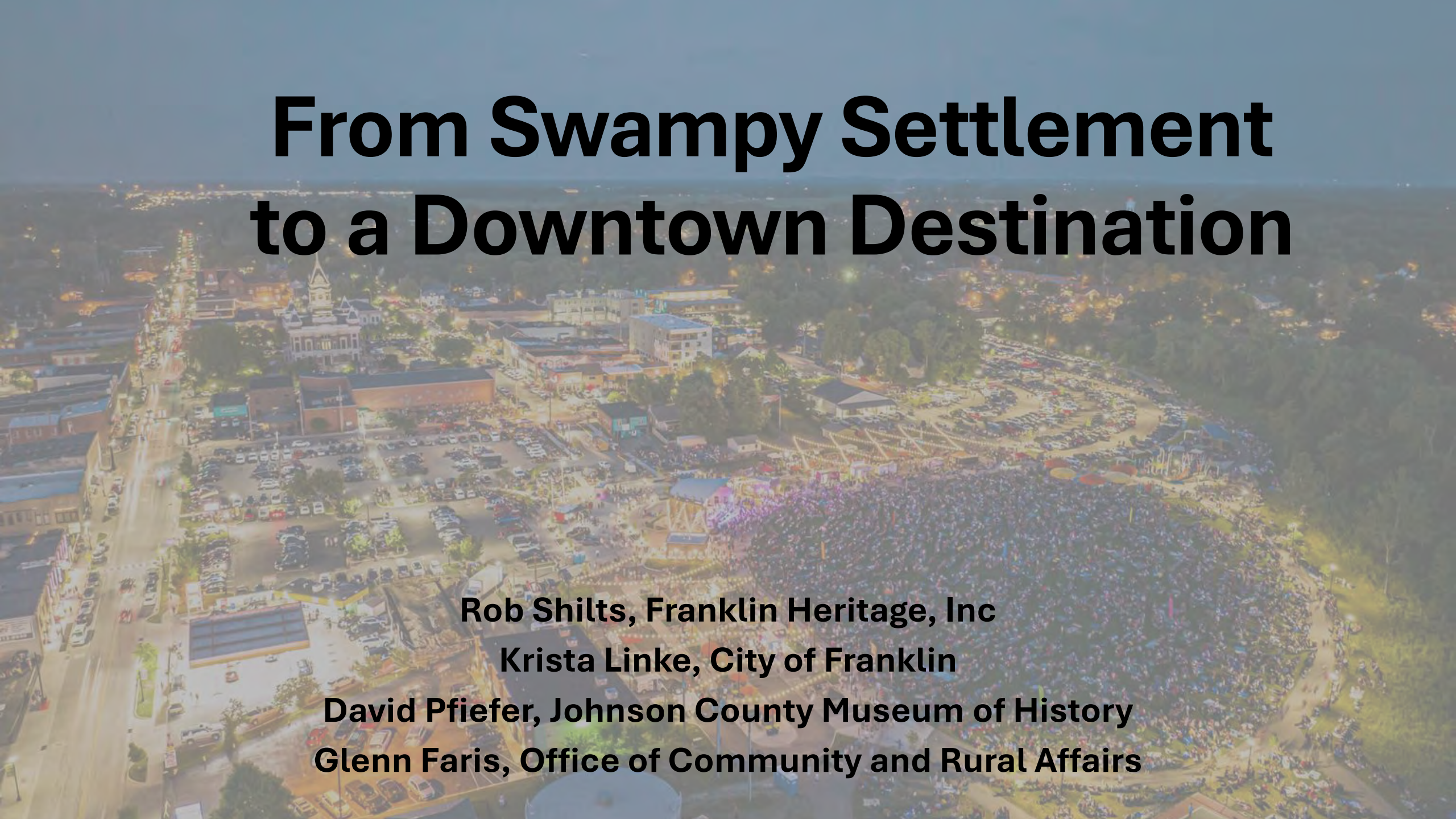
From Swampy Settlement to a Downtown Destination



Rob Shilts, Franklin Heritage, Inc

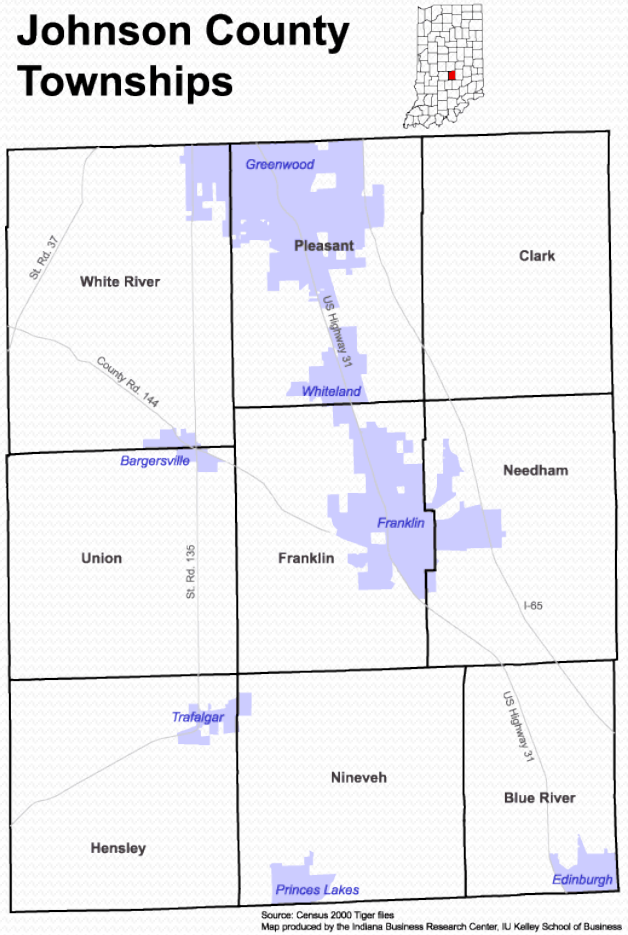
Krista Linke, City of Franklin

David Pfiefer, Johnson County Museum of History

Glenn Faris, Office of Community and Rural Affairs

Early Settlement of the County

- Early settlement focused on the areas around the White River and what is now Franklin and Edinburgh.



What's in a Name?

- According to early county histories, Samuel Herriott recommended Franklin as the name
- Named after Benjamin Franklin
  (inventor, statesman, ambassador)



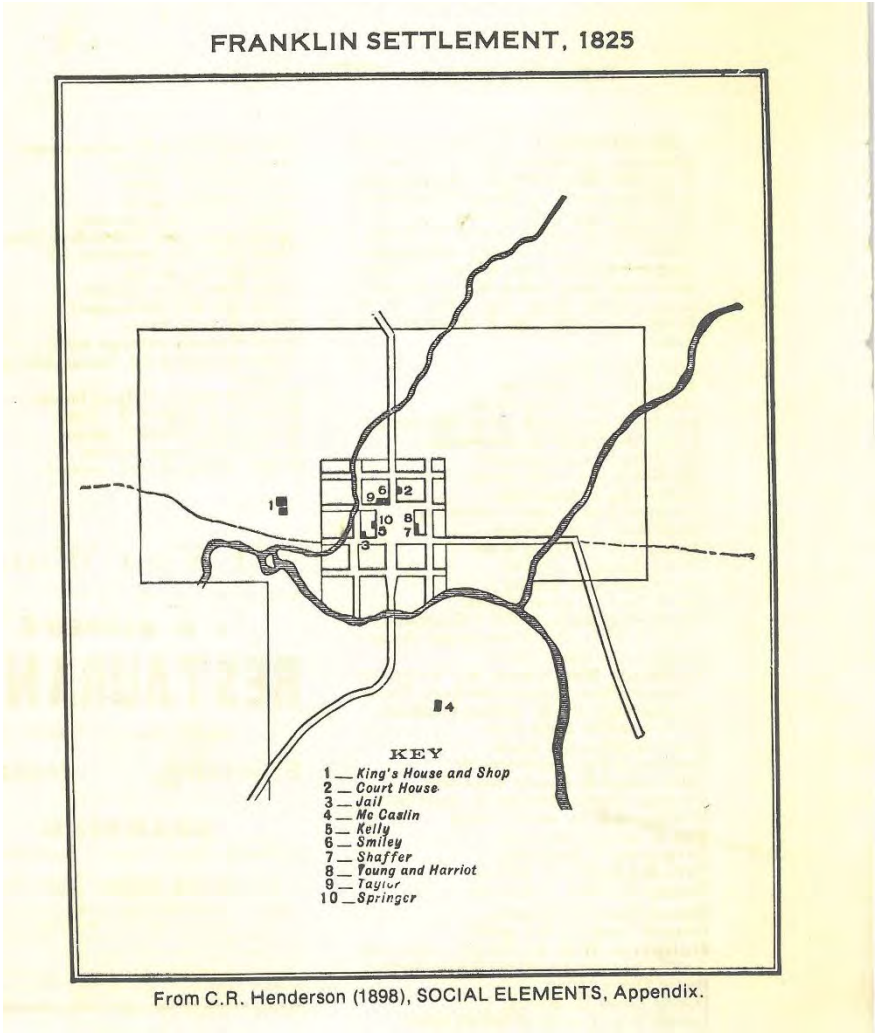
Founding of Franklin

- Picture the land that Franklin became 200 years ago!
- George King was very important to the early history of Franklin
- Purchased 160 acres of land in what became Franklin
- Original tract was near the Lick and Camp Creeks



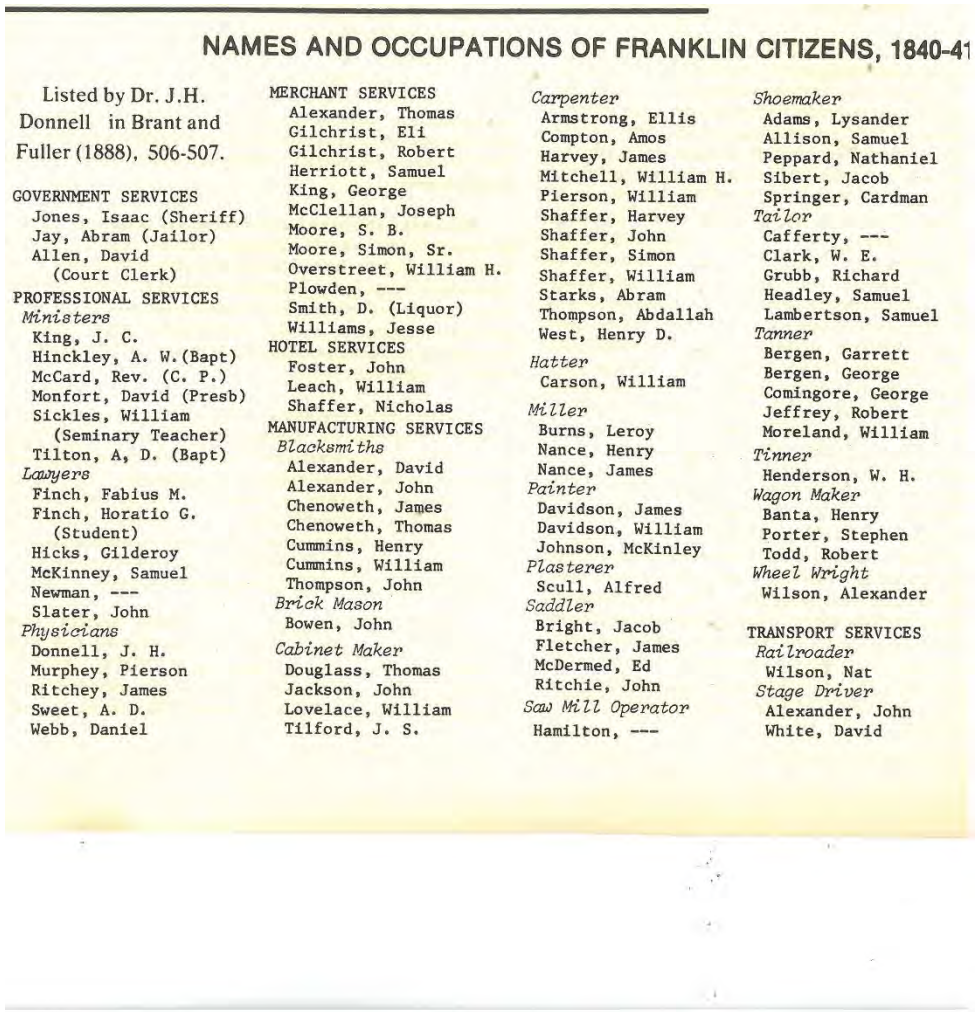
Franklin as the County seat

- King next focused his efforts on making Franklin the county seat
- Edinburgh was founded first and there were also settlements along the White River
- Franklin's central location and King's offer to donate land secured its selection



