INDIANA PRESERVATION

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2026

INDIANA LANDMARKS



Uncovering History

Celebrating Black heritage sites statewide

GOOD FAITH

Protecting historic houses of worship

INSPIRING HOPE

Saving Paoli's Mineral Springs Hotel

Building on Success

IN 2022, INDIANA LANDMARKS launched the Black Heritage Preservation Program to build on the work of our African American Landmarks Committee, established in 1992 to help identify and save historic African American sites.

When Eunice Trotter joined us as the program's first director, she hit the ground running, charting an ambitious new course to preserve and celebrate Black heritage throughout Indiana while broadening our understanding of what sites merit recognition.

Under her leadership, the program expanded preservation grants and added training and guidance for community leaders, an internship and scholarship program to cultivate future preservation advocates, and initiatives to document stories that capture the voices and experiences of Black Hoosiers across the state.

As Eunice passes the torch to new director André Myers, we are deeply grateful for the vision, dedication, and energy she brought to this work. The foundation she has built will continue to shape preservation efforts for decades to come.

Looking ahead, we are committed to building on that momentum by integrating Black heritage preservation more fully into Indiana Landmarks' broader revitalization and community investment initiatives, bringing even more visibility to this important work. Together with our partners, we will continue elevating and protecting the places and stories that enrich Indiana's history and communities. Read more on pp. 14-15.

Brad Ward, President

On the Cover

Descendants of Roberts Settlement in Hamilton County help tell the story of Indiana's early Black pioneers through ongoing preservation of Roberts Chapel and an adjacent Legacy Walk with exhibits highlighting the site's rich history. PHOTO BY EVAN HALE

INDIANA LANDMARKS

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STARTERS

Lucky Loo

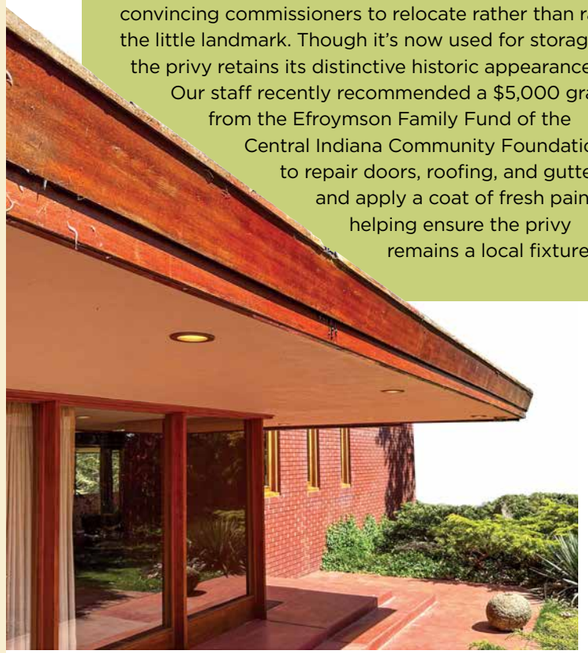
OUTHOUSES SELDOM EARN praise for their architectural merits, but a rare six-sided privy on the grounds of the Switzerland County Courthouse in Vevay proves every rule has an exception. Designed with six doors for maximum accommodation and crowned with a cupola to provide light and ventilation for all users, the nineteenth-century brick structure nearly met an untimely end when it stood in the path of a 2004 addition to the 1864 courthouse. Indiana Landmarks and local advocates defended its, ahem, historical assets, convincing commissioners to relocate rather than raze the little landmark. Though it's now used for storage, the privy retains its distinctive historic appearance. Our staff recently recommended a $5,000 grant from the Efroymson Family Fund of the Central Indiana Community Foundation to repair doors, roofing, and gutters and apply a coat of fresh paint, helping ensure the privy remains a local fixture.



MITCHELL KNIGGA



MARTHA BLADEN, SWITZERLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



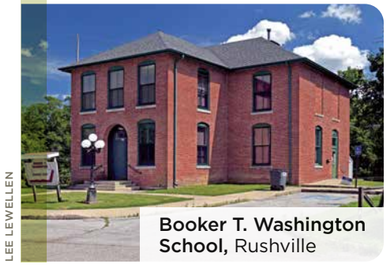
NATHAN ALLAIRE

Reuse Done Wright

Thrifting, upcycling, and reuse are enjoying a moment, but the truth is, these ideas aren't new. In many ways, they reflect values that have shaped historic preservation for generations. Every time we save and revitalize an existing building, we demonstrate a simple truth: the greenest structure is the one already built. Recent work at Samara, the John and Catherine Christian House Indiana Landmarks co-stewards in West Lafayette, shows that philosophy in action. During a 2025 roof replacement project, crews uncovered original Philippine mahogany that had been concealed for decades beneath the copper roofline, raising unexpected questions about what to protect and why. Our answer, and Wright's original vision, transformed a piece of the house's past into a resource for its future, proving that sustainability and preservation have always gone hand in hand. Find out more at **samara-house.org/blog.**

