

INDIANA PRESERVATION

MARCH/APRIL 2025



INDIANA LANDMARKS

MAKING ROOM

The conversation
that shaped a
Wright design

WELL TENDED

Reclaiming
historic landscape
designs

Park Yourself

Exploring landmark
architecture in state parks



With Gratitude

THIS, MY 112TH PRESIDENT'S COLUMN, marks my last for *Indiana Preservation* magazine. A recurring theme in my messages over the years has been gratitude—to you, our members, and all who support Indiana Landmarks and make it the excellent organization it has become.

Writing my few paragraphs for each issue of the magazine has been a privilege. We are rightly proud of *Indiana Preservation*. Its words and photographs reflect well the vibrancy and diversity of Indiana Landmarks. It can be described, in the words of my friend Charlie Richardson, as “cool, crisp, and pithy.” And it just keeps getting better.

In the spirit of gratitude, I extend my thanks to our Marketing and Communications team—Mindi Woolman, Jessica Kramer, Evan Hale, and Paige Wassel—who produce *Indiana Preservation* six times a year and always on time. For the “cool” we thank Mindi and Jessica for knowledge and wit. For the “crisp” we can thank Evan for his superior graphic skills. For the “pithy” we look to Paige for ensuring concise, accurate, and elegant writing. It’s a terrific team, and their relative youth promises a long and healthy future for *Indiana Preservation*.

Please, keep on reading. And, once again, I thank you.



Marsh Davis, President

On the Cover

This spring, workers are finishing repairs to Spring Mill State Park's 1817 grist mill, part of the restored Pioneer Village where visitors can learn about nineteenth-century life. Explore other state park landmarks on pp. 8-13.

PHOTO © INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



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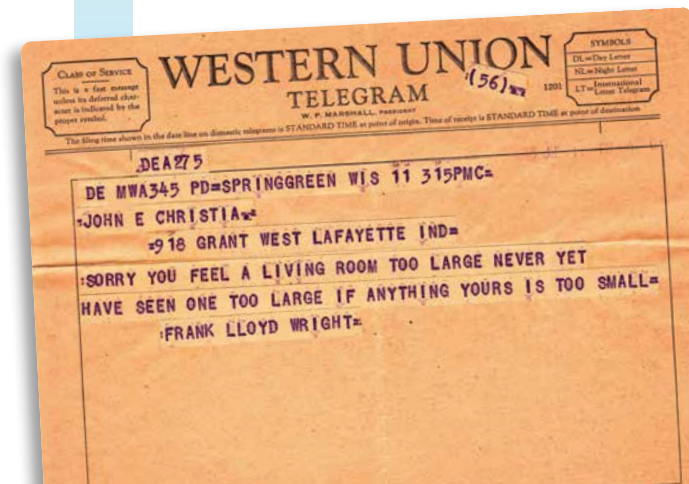
STARTERS



Living Large

What happens when you ask Frank Lloyd Wright to modify his design for the house you're building? West Lafayette resident Dr. John Christian found out when he telegraphed Wright in 1955, suggesting Wright shorten the Christians' yet-to-be-completed living room to reduce building costs. The architect disagreed, responding in typical Wright fashion (below). Today, Samara's spacious living room defines the home, where visitors can learn about the couple's collaboration with the master architect. Learn more on pp. 6-7.

