



# INDIANA PRESERVATION

MARCH/APRIL 2026

## Tomorrow Today

Exterior restoration  
takes shape at the  
House of Tomorrow



### ENDURING LEGACY

Twentieth-century landmarks  
designed by Indiana architects

### TRUSTED CARE

Easement protects artful  
Indianapolis mansion

### SPRING FORWARD

Explore historic places on  
upcoming tours and events

# Defining Relevancy

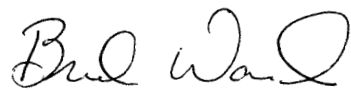
**EARLIER THIS YEAR**, during a staff meeting to discuss our organizational priorities for the coming years, one comment stood out: “Preservation is not what people think it is.”

That simple statement opened the door to a deeper conversation about the significant opportunities and challenges shaping the future of preservation. Many themes emerged, but one consensus became clear: although the field has evolved in meaningful ways, public perception has largely remained the same. Many people still view preservation as something focused on the past, an obstacle to modern progress and development rather than an essential tool for shaping vibrant resilient communities.

Indiana Landmarks has long been a leader in showing how preservation can play a powerful role in strengthening community identity and vitality. But for preservation to continue to evolve—and to help local leaders and residents embrace it—we must ensure that preservation remains relevant to addressing today’s most pressing issues, including housing, sustainability, economic resilience, and social equity.

By helping communities preserve and creatively reuse historic places, we demonstrate that preservation is more than a way to honor the past. Our responsibility is to ensure that the reuse and revitalization of meaningful places across Indiana are driven by local decision-making and shaped by community-led priorities.

Looking ahead, we are committed to serving as a connector, linking people to the places and causes they care about to create opportunities for better communities. We will work to remove barriers that keep threatened or obsolete buildings from being repurposed, ensuring that these character-rich places continue to serve future generations.



*Brad Ward, President*

**On the Cover**

Last fall, workers installed glass walls at the House of Tomorrow in the Indiana Dunes National Park, a jaw-dropping milestone in the journey to save “America’s First Glass House.” Read more about the project on pp. 4-7. PHOTO BY TODD ZEIGER



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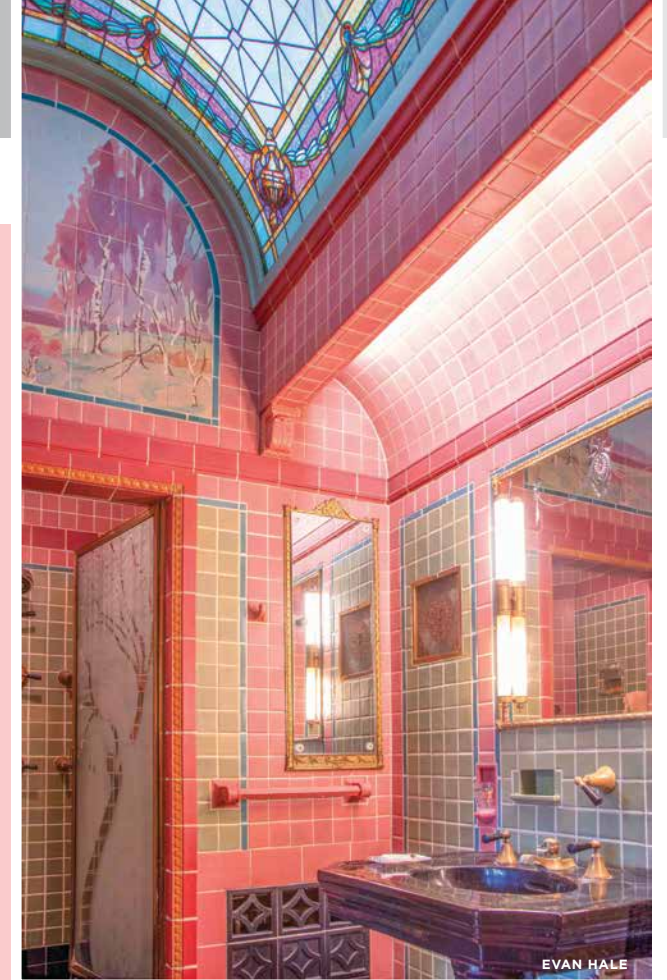
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|---|---|
| <b>Headquarters</b><br>Indiana Landmarks Center<br>1201 Central Avenue<br>Indianapolis, IN 46202<br>info@indianalandmarks.org<br>(317) 639-4534<br>(800) 450-4534 | <b>Northern Regional Office</b><br>South Bend<br>(574) 232-4534 |
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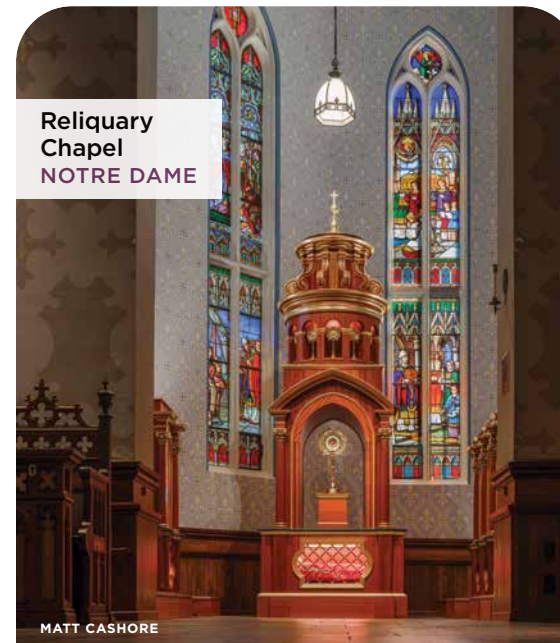
# STARTERS

## Timeless Tile

In 1880, ceramics painter Maria Longworth Nichols set out to elevate ordinary household objects into fine art by establishing Rookwood Pottery in Cincinnati. By 1920, the company had grown to employ about 200 artisans who crafted each piece using signature glazes. Rookwood’s influence can still be seen in homes, hotels, train stations, and other landmark spaces around the country through its distinctive architectural tile. In Indianapolis’s 1920 Thompson House, an extraordinary display of pastoral Rookwood tile murals adorns the walls of the master bath. Read more about the home’s history and preservation on pp. 16-17.