250

sites identified through Project 250, a statewide public history and community initiative by Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program to document the 250 most significant Black heritage sites in Indiana. **Read more on pp. 8-13.**



LEE LEWELLEN

Booker T. Washington School, Rushville



Training Program Protects Faithful Legacy

NEARLY 100 YEARS AFTER it was built, an Art Deco-style church on Indianapolis's 34th Street remains a center of faith and community life. Designed by Indianapolis architect R.F. Daggett and built for the congregation of Third Church of Christ, Scientist, today the eye-catching building houses the congregation of Phillips Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church. When recent leaks from the roof and belfry threatened the limestone church's interior, repairing the landmark became more than a preservation project for the congregation, it meant safeguarding their legacy.

Using lessons learned in Sacred Places Indiana's New Partners/New Dollars training program, members of Indianapolis's Phillips Temple CME Church successfully raised $685,000 to replace the roof of their 1928 church, an effort supported by a $300,000 Sacred Places Indiana capital grant.

PHOTOS BY KELLY HARRIS AND COURTESY PHILLIPS TEMPLE CME CHURCH TRUSTEE MINISTRY



"This was not just about replacing a roof but protecting everything underneath it," says Anthony Williamson, Phillips Temple steward board chair. "It protects our sanctuary, protects our history, and protects our ministries, giving us the ability to keep serving our people."

As the congregation considered how to care for its historic church, Indiana Landmarks' Sacred Places Indiana offered critical tools. By participating in the program's New Dollars/New Partners training in 2024-2025, members of Phillips Temple CME Church learned new ways to think about their assets, and how to identify community partners, activate underutilized space, and build financial sustainability. Through the intensive training, participants also formed bonds with other congregations from across the state who shared similar experiences.

Phillips Temple's congregation dates to 1907, when its members held their first prayer service in a home in Indianapolis's Ransom Place neighborhood. After occupying the old Victors Building at the northwest corner of 12th and West streets for several decades, the growing congregation moved to the church on 34th Street in 1992, where it continues to serve the neighborhood through ministries including food and clothing pantries, a partnership with the neighboring Raphael Health Center, and other community programs.

In fall 2025, the congregation received a $300,000 Sacred Places Indiana capital grant toward a full roof replacement.

Applying lessons from the program's training, church leaders mobilized additional funding from the congregation and community partners, ultimately raising $685,000 for the project, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2026. The effort produced unexpected benefits as well. After congregation leaders approached the roofing contractor about employment opportunities, three church members were hired for the project, gaining jobs and valuable experience.

"Indiana Landmarks and Sacred Places Indiana offered more than financial assistance," adds Williamson. "This roof represents what can happen when philanthropy, faith, and preservation come together for a common cause and purpose."

In New Albany, St Paul's Episcopal Church holds distinction as the first Episcopal parish in Indiana, dating to 1834. As the congregation grew, it commissioned Louisville firm McDonald Brothers to design a Gothic Revival-style house of worship, completed in 1896 on the city's Mansion Row. For more than a century, St. Paul's has served the surrounding community through ministries that today include weekly hot meals, a pet food pantry, grief support programs, and more. After going through Sacred Places Indiana's New Dollars/New Partners training in 2023-2024, St. Paul's received a $70,000 matching capital grant from the program to stabilize the church undercroft and undertake structural masonry repairs on its bell tower, safeguarding the building for its next century of service.

Located on New Albany's Mansion Row, St. Paul's Episcopal Church has served the surrounding community since 1896. Sacred Places Indiana gave the congregation a $70,000 matching capital grant to repair the historic church's undercroft and bell tower, ensuring vital ministry work can continue in the building.

PHOTOS BY DAVID FREDERICK AND REV. ALLAN WALLACE





By participating in New Dollars/New Partners, Phillips Temple and St. Paul's each qualified to receive $25,000 planning grants, preparing them for successful capital projects.

They are two of dozens of congregations strengthening both their historic buildings and their community outreach through Sacred Places Indiana. In September, the program welcomed its 10th New Dollars/New Partners training cohort, made up of participants from ten Indiana congregations: Bethany Apostolic Church, Evansville; Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Indianapolis; Brook United Methodist Church, Brook; Community of Hope United Methodist Church, Muncie; First United Methodist Church, Anderson; First United Methodist Church, Ellettsville; Gateway Community Church, Fortville; Madison Reformed Church, Madison; Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Hendricks County, Danville; and Walnut Ridge Friends Meeting, Carthage.