PHOTOS BY NATHAN ALLAIRE AND © JOHN E. CHRISTIAN FAMILY MEMORIAL TRUST ARCHIVES



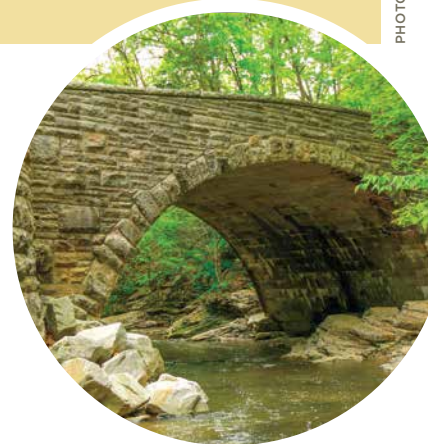
Rooms with a View

Built for the 1933 Chicago World's Fair, the Cypress Log Cabin in Indiana Dunes National Park was one of several exhibit homes transported to northern Indiana to be part of a new development, later becoming part of the park. When they faced deterioration in the '90s, Indiana Landmarks proposed a saving solution: leasing the unique homes from the park and subleasing to tenants who could restore them. Today, the Cypress Log Cabin is one of four restored fair houses and the only one available for lodging. Its rustic interior blends cozy ambiance with modern amenities, with four bedrooms for guests (see indianalandmarks.org/cypress-log-cabin-home). Bid on your chance to stay at the cabin, one of several packages up for auction at Indiana Landmarks' Rescue Party on April 26. See more on p. 18.

PHOTOS © BEACHWALK VACATION RENTALS

24 state parks across Indiana, one located within an hour's drive of every Hoosier. Discover more about Indiana parks history and efforts to preserve their landmarks on pp. 8-13.

PHOTOS © MARC EVANS, MCCORMICK'S CREEK STATE PARK



Admiring Prairie Style Landscapes

IN THE LATE NINETEENTH AND EARLY

twentieth century, pioneering designers Jens Jensen and O.C. Simonds developed what eventually became known as the Prairie Style of landscape design, an approach that utilized native plants in ways that emphasized the open vistas of the Midwest, where they worked. Their principles still inform today's native gardens, and respect for their work has inspired landscape restorations based on their historic designs.

Educated as a civil engineer and architect, Michigan native Ossian Cole Simonds (1855-1931) preferred to call himself a landscape gardener and helped found the American Society of Landscape Architects. Called "The Dean of Landscape Architecture," by *The New York Times*, Danish landscape architect Jens Jensen (1860-1951) believed in the essential function of parks in providing access to nature and was influenced by Simonds' work. A leading conservationist and environmentalist, he joined others to propose protecting part of the Indiana Dunes' natural features as a park.

Along with working on parks around the Midwest, both men also designed landscapes for cemeteries, took commissions for grand estates, and published articles on landscape design. The University of Michigan maintains a repository of Jensen's architectural drawings, but no similar archive exists of Simonds' work, making it sometimes challenging to track the provenance of his designs.

At the turn of the twentieth century, landscape designers Jens Jensen and O.C. Simonds pioneered the Prairie Style of landscape design, using native plants to frame the Midwestern vistas where they worked. Around Indiana, examples of Jensen's work are finding new life. At Michigan City's Barker Mansion (below), a never-before-realized Jensen design inspired new gardens at the Gilded Age home, now a programs and event center.

PHOTO © THE BARKER WELFARE FOUNDATION

"Sometimes where you may not have documentation, you can look at trees or other features that date from earlier periods to get a sense of key views that were important in the landscape design," notes Bob Grese, author of *Jens Jensen, Maker of Natural Parks and Gardens* and expert on both Jensen and Simonds' work. "Jensen used a lot of limestone in his designs that may still be in the ground buried below the surface. There's a real sense of being a garden archeologist and finding little clues to point to the original design."