Franklin's Growth

- Central location, railroads, and turnpikes made Franklin integral to early Johnson county growth
- Johnson County Government jobs grew as the courthouse grew
- List of some jobs in Franklin in the 1840s



NAMES AND OCCUPATIONS OF FRANKLIN CITIZENS, 1840-41

Listed by Dr. J.H. Donnell in Brant and Fuller (1888), 506-507.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES
Jones, Isaac (Sheriff)
Jay, Abram (Jailor)
Allen, David (Court Clerk)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
Ministers
King, J. C.
Hinckley, A. W. (Bapt)
McCard, Rev. (C. P.)
Monfort, David (Presb)
Sickles, William (Seminary Teacher)
Tilton, A, D. (Bapt)
Lawyers
Finch, Fabius M.
Finch, Horatio G. (Student)
Hicks, Gilderoy
McKinney, Samuel
Newman, ---
Slater, John
Physicians
Donnell, J. H.
Murphey, Pierson
Ritchey, James
Sweet, A. D.
Webb, Daniel

MERCHANT SERVICES
Alexander, Thomas
Gilchrist, Eli
Gilchrist, Robert
Herriott, Samuel
King, George
McClellan, Joseph
Moore, S. B.
Moore, Simon, Sr.
Overstreet, William H.
Plowden, ---
Smith, D. (Liquor)
Williams, Jesse

HOTEL SERVICES
Foster, John
Leach, William
Shaffer, Nicholas

MANUFACTURING SERVICES
Blacksmiths
Alexander, David
Alexander, John
Chenoweth, James
Chenoweth, Thomas
Cummins, Henry
Cummins, William
Thompson, John
Brick Mason
Bowen, John
Cabinet Maker
Douglass, Thomas
Jackson, John
Lovelace, William
Tilford, J. S.
Carpenter
Armstrong, Ellis
Compton, Amos
Harvey, James
Mitchell, William H.
Pierson, William
Shaffer, Harvey
Shaffer, John
Shaffer, Simon
Shaffer, William
Starks, Abram
Thompson, Abdallah
West, Henry D.
Hatter
Carson, William
Miller
Burns, Leroy
Nance, Henry
Nance, James
Painter
Davidson, James
Davidson, William
Johnson, McKinley
Plasterer
Scull, Alfred
Saddler
Bright, Jacob
Fletcher, James
McDermed, Ed
Ritchie, John
Saw Mill Operator
Hamilton, ---
Shoemaker
Adams, Lysander
Allison, Samuel
Peppard, Nathaniel
Sibert, Jacob
Springer, Cardman
Tailor
Cafferty, ---
Clark, W. E.
Grubb, Richard
Headley, Samuel
Lambertson, Samuel
Tanner
Bergen, Garrett
Bergen, George
Comingore, George
Jeffrey, Robert
Moreland, William
Tinner
Henderson, W. H.
Wagon Maker
Banta, Henry
Porter, Stephen
Todd, Robert
Wheel Wright
Wilson, Alexander

TRANSPORT SERVICES
Railroader
Wilson, Nat
Stage Driver
Alexander, John
White, David

Franklin Since Founding











Birdseye View

Interurban Line Workmen Begin Removing Rails

Action Believed Death Knell For Traction System

Transportation



Agricultural Development

- Canning capital of the state
  - Seasonal workers from Appalachia and Midwest
  - POW workers from Camp Atterbury
  - Imported labor from Puerto Rico, Bahamas, and the Caribbean





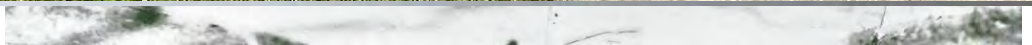




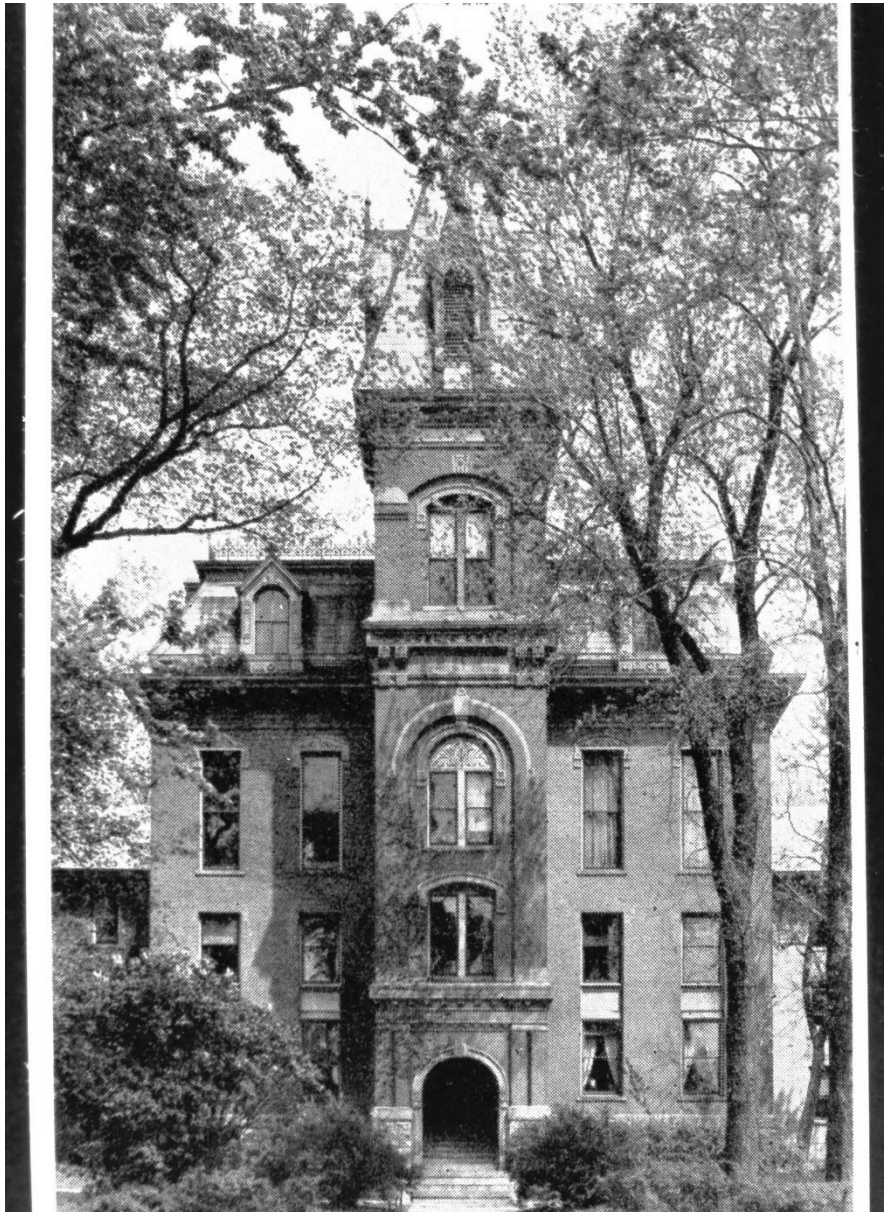





22
VAC. PT.
HALL 2
2
1
WEST
SCHOOL BLDG.
(NEGRO)
2ND BAPTIST
CHURCH
(NEGRO)
HEAT: FURNACE -
LIGHTS: ELECTRIC
400
470
461
A.M.E.
CHURCH
OLD
CHURCH
VAC.
20
19
14
15
284