Indiana Landmarks established Sacred Places Indiana in 2015 in collaboration with Philadelphia-based Partners for Sacred Places, with support from Lilly Endowment Inc. Applications for congregations interested in Sacred Places Indiana's New Dollars/New Partners next training cohort open in January 2027. Learn more at **indianalandmarks.org/sacred-places-indiana.**



Hope Springs Eternal for Historic Hotel

FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY, THE MINERAL Springs Hotel has served as one of the most architecturally distinctive landmarks on Paoli's courthouse square. In recent years, however, prolonged vacancy was taking an increasing toll on the building. A March 2025 storm ripped off a temporary roof, accelerating deterioration and earning the hotel a second stint on Indiana Landmarks' 10 Most Endangered list.

In the months to follow, a hastily installed tarp and numerous broken windows did little to keep out the elements or the pigeons, yet even in decay, the historic hotel captured the attention of family physician Sean Salés, a transplant to the area who says he felt a spiritual calling to restore it.

"I had a kind of epiphany moment in the fall of 2025, going around the square and looking at this building that hadn't had a roof on it since March," says Salés. "I asked, 'Am I going to be okay with myself if I don't do anything about it and the building comes down?' The answer was a resounding, 'No.'"

After years of vacancy, prospects for Paoli's Mineral Springs Hotel hit a new low when a 2025 storm ripped away its roof. Purchased earlier this year by Springs of Hope in Paoli, the landmark is poised for transformation as a boutique hotel, a vision Indiana Landmarks is supporting with a $100,000 grant from its Endangered Places Fund. PHOTO BY GREG SEKULA

Gathering a group of like-minded local philanthropists who saw the hotel's restoration as a catalyst for community revitalization, Salés formed the nonprofit Springs of Hope in Paoli, which acquired the Mineral Springs Hotel in April 2026. Inspired by the group's vision, Indiana Landmarks committed $100,000 from our Endangered Places Fund to support the restoration, the largest strategic investment we've made in a local partner for a specific preservation project. Located directly across from the Orange County Courthouse, the hotel is well positioned to reclaim its role as an economic and cultural anchor for downtown Paoli.

Constructed in 1896, the once-grand Mineral Springs Hotel opened at a time when the town itself had no electricity. The ambitious project, spearheaded by local businessmen hoping to compete with the nearby French Lick and West Baden Springs resorts, offered hotel guests the luxury of electric lighting in each room, courtesy of a steam-powered generator in the basement, and local mineral waters for bathing 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. Though the hotel closed in 1958, various businesses continued to occupy its ground floor until recent years.

A previous Indiana Landmarks Endangered Places grant helped Springs of Hope in Paoli hire New Albany architectural firm TowerPinkster to develop a stabilization plan for the three-story building and guide its transformation into a boutique hotel. As a powerful example of how early support can multiply impact, Indiana Landmarks' latest investment is helping unlock $300,000 in matching local and state funds.



Springs of Hope in Paoli is working to return the 1896 Mineral Springs Hotel to its historic role as a community anchor and economic driver on the courthouse square. Volunteers cleaned up the site this summer, with masonry work and roof replacement slated to begin this fall. PHOTOS BY GREG SEKULA AND COURTESY SPRINGS OF HOPE IN PAOLI



Combining those funds with private donations and Indiana Landmarks' investment, Springs of Hope in Paoli has raised over $547,000 to date, enabling it to begin tackling bricks-and-mortar work this fall and winter. The group's first priority is repairing masonry at the parapet level and adding a permanent roof to the hotel to halt water infiltration.

"We feel that Mineral Springs Hotel is a symbol for Paoli. Its restoration will inspire people to believe our town is not forgotten or forsaken," says Salés.

"Strategic early investments can have an outsized impact, and those investments are possible because Indiana Landmarks' donors give us the ability to step in at critical moments and help communities turn long-shot challenges into preservation success stories," adds Brad Ward, president of Indiana Landmarks.

Learn more about Springs of Hope in Paoli's work to restore the Mineral Springs Hotel on the group's Facebook page and on its website, **springsofhopeinpaoli.com.**

DOCUMENTING BLACK HERITAGE

Behind seemingly ordinary buildings and familiar landscapes lie extraordinary stories of Black Hoosiers who helped shape Indiana. A white-frame church that anchored a rural Black community. A stone house owned by abolitionists who sheltered freedom seekers on the Underground Railroad. A lake resort that provided a respite for generations of Black families prohibited from vacationing elsewhere.

To celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026, Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program began Project 250, a community-based initiative to document 250 significant Black heritage sites across the state. Drawing on previous Indiana Landmarks surveys, the Indiana State Historic Architectural and Archaeological Research Database, oral histories, archival research, and information shared by local partners, staff identified representative sites spanning the state. The list includes pioneer settlements, cemeteries, Underground Railroad sites, churches, schools, homes, hospitals, and fraternal lodges—all illuminating different aspects of Black history in Indiana and providing a foundation for future research that will help Indiana Landmarks identify, recognize, and preserve significant places.

A Legacy Walk outside Roberts Chapel near Atlanta highlights the history of Roberts Settlement, founded in 1835 and documented as part of Project 250, an initiative by Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program to identify 250 significant Black heritage sites across the state.
PHOTO BY EVAN HALE



COMING HOME

In northern Hamilton County, the project highlights Roberts Settlement, a rural farm community established in 1835 by free people of color who migrated from North Carolina and Virginia before settling near abolitionist Quaker and anti-slavery Methodist communities in the area. Today, an 1858 chapel, two historic cemeteries, and a handful of houses tell the story of these early pioneers.

Though no longer used for regular services, Roberts Chapel remains the heart of the community, drawing former residents and their descendants back each year for homecoming events, a Fourth of July tradition dating to 1924. Recognizing the site's significance early on, community members formed the nonprofit Roberts Chapel Homecoming and Burial Association in 1938 to preserve the chapel and adjacent cemetery.



Since 1924, Roberts Chapel has welcomed descendants of Roberts Settlement for an annual homecoming celebration (1950 homecoming pictured above). Founded in 1938, the Roberts Chapel Homecoming and Burial Association works to preserve the chapel and adjacent cemetery, most recently undertaking repairs to the 1858 church's foundation, belfry, and bell. The group continues to find new ways to share the site's history and expand its use.

PHOTOS COURTESY ROBERTS CHAPEL CHURCH & BURIAL ASSOCIATION COLLECTION

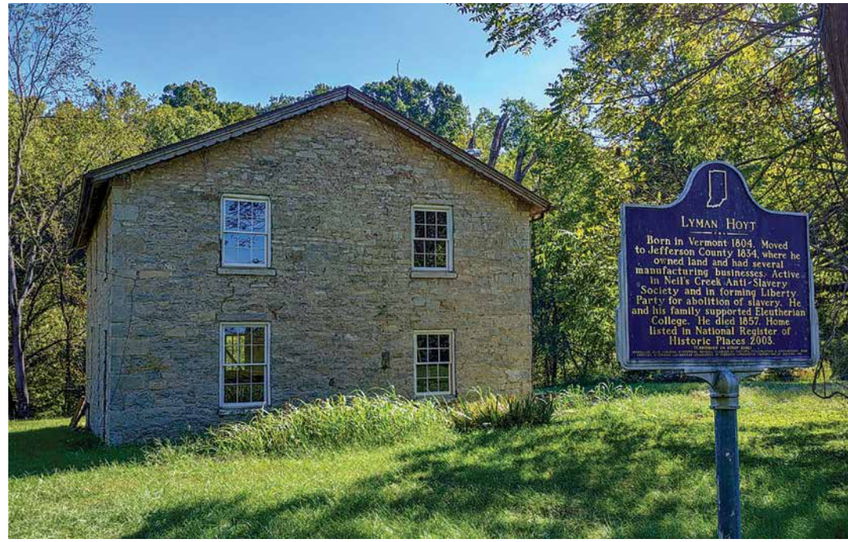
Indiana Landmarks has supported those efforts for years, including providing funding to identify preservation priorities and helping secure grants from the Standiford H. Cox Fund of the Central Indiana Community Foundation. Most recently, that support helped fund repairs to the chapel's foundation, belfry, and bell. With ongoing improvements, the association aims to expand Roberts Chapel's role as a gathering place for community events and educational programs.

In 2024, aided by grant funding from the Hamilton County Community Foundation, Hamilton County Tourism, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Preserving Black Churches program, the association unveiled the Legacy Walk, an accessible pathway featuring exhibits along the chapel's west side, introducing visitors to the settlement's history and Indiana's Black pioneers. With the addition of Legacy Gardens this year, the path offers a peaceful space for learning and reflection.

"If you look back at the original articles of formation for the burial association, the trustees said history was to be preserved and this story was to be told," says Bryan Glover, a Roberts Settlement descendant and board trustee. "I think every generation since then has done its part to keep this history alive for the next generation."



"We are so blessed to be on the shoulders of our ancestors, through whose great vision and perseverance we could see who we could become through them," adds LaVella Hyter, a descendant and board president. "Roberts Settlement is a great learning ground and beautiful community."



Near Madison, abolitionist Lyman Hoyt used his property as a refuge for freedom seekers escaping slavery. That history helped secure a place for his c.1850 house in the National Parks Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. Today, Historic Eleutherian College Inc. is rehabilitating the landmark for use as an artists' retreat, recently installing historic windows and repointing masonry with help from a $20,000 grant from the Standiford H. Cox Fund of the Central Indiana Community Foundation.

PHOTO BY GREG NEFF

SAFE HAVEN

In Lancaster near Madison, abolitionist Lyman Hoyt actively supported the anti-slavery movement, including aiding freedom seekers by sheltering them in a cave on his property, efforts documented by his family. The c.1850 limestone house where he, his wife Asenath, and their seven children lived still stands. The site's association with the Underground Railroad earned its listing in the National Register of Historic Places and inclusion in the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

Hoyt joined other like-minded families in supporting the Eleutherian Institute, founded in 1848 to make a college education available to all, including Black students and women. Since 1991, Historic Eleutherian College Inc. has worked to preserve the school and share its history. Today, the nonprofit also owns a caretaker's cottage on the Eleutherian grounds and the Hoyt House, located just a half mile away.

With support from a $20,000 grant from the Standiford H. Cox Fund of the Central Indiana Community Foundation, the group has begun restoring the Hoyt House, including repointing masonry and installing salvaged historic windows and period-appropriate doors. Because the original chimney was removed long ago, the next phase will focus on reconstructing the double-sided central fireplace and chimney and installing a new roof. Drawing inspiration from the property's history as a place of welcome, Historic Eleutherian College envisions rehabilitating the house as a retreat for artists, writers, and others looking for an off-the-grid setting for creative work.

LAKESIDE LEGACY

In the 1920s, at a time when segregation limited recreation opportunities for African Americans, Fox Lake developed near Angola as a place where Black families could vacation. Today, it remains one of the nation's few surviving historic Black resort communities, where lakeside cottages and natural areas still provide a retreat for residents and summer visitors.

Concerned that overdevelopment could change the nature of the lakefront community, property owners formed Fox Lake Preservation Foundation in 2020 to help protect the community's natural character and cultural heritage. Since then, the foundation has promoted educational initiatives to share Fox Lake's history while serving as a preservation resource for owners of its historic cottages. Earlier this year, Fox Lake's National Register-listed historic district was expanded to encompass the entire lake. With grant funding from the Black Heritage Preservation Program, the foundation hired preservation consultant Kurt Garner to prepare the nomination, including later structures such as the 1968 K.T. Thompson Lodge and Mar-Fran Motel.





Near Angola, Project 250 recognizes Fox Lake, a historic African American resort community. The area retains historic cottages, including Pryor's Country Place (above), a former inn recently rehabbed by preservation-minded owners. This year, Fox Lake's National Register-listed historic district expanded to encompass the entire lake and later structures, including the 1968 K.T. Thompson Lodge (below).

PHOTOS COURTESY RINGENBERG FAMILY AND CAROL KARST-WASSON

As the community looks to celebrate its centennial in 2027-28, the foundation recruited filmmaker Stefon Whitaker to create *Summertime Sanctuary*, a documentary exploring Fox Lake's rich history. An Angola native, Whitaker holds personal ties to Fox Lake through his own childhood experiences at the lake and through his mother, who worked in her teens at the lake's Mar-Fran Motel. Whitaker has begun interviewing property owners and families with longtime connections to the community and gathering archival photos for the project, which remains in the production and fundraising stages.

One of Fox Lake's historic landmarks recognized through Project 250 is Pryor's Country Place, a 1916 home that was converted to an inn in the 1940s, offering seasonal accommodation to vacationers and earning listing in the *Negro Motorist Green Book*, an influential guide published from 1936 to 1966 that identified destinations friendly to African American travelers. The Craftsman home appeared on Indiana Landmarks' 10 Most Endangered list in 2016 when it was put up for sale, its prime lakeside location raising concerns about potential development plans. Fortunately, the house found the right preservation-minded buyers in Mark and Martha Ringenberg in 2020.

Looking for a lakeside retreat of their own, the Ringenbergs were charmed by Fox Lake's peaceful setting and saw potential in Pryor's Country Place, even as they quickly realized it would require comprehensive restoration. Living in a camper on site, the couple began the painstaking work of gutting the interior, replacing the roof, and addressing the extensive damage, refuse, and a pervasive stench left by raccoons that had overtaken the property. Since the house had been remodeled multiple times to accommodate guests, the Ringenbergs worked to restore room dimensions and design elements consistent with the house's Arts and Crafts character, guided by their daughter Audra DeSelm, who holds a degree in interior design. The couple reused and repurposed original materials whenever possible while incorporating salvaged architectural elements and furnishings sourced from resale shops. Joy Parker, a member of the Pryor family who grew up in the house, offered the Ringenbergs valuable insights into the property's history, including gifting them a guest book maintained by her mother with comments from former visitors. Individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2024, the restored house now serves as the family's lakeside retreat and occasional vacation rental.

"Joy and Hal Parker are the true stewards of this property's history. They had chances to sell it for more money, but prospective buyers weren't interested in preserving it. That's ultimately how we got it," says Mark Ringenberg. "Joy told us her parents would be so happy to see what we've done."

LEARN MORE

Roberts Settlement
robertssettlement.org

Historic Eleutherian College
eleutherian-college.org

Fox Lake Preservation Foundation
foxlakeflpo.org

Fox Lake *Summertime Sanctuary* documentary
foxlakein.com/summertime-sanctuary
and *Summertime Sanctuary* on Facebook and Instagram

The Katie Hall Legacy Project
communityengagedalliance.org/katie-hall



To help raise the profile of Gary's Midtown neighborhood, Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program supported landscape improvements around a historical marker near the home of late Congresswoman Katie Hall, who played a pivotal role in securing a national holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

PHOTO BY BLAKE SWIHART

LEGISLATIVE PIONEER

In Gary's Midtown neighborhood, Project 250 recognizes the 1960s home of late Congresswoman Katie Hall, who led the successful effort to make Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a national holiday in 1983. The recognition builds on ongoing work to establish a Midtown Historic District and raise awareness of other notable Black heritage sites in the area, including Roosevelt High School, the Jackson family home, and First Baptist Church, Gary's oldest Black house of worship.

Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program awarded a $10,000 grant to the Katie Hall Foundation to support landscaping of the home's large front lawn, a park-like space where Hall hosted numerous community and social gatherings. In partnership with Ball State University, the program also helped develop a landscape design centered on a historical marker describing Hall's legacy and created an entry for the school's digital Civil Rights Museum.

"These 250 places are just a starting point for our continued work uncovering Black history and helping preserve it," says Eunice Trotter, former director of Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program. "We hope Project 250 will inspire further conversation and discovery, bringing attention to places that still have stories to tell about the experiences and contributions of Black Hoosiers."

If you know of a Black heritage site that may merit inclusion in our survey, email your suggestion to **dholmes@indianalandmarks.org.**





Expanding Efforts to Preserve Black Heritage

INDIANA LANDMARKS IS expanding its efforts to identify and preserve places important to Black history in Indiana, naming André Myers director of its Black Heritage Preservation Program.

Myers succeeds Eunice Trotter, who launched the program in 2022 and helped establish it as a statewide resource for identifying, preserving, and supporting Black heritage sites. The program is also increasing its staff to two full-time positions with the promotion of Divine Holmes, who previously served part time as a historic preservation assistant.

Indiana Landmarks' Black Heritage Preservation Program was created to extend the work of the organization's African American Landmarks Committee, established in 1992 to help identify and save historic African American sites.

The Black Heritage Preservation Program has bolstered those efforts by identifying places that merit recognition through the National Register of Historic Places and seeking to expand the definition of eligibility to include sites whose significance endures even when little or no physical evidence remains. The program has also strengthened support for local partners and secured sustainable futures for Black heritage sites through awarding grants to preservation projects around the state.

Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program continues to elevate awareness of African American sites across the state such as Evansville's African American Museum and Gary's Means Manor neighborhood (above). The program recently welcomed André Myers (below left) as director and promoted Divine Holmes (below right) to a full-time position.

PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE RICHARD, BRAD MILLER AND EVAN HALE





"It's critical that we tell the full story of Indiana history and the people who shaped it," said Brad Ward, president and CEO of Indiana Landmarks. "We're incredibly grateful to Eunice for the foundation she's laid for the program, and we look forward to continued success under André's leadership."

Myers brings more than a decade of experience in urban planning and historic preservation, including preservation roles with the cities of Indianapolis and Covington, Kentucky. Most recently, he worked for Tunnell Spangler Walsh, a planning and architecture firm based in Atlanta with offices in the Midwest and Southwest. Myers holds a bachelor's degree in urban planning and development and a master's degree in historic preservation from Ball State University.

In 2022, Lilly Endowment Inc. made a $5 million grant to help Indiana Landmarks establish the Black Heritage Preservation Program. Indiana Landmarks used $4 million of that grant to endow the program in perpetuity. By 2027, Indiana Landmarks will have used the remaining $1 million to provide direct support to Black heritage projects statewide. The program's endowed fund is enabling its staff to continue the program's work, including training and assisting regional volunteer groups preserving Black heritage. The endowment also supports Black heritage internships and scholarships designed to help identify and encourage the next generation of historians and preservationists.

Additional funding for the Black Heritage Preservation Program has come from private donors and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund.

Indiana Landmarks Board Member A'Lelia Bundles said, "Because of this program, future generations of Hoosiers of all backgrounds will have access to a more complete and accurate version of our state's history. Preserving and restoring historic communities, businesses, churches, schools and cultural institutions that tell the story of African Americans in Indiana is important, necessary, and vital."

BRIEFLY NOTED

Indiana Landmarks welcomes **Beth Millikan** as controller at its Indianapolis headquarters, overseeing accounting, financial reporting, and fiscal operations. She holds a bachelor's degree in business from Indiana University with majors in accounting and international business, is an active CPA, and previously worked as controller at the Central Indiana Community Foundation.

FOR SALE

LANDMARKS ON THE MARKET

see more at indianalandmarks.org/properties-for-sale



2201 Central Avenue
Indianapolis

Possibilities abound for this 1916 Masonic Lodge with nearly 15,000 total square footage. The building offers spacious meeting rooms including a two-story room on the 2nd floor, as well as a commercial kitchen in the lower level and fenced-in parking lot to the north with 34 dedicated parking spaces.

$1,250,000
Carl Culmann, 317-442-4282

2026 Board Elections

INDIANA LANDMARKS' BOARD OF DIRECTORS helps guide the organization in its work to save meaningful places and revitalize communities. Each September, Indiana Landmarks conducts elections at its annual meeting to select new board members. In 2026, Indiana Landmarks' membership confirmed three candidates recommended by the governance committee:



Keira Amstutz of Indianapolis is founder and president of Amstutz Strategic Advisors, a consulting firm she founded following her 18-year tenure as president and CEO of Indiana Humanities. In addition to her current role, Keira is a member of the board of directors of the Economic Club of Indiana and the American Red Cross of Greater Indianapolis. A graduate of DePauw University and Indiana University's McKinney School of Law, she has been named to *Indianapolis Business Journal's* "Forty Under 40" list and was named as a "Woman of Influence" in 2012 by the same publication.



Alex Downard of North Manchester is the president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Wabash County, where he is committed to investing in Wabash County residents to make a difference in his community. Alex holds an MBA from Manchester University and currently serves on the Manchester University Alumni Board. He received the Manchester University 2023 Young Alumni Impact Award. He also was a Mitch Daniels Leadership Forum Class VII Fellow, an Indiana Leadership Forum participant, and was one of ten leaders selected as part of the inaugural class of the Ambassador Enterprises' Ambassador Institute for Civic Engagement, a program for identifying, training, and equipping civic leaders in northeast Indiana.



Tiffany Tolbert of Hobart is the co-director and vice president of the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund at the National Trust for Historic Preservation. In addition to her current role, she serves as immediate past board chair on the Indiana Humanities Board of Directors, and the chair of the Hobart Historic Preservation Commission. She is also a past board member of the Julius Rosenwald National Park Campaign, and the Stewart House Urban Farm and Garden. She is a graduate of Huntingdon College and holds a Masters of Historic Preservation from Georgia State University.

In addition, the governance committee recommended the following officers, which were confirmed by the board for the coming year: Hilary Barnes, chair; Bruce Buchanan, vice chair; Cheri Dick, secretary; Brett McKamey, treasurer; Greg Fehribach, past chair; Doris Anne Sadler, past chair; Randall Shepard, honorary chair; Judy O'Bannon, secretary emerita; Marsh Davis, president emeritus; Brad Ward, president. See the full list of board members and officers on p. 2 or at indianalandmarks.org.

You can help save Indiana's meaningful places!

- **Upgrade your membership**
- **Make a donation — Consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA**
- **Encourage others to join**
- **Leave a legacy gift**

For more information contact Jennifer Hiatt at 317-822-7922

Tours & Events

November/December 2026



Holiday Open House, Liberty Theater, Lawrenceburg
DEC. 2

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

Propylaeum Building Tour

Nov. 8, Dec. 6 & Jan. 10; Indianapolis

Take a deep dive into Indy history at the Propylaeum, a Queen Anne-style landmark in the city's Old Northside that has served as 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.

Athenaeum Building Tour

Nov. 15 & Jan. 24, 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 5 and under.

Conversations in Indiana African American History and Culture

Nov. 19, Indianapolis and online

Historian and veteran Anthony Conley shares a look into the influence and impact of military service on the lives of Black Hoosiers. Presented in partnership with Freetown Village. 6 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center and online. Free with registration at **freetownvillage.org** or 317-631-1870.

Vanishing Japan

Dec. 2, Valparaiso

Architect, author, and Beverly Shores resident, Naomi Pollock, presents a talk inspired by her new book, *Vanishing Japan: Modern Architecture, Gone But Not Forgotten*, exploring challenges faced in preserving Japan's modern architecture and efforts to document endangered structures before they are lost. As part of the talk, Blake Swihart of Indiana Landmarks offers perspective on parallel threats to modern structures in northwest Indiana. 6-8 p.m. CST at Linwood House. $15/general public; $10/member. Books available for purchase onsite.

SAMARA TOURS

Apr.-Nov.
West Lafayette

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

samara-house.org



Rohlfing House, Attica
DEC. 3

CORY PHILLIPS

Holiday Open Houses

Join fellow Indiana Landmarks members, board members, and staff at seasonal celebrations around the state featuring show-stopping historic properties—including a Gothic Revival-style church, an award-winning theater restoration, an elegant 1887 Italianate, the former mansion of a famed Indianapolis mayor, and more. Free to members with advance registration. Learn more at **indianalandmarks.org/tours-events.**

DEC. 1 – Evansville
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 310 SE First St.
5-7 p.m. CST with short organ performance to follow

DEC. 2 – Lawrenceburg
Liberty Theater, 229 Walnut St.
5-7 p.m. EST

DEC. 3 – Attica
Historic Rohlfing House, 200 S. Brady St.
& Old Church at Cottrell Village, 304 E. Main St
5-7 p.m. EST

DEC. 10 – Indianapolis
Taggart House, 1331 N. Delaware St.
6-8 p.m. EST

DEC. 15 – Fort Wayne
1902 S. Calhoun St.
5-7 p.m. EST

Holiday Church Tour

Dec. 5, Lafayette

Explore the architecture, preservation, and tradition of historic houses of worship in Lafayette's Centennial Neighborhood District on a go-at-your-own-pace tour including Trinity United Methodist Church, First Baptist Church, and more. Church interiors will be open 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tourgoers must provide their own transportation. Advance tickets cost $25/general public (ages 12 & up); $22/member; $17/child (ages 6-11); free to children 5 and under.

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. (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. Advance tickets required.

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 Nov. 5 & 19 and Dec. 3 & 17. Tickets cost $50/person, $45/member. Advance tickets required.

Indianalandmarks.org/french-lick-west-baden

Heritage Trades Workshops

Ongoing workshops equip homeowners and contractors with skills to address historic building repair needs. Visit our website for individual workshop details.

NOV. 4

House Hazards and RRP 101, South Bend

Learn about common hazards and the EPA's Lead Renovation, Repair, and Painting Program.

NOV. 18

Plaster Repair 101, Fort Wayne

Learn the basics of plaster wall construction and repair for historic homes and buildings.

The Holly & the Ivy Concert

Dec. 17, Indianapolis

Singers, handbells, and instrumentalists take to the stage for a merry evening in Indiana Landmarks Center's Grand Hall at our popular annual concert, featuring festive accompaniment on our historic Sanborn organ and a holiday sing-along. After the show, enjoy a reception of spiced cider and seasonal treats. $35/general public; $25/member; free to children ages 10 and under. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center and concert begins at 7:00 p.m.



BOB ZYROMSKI

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AND FINALLY





Rising from the Ashes

IN JULY 2020, PROSPECTS looked bleak after fire ravaged Elkhart's c.1874 Beardsley carriage house and stable. Recognizing the building's significance and connection to city founder, Havilah Beardsley, Ruthmere Foundation assessed the damage and committed to saving the structure, convinced by a study supported by an Indiana Landmarks grant. In May, the carriage house reopened as the Beardsley Discovery Center, offering visitors to Ruthmere's Havilah Beardsley House an opportunity to learn more about the family and local history.

After a devastating fire damage left Elkhart's Beardsley carriage house at risk, Indiana Landmarks and Ruthmere Foundation joined forces to chart a future for the historic structure. Now restored, the building welcomes visitors as the gateway to the foundation's multi-site museum campus. Read more and see additional photos at indianalandmarks.org/news.

PHOTOS BY TODD ZEIGER

Separated from the main estate, the carriage house had been converted to a private home in 1926, including removal of barn doors to make way for standard doors and windows. A $3,000 grant from Indiana Landmarks' Endangered Places Grant Fund and funding from Ruthmere Foundation paid for a structural analysis and schematic designs to repurpose the building as a welcome center, a long-needed addition to the multi-site museum campus.

"This project shows how Indiana Landmarks' Endangered Places Grant Fund often serves as the first step for saving a meaningful place," says Todd Zeiger, Indiana Landmarks vice president, community investments. "The transformation of the Beardsley carriage house and stable is exactly the kind of outcome we hope for."