EVAN HALE



Reliquary Chapel  
NOTRE DAME

MATT CASHORE

## INSPIRING DESIGN

Historic houses of worship are intentionally designed to help visitors contemplate the eternal, whether through iconography and stained-glass windows, soaring interiors that lift the eye heavenward, or smaller intimate spaces that invite quiet reflection. On March 26 at Indiana Landmarks Center, architect, author, and University of Notre Dame architecture professor Duncan G. Stroik will explore how sacred architecture uniquely inspires other artistic disciplines and why thoughtful, creative restoration is important to preserving these spaces. See details on p. 18.

## Hidden Treasure

No one had seen the historic façade of South Bend’s Merchants National Bank Block since 1960, when it was covered by porcelain-enameled steel panels. Last year, workers began peeling back the metal cover, signaling improvements underway at the downtown landmark. See the big reveal on p. 12-13.

MICHAEL CATERINA, UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME





## Exterior Restoration Nears Completion at House of Tomorrow

### IN NOVEMBER AT THE INDIANA DUNES

National Park, workers guided mammoth panes of glass into place on the House of Tomorrow, recapturing the signature feature of “America’s First Glass House.” The installation marked a dramatic milestone in the long-awaited restoration of the nationally significant landmark, vacant since 1999.

In the midst of the Great Depression, the House of Tomorrow debuted at the 1933 World’s Fair in Chicago as one of several “Century of Progress” exhibit homes, offering the fair’s 39 million visitors an optimistic look into the future



For the first time in decades, the House of Tomorrow at the Indiana Dunes National Park resembles its appearance at the 1933 World’s Fair in Chicago (left), when millions visited the exhibit home for a glimpse of futuristic house design. The landmark’s exterior rehabilitation is expected to be completed this spring, a significant achievement in the long effort to save the house.

PHOTOS COURTESY  
BKL ARCHITECTURE AND  
COLLECTION OF RICK RANN

of residential architecture and the promise of science and technology to improve daily life.

Designed by Chicago architect George Fred Keck, the House of Tomorrow is widely regarded as one of the most innovative houses in modern architectural design. One of the first residential buildings to employ a glass curtain-wall structure, it predated both Mies van der Rohe’s renowned 1951 Farnsworth House and Philip Johnson’s 1949 Glass House. The house also introduced forward-thinking conveniences, including an “iceless” refrigerator, the first-ever General Electric dishwasher, an open floor plan, and even a hangar for the airplane that Keck believed would become standard transportation for families of the future.

When the World’s Fair closed in 1934, Chicago developer Robert



Bartlett used barges and trucks to ship the House of Tomorrow and other Century of Progress structures across Lake Michigan to Beverly Shores, an Indiana resort community he hoped to develop as a vacation destination for Chicagoans. Soon after relocating the buildings, he significantly altered the House of Tomorrow’s appearance by removing the curtain-wall glass and replacing it with wood-framed walls and operable windows to improve circulation. Five Century of Progress houses were sold and remained in private hands until the land became part of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore between 1966 and the early 1970s.

All five were added to the National Register of Historic Places in the 1980s, but by the mid-1990s they had fallen into alarming disrepair. With no public funding available to restore the houses, Indiana Landmarks proposed an unconventional solution: leasing the houses from the National Park Service and subleasing them to individuals who would restore the properties in exchange for long-term residency. The arrangement resulted in the full restoration of four of the fair homes, but the scale, cost, and complexity of rehabilitating the House of Tomorrow made it difficult to find the right person to tackle the project. The house remained vacant for years, shrouded in plywood and weatherproof wrapping to protect its core from the elements.



Vacant since 1999, the House of Tomorrow remained shrouded for years until a \$22 million federal award allowed restoration to begin. Guided by a plan developed by Indiana Landmarks, work began in 2024 to stabilize the structure and return its 1933 appearance, including reinforcing the home’s spoke and wheel structure (below) and replacing the deteriorated concrete floor (above).

PHOTOS BY TODD ZEIGER

Finally, the House of Tomorrow received a much-needed lifeline in 2023, when Indiana Dunes National Park received \$22 million from the Great American Outdoors Act Legacy Restoration Fund, administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The park allocated \$4 million for exterior restoration of the House of Tomorrow. Work began in 2024, guided by a plan developed and funded by Indiana Landmarks to recapture the home’s 1933 appearance.

The project drew an award-winning team of specialists in restoration and design, including lead project architect Strat-Arch, project architect bKL Architecture, Arda Design for historic preservation expertise, sustainability leaders HJK Associates, WSP for mechanical engineering, and Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates for structural engineering.

Like the other fair exhibit homes, the House of Tomorrow was intended to be a temporary structure, built with experimental building materials that were not designed to last. By the second year of the fair, Keck had already remodeled the





The project reached a milestone in November as workers from Trout Glass guided nearly 1,000-pound panes of glass into place, returning the signature feature of “America’s First Glass House.” The triple-glazed glass fulfills architect George Keck’s original vision of transparent design while also making the structure energy efficient, bringing the “House of Tomorrow” into the modern era.

PHOTOS COURTESY TROUT GLASS

house, adding copper cladding after the original “temporary” siding failed. The extensive use of glass also caused a greenhouse effect that the house’s air conditioning couldn’t keep up with. Keck’s observations of the house’s solar heat gains informed his later innovations, including his collaboration with the Libbey-Owens-Ford company on development of Thermopane glass and his design for 300 passive solar houses.

To create his 12-sided glass house, Keck designed a central hub supported by posts and a series of radiating girders to create a spoke-and-wheel structural system. A steel core at the center housed mechanical equipment, while cantilevered girders and slender steel columns supported concrete-slab second and third floors, allowing for open, unobstructed interiors. During the recent rehabilitation, lead contractor G-Force Construction partnered with subcontractor Berglund Construction to reinforce the home’s signature spoke and wheel structure system, repair and replace the severely deteriorated concrete floor, and oversee other repairs.

The design team faced the challenge of capturing the signature elements of Keck’s original vision while incorporating modern technology and materials to meet contemporary living standards. Lower-level exterior wall areas are being finished with smooth black siding, while the second and third floors feature the signature walls of glass. Although Keck had intended to use double-paned glass, cost cuts eliminated the original specification for a second sheet. After thorough analysis of current glass systems, project leaders selected a triple-glazed glass that preserves the building’s transparency while improving energy efficiency.