BERTRAM-EAST, INC.
GALLERY
FRAMING
FURNISH
BARBER SHOP
FURNISH
BARBER SHOP
OPEN
collins
JEWELRY








1
PATNES

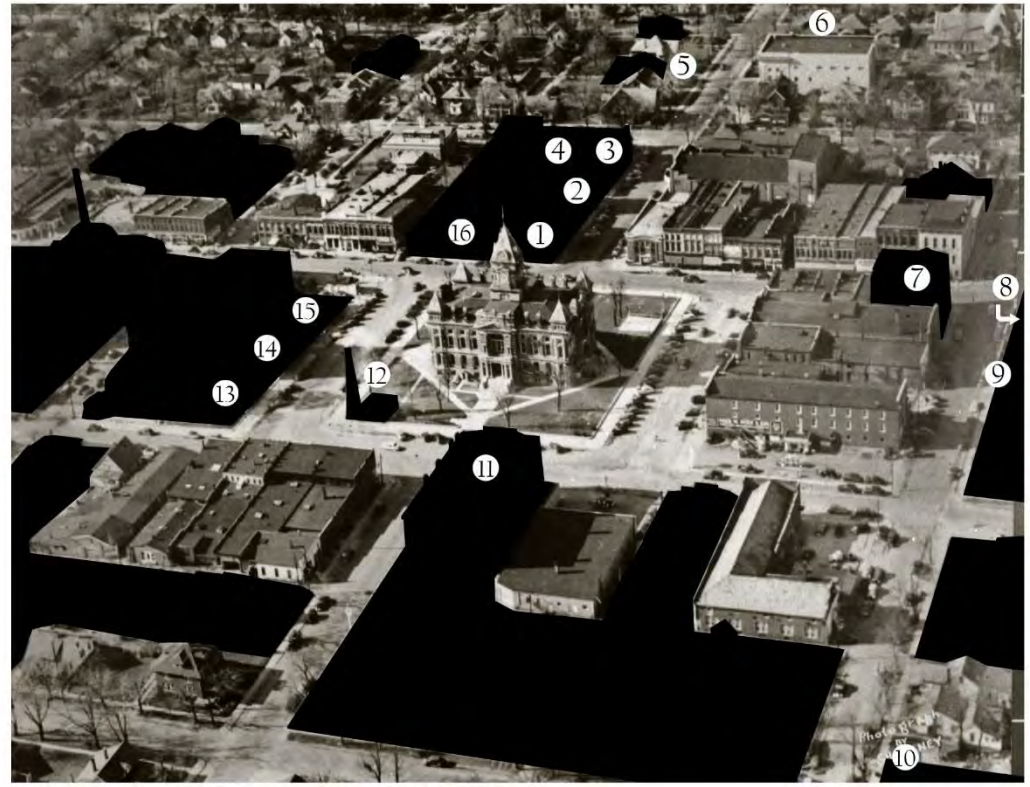

2


3


4


5


16
CAFE
LOYD'S LAUNDRY


6
5
4
3
2
16
1
7
8
15
14
12
9
13
11
10


6


15
Coca-Cola


7


14


8

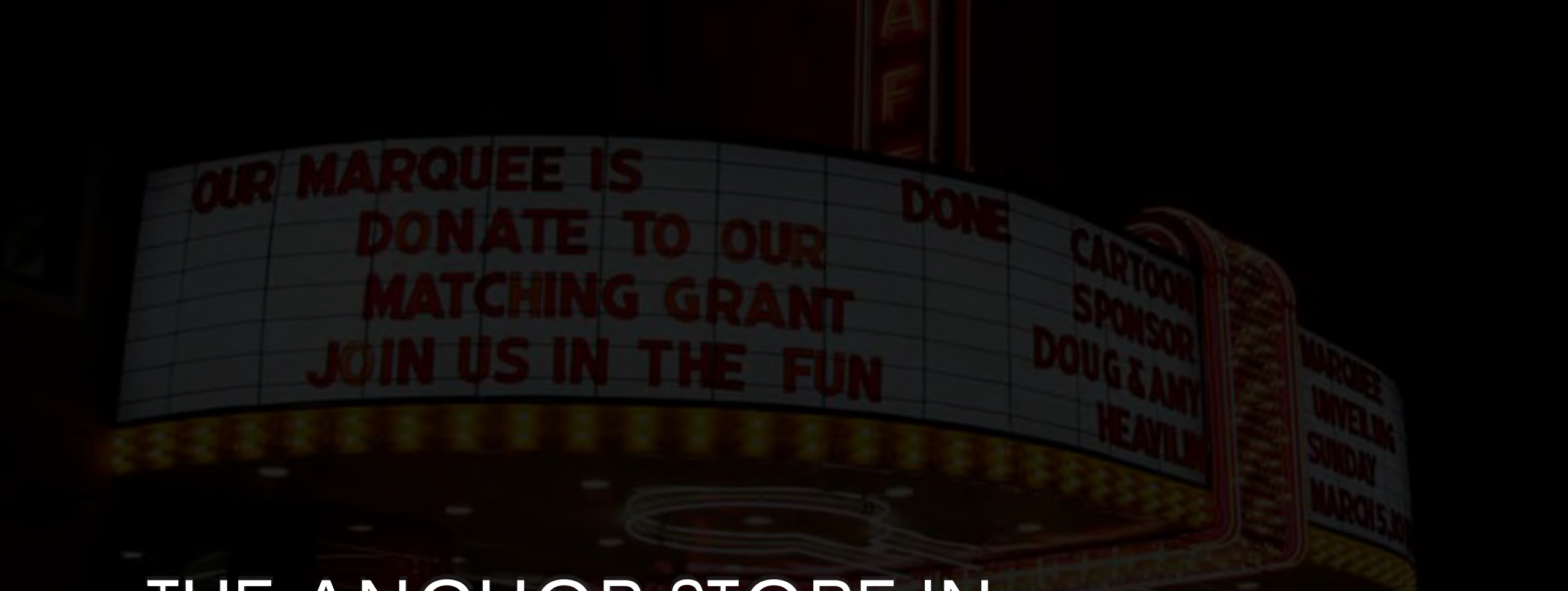

13


12


11


10


9

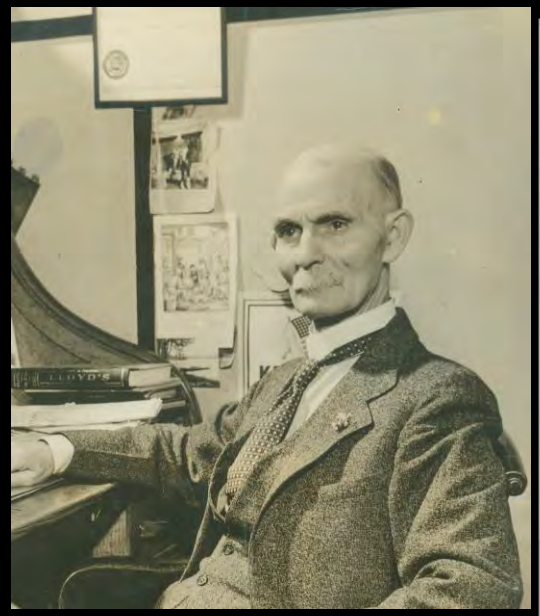


THE ANCHOR STORE IN DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

HOW HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION WORK HAND IN HAND

W. W. AIKENS

- FOUNDED FRANKLIN EVENING STAR, JULY 13TH , 1905
- JOHNSON COUNTY DEMOCRAT CHAIRMAN
- FRANKLIN SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
- CHARTER MEMBER OF DAVID BANTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
- DIRECTOR OF FRANKLIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
- TRUSTEE & ELDER AT FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
- CHARTER MEMBER OF FRANKLIN KIWANIS CLUB





ARTCRAFT

THE THEATRE OF CLASS

MONDAY NIGHT AT 7:30

Fox News and a Mutt and Jeff comedy with

"THE GLEAM OF DAWN"

—and—

"THE OLD OAKEN BUCKET"

Our feature program—Vaudeville by

"THE VARIETY TRIO"

A PROGRAM OF MYTH AND MELODY

TUESDAY NIGHT

"The Importance of Being Earnest"

A real performance by Cap and Bells of Franklin College.

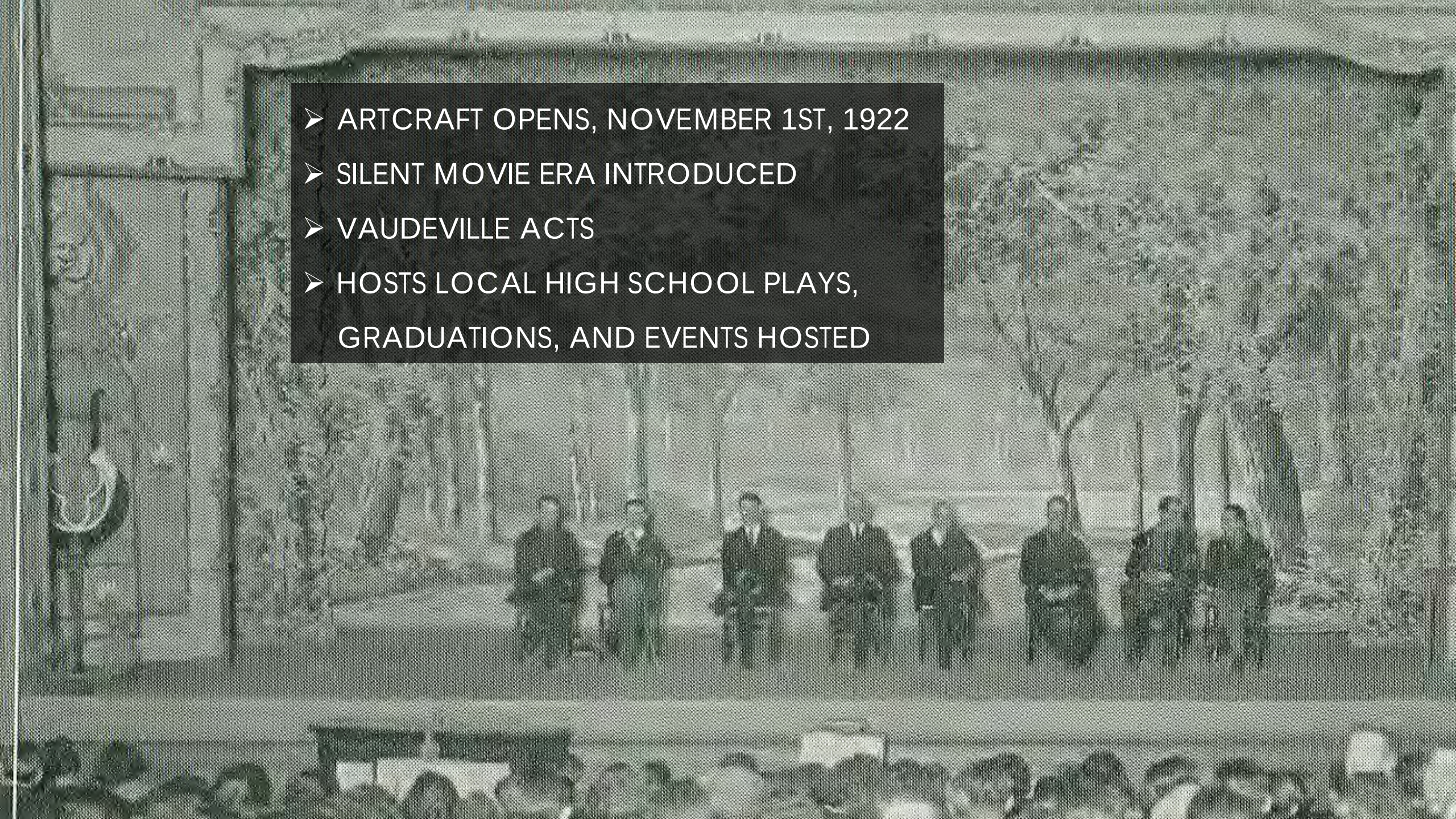
WEDNESDAY NIGHT one of the Selznick pictures by Elaine Hammerstein—

"CONCEIT"

and a Selznick Comedy

The vaudeville for Wednesday and Thursday is a comedy Rube act by Oliver and Lee. A team that played the Lyric in Indianapolis recently.

—Prices for film shows 10c and 25c—
For Tuesday night 25, 35 and 50c.
Reserved Seats.



- ARTCRAFT OPENS, NOVEMBER 1ST, 1922
- SILENT MOVIE ERA INTRODUCED
- VAUDEVILLE ACTS
- HOSTS LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL PLAYS, GRADUATIONS, AND EVENTS HOSTED

FRANK J. REMBUSCH

- INVENTED THE MIRROR SCREEN
- STARTED FRANK J. REMBUSCH ENTERTAINMENT CO.
- OWNED THE ALHAMBRA AND OTHER INDIANA THEATRES - ONE OF THE FIRST BUILDINGS DESIGNED AS A MOVIE THEATRE
- ATTEMPTED TO CIRCUMVENT INDIANA "BLUE LAWS" FOR SHOWING MOVIES ON SUNDAYS
- LEASED THE ARTCRAFT FROM AIKENS THROUGHOUT THE 1930S AND BOUGHT IT IN 1936





- 1935 SWAMP COOLER – FIRST AIR CONDITIONED BUILDING IN FRANKLIN
- SOUND "TALKIES" INTRODUCED, 1939
- RENOVATED LOBBY TO INCLUDE A TIERED SMOKING LOUNGE WITH CHROMIUM AND LEATHER FURNITURE

1940

LIFE MAGAZINE VISITS FRANKLIN AND THE ARTCRAFT AS THE IDEAL AMERICAN TOWN

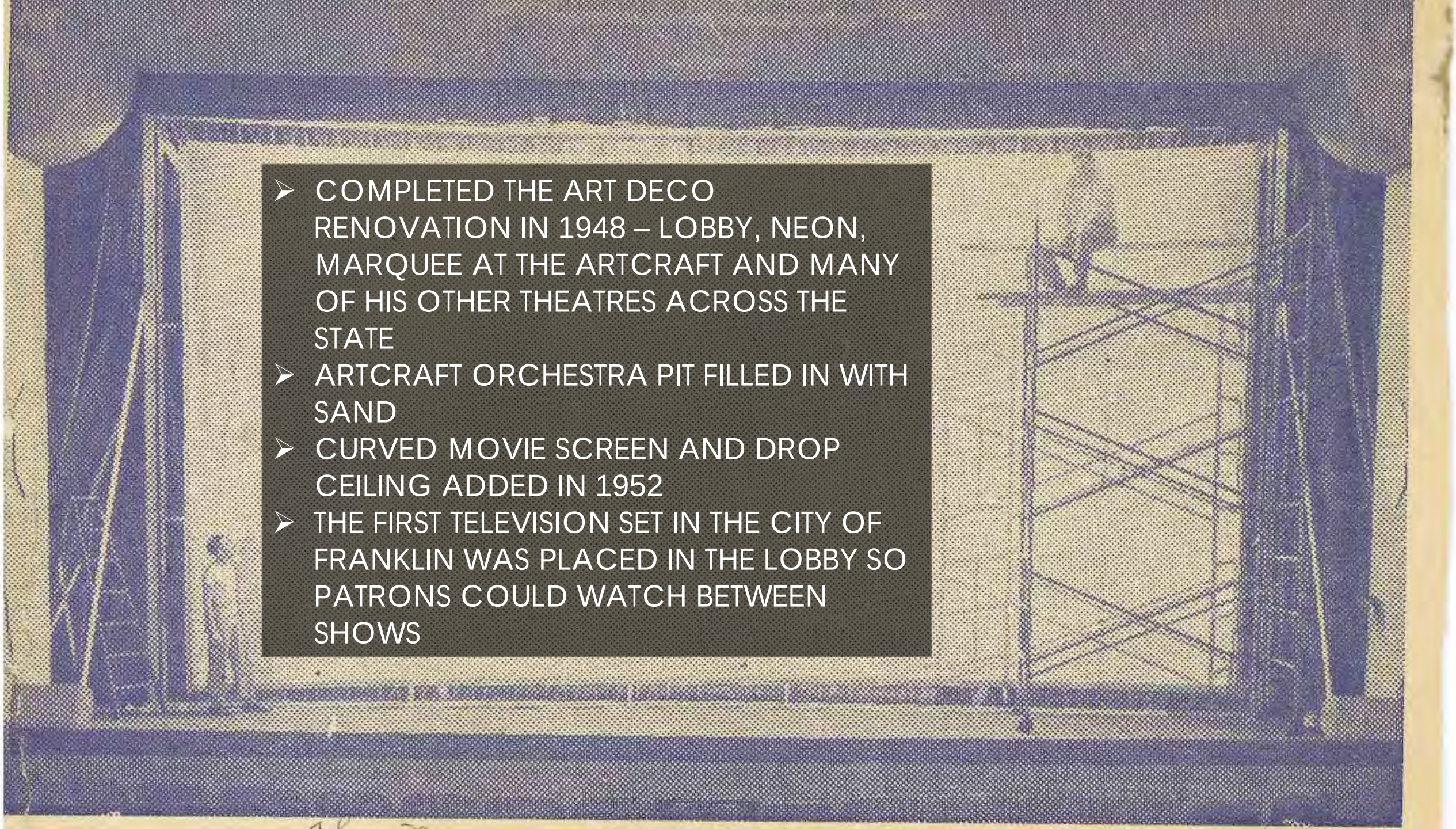
As America came out of the Great Depression, LIFE Magazine wanted to show the ideal American city. Life chose Franklin as the example of an unblighted city where the Depression appeared to be over. The Magazine took the Dunn brothers, a local farm family, all around Franklin, documenting what a Saturday night was like. The photo-essay, "A Small Town's Saturday Night" showcased the Dunn brothers watching a serial at the Artcraft.



TRUEMAN T. REMBUSCH

- PRESIDENT OF SYNDICATE THEATRE INC.
- MEMBER AND PRESIDENT OF
  - THEATRE OWNERS OF INDIANA
  - ALLIED STATES ASSOCIATION OF MOTION PICTURE EXHIBITORS
  - NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THEATRE OWNERS (NATO)
- MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF MOTION PICTURE ORGANIZATIONS (COMPO)
- NOTRE DAME MAN OF THE YEAR, 1950
- INVOLVED IN MANY LAWSUITS AGAINST FILM STUDIO MONOPOLIES, INCLUDING A SUPREME COURT CASE





- COMPLETED THE ART DECO RENOVATION IN 1948 – LOBBY, NEON, MARQUEE AT THE ARTCRAFT AND MANY OF HIS OTHER THEATRES ACROSS THE STATE
- ARTCRAFT ORCHESTRA PIT FILLED IN WITH SAND
- CURVED MOVIE SCREEN AND DROP CEILING ADDED IN 1952
- THE FIRST TELEVISION SET IN THE CITY OF FRANKLIN WAS PLACED IN THE LOBBY SO PATRONS COULD WATCH BETWEEN SHOWS

1950s

A COMMUNITY CENTER

The 1950s exemplified the Artcraft as the city's community center. The Artcraft hosted events for civic groups such as the Lion's and Kiwanis clubs, tuberculosis tests from the state board of health, benefits for the girl's club, as well as city-wide easter service. the Artcraft also sponsored a bowling team and supported the junior Chamber of Commerce by sponsoring their Turtle Derby.



Space Ship To Be Displayed

"THE ROCKET MAN"

A $35,000 Space Ship, shown above, will be on display in front of the Artcraft Theater at approximately 7:30 p.m. Saturday in connection with the booking of the movie, "The Rocket Man." The film will be shown at the Artcraft, June 1-2. Admission is free to the Space Ship which includes such electronic devices as a panel of flight instruments, mock-up of a 50,000 mile radar screen, space torpedo release, and other controls.

1960

SEATING SHAKE UP

The Rembusches owned more than 12 theatres at the same time and often bought new seats for their biggest theatres and circulated the seats throughout their circuit.

In the 1960s, the Artcraft auditorium underwent a major configuration change. The original two vertical aisles became one long horizontal row. To increase comfort and ease clean-up, seats were mounted to wooden platforms.



1960s

THE FAMILY THEATRE

The Artcraft catered to families when Franklin boasted three movie theatres. The continuation of the family-centered entertainment at the Artcraft gave the Artcraft community support that many other theatres across the country lacked. Supporting family events with the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Franklin Library, the Good Cheer Fund, and other local groups created a strong patron base. While other theatres turned to mature or violent titles, the Artcraft could be counted on for family entertainment.

THE DAILY JOURNAL
SUMMER READING PROGRAM PARTY
AT THE ARTCRAFT



Franklin library party

1970s
A DOWNTOWN PARTNER

The 1970s experienced many downtown merchants leaving for new highway and interstate developments. The Artcraft continued its community involvement and worked with the Chamber of Commerce's Downtown Merchants group to promote businesses in downtown franklin. Partnerships between Franklin College, the Chamber of Commerce, and other community charities expanded during the 1970s.



22

The Daily Journal, Franklin - Greenwood, Indiana, Wednesday, September 15, 1971

"CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAYS"

DOWNTOWN FRANKLIN

THURS.-FRI.-SAT. SEPT 16-17-18

FREE MOVIE

FOR CHILDREN AT ARTCRAFT THEATER
Saturday, Sept. 18 - 10 A.M.
"THE GOST AND MISTER CHICKEN" Don Knotts

Parents - Get FREE Tickets From These Merchants:

Minor's TV
G. C. Murphy Co.
Lord's
Guarantee Auto
Benzol Cleaners
Henderson Drugs
Taylor's Paint
Whitesides
Sherwin - Williams
Collins Jewelry
One Hour Cleaners
Mutual Building & Loan
Shaw-Nee Cleaners
Franklin Bank & Trust
Lanam Shoe Co.
Newkirk's
Brown's Regal
Western Auto
Holthouse Furniture
Barnes Furniture
Demaree's IGA
First Federal Savings & Loan
Union Bank & Trust
City Drugs
Deer & Son
Franklin Candy Kitchen
Discount Department Store

"MYSTERY SHOPPER"

A DIFFERENT SHOPPER EACH DAY!
Gift Certificates Worth
Hundreds of Dollars!!
JUST IDENTIFY THE...
"MYSTERY SHOPPER"
Ask Everyone You Meet
While Shopping in Franklin
Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

SOOPER-LUNAR SPACE WALK

"SOOPER-LUNAR" MIRRORS THE SPACE AGE... LETTING YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE EXPERIENCE THE "WEIGHTLESSNESS" OF A WALK IN SPACE!

ADMISSION 25¢ OR GET TICKET FROM THESE MERCHANTS-GOOD FOR 10¢ OFF!
TICKETS "FREE" TO PARENTS OR CHILDREN ACCOMPANIED BY PARENTS- **ALL 3 DAYS!!**

G. C. Murphy Co.
Lord's
Guarantee Auto
Henderson Drugs
Taylor's Paint
Whitesides
Sherwin-Williams
Collins Jewelry
One Hour Cleaners
Mutual Building & Loan
Shaw-Nee Cleaners
Franklin Bank & Trust
Lanam Shoe Co.
Newkirk's
Western Auto
Holthouse Furniture
Barnes Furniture
Demaree's IGA
Union Bank & Trust
City Drugs

JUNE 1972 – I-65 INTERCHANGE OPENS IN FRANKLIN

From the Johnson county cornfields

Interstate 65 rises to life

By ROBERT REED
Journal News Editor

Interstate 65 has risen up from the cornfields and backyards of Johnson county to become one of the most awesome superhighways in the midwest.

A single ribbon-cutting act made it official Friday.

Hardly had the hundreds of spectators cleared the Franklin interchange that straddles State Road 44, than cars began pouring down the interstate.

Highway experts say by 1975 the "Johnson county link" will be carrying more than 28,000 vehicles.

The link — extending 30 miles from Taylorsville in Bartholomew county to Indianapolis — cost over $35 million dollars. About $1.17 million dollars a mile.

Contracts for construction of the "link" were signed more than four years ago in May of 1968. Construction was not due for completion until September.

(I-65 maps, pictures
pages 3, 5, 8, 10)

(Road crews finished the task three months ahead of schedule at the request of state officials who are planning on 50,000 people to be at the National Campers and Hikers campvention at Camp Atterbury next week.)

Right-of-way for the local link amounted to more than $2.8 million dollars, while road and bridge construction cost over $29 million dollars.

Highway officials said of the total cost, 10 per cent was paid by the state and 90 per cent by the federal government.

During formal ceremonies Friday, R. H. Harrell, chairman of the Indiana State Highway commission said I-65 is "by far the longest interstate route in Indiana."

Harrell pointed out that motorists now can go from Jeffersonville on the Ohio River to downtown Chicago, some 300 miles, in five hours, or half the time it would have taken in 1940.

The newly opened section makes this possible and is expected to trim at least some of the heavy traffic off of U.S. 31.

There are seven major interchanges on the new I-65 section and 51 bridges, including 35 over roadways.

Labor on the "Johnson county link" involved 17 different contractors and 12 Indiana state highway engineers and supervisors, plus hundreds of other workers.

As of noon Friday, Johnson county was a living part of Interstate 65 which runs for 1,000 miles from the Gulf of Mexico at Mobile, Alabama, to the Gary, Indiana steel mills.

A fourth of I-65 is in Indiana, and ten per cent of that just went into operation Friday.

Highway commission chairman Harrell put it this way:

"Because of the great distance and the huge sum of money required, the construction of a modern, safe, controlled access, divided-lane highway across our state, from the Ohio River in the Falls City area to Lake Michigan in the Calumet areas, seemed to be a nearly impossible dream 15 years ago when we let contracts for the first twin bridges on this route south of Seymour in 1956.

This dream is a reality today."





A snip of the Hoosier state scissors

With a snip of the Hoosier state's scissors, Governor Ed Whitcomb, at center, opened the final phase of I-65 Friday at Franklin. With the governor, at left, is Ruel Steel, chairman of the Indiana State Highway Commission and second from right is Leslie Barrow of Franklin. (Daily Journal photo)

Governor Ed Whitcomb presides over ribbon cutting ceremonies
Eliminating long distance travelers through Franklin has major impact on downtown business



1982/1983 – NEW COURTHOUSE ANNEX IN FRANKLIN



West Court Street is mostly demolished to make way for a new Johnson County Courthouse Annex



"Indeed, one recent mayoral candidate promised the voters that, if elected, he would support the tearing down of all old buildings in franklin, in order that they might be replaced with modern buildings which, according to him would attract more shoppers."



SEPT 2, 1983 – FRANKLIN HERITAGE, INC. FOUNDED



Franklin Heritage
P.O. Box 511
Franklin, Indiana 46131

Dear Member,

The Franklin Heritage Inc. board of held a brain-storming session to set our months ahead. That session and a subseque formation of five committees, which will those goals.

The committees and their functions a

1) Fundraising, which will be r funds for Franklin Heritage through solic grants, etc. Cheryl Green and Barbara Tur in this area by coordinating a home tour

2) Planning, which will organiz other than the quarterly membership meeti Diane Weiss and Craig Moorman are on this committee.

3) Operating, which will be responsible for policy formation and will serve as a liaison between Franklin Heritage and other organizations. Kalynn Harmon and Mike Lewis are on this committee.

4) Membership, which will develop Franklin Heritage membership and organize the quarterly membership meetings. Sheila Hutcheon and Bill Kirklin are on this committee.

5) Advocacy, which will be our organization's watch dog

ASSESSMENT OF ASSETS AND NEEDS OF FRANKLIN

Franklin has a wealth of Victorian architecture which is in danger of becoming a thing of the past. While Franklin has yet to become a mere "bedroom community," residents have forsaken downtown businesses in favor of the malls found in Greenwood. The resulting financial hardship on Franklin businesses has prompted some ill-advised suggestions that Franklin can be revitalized only by discarding the old and building more modern shops. Indeed, one recent mayoral candidate promised the voters that, if elected, he would support the tearing down of all old buildings in Franklin in order that they might be replaced with modern buildings which, according to him, would attract more shoppers.



Empty

40 Years After Visit By Life, Franklin's Ritual Of Weekly Outing Downtown Is Only A Memory



Jefferson Street, 1940

TOLL RISING

Terrorist Upsurge Feared; Violence Becoming Routine

By DAVE GOLDBERG
Associated Press

Terrorism: Use of crime as political tool.



Jefferson Street, 1980



Face Of Terror

Index To Spectrum

Fun And Food At The Fair	Page 2
Washington Ripples	Page 4
Stamps, Coin Roundup	Page 5
Book Page	Page 6
Editorials, Columns And Letters	Pages 8,9
Behind Closed Doors	Page 7
Crossword Puzzle	Page 4

Empty

40 Years After Visit By Life, Franklin's Ritual Of Weekly Outing Downtown Is Only A Memory

AUGUST 1980 INDIANAPOLIS STAR EMPTY" DOWNTOWN FRANKLIN

"Everything moved out to the country, you see," he said. "They moved the high school out of town. They built all those shopping centers outside of town — downtown just died. They talk of reviving it, but I don't think they ever will. I think it's gone forever . . . . .

Downtown Franklin hits an ultimate low point in the 1980's

DECEMBER 31, 1984

THE POPCORN LADY RETIRES

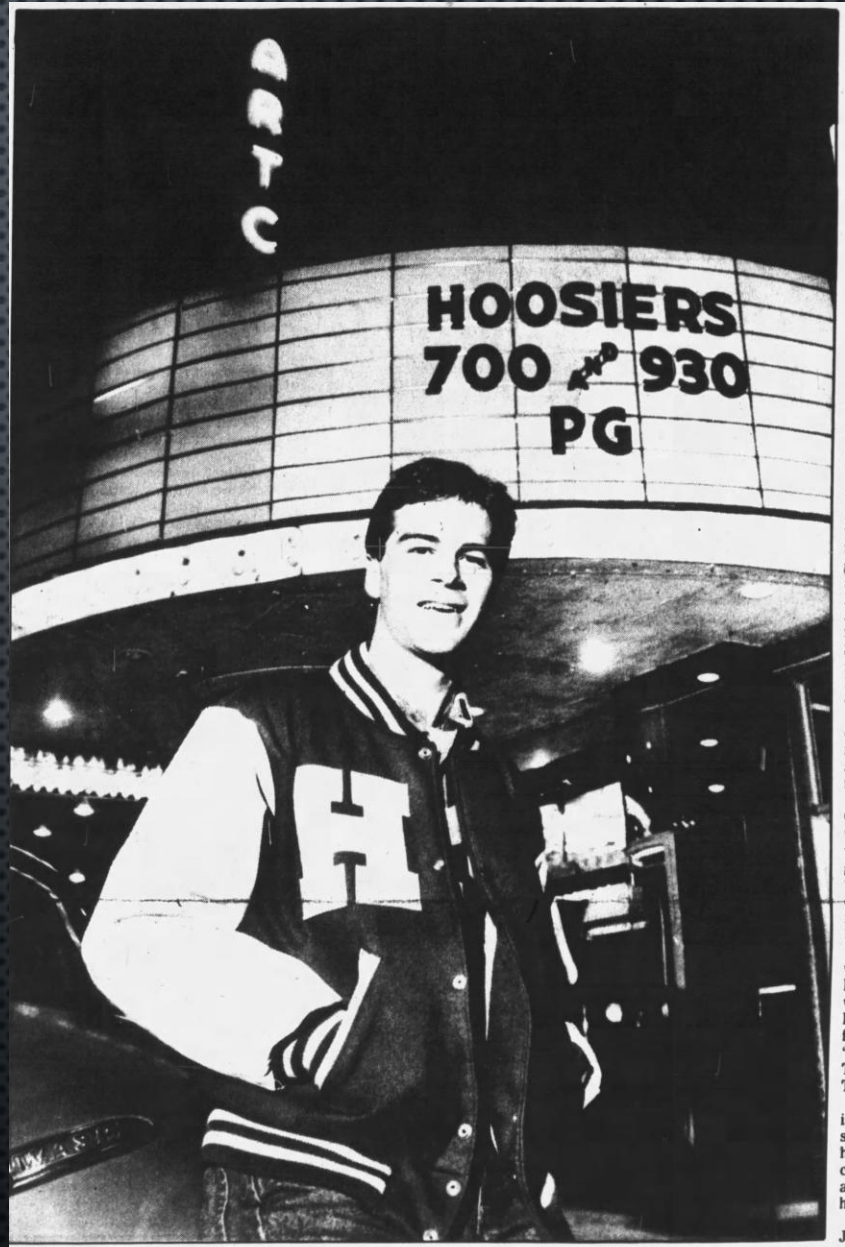
Irene Petro ran the concession stand at the Artcraft for nearly 40 years. She began working with many of her family members at the Artcraft and continued popping popcorn for three generations of movie-goers. Affectionately known as the "Popcorn Lady," Irene not only served fresh popcorn but kept an eye on the many children who frequented the Artcraft while their parents ran errands in Franklin.



NOVEMBER, 1986

HOOSIERS

When the movie Hoosiers came to the Artcraft, the crowds came for a month long-running. The manager decorated the theatre in hickory colors. Staff wore referee uniforms while working as well. The scenes of Nineveh school rallied wide community support and cheers from the audience.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICHARD G. BIEVER

"HOOSIERS" CO-STAR Brad Long, a Center Grove High School graduate, wears his Hickory High letterman's jacket beneath the marquee at the Artcraft Theatre in Franklin Friday night. Long, who plays the captain of the team, was on hand to greet movie-goers and sign autographs. Related picture, page 10.

Film opens to cheers in county

By JIM JACHIMIAK
Daily Journal Staff Writer

It was only a movie, but from the sound of the crowd it could have been a Johnson County high school basketball game.

Two theaters in the county opened the film "Hoosiers" Friday night, and if the crowd at the Artcraft Theatre in Franklin was any indication, the movie will be a hit.

When the title appeared on the screen during the film's first showing Friday night, the crowd broke into applause. It happened again with the first shot of the former Nineveh School, and throughout the basketball footage which followed the fictional Hickory Huskers through their state championship season.

When the Huskers won the state championship at the end of the movie, the crowd in the theater seemed as excited as the crowd in the film.

Brad Long, the former Center Grove High School basketball player who starred as Buddy in "Hoosiers," was at the Artcraft signing autographs and promoting the movie. "It's hard to believe this all happened over a year ago," he said before the movie started. "I'm kind of scared but I'm sure proud of it."

He also admitted to being somewhat apprehensive when he first landed a role alongside such heavyweights as Gene Hackman, Dennis Hopper and Barbara Hershey. "At first I was a little bit awed," he said, "but we became just like family. They're just like everybody else. They're people just like us."

Long said the movie's local opening is coming at a good time, with the state gearing up for another season of high school basketball. And the Artcraft, with its neon lights and vintage appearance, "is an excellent place to have the premiere," Long said.

He also feels it is appropriate that Johnson County is one of a handful of places in the state where the movie is beginning an early run. "I'm proud of that," he said. "This is where my roots are."

Long continued, "This will be good for Indiana. It will put us on the map, as if we weren't already for basketball."

The film is premiering early in Indiana to qualify for 1986 Academy Awards.

Bill and Sara Hashman of Greenwood were among those who watched the film Friday night. "I thought it was wonderful," Bill Hashman said when it was over. "It brought me back to the days when I played ball." During Hashman's high school days, he played for Southport High School.

Sara Hashman said, "I just enjoyed it. It was beautiful and it was great to have a film with so much local interest."

Bill Winslow of Nineveh, another Artcraft patron, watched with special interest since his mother taught at the Nineveh school while parts of the film were being shot there. "It was a lot like being at a ballgame," Winslow said.

Donna Trout of Franklin, who was with Winslow, called the film "very suspenseful." She said, "It builds to a great climax."

Center Grove High School junior Brad Butler noted that he is not a basketball player, but a swimmer. However, he said, he could still relate to the movie. "It makes me proud to wear this," he said, holding his Center Grove letter jacket.

R.D. Hartman, Artcraft manager, decorated the theater for the four-week showing of "Hoosiers." He used Hickory High School's colors, maroon and gold, and his employees are dressing in referees' uniforms. Hartman will give away a Spalding basketball each week "Hoosiers" is at the Artcraft. And he has not run out of promotional ideas yet. Tonight, the Chevrolet driven by Gene Hackman in the film will be parked in front of the theater.

Hartman said the film drew a near-capacity crowd to the 650-seat theater for its first showing Friday night. He may also have sold a record amount of popcorn, preparing roughly 50 pounds for the first show. "That's a whole bunch," he said.

MICHAEL J. REMBUSCH

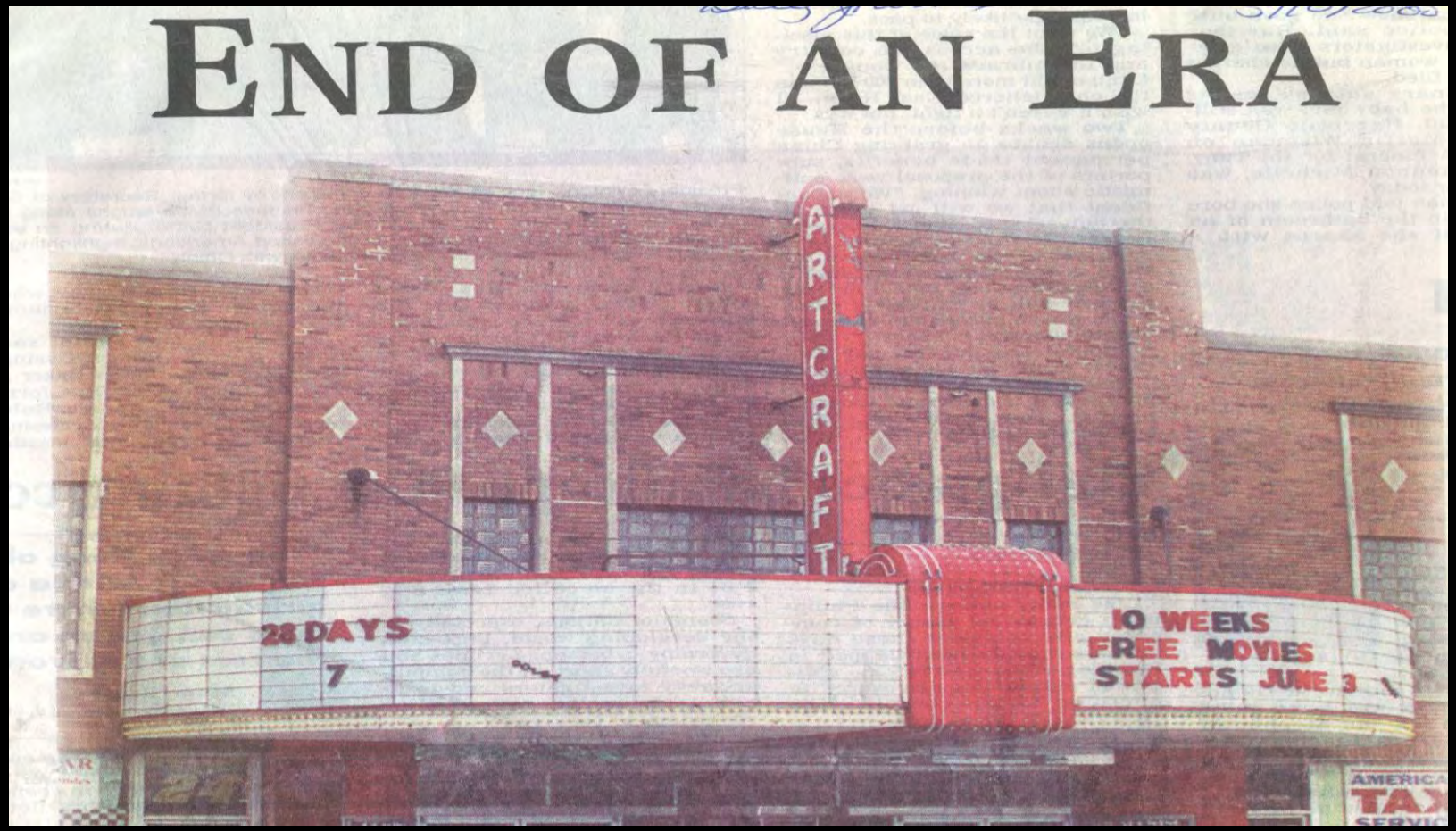
- PRESIDENT OF SYNDICATE THEATRE INC.
- BUILT AND OPERATED CANARY CREEK CINEMAS AND DRIVE IN 2000-2020 TO PREVENT AN OUTSIDE CHAIN BUSINESS FROM BUILDING A MULTIPLEX IN TOWN
- DONATED THE ENTIRE REMBUSCH FAMILY AND MOVIE THEATRE HISTORY FROM 1912 TO THE ARTCRAFT THEATRE IN 2020 INCLUDING THE 1942 ARTCRAFT BLUEPRINTS
- GENEVA CONVENTION HALL OF FAME, 2015
- SHOWED FHI THE "ARTCRAFT WAY"



MAY 28TH, 2000

END OF AN ERA

With VHS rental stores like Blockbuster and multiplexes (movie theatres with multiple auditoriums) becoming more prevalent, small town movie theaters went under throughout the 1990s. A large box chain planned to build a multiplex in Franklin. Mike Rembusch, Trueman's son, decided he was not willing to lose the theatre his grandfather and father operated since 1928. Mike built Canary Creek Cineams near US highway 31 in 1998 and soon realized his business could not keep up with the Artcraft as well. In June of 2000, the Rembusch family sold the Artcraft to local businessman Bob Schofield, who owned The Willard just north of the theatre.



BOB SCHOFIELD

- OWNER OF THE WILLARD IN DOWNTOWN FRANKLIN
- WANTED TO TRANSFORM THE ARTCRAFT INTO A LIVE ENTERTAINMENT VENUE
- BROUGHT IMPRESSIVE LOCAL AND REGIONAL MUSICAL TALENT TO FRANKLIN
- LEASED THE ARTCRAFT TO FRANKLIN HERITAGE INC ONE THURSDAY A MONTH FOR THEIR "CLASSIC FILM ON A CLASSIC SCREEN" EVENTS
- OPERATED SCHOFIELD'S ICE CREAM SHOP IN THE NORTH ARTCRAFT STOREFRONT



JUNE 2000 — APRIL 19, 2004

SCHOFIELD ERA

Schofield wanted to see Franklin become vibrant. He hoped to revive the live entertainment that marked the Artcraft in its early years. The Artcraft hosted live bands and uniquely, an under 21 dance club. During one of the dance club night's, the music was so loud the ceiling collapsed in the southwest portion of the theatre. The city condemned the building in May of 2001 until repairs addressed the auditorium.



Artcraft condemned

Extent of repairs, upgrades unknown







STAFF PHOTO BY JASON CONNEL

A 30-by-40-foot section of ceiling fell in the southwest corner of the Artcraft Theatre's auditorium on Friday night. No one was injured.

THE ARTCRAFT OF TODAY ALMOST BECAME A PARKING LOT

MAY 2001

2001

A NEW IDEA

Franklin heritage inc. (FHI), the city's historic preservation group, wanted to ensure that the Artcraft remained opened to the community. They began their "classic film on a classic screen" series to keep people in the Artcraft and provide rental money for Schofield's repairs.

Artcraft Theatre comes to life with classics

CLASSIC COMBINATION

Franklin Heritage is presenting 10 films at the historic Artcraft Theatre in a series dubbed "Classic Cinema on a Classic Screen." All but one of the features are listed in the American Film Institute's Top 100. The films, with their year of release and list ranking, are:

September: "From Here to Eternity," 1953, No. 52
October: "Mutiny on the Bounty," 1935, No. 86
November: "Citizen Kane," 1941, No. 1
December: "The Maltese Falcon," 1941, No. 23
January: "A Night at the Opera," 1935, not listed
February: "Casablanca," 1942, No. 2
March: "Sunset Boulevard," 1950, No. 12
April: "Singin' in the Rain," 1952, No. 10
May: "A Streetcar Named Desire," 1951, No. 45
June: "North by Northwest," 1959, No. 40
Schedule subject to change



When: 7:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month
Cost: $5 adults, discounts for students and seniors; series passes $40
Tickets and information: 736-6823 or www.franklinheritage.org

By Scott Hall
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

The purpose of a classic movie theater is to show movies, right?

Franklin's historic preservation group doesn't want residents to forget.

Tonight, a screening of "From Here to Eternity" kicks off a 10-film series that Franklin Heritage Inc. hopes will demonstrate the continuing value of the Artcraft Theatre as a moviehouse.

The series, dubbed "Classic Cinema on a Classic Screen," will present nine more movies from Hollywood's golden age on a regular schedule, 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month through June. All but one, the Marx Brothers' "A Night at the Opera," made the American Film Institute's list of America's 100 Greatest Movies.

"These sorts of movies are better seen on a big screen in a historic theater like this," said Rob Shilts, executive director of Franklin Heritage. "The idea is to get the Artcraft viable again."

The neon-accented 1920s theater on Main Street was sold last year by longtime owner Syndicate Theaters, which had struggled to keep the doors open in competition with its own Canary Creek multiplex off U.S. 31.

The Artcraft was purchased by the owners of the adjacent pub The Willard, the Schofield family, who have seen some success with live music in the theater but disappointing turnout for films.

Shilts said his not-for-profit group believes it can make the movies work, largely because the project is intended as a community service, not a commercial venture.

"We don't have to worry as much about the profit motive," he said.

Rather than just advertising broadly to the general public, Franklin Heritage is targeting likely patrons through its e-mail list. Organizers also are working with activities directors at the Franklin United Methodist Community and Indiana Masonic Home, hoping to bring in busloads of retirees.

"We can do some niche marketing," Shilts said.

Single admission is $5, with discounts for students and seniors. Series passes for $40 include $1 off any $10 food order at The Willard before the film.

Grants to support the series have come from the Johnson County Community Foundation, the Central Indiana Community Foundation and the Indiana Humanities Council.

(SEE **CLASSICS**, PAGE B3)

SUBJECT: 57 NORTH MAIN STREET FRANKLIN, INDIANA

During a recent visit to Franklin, Indiana you and I had the opportunity to visit a Theatre located at 57 North Main Street in Franklin, Indiana. During our walk through of the building I noticed deflection and distress in the form of cracks in the front masonry wall supporting the suspended marquee sign. It is my professional obligation to notify you that the supporting wall of the suspended marquee sign is in a condition that composes a potential life safety issue.

I would suggest that further investigation by a licensed engineer in the State of Indiana and [illegible] by an approved testing agency take place to determine first, if there is a [illegible] problem, and second to provide any remedial repair to properly support the suspended marquee sign. Measurements and structural calculations would need to be prepared [illegible] determine the existing stresses on the existing wall and other structural framing elements of the building to conclusively determine any overstress in the structural components of the building. This may require material testing and possible intrusive observation prior to any structural calculations being able to be prepared.

I would suggest that the existing marquee sign be braced / shored, or the area beneath the [illegible] wall distress be blockaded to prevent public access, until this issue has been properly investigated. I would recommend this action in an effort to protect the public from a potentially hazardous condition.

Sincerely,

David James Puskas, P.E.

DAVID JAMES PUSKAS
REGISTERED
PE 19900599
STATE OF INDIANA

"IT IS MY PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATION TO NOTIFY THAT THE SUPPORTING WALL OF THE SUSPENDED MARQUEE IS IN A CONDITION THAT COMPOSES A POTENTIAL LIFE SAFETY ISSUE"

Puskas, David. Preliminary Artcraft Engineering Study. August 5th, 2003

FRANKLIN HERITAGE INC.

- PURCHASED THE ARTCRAFT APRIL 2004 WITH THE SUPPORT OF MAYOR NORM BLANKENSHIP
  - SAVE AN ICONIC ART DECO MOVIE THEATRE
  - THOUGHT OF DOWNTOWN AS A SHOPPING MALL WITH THE ARTCRAFT AS THE ANCHOR STORE
  - FHI HAD RESTORED SEVERAL HISTORIC HOMES IN THE COMMUNITY, THIS WAS A HUGE LEAP OF FAITH AND THE LARGEST PRESERVATION PROJECT
  - IF FHI DIDN'T SAVE THE THEATRE, WE SHOULD PACK OUR BAGS AND GO HOME AS A PRESERVATION GROUP



"We. . . want the theatre to become well known as an entertainment venue that consistently offers an impressive lineup of talent. While downtown areas in many communities are dying, Franklin has a chance to build a vibrant downtown. The Artcraft must be a big part of that."

"Collapse shouldn't stop the Artcraft's momentum," Opinion, *The Daily Journal*, May 3rd , 2001.



IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY REPAIRS

- MARQUEE WAS PULLING AWAY FROM THE FAÇADE
  - PARTNERED WITH THE FRANKLIN REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION $150,000
  - DHPA GRANT $50,000
  - KAWNEER $98,000
  - GENERATION'S $68,000
  - WON AN AWARD FOR HAVING THE MOST OVER-MATCH ON A PROJECT
- LOST POWER DURING A MOVIE
  - ELECTRICAL 800 AMP 3 PHASE ELECTRICAL
  - EMERGENCY FUND FROM MUTUAL SAVINGS BANK $75,000
- MEN'S RESTROOMS NOT CONNECTED TO SANITARY SEWER

FRANKLIN HERITAGE INC.





2005: HARTKORN HOUSE PURCHASED AND RENOVATED AS GREEN ROOM

INDIANA MAIN STREET

- FRANKLIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DOWNTOWN MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION
- **2004**: INDIANA MAIN STREET MEMBER DISCOVER HISTORIC FRANKLIN
- INDIANA MAIN STREET COMMUNITY DESIGNATION
- **2005**: ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
- EIN # - ALL VOLUNTEERS
- 501C3 TAX EXEMPT STATUS JUNE 4, 2006
- **2006**: FIRST BOARD MEMBERS: MARY BARNABY, BUZZ BAY, TRICIA BECHMAN, ANJI BROWN, MARTHA CLARK-PFIFER, CHRISTA HAGIST, KRISTA LINKE, LINDA NORTON, ROB SHILTS, CRAIG WELLS, MARTY AND CAROLYN WILLIAMS
- UTILIZED THE NATIONAL MAIN STREET FOUR POINT APPROACH
- DOWNTOWN BROCHURES – EVERY DOWNTOWN BUSINESS LISTED
- ATTENDED MANY COMMUNITY EXCHANGES



2007
ARSEE ENGINEERS

- Engineering Study of the property
- Playbook for repairs
- Grant from DHPA $30,000 to pay for study

2008 – 2012

FRONT FACADE PROJECT







2008 – BLADE SIGN IS REMOVED FOR RESTORATION







2008 BACKSTAGE RESTORATION

In hard-hit Franklin, residents and officials cleaning up from mucky, muddy mess. A2/A5

Around the county Scores rescued from high water in historic flood. A2/A6

Center Grove area Residents near State Road 37 evacuated. A3

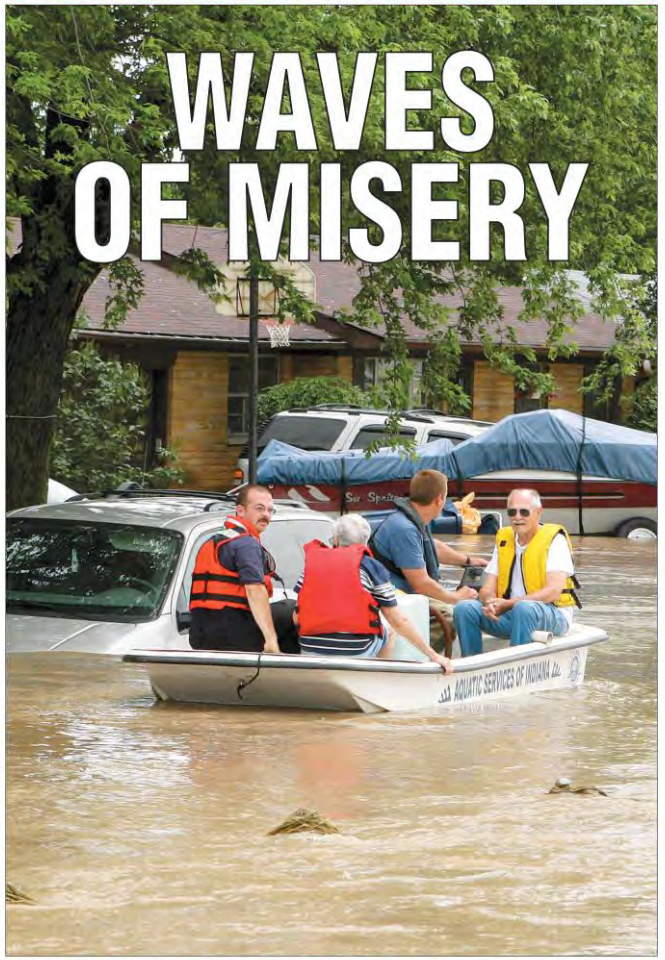
Prince's Lakes Dam bursts, sending water crashing into bridges. A4

Trafalgar About 100 families evacuated from area of town. A7

On the Web See our slideshows and more coverage. dailyjournal.net

DAILY JOURNAL
dailyjournal.net
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2008 Johnson County, Indiana 50 cents

WAVES OF MISERY



INDEX

Classifieds	B11-D12	Police, fire	A10
Comics	B8	Sports	B1-B5
Editorials	B6	TV listings	B9
Obituaries	A11	Weather	A12

CALL US
Main switchboard 736-7101
Delivery: 736-2777
News tips: 736-2712

WEATHER
Today
Skies: Partly sunny
Temps: High 93; low 66
MAP, PAGE A10

Pictured: Margaret Clemmons, front, and her husband, Clyde (in yellow life preserver), travel in a boat with Greenwood firefighter Adam Arkins, left, and Brian Kisler after being rescued from their home near State Road 37 on Saturday. Staff photo by Chris Williams



Residents along East Jefferson Street in Franklin place their possessions along the sidewalk to let them dry out Sunday.

'Everybody suffered'

Recovery costs likely to march into hundreds of millions

Daily Journal staff report

emergency management director Forrest "Tag" Sutton said. Johnson County this week," Sutton said. "The rainwater became mixed with gaso- water washed her away down the street. A German shepherd came to her rescue and

Franklin City's cleanup task overwhelming. A2

Edinburgh Frustration common in still-flooded town. A3

Prince's Lakes Temporary bridge gives residents a way out. A5

Whiteland Residents drying out, cleaning up. A6

DAILY JOURNAL
dailyjournal.net
TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2008 Johnson County, Indiana 50 cents

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Key phone numbers
Federal Emergency Management Agency (202) 646-4600
Johnson County Emergency Management 346-4656
National Flood Insurance Program, Region V Office (708) 328-3072

Service agency to open temporary location
Human Services Inc., closed due to flooding of its downtown Franklin offices, plans to reopen at a temporary location later this week. All operations, including the food pantry, will be housed in the Head Start building at 466 N. Morton St. Employees hope to begin offering services again as early as Thursday. While at the temporary location, Human Services can be reached at 346-0000.

Tetanus shots offered
The Johnson County Health Department will offer a free tetanus shot clinic Wednesday at its temporary location.
The clinic will be from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at 1124 N. Main St., Franklin.
Shots are available to anyone who has been exposed to floodwater and has not had a tetanus booster within the past five years or any-

WAVES OF MISERY

NOW WHAT?

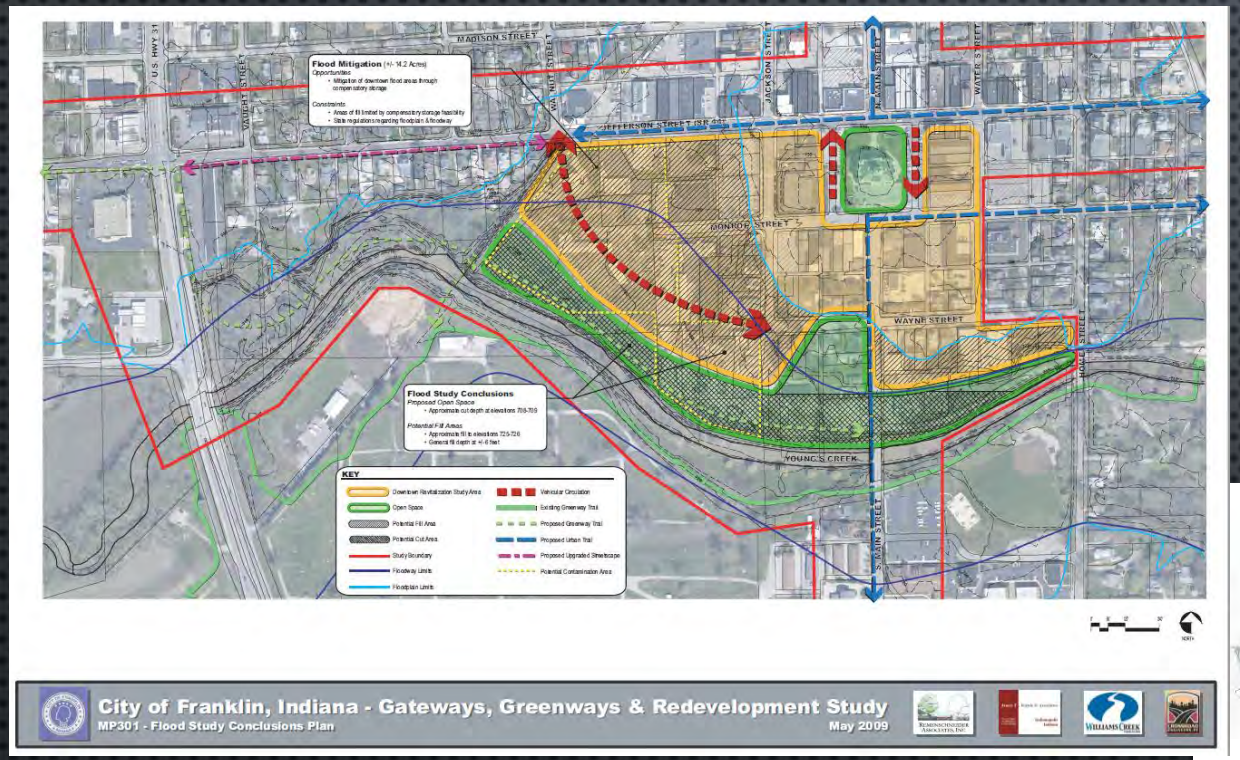


Volunteers Nathan Stapleton, left, and Darren Dunn work Monday to clear out water-soaked items from Parkside Apartments in Franklin.

Flood victims unsure about next steps

FLOOD OF 2008

2009 GATEWAYS & GREENWAYS STUDY



City of Franklin, Indiana - Gateways, Greenways & Redevelopment Study
MP301 - Flood Study Conclusions Plan
May 2009

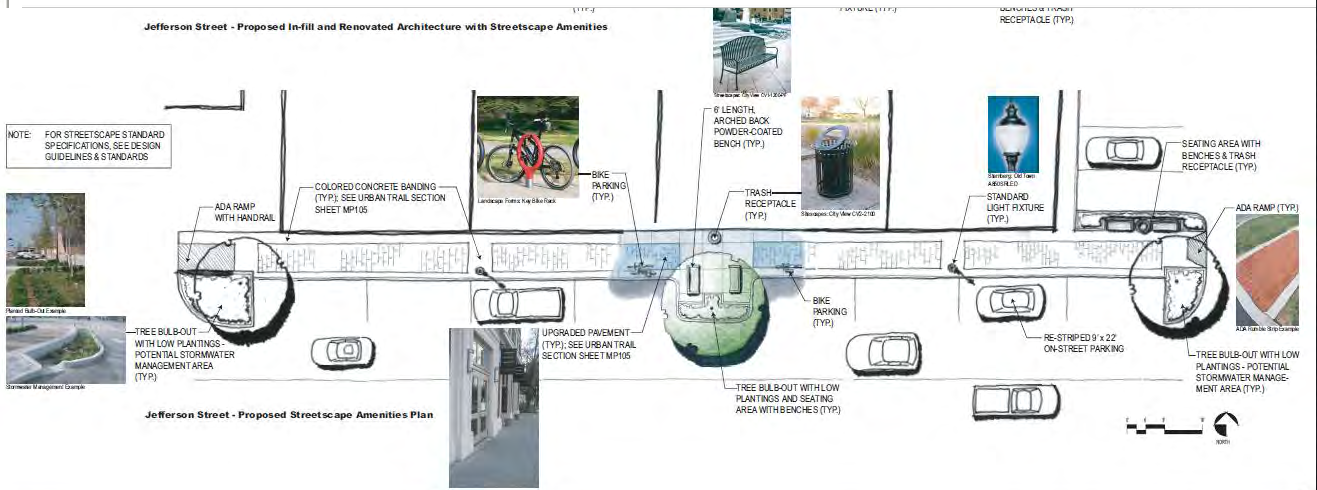


Jefferson Street - Existing Conditions



Jefferson Street - Proposed In-fill and Renovated Architecture

City of Franklin, Indiana - Gateways, Greenways & Redevelopment Study
MP401 - Typical Architectural Standards
May 2009



- Flood Study Conclusions
- Redevelopment Plans
- Streetscape Standards
- Architectural Standards & Elevations
- Phased Gateway Improvements - 11

2009

GATEWAYS & GREENWAYS STUDY




2009
HENDERSON
DRUGS


FRANKLIN
CHAMBER
JEFFERSON ST.
2011

2006 - 2011

- 4th Fridays on the Courthouse Lawn with Classic Car Cruise-Ins
- Board and Committee Members
  - City Staff
  - Parks Department
  - Community Organization Partners
  - Local Merchants – Small Business Owners
  - Franklin College Interns

The Power of Small

Main Street leaders across the country are rolling up their sleeves and engaging with community members to create long-term economic transformation through small, incremental improvements.

One step at a time, we work together to support and grow locally-owned businesses, cultivate and develop entrepreneurship, and create inclusive, accessible communities for all.

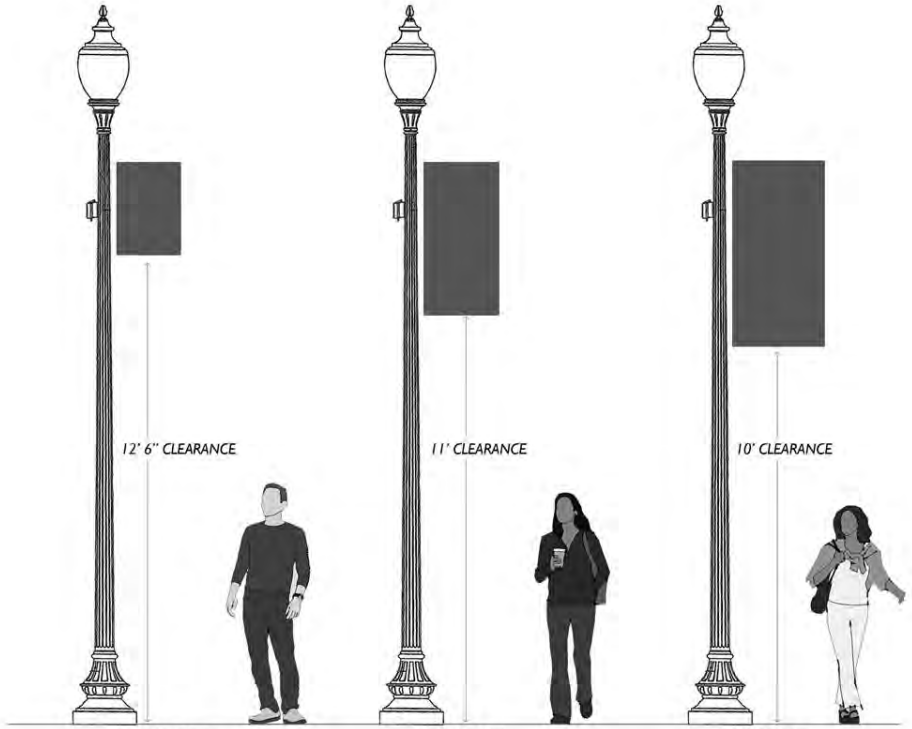






DESIGN COMMITTEE
2 BLOCK WALKS











N. MAIN STREET LOOKING NORTH

2009



PROPOSED





2014





EAST COURT STREET LOOKING SOUTH





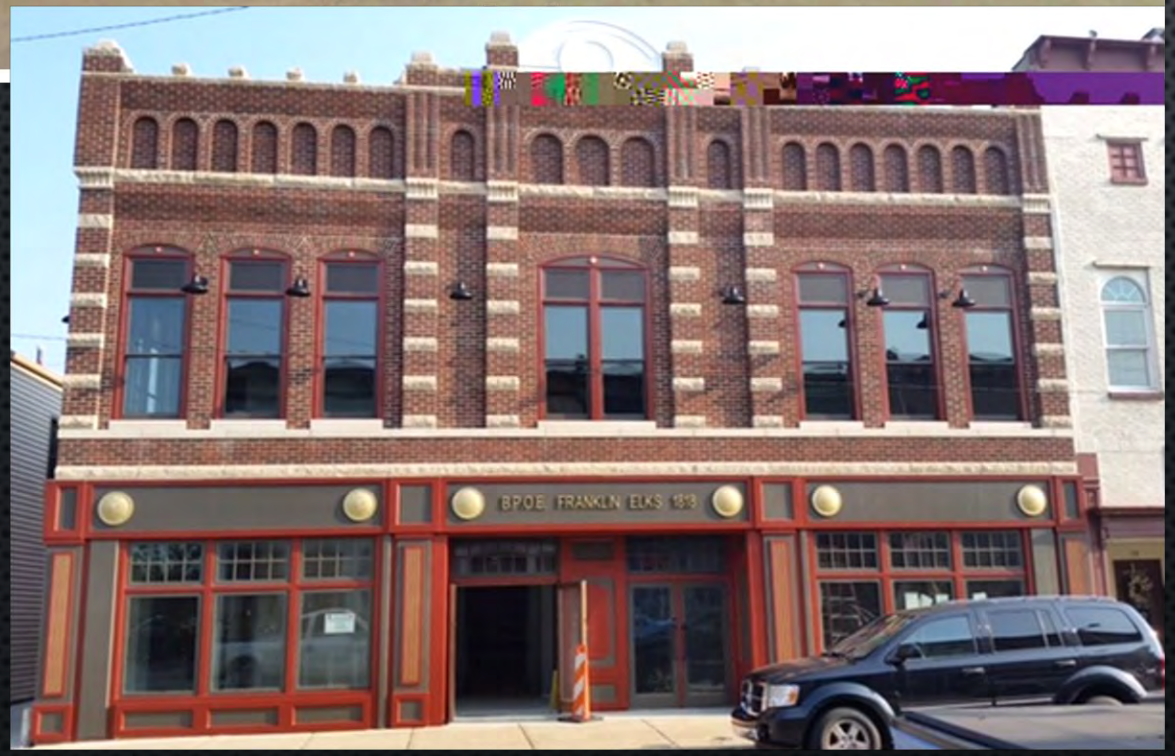
EAST COURT STREET LOOKING SOUTH


2015
1823
CAFÉ


2009


2015
DAILY JOURNAL
GRAY GOAT





FORMER GC MURPHY BUILDING

ELKS LODGE 1818


2009


2017
GRILL BAR
TAVERN
LIQUORS
GRILL BAR
Cold Beer · Good Food
Downtown
CROP
SHOP

GARMENT FACTORY EVENT CENTER

2015





2018

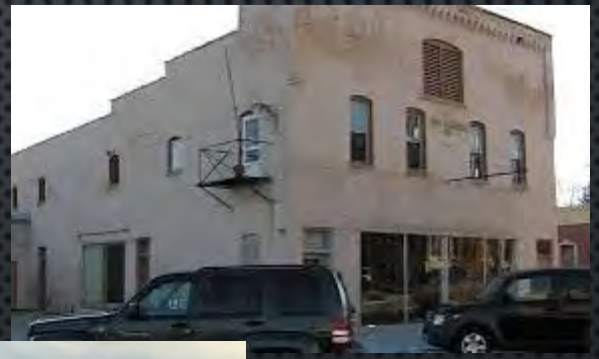




B2S LIFE SCIENCES









2019

AUDITORIUM FLOOR REFINISHING PROJECT 2013

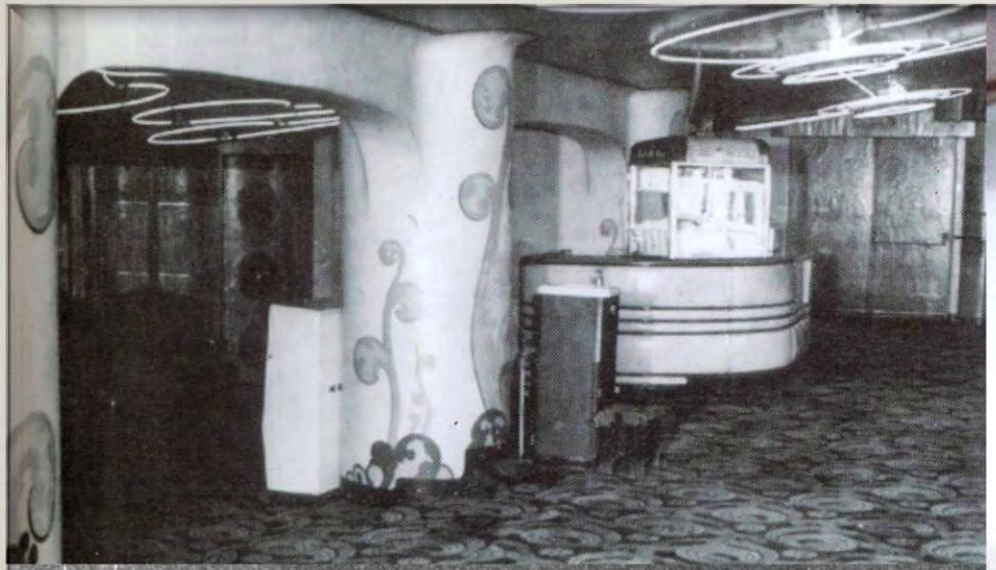


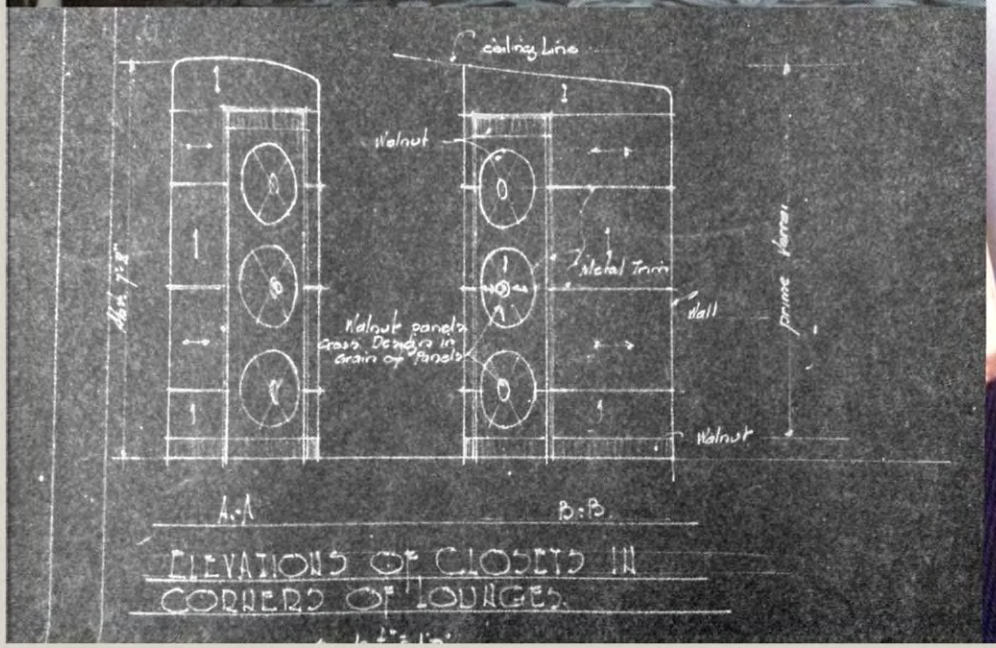






The Historic ARTCRAFT Theatre
FRANKLIN · INDIANA
est. 1922







2014

LOWER LOBBY VENEER INSTALLATION

The Historic ARTCRAFT Theatre
FRANKLIN · INDIANA
est. 1922



2015

REPLACED ROOF OVER THE THEATER AUDITORIUM

The Historic ARTCRAFT Theatre
FRANKLIN · INDIANA
est. 1922



2015

MARQUEE RESTORATION AND UPGRADE BEGINS



2017

MARQUEE FINAL INSTALLATIONS



2015 - 2017

FRANKLIN'S BRIGHT SPOT

After tackling many of the foundation, roof, and unseen issues with the building, the marquee restoration began. The marquee was disassembled, sand blasted, rewired, and re-paneled. New LED light bulbs keep the Artcraft franklin's "bright spot" with over 1,000 light bulbs!

2016-2017

GROWING PAINS

The original swamp cooler of 1935 began to struggle to maintain cool temperatures to a society accustomed to air conditioning. After much consultation a new HVAC project began. The swamp cooler was removed along with its original room and the furnace room. A new unit was retrofitted for the space with a condenser unit atop the theatre. Overcoming many engineering concerns, the new HVAC system install finished in 2017.







2017

CONCESSIONS AND LOBBY RESTORATION

2017
FESTIVAL COUNTRY















2019 & 2020

CONCESSIONS STAND RENOVATION

MARCH 14, 2020 - APRIL 1, 2021

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The advent of the COVID 2020 pandemic brought new challenges to the Artcraft.

Unable to safely host crowds, the theatre shut down completely until July 3rd. Increased cases caused the Christmas season shut down as well.

Throughout this time Artcraft staff and volunteers operated the theatre for small rentals following state guidelines.

The Artcraft re-opened in April of 2021 for its normal movie schedule.







2020

CURBSIDE POPCORN SALES DURING SHUTDOWN

















MAY 2021

YOUNG'S CREEK PARK (AMPHITHEATER)







INDIANA GROWN
FRANKLIN FARMERS MARKET
WINNER! 2025 INDIANA'S ULTIMATE FARMERS MARKET!!!











2022
100TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

JANUARY 2023
ENTRANCE REVAMP

The terrazzo stoop inside the entrance of the Artcraft used to host carpet but was removed in the early 2000s. The remaining stoop covered the tile pattern and created an uneven floor. The removal of the terrazzo and installment of the original style of tiles completed the concession stand renovation.



MARCH 31, 2023

TORNADO AND SILVER LININGS

A tornado struck Franklin and nearby Whiteland, causing major damage to the Artcraft's marquee and fly-loft.

Closed for a month for immediate repairs, the Artcraft embarked on completing not only storm damages but other routine maintenance that necessitated scaffolding. Tuckpointing ensures the integrity of the building for the building's next century.



2025 ONWARDS

STAGE RESTORATION



After decades of use, the original wooden grid of the Artcraft cannot support additional weight. Supporting steel beams will be installed to support additional curtains and to raise and lower the screen. Floor coverings will protect the original flooring while allowing new use of the space. The Johnson County Community Foundation generously provided a matching grant to provide for safety lighting and engage an architecture firm to evaluate the stage and capacity of the auditorium.

WHAT WE DO NOW

- Classic Film Series
- Author Events
- Film Festivals
- Sponsorship Party
- Historic Home Tour
- Garden Tour
- Private Events
- Dancing with the Johnson County Stars
- Missoula Childrens Theater
- Bingo
- Cooking School
- Knit at Night
- Field Trips
- Senior Movie Series
- Live Events

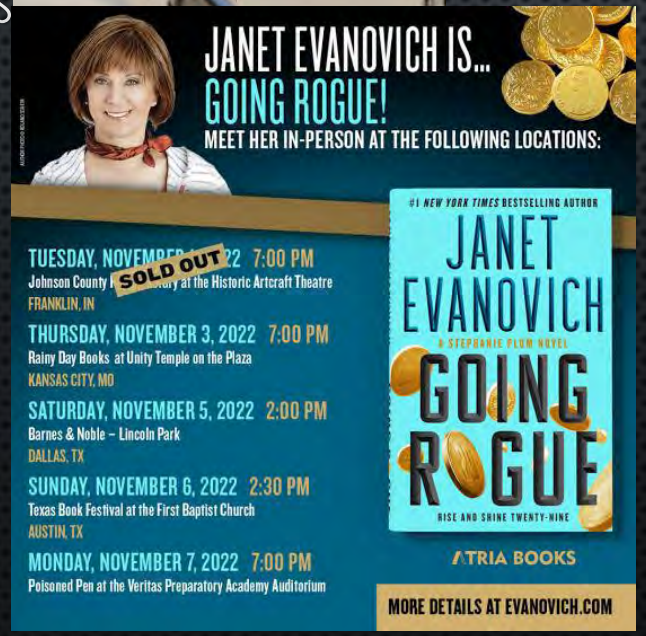
















“The Artcraft is a community treasure worth saving again and again and again.”

“Collapse shouldn’t stop the Artcraft’s momentum,” Opinion, *The Daily Journal*, May 3rd , 2001.

Downtown revitalization is crucial because it rebuilds the economic, social, and cultural heart of a community, turning underutilized areas into vibrant hubs for living, working, and gathering.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND FINANCIAL HEALTH

Boosts local revenue
Supports small businesses
Attracts investment

COMMUNITY IDENTITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Creates gathering spaces
Preserves History
Encourages smart growth

THANK YOU!



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