult, $15/member, $8/child ages 6-15, and are free to children ages 5 and under.

Behind-the-Scenes Tours
Get an exclusive look at spaces not normally open to the public at West Baden Springs Hotel on a two-hour tour beginning at 2 p.m. on Sept. 11 & 25, Oct. 2 & 16, Nov. 6 & 20, and Dec. 4 & 18. Tickets cost $50/person; $45/member. Advance tickets required.

Twilight Tours
Costumed characters depict famous guests at West Baden Springs during its heyday in the 'teens and '20s. Tours depart at 7 p.m. on Sept. 13. Tickets cost $25/adult; $20/member; $10/child (ages 6-15). Advance tickets required.

Indianalandmarks.org/french-lick-west-baden

Indianapolis Neighborhood Walking Tours

Apr.-Sept.

Explore some of the city's earliest residential areas on 90-minute guided walking tours offered select Saturdays and Wednesdays. Departure times vary. $20/general public; $17/member; $15/child (ages 6-11); free to children 5 and under.

SEPT. 3 – Herron-Morton Place
The evolution and history of Herron-Morton Place spans an impressive 160 years, from its time serving as a Civil War camp to its unique role in later decades as a hub of LGBTQ+ life and culture for the city.

SEPT. 13 – Chatham Arch
Chatham Arch, just off bustling Mass. Ave, developed into a thriving neighborhood of modest cottages, grander homes, apartments, churches, and commercial buildings that is still desirable today.

SEPT. 17 – Old Northside
Hidden among the tree-lined streets of the Old Northside Historic District stand some of the city's architectural gems, built in the late nineteenth century by business rivals, publishing magnates, and influential women who formed a fashionable and enduring community.

SEPT. 20 – Woodruff Place
In 1872 entrepreneur James O. Woodruff created the city's first planned residential suburb, Woodruff Place, an upscale, park-like neighborhood of stately homes and tree-lined esplanades that remains largely intact today.

Visit **indianalandmarks.org/tours-events** to learn more and register. All times are Eastern unless noted.

Community Revival

Though tiny, the town of Mt. Ayr (pop. 115) in rural Newton County claims a hefty preservation presence in a proactive and dedicated group that recently completed rehabilitation of a modest c.1898 former Baptist church.

After the building ceased serving as a church, disuse and lack of maintenance took their toll. Hoping to revive the eyesore for community use, town council member Howard Marshall championed the property, and the Town purchased it in 2022 and contacted Indiana Landmarks for advice on the best next steps. Supported by an Endangered Places grant from Indiana Landmarks, the Town commissioned a feasibility study by K. W. Garner Consulting to help them craft a rehabilitation plan.

Workers removed the 1940s exterior cement siding, a dated interior drop ceiling, and a 1950s lean-to addition that had long served as a catch-all for everything from garden supplies to old coffee makers.

Mt. Ayr town leaders contacted Indiana Landmarks in 2022 for advice on rehabbing a historic Baptist church and returning it to community use. Guided by expert woodworker and local resident Dan Thomas, the effort brought back original details to make it a standout gathering space, hosting weddings, events, and an art show.

PHOTOS BY HOWARD MARSHALL AND BLAKE SWIHART

The church's transformation owes a debt to Dan Thomas, longtime Mt. Ayr resident and owner of the town museum, who is also an expert woodworker, carpenter, and framer. Working with his grandson, Thomas re-sided the building with wood boards and recreated and installed beadboard wainscoting inside. He reconstructed missing windows, created new wood siding, and painstakingly recreated period-specific molding. Salvaged stained-glass windows from a church in the now-abandoned southern Indiana town of Elkinsville were installed in the restored original window locations.

Since its completion in May 2025, the property has hosted multiple community events, an art show, and several weddings, fulfilling the vision for returning the church to its role as a central community gathering place. See it for yourself on October 11, when the revitalized property will be open as part of a self-guided tour highlighting landmarks in northwest Indiana (see details below).

Explore Monon, Rensselaer, and Mt. Ayr

Oct. 11

SEE EIGHT LANDMARKS restored or undergoing rehabilitation on a self-guided tour highlighting northwest Indiana heritage, including a vintage theater, historic hotel, auto dealership, Carnegie library, county courthouse, two historic churches, and a former general store and bank. $20/general public, $15/Indiana Landmarks member. See more at **indianalandmarks.org/tours-events.**

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AND FINALLY

Marking History

HISTORIC PLACES PROVIDE A TANGIBLE connection to those who came before us, contributing to a sense of community identity. But in the case of Black heritage, often those buildings and artifacts simply don't exist to help tell the story. In those situations, historical markers can serve as permanent, visual representations to keep those connections alive.

In August, the Evansville African American Museum unveiled a new historical marker for Baptisttown, an area around Governor and Canal streets and Lincoln Avenue where a Black community thrived between the 1930s and 1960s. Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program helped fund the marker.

Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program supported installation of a new historical marker highlighting Evansville's Baptisttown neighborhood in front of the Evansville African American Museum (top). The signage is one of the museum's ongoing initiatives to tell the Black neighborhood's story and highlight still-standing landmarks, including Lincoln School (top right).
PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE RICHARD

Though many of Baptisttown's landmarks were lost in the late twentieth century through desegregation, heightened political tensions, and other social-historical shifts, the museum is working to preserve and share the neighborhood's story through initiatives including listing in the National Register of Historic Places, a walking tour, and other efforts. Learn more at **evvaam.org.**