“It was up to us to transform what was initially a pretty inefficient and

fairly uncomfortable building to be in and find out a way to make it comfortable while maintaining all glass living and its connection with nature. We were figuring out how to express a beautiful piece of architecture in its simplest form while also making it comfortable and livable and long-lasting,” says Jon Gately, bKL Architecture design principal.

Hobart-based Trout Glass led installation of the home’s new state-of-the-art glass, a process that required creative troubleshooting to successfully transport 24 massive panels—some measuring 10 feet by 8 feet and weighing nearly 1,000 pounds—to the heavily wooded site where the House of Tomorrow overlooks Lake Michigan. Using a crane with a smart lift manipulator and industrial grade suction cups, crews raised each panel to workers waiting to guide it into aluminum framing.

“Looking out through the new windows, you can feel what Keck had envisioned, with the level of transparency between the interior and exterior and to be able to stand there and see the lake and not feel the harsh winter breeze on you,” says Todd Ravesloot, Indiana Dunes National Park chief of facilities.

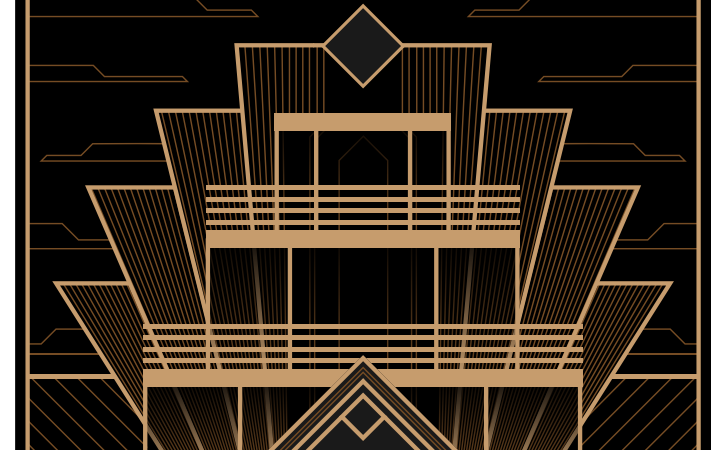
Because the house was extensively photographed during its construction, fair exhibition, transportation to Indiana, and throughout the following decades, the restoration team had a wealth of historic photographs to guide their work. The photos served as invaluable references in restoring and recreating exterior features such as original terrace railings and stairs lost over the decades to deterioration. The project also included recreating an operable tilt-up door for the “hangar.”

Significant interior features, including original Carrera glass wall cladding, metal baseboards, and parquet flooring and walls, were carefully salvaged and stored for future interior restoration.

Planning for the home’s next chapter will begin this summer, including the interior work and grounds restoration, with hopes of completing the full project within the next couple of years. We’ll celebrate the finished exterior restoration at Indiana Landmarks’ Rescue Party on April 25 in Indianapolis, where we’ll premiere a short documentary highlighting the save (see sidebar at right).

“It’s immensely fulfilling to see the restored exterior of the House of Tomorrow finally shedding its plywood and Tyvek cloak and taking its rightful place among the other restored Century of Progress houses,” says Todd Zeiger, director of Indiana Landmarks Northern Regional Office. “I look forward to hoisting a glass on the terrace to toast the results of this nearly 30-year collaboration with the National Park Service and the rest of the extraordinary team.”

## RESCUE PARTY



ON SATURDAY, APRIL 25, Indiana Landmarks’ Rescue Party will celebrate A Century of Progress with a glamorous evening inspired by Chicago’s iconic 1933-34 World’s Fair. Join us to celebrate restoration of the experimental Century of Progress homes transported to Indiana after the fair, including the legendary House of Tomorrow, and savor inventive takes on food, cocktails, and music that channel the spirit of the era—all leading to a memorable finale!

In addition to a silent auction for unforgettable experiences in historic locales, guests will have the opportunity to enter a chance-drawing for a five-night getaway at the restored Cypress Log Cabin, one of five fair exhibit houses now located within Indiana Dunes National Park.

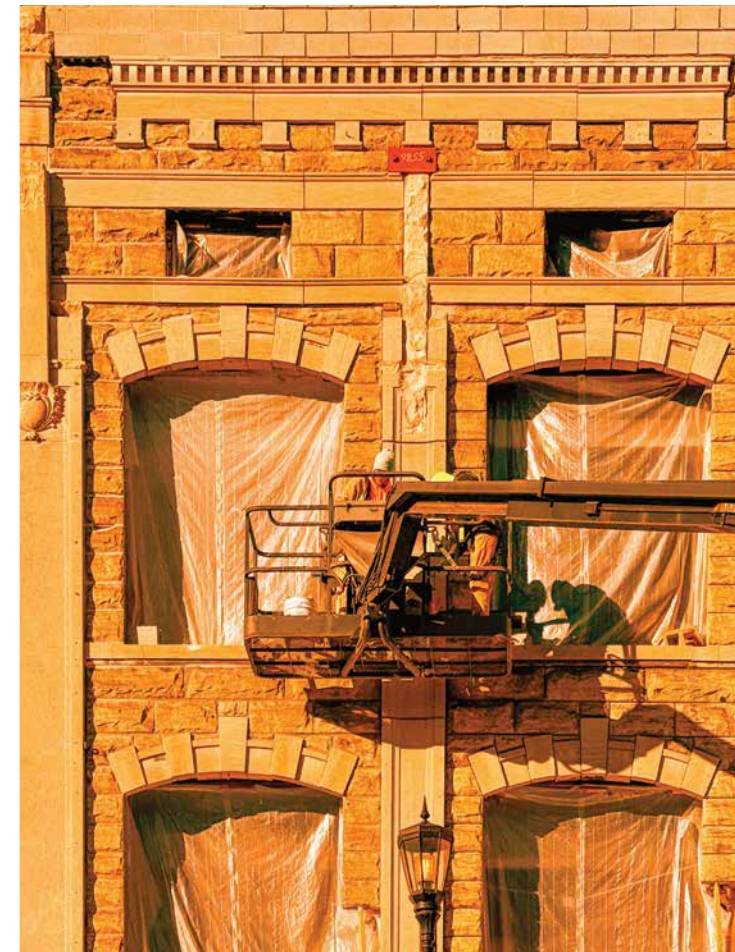
Party guests can also check out interactive salons with displays on the Chicago World’s Fair and the remarkable 30-year effort to save and restore the futuristic House of Tomorrow, register for one of our exclusive House of Tomorrow Cocktail Experiences to be staged in conjunction with the annual Century of Progress Home Tour in September, or buy specially reserved tickets to the always sold-out tour.