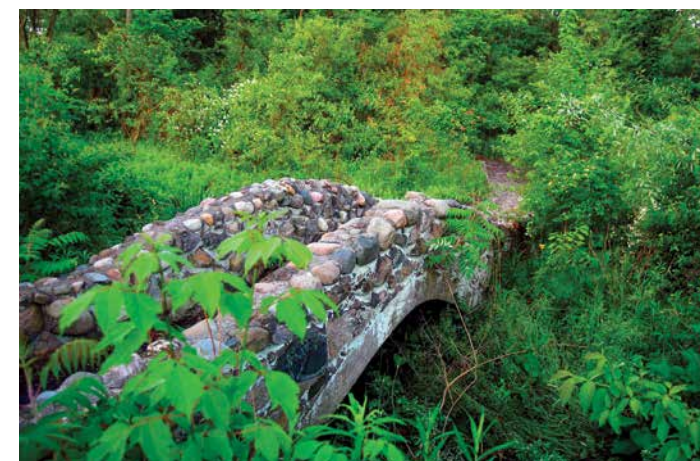
In Indianapolis, Jensen created the master plan for Riverdale, the mansion built for automotive entrepreneur James Allison that now serves as administrative offices for Marian University. The university tracked down records of Jensen's 1911 designs at the University of Michigan and in Chicago to guide the decade-long restoration by Browning Day Mullins and Dierdorf completed in 2019. Among other work, the project included rebuilding the garden's fountain and re-establishing perennial beds and walks around it, and redefining the lawn terraces. Workers also rehabbed a limestone colonnade and circular gardens using original stone and constructing a replica of the original arbor on top. The Friends of Riverdale group collected \$1.4 million for the project and continues to raise money for an endowment to maintain the garden, used today by the public and students alike.

The formal garden overlooks Marian University's Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab, a wetland and lowland forest used for classes and public programs that includes more



of Jensen's original 60-acre design, including fieldstone bridges, a dam, waterworks, pump house, and half-moon pools. Since 2001, the university has raised \$2 million to restore paths, clear invasive plants, and plant native species, with hopes to restore the fieldstone features in the future.

More than a century later, Jensen's designs are still inspiring new gardens. In northern Indiana, The Barker Welfare Foundation recently approved creation of a Jensen garden design for the 1857 Barker Mansion courtyard in Michigan City. Original owners Mr. and Mrs. John H. Barker commissioned Jensen to redesign their Italian garden in 1909, but both died before any of the four designs he supplied could be



Along with shaping the look of many public parks, Jensen undertook private commissions such as at Riverdale, the estate of Indianapolis auto mogul James Allison, now part of Marian University. The university partnered with a friends group to raise \$1.4 million to rebuild the formal garden space (above) from Jensen's plans, and is continuing to work on the wetland below, where original fieldstone features are still visible in an outdoor learning space known as the Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab (left).

PHOTOS © MARIAN UNIVERSITY

built. Landscape architect Stu Franzen oversaw the new garden inspired by Jensen's Scheme No. 3, which features a large circular path, perennial beds framing the lawn, and an existing central fountain. The garden addition is just one component of an extensive restoration underway at the Gilded Age mansion, which hosts tours, public programs, and rental events.

On March 19, author Bob Grese will share an overview of the Prairie Style landscape gardening developed by Jensen and Simonds in a talk offered at Indiana Landmarks Center in Indianapolis and online. The program will highlight their key projects—including Indiana examples—to show connections between their work and today's native gardens (see details on p. 16). And save the date for May 10 to take a deeper dive into the topic during a tour at Marian University offering an in-person look at Jensen's landscape legacy.