Watch for your invitation in the mail, or check our website for details: [indianalandmarks.org/rescueparty](http://indianalandmarks.org/rescueparty).

Rescue Party benefits Indiana Landmarks’ Endangered Places Program, offering grants, loans, advocacy, and strategy to help save historic structures and revitalize Hoosier communities.



# 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY ARCHITECTS



Throughout the twentieth century, Indiana architects profoundly shaped the character of their own communities, strengthening civic identity and pride through thoughtfully designed buildings that expressed local culture, traditions, and aspirations. With work that evolved over the course of the era's dramatically changing ideas, technology, and social practices, their legacy continues to enrich our understanding of our communities and inspire daily life.

PHOTOS COURTESY INDIANA DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND ARCHAEOLOGY, KURT WEST GARNER, TOMMY KLECKNER, AND CHRISTINA MILLER



## SHAPING A CITY

Few architectural lineages influenced western Indiana as deeply as the Johnson, Miller, and Yeager families. In the first half of the twentieth century, they left an indelible mark on the region with a remarkable range of schools, residences, churches, fraternal lodges, commercial blocks, and other public buildings.

In 1911, Macmillan “Mack” Johnson and Warren Miller teamed up in Brazil, Indiana, to take on new commissions and façade redesigns. The pair quickly built a thriving practice, hiring Warren’s brother Ewing and architect Ralph Yeager to accommodate the growing workload. After Johnson and Ewing Miller both died in 1923, Warren Miller and Ralph Yeager took over the firm, establishing a legacy in Terre Haute that remains evident today.

Miller and Yeager’s work includes a wide range of architecture, from civic landmarks like the 1935 U.S. Post Office and Federal Building (now Indiana State University Federal Hall) and the 1926 Terre Haute City Hall to residential and commercial projects including the 1928 Homer and Carrie Talley House, the 1940 Terre Haute YMCA, and the 1941 Mutual

Work is expected to wrap this summer on the rehabilitation of Terre Haute’s Rea Park Clubhouse (above), preserving its historic character while adding modern updates to support its renewed use as a community gathering space. The 1925 clubhouse is one of many notable buildings designed by the prolific Miller and Yeager architecture firm in the early twentieth century.

PHOTO COURTESY TERRE HAUTE CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

Savings Association Building—now Indiana Landmarks’ western office.

One of the firm’s standout designs, Terre Haute’s Rea Park Clubhouse, is poised to reclaim its status as the jewel of Rea Park after decades of deterioration. Built in 1925, the Mediterranean-influenced design was funded by the Rea family, who purchased 160 acres of farmland to establish a city park, golf course, and other public amenities. Over time, however, the clubhouse’s role as a community hub faded and deferred maintenance took a toll on the aging building.

Concerned about the landmark’s future, the Friends of Rea Park formed to serve as a catalyst for its revitalization. With support from Indiana Landmarks and in partnership with the City of Terre Haute’s Parks and Recreation Department, the group

took the lead on fundraising and developing a master plan for the park and clubhouse. The effort raised \$4.2 million for improvements through private donations, READi, American Rescue Plan Act, and county income tax funds.

Local firm Sanders and Associates developed the clubhouse’s rehabilitation plan to preserve its historic character, address disrepair, and introduce modern building systems and finishes where appropriate. Inside, workers are refinishing original terrazzo floors previously covered by carpet, repairing original windows, ceilings, and stucco, adding a modern kitchen and covered outdoor dining area, and incorporating a new ramp to make the main level accessible to all.

“With the help of our stakeholders, we’re now able to make the rehabilitation happen that was long overdue and preserve the facility for another 100 years,” says Kilie Smith, superintendent of the Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department.

“The clubhouse is integral to the entire park, so we felt that renewing the building would spur future improvements,” says Amanda Jukes, supervising architect. “We’re bringing it back to what it was intended to be, a space for the whole community.”

## THE BIG REVEAL

In the 1960s and ’70s, many nineteenth- and early twentieth-century commercial buildings received modern makeovers, remodeled with metal façades to keep pace with contemporary design trends. Today, owners of those same buildings are removing mismatched coverings to reveal the historic architecture underneath. Last year, crews began stripping a

Miller and Yeager’s portfolio includes notable residential, commercial, and civic landmarks including the 1935 Post Office and Federal Building (below) and 1928 Homer and Carrie Talley House (bottom), which Indiana Landmarks rehabilitated following its use as a fraternity house.

PHOTO BY LEE LEWELLEN AND TOMMY KLECKNER

worn mid-century façade from a commercial building in downtown South Bend, revealing the handsome masonry exterior originally designed by early twentieth-century architects Freyeremuth and Maurer.

George W. Freyeremuth moved from Philadelphia to South Bend as a child, launching his career as a carpenter before becoming a self-taught contractor and architect. His partner, R. Vernon Maurer, brought formal training to their collaboration, with credentials from the Chicago Athenaeum and the Art Institute. The pair established their South Bend architecture firm in 1897 and designed commercial buildings, churches, houses, and civic buildings



throughout the city, including the 1912 Classical Revival-style North Pumping Station, and 1902 City Hall (demolished in 1970).

In 1902, the pair designed the Merchants National Bank block on Michigan Street, creating a masonry front that unified three connected commercial buildings. The façade was covered in porcelain-enameled steel in 1960 while home to The Grand Leader Department Store. For decades the tan-hued exterior was a familiar landmark to local residents, who later knew the site as mini-mall Center City Place.

Historic photographs of Freyermuth and Maurer's original design convinced local business owners Ben and Christina Miller that a more eye-catching exterior remained beneath the tired mid-century façade. In 2019, noticing a shortage

A historic photograph suggested the original masonry exterior remained beneath a mid-century façade added to South Bend's Merchants National Bank block, inspiring owners Ben and Christina Miller to remove the metal cladding and uncover the building's Freyermuth and Maurer design.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL CATERINA,  
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME  
AND CHRISTINA MILLER

of amenities and restaurants serving the downtown workforce, the couple opened the Dainty Maid Food Hall as a space for culinary start-ups, first considering Center City Place for the venture but ultimately choosing a smaller building directly next door.

Recognizing the Millers' proven track record, the City of South Bend invited them to take on Center City Place, offering technical support and financial incentives through its Department of Community Investment. Todd Zeiger, director

of Indiana Landmarks' Northern Regional Office, connected the couple with architecture students from the University of Notre Dame, who studied the building and produced architectural renderings.

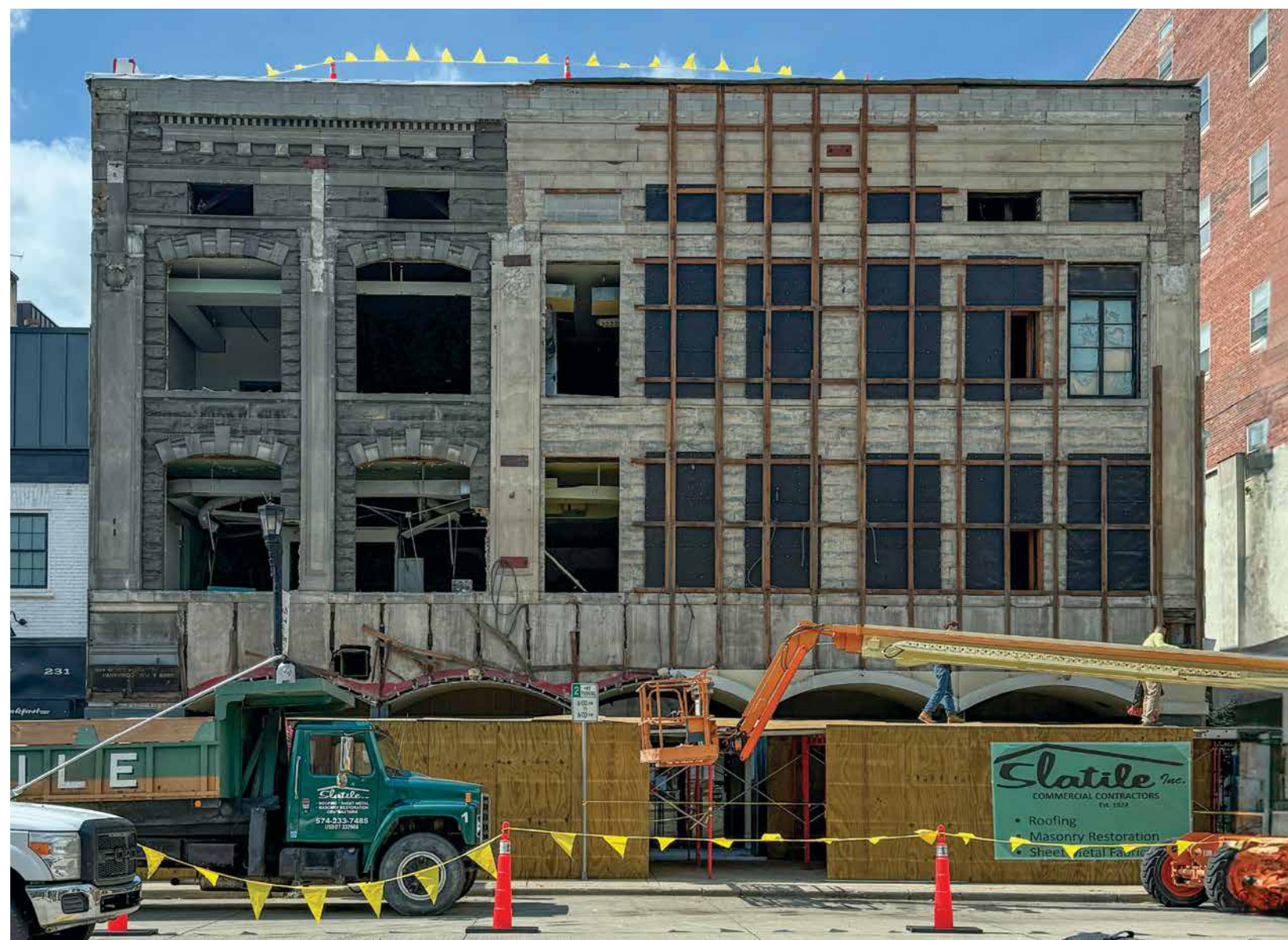
"When we were shown a picture of the original façade, it was a huge point of interest for us," says Christina Miller. "We're excited to help bring back part of the fabric of downtown lost over the decades and help beautify the block."

As part of its investment in the project, the City agreed to remove the metal façade, repair and clean the original exterior, and replace the building's roof. The Millers envision the building eventually housing storefront retail, a flexible event and classroom space, and a boutique hotel.

## PAVING THE WAY

Architect Wendell Campbell (1927-2008) loved logic puzzles. The son of an East Chicago carpenter, Campbell exhibited curiosity in how things worked early on, unhinging doors and reconfiguring crown molding at the family home. That same inquisitiveness laid the groundwork for his future as an influential architect whose legacy includes an attention-grabbing Neo-expressionist church in his hometown, recently listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

As a Black American, when Campbell graduated college in 1957, his bachelor's degree in architecture and city planning and distinguished service in World War II didn't count for much. Despite mentorship and training by design elites





Mies Van Der Rohe and Ludwig Hilberseimer at the Illinois Institute of Technology, racial prejudice blocked his early attempts to practice architecture.

Undaunted, Campbell took work as an urban planner. In 1966 he founded his own architecture firm, Wendell Campbell Associates, launching a prestigious career that would help pave the path for other minority architects. Just a few years later, his reputation and family ties to East Chicago inspired local church trustees to hire Campbell to design a new house of worship.

St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church has served the East Chicago community since its founding in 1916, and by the mid-1960s, the church's growing congregation and community programs had outgrown its original home. Church leaders acquired land in the city's Prairie Park neighborhood and commissioned Campbell to design a larger modern facility to support the church's expanding mission.

Completed in 1973, the building's distinctive geometric design suggests the shape of two hands interlocked in prayer, with a multi-planed triangular roof rising above broad walls and ribbon windows that zigzag along each side of a spacious sanctuary. A small glass-enclosed vestibule connects the main worship area to an administrative wing that houses clergy offices, meeting space, bathrooms, and classrooms.

"The most awe-inspiring part of the spiritual experience is being in the sanctuary and looking at the cross as you walk down a slight decline to the front of the church," say lifelong church member Jo Anne McDonald. "The concept Campbell had was that you're humbling yourself as you walk towards the altar. People are still having the experience he had in mind."

Today, Campbell is recognized as one of the twentieth century's most influential Black architects and credited with helping to diversify the industry. He co-founded and served as first president of National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA).

In East Chicago, pioneering Black architect Wendell Campbell designed the distinctive St. Mark AME Zion Church (above), featuring a roofline evoking hands folded in prayer. The active church recently gained listing in the National Register of Historic Places with support from an Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program grant. PHOTO BY BLAKE SWIHART



Appreciating the church's distinctive design and historic significance, Indiana Landmarks partnered with church leaders to bring greater attention to the landmark. With support from Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program, the church hired consultant Kurt Garner to successfully complete nominating St. Mark to the National Register of Historic Places.

"If we were boastful people, this designation would give us a reason to stick our chests out, but we are rather humble, just as Campbell intended in that walk down to the altar. It keeps us in the correct position before the Lord," adds McDonald.

— *Contributed by Indiana Landmarks staff, including Blake Swihart, northwest field office director.*

## MODERN ENCLAVE

In the early 1960s, construction of Interstate 64 and the Sherman Minton Bridge through downtown New Albany sparked major redevelopment as the City cleared four blocks near the



new interstate for federal, county, and municipal buildings. Today, the area remains a cohesive enclave of Modernist civic architecture, including three buildings designed by the local firm of Walker, Applegate, Oakes and Ritz.

The firm set the tone with its design for the four-story New Albany Floyd County City-County Building—the first of its kind in the state—completed in 1961. The streamlined rectangular glass and concrete structure features a symmetrical façade with minimal decoration, save for three inscribed medallions and a curved, Pagoda-like entry canopy.

The company refined its aesthetic even further in its design for the U.S. Courthouse and Federal Office Building (renamed the Lee H. Hamilton Federal Building), which

Architectural firm Walker, Applegate, Oakes, and Ritz made a significant impact on downtown New Albany, designing the city-county building (left), courthouse and federal building (top) and public library. A grant from Indiana Modern will help document the history of the house (above) Robert Applegate designed for his family.

PHOTOS BY LEE LEWELLEN, COURTESY INDIANA DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND ARCHAEOLOGY, AND DAN MADRYGA

faces the City-County Building. Completed in 1966, the National Register-listed landmark is considered a standout example of New Formalism, blending Modernist principles with Classical symmetry. The exterior features a glass curtain wall framed by thin limestone columns and arches, a motif that continues inside in the federal courtroom.

Across the street from the City-County Building, Walker, Applegate, Oakes, and Ritz blended International and Brutalist influences for the 1969 New Albany-Floyd County Public Library, where a deep concrete parapet hovers over a band of floor-to-ceiling windows. The library's open interior offers a warm contrast to the stark exterior, featuring a gridded wooden ceiling and extensive use of wood veneer, a nod to New Albany's history as a leading plywood manufacturer. Still serving as a public library, the building remains largely true to the firm's original vision, a quality that contributed to its listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

In spring 2025, the General Services Administration identified the Federal Building as one of hundreds of federal buildings nationwide that could be closed or sold. Locals are also increasingly concerned about what the future holds for the City-County Building, which needs systems upgrades.

Supported by a grant from our Indiana Modern affinity group, Indiana Landmarks is documenting the history of the Modernist New Albany house designed by the firm's Robert Applegate for his family in 1951. The house, still owned by his widow Janet, is the focus of a video-based oral history project aimed at raising awareness of an architect whose firm left a significant imprint on New Albany's civic architecture.

## Taking Care

### AT THE TURN OF THE

twentieth century, Indianapolis's Meridian Street north of 38th Street emerged as a desirable residential area, attracting prominent business executives, bankers, and other leading citizens who built grand homes signaling their wealth and prestige. One of them, William N. Thompson, president of the Stutz Motor Company, commissioned an elegant golden-brick mansion that later served as the Indiana Governor's residence from 1945-1970. Since 1978, the Georgian Revival-style house has been home to Dr. John and Elaine Klein and their family, and today the restored landmark reflects the years they devoted to restoring and caring for the property.

Thompson hired notable Indianapolis architect Frank B.



Dr. John (above) and Elaine Klein spent decades restoring their 1920 home in Indianapolis, the former Indiana's governor's residence. They donated a preservation easement to Indiana Landmarks to protect original features, including Art Deco-style bathrooms with Rookwood tile.

PHOTOS BY EVAN HALE AND MARK DOLLASE

Hunter to design the house, which was constructed by the prolific William P. Jungclaus Company. When oil company founder James Trimble purchased the property in 1927, he added his own distinctive touches, including a brick and iron fence in front of the property. He re-hired Hunter to redesign the bathrooms in an Art Deco style, incorporating in the master bath three stained-glass skylights, a built-in gold filigree bathroom scale, and

walls decorated with pastoral scenes executed in Rookwood Pottery Company tile. As home to seven Indiana governors over the ensuing decades, the property became a hub for high-profile social gatherings and hosted a parade of notable guests including Presidents Johnson and Truman, Vice President Richard Nixon, Admiral Chester Nimitz, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Jayne Mansfield, Walter Cronkite, Bob Hope, Red Skelton, Mary Pickford, and many more.

By the time the Kleins purchased the home for their growing family, the property had already seen many décor changes shaped by its many residents and use as Indianapolis's Decorators' Show House in 1975, but the house's history and architecture inspired them. Elaine, a master gardener, put her stamp on the expansive grounds, while John found the historic four-car garage well suited for their growing classic car collection.

The couple spent decades bringing back the property's original features, beginning with repairing the crumbling concrete front porch, which they replaced with new concrete and topped with red-colored patterned quarry tile to reflect its historic appearance. Using a historic photograph, they hired artisans to recreate stained art-glass windows in the historic solarium, as well as hand-painted murals along the room's curving wall. To recapture the appearance and function of the house's original heating and cooling system, John tracked down vintage 1920s steam radiators and installed them throughout the home. Through newspaper clippings, historic photographs, and interviews with former residents, a picture emerged of how the house's design evolved over time.

In the early 1970s, as encroaching development threatened to erode the residential character along North Meridian Street, the Indiana General Assembly passed the Meridian Street Preservation Act, establishing the Meridian Street Preservation Commission to review proposed changes in land use. John Klein has long supported the commission's work, including serving as a member. The Kleins also collaborated with Indiana Landmarks during publication of *The Main Stem: The History and Architecture of North Meridian Street* in 1992, contributing the history of their home and opening it for tours to raise funds for the book's publication.

The family developed a long-standing relationship with Indiana Landmarks, relying on its staff as a trusted sounding board for preservation-related questions. "Indiana Landmarks has done a good job protecting historic structures through their revolving fund, selling properties they invest in with easements and preservation covenants so new buyers maintain their historic appearance," notes John Klein.

Last year, the Kleins decided to donate a preservation easement on their home to Indiana Landmarks protecting its exterior, its outstanding Rookwood tile bathrooms, and other standout architectural features from alteration by future owners.

"I believe in preservation of historic structures," says John Klein. "I've seen too many historic houses desecrated by new owners who want to change the architecture to look like whatever faux design choices are popular, then they move on and the damage is done to the original features. I didn't want to see that done here, especially to these bathrooms. You've never seen anything like them. Without this easement, at some point someone would modernize them."



### BRIEFLY NOTED

Indiana Landmarks welcomes **Sarah Wallace** as chief of staff at our Indianapolis headquarters. Wallace holds a master's degree in historic preservation from the University of Pennsylvania and previously served as chair of the Ann Arbor Historic District Commission. Before joining Indiana Landmarks, she worked as process leader at Novy, a Midwest venture studio that helps build healthcare software startups.

**Jenna Servizzi** joins the staff as program coordinator at Samara, the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed John and Catherine Christian House in West Lafayette. She previously served as a guest experience interpreter at Conner Prairie and holds a bachelor's degree in art history, museum studies, and classical studies from Indiana University Indianapolis.

In the January/February issue of *Indiana Preservation*, we failed to identify a church pictured on page 7. The bottom right image is Saint Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church in Michigan City, where the congregation is using a \$400,000 Sacred Places Indiana Fund grant to repair their towers.



# Tours & Events

March/April 2026

Visit [indianalandmarks.org/tours-events](https://indianalandmarks.org/tours-events) to learn more and register. All times are Eastern unless noted.

## Athenaeum Bier & Building Tour

Mar. 8, Indianapolis

Sample German American heritage through beer, appetizers, and activities on this adults-only tour, highlighting the historic Athenaeum. Tours depart at 1:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. Advance tickets encouraged. \$40/general public (ages 21 & up); \$35/member.

## Affiliate Council Meeting

Mar. 11, Indianapolis and online

Indiana Landmarks affiliates are invited to an interactive session with Todd Zeiger, Indiana Landmarks' vice president of heritage trades and northern office director, exploring how communities can address the shortage of skilled tradespeople to work on historic buildings. Noon-3:30 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center and online. \$15/person includes lunch. Advance registration required.

## Cold War Calumet

Mar. 14, Valparaiso

Indiana's Calumet Region lays claim to some of the country's largest steel mills, oil refineries, and chemical plants. Dr. Kathleen Tobin of Purdue University Northwest, and Cliff Goins, president of Duneland Historical Society, examine the complex history of the region's Cold War industries from Standard Oil to the U.S. Department of Defense. Co-sponsored by Calumet Heritage Partnership. 2-4 p.m. CDT at Linwood House. Free with registration.

## 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 & Tues.-Sat., June-Dec.)

### 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 Mar. 26 & Apr. 23. Tickets cost \$50/person, \$45/member. Advance tickets required.

[indianalandmarks.org/french-lick-west-baden](https://indianalandmarks.org/french-lick-west-baden)

## Conversations in Indiana African American History

Mar. 19 & Apr. 16, Indianapolis and online

On Mar. 19, Eunice Trotter, director of Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program, and Jeff Stroebel, local historian, tell the story of the Garveyite Movement in Indianapolis (1919-1940). On Apr. 16, Dr. Lasana Kazembe of IU Indianapolis highlights unsung Black artists and writers. Presented in partnership with Freetown Village. 6 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center and online. Free with registration at [freetownvillage.org](https://freetownvillage.org) or 317-631-1870.

## Athenaeum Tour

Mar. 22, Indianapolis

Explore the history, architecture, and preservation of the Athenaeum, as it evolved from German clubhouse to a hub of modern urban life. Tours depart at 1:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. Advance tickets encouraged. \$15/adult; \$12/member; \$10/child (ages 6-11); free to children ages 5 and under.

## Sacred Architecture

Mar. 26, Indianapolis and online

Duncan G. Stroik, architect, author, and professor of architecture at University of Notre Dame, delves into sacred architecture's relationship to other artistic disciplines, the importance of creative restoration, and America's role in reviving traditional arts. 6 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center and online. \$10/general public; free to members with registration.



EVAN HALE

## Logs to Lustrons Tour

May 2, Indiana Dunes National Park

INDIANA LANDMARKS partners with the National Park Service to highlight a century of architecture in the Indiana Dunes—from log homes to Modernist residences. Park at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. State Road 49, Porter, and join a ranger-led group tour by bus. Departure times vary. \$40/general public; \$35/member.

## Bailly Homestead Hike

May 2, Indiana Dunes National Park

**IN 1822, FUR TRAPPER** Joseph Bailly established his trading post along the Little Calumet River. Today, the site's rare collection of nineteenth-century structures, built by Bailly and his descendants, is a National Historic Landmark. Experience the area's deep history on a two-hour guided hike with retired National Park Ranger Cliff Goins. Tours depart at 12:15 p.m. and 3 p.m. CDT. \$20/general public; \$15/member.

## If These Walls Could Tell

Mar. 29, Indianapolis and online

Storyteller Lou Ann Homan shares the history and revival of Fort Wayne's Electric Works, winner of Indiana Landmarks' 2025 Cook Cup for Outstanding Restoration. Indiana Landmarks and Storytelling Arts of Indiana host *If These Walls Could Tell* with support from Frank and Katrina Basile. 4-5:30 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center and online. In-person tickets \$20/person, \$10/student; virtual \$15/person. Purchase at [storytellingarts.org](https://storytellingarts.org) or 317-576-9848.

## 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. 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](https://samara-house.org)

## Talking Track

Apr. 9, Indianapolis and online

Comedian and broadcaster Dave "The King" Wilson hosts a chat about racing and track culture highlighting the historic Brickyard. Sponsored by our Indiana Automotive affinity group. 6 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center and online. \$10/general public; free to members with registration.

## Rescue Party: A Century of Progress

Apr. 25, Indianapolis

Join us at Indiana Landmarks Center for a 1930s-inspired party celebrating restoration of Indiana's iconic House of Tomorrow and the legacy of Chicago's 1933-34 World's Fair. We'll roll out the red carpet with great music, fantastic food, and raise funds to save endangered places. 7-10 p.m. See p. 7 for more.

## Monument Circle Walking Tour

Apr. 19 & May 17, Indianapolis

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 1:30 p.m. \$10/general public (ages 12 & up); \$8/member; \$5/child (ages 6-11); free to children 5 and under.

## South Bend Trades Training Workshops

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

MAR. 4 - Wood Floor Repair

APR. 2 - Porch & Exterior Carpentry Repair

MAY 6 - Wood Window Restoration 101

## Propylaeum Building Tour

Mar. 15 & Apr. 12, Indianapolis

TAKE A DEEP DIVE into Indy history at the Propylaeum, a hub for arts, culture, and women's leadership since 1923. Presented in partnership with the Propylaeum Historic Foundation. Tours depart at 1:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. \$15/general public; \$12/member; \$10/child (ages 6-11); free to children 5 and under.

KELLY HARRIS

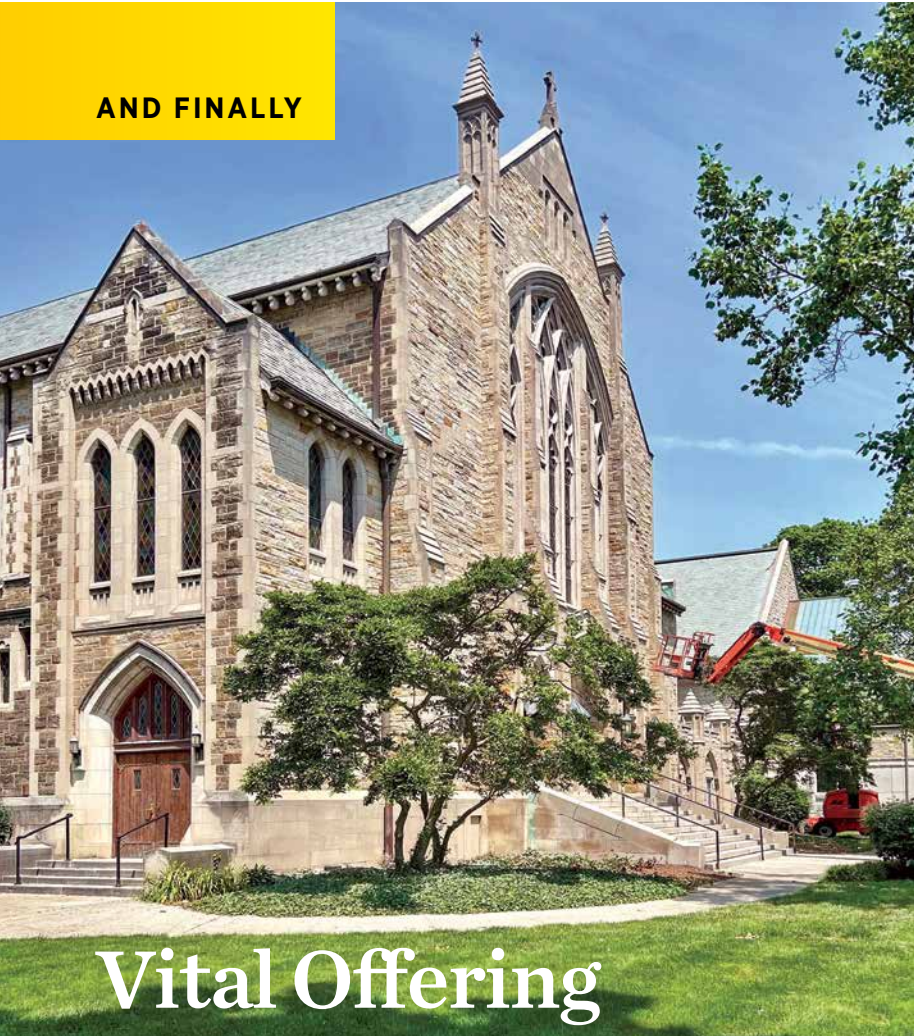


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AND FINALLY



# Vital Offering

**TO DEAL WITH AN** increasing volume of calls for help from congregations in historic churches with restoration needs, in 2015 Indiana Landmarks created the Sacred Places Indiana Program with support from Lilly Endowment Inc. In December 2025, Lilly Endowment renewed its support for Sacred Places Indiana with

In December, Lilly Endowment gave a \$10 million grant to Sacred Places Indiana for its ongoing support to congregations in historic houses of worship through training and capital grants, including recent repairs at Indianapolis's North United Methodist Church (pictured).

PHOTOS BY DOSHIA STEWART



a \$10 million grant for ongoing programs to benefit historic houses of worship, including expert guidance, training, and financial assistance.

“Lilly Endowment’s ongoing commitment to Indiana Landmarks’ Sacred Places Indiana program is valuable beyond words,” says David Frederick, director of Sacred Places Indiana. “We’ve already seen the impact that the program is having, not only in terms of support to participating congregations and the historic buildings they steward, but to the communities they serve as well.”

The award will help boost the program’s Sacred Places Indiana Fund, which awards matching grants to congregations committed to good stewardship of their historic structures. In December, North United Methodist Church in Indianapolis—one of the fund’s inaugural recipients—completed masonry restoration work on several historic facades of the 1931 Gothic Revival-style building, aided by a \$250,000 capital grant and \$25,000 planning grant from the fund. The work will help ensure the building is watertight and able to continue accommodating the congregation’s crucial feeding ministry and social justice initiatives, and housing multiple community organizations and nonprofits.

Applications for the next round of grant funding are now open and will be accepted through June 15, 2026. Learn more: [indianalandmarks.org/sacred-places-indiana](http://indianalandmarks.org/sacred-places-indiana).