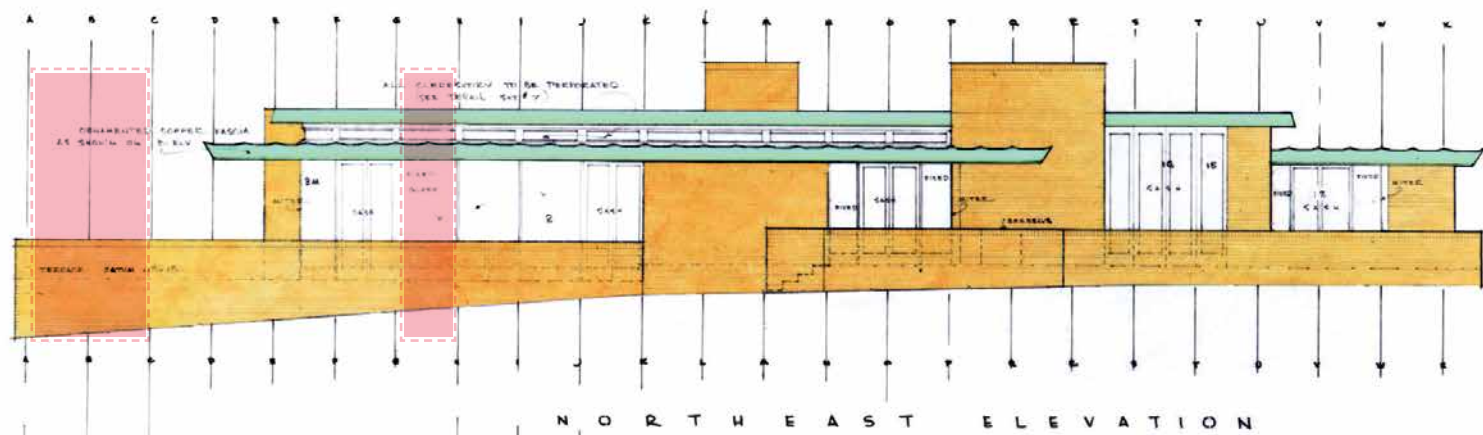
Never a Living Room Too Large

SAMARA, THE HOME FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT designed for Dr. John and Catherine Christian in West Lafayette, offers unusual insight into the architect's process and relationship with his clients. An exceptional example of Wright's Usonian houses—which he defined as sensible, modest, uniquely American dwellings—Samara reflects a five-year collaboration between the Christians and Wright to develop detailed design and construction plans covering everything from interior furnishings to exterior and landscape details. The house retains a treasure trove of artifacts that help tell its story, from correspondence with Wright to photos, furnishings, and family memorabilia.

As they planned their new residence, John and Catherine Christian clearly knew what they wanted. In her 28-page essay “What We Need for How We Live,” Mrs. Christian specified for Frank Lloyd Wright the desire for an entertaining area that could “accommodate both small and large groups equally well, yet not be exceptionally large.” The Christians also wanted a family area where

West Lafayette residents Dr. John and Catherine Christian's collaboration with Frank Lloyd Wright is documented in correspondence over the size of the living room, including Wright's suggestion to shrink the outdoor terrace in order to retain the room's light-filled design.

PHOTO BY NATHANIEL ALLAIRE
AND © JOHN E. CHRISTIAN FAMILY
MEMORIAL TRUST ARCHIVES



they could relax, “let down their hair,” and spend time together. Considering their limited budget, it was a tall request for Wright to fulfill.

Instead of granting the Christians two separate rooms—one for family and the other for guests—Wright consolidated all special features into one space: a living room that would live up to its name. His design made the room truly one of the most important and visually powerful spaces in the house, making up nearly half the total square footage. Wright's preliminary drawings of the living room, with every detail working seamlessly together, impressed the Christians.

However, after reviewing the plans with their local contractor, the Christians were still concerned about the cost of their unique home. The living room—the largest space—stood out from the rest, prompting Dr. Christian's telegram to Wright about shrinking the living room and Wright's memorable response, quipping “never yet have seen one too large” (see p. 3).

The Christians and Wright did reach a compromise of sorts. Wright agreed to shorten his initial design (though not as much as Dr. Christian proposed), eliminating a significant portion of outdoor terrace on the home's south side while retaining the light-filled open living space of his initial plan. The living room fulfilled the Christians' dream for their home, hosting family gatherings along with faculty and students from nearby Purdue University, where Dr. Christian was a Bionucleonics professor.

Wright believed that the living room was not just a place to be, but a way to be—that one could never live too large. For most of his clients, building and living in a home designed by Wright was the highlight



This year, Samara is undergoing roof replacement for only the second time in the house's history, part of a second phase of restoration at the National Historic Landmark. The project will require removal of the home's decorative copper fascia (shown above during original installation), which will be catalogued, stored, and assessed for repairs. Samara will reopen for tours when construction is complete.

PHOTO © JOHN E. CHRISTIAN
FAMILY MEMORIAL TRUST
ARCHIVES

of their lives. After living at Samara for only four months, the Christians told Wright, “Although it is not complete in many details, we are enjoying it immensely.”

Today, Samara is a National Historic Landmark and the only one of Wright's Indiana commissions regularly open to visitors. Indiana Landmarks co-stewards Samara with the John E. Christian Family Memorial Trust. In 2023, we completed a comprehensive restoration to address structural issues and update aging environmental systems in order to protect the home's extensive Wright-designed furnishings. The \$2 million project was funded by a \$500,000 Save America's Treasures grant from the National Park Service, the John E. Christian Family Memorial Trust, Inc., and private donations.

This spring, workers will embark on Phase 2 of restoration, removing the existing tar and gravel roof down to its wooden deck and replacing it with a new membrane, marking only the second time in the home's 70-year history that the roof has been replaced. The project will necessitate removal of the decorative copper fascia, which will be carefully catalogued and stored. Samara's extensive holdings include the forms used to shape the original copper pieces, an indispensable help for any damaged or deteriorated fascia that may need to be recreated.

To speed up the roof installation and ensure the safety of our guests, Samara will be closed during the construction process. While we finalize the construction schedule, check the Samara website for updates on tour availability at samara-house.org.

To read more about the Samara living room debate and other interesting stories of the Christians' life and the house's construction, visit Samara's blog at samara-house.org/blog.

Walk in the Park

“Our parks and preserves are not mere picnicking places. They are rich storehouses of memories and reveries. They are guides and counsels to the weary and faltering spirit. They are bearers of wonderful tales to [they] who will listen; a solace to the aged and an inspiration to the young.”

—Col. Richard Lieber, father of Indiana’s state parks system

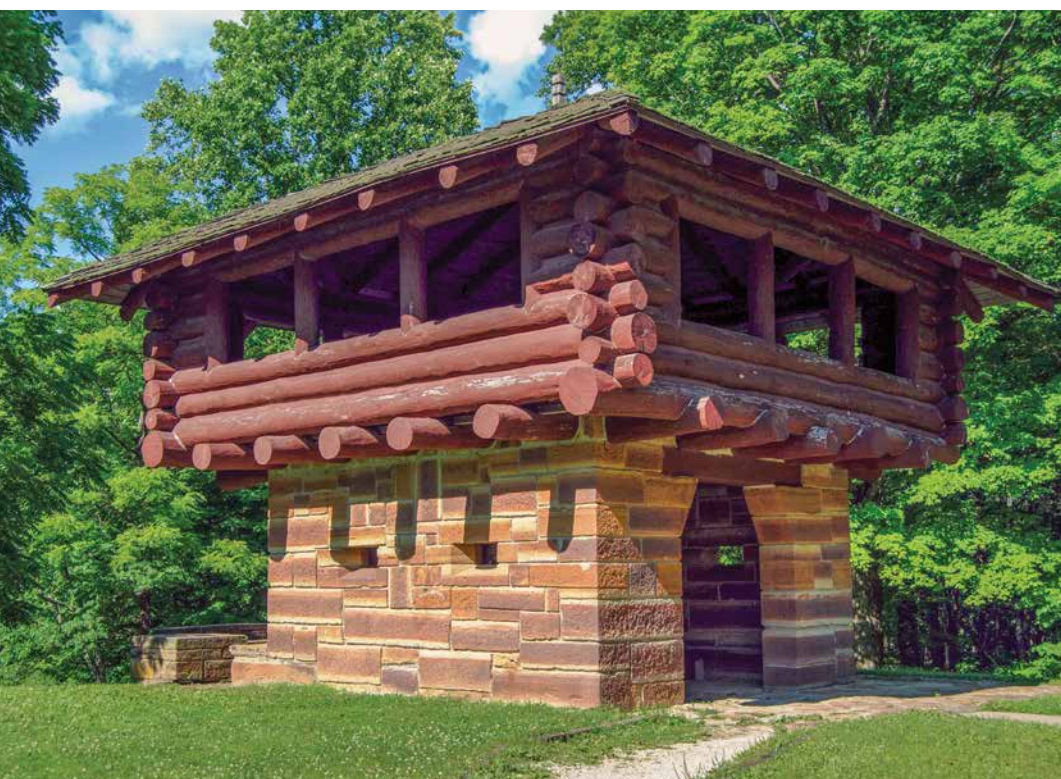


In the early twentieth century, as cities and towns around the country sought to manage rapid growth, a national movement to conserve natural resources was taking hold. Much of the movement’s early efforts centered on setting aside lands to protect water sources, forests, and wildlife, but out of practical concern came the opportunity to create a legacy for generations to come.

In Indiana, businessman Richard Lieber saw conservation as an avenue to social progress as well as resource management. A firm believer in the restorative powers of nature, Lieber advocated for a system of state parks that would conserve both natural and cultural resources, one he hoped would “not only stand forever as

Indiana’s state parks’ natural and historic features attract thousands of visitors each year. Built in 1939, Spring Mill Park’s inn (above) reopened in December 2024 following a \$30 million rehabilitation that modernized systems while protecting historic features, including restoring the inn’s many original windows. With over 15,000 acres, Brown County State Park (left) qualifies as the state’s largest National Register-listed historic district.

PHOTOS © INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND KENG YANG



a token of the past, but which will bring health, wealth and happiness to our own generation and the many that will come after us.”

As the state prepared to celebrate its centennial, Lieber headed a committee charged with evaluating potential sites and raising money to buy them. With support from Owen County, the committee acquired 350 acres of forests and a canyon around McCormick’s Creek for \$5,250, and Indiana’s first state park was dedicated there on July 4, 1916. Nearly a century later, with the creation of Prophetstown State Park northeast of Lafayette in 2004, Indiana achieved a modern goal of having one state park within roughly an hour’s drive of every Hoosier.

Parks remain storehouses of memories and inspiration, where visitors can explore nature and discover history. Along with natural features unique to each, state parks contain man-

Indiana Landmarks spearheaded nomination of Brown County State Park to the National Register of Historic Places documenting historic buildings within the park, including many features built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, such as a timber and sandstone look-out tower (above) and rustic shelter (below).

PHOTOS BY PAIGE WASSEL



made structures that help tell the story of their development.

Many of the shelters, lodges, and other features enjoyed today by Indiana state park visitors were constructed in the 1930s through the New Deal-era Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Designed to put young men to work during the Great Depression, the federal program aided conservation and infrastructure of public lands. The program left its mark in Brown County, Clifty Falls, Fort Harrison, Indiana Dunes, Lincoln, McCormick’s Creek, O’Bannon Woods, Ouabache, Pokagon, Salamonie Lake, Shakamak, Spring Mill, Turkey Run, and Versailles state parks.

Motivated by respect for state parks’ heritage, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), friends groups, and others support their ongoing preservation. Indiana Landmarks recently played a role in drawing attention to Brown County State Park’s historic structures by partnering with DNR and local preservation group Peaceful Valley Heritage to nominate the park to the National Register of Historic Places. Spanning over 15,000 acres, Brown County State Park now qualifies as Indiana’s largest National Register-listed historic district. The Civilian Conservation Corps shaped much of the park’s architecture, including rustic gatehouses and shelters, its west lookout tower, and roads, vistas, and trails.

In Mitchell, Spring Mill State Park attracts an estimated 665,000 guests a year. Since 1939, the park’s Spring Mill Inn—built from local limestone—has hosted generations of guests visiting for vacations, meetings, or meals in the inn’s Millstone Dining Room.



In December 2024, Spring Mill Inn reopened following a \$30 million two-year rehabilitation to modernize the building and make it more accessible. Throughout the project, general contractor Glenroy Construction took pains to respect the inn’s historic character and features.

In the lobby, workers installed a ramp to provide access to a new reception desk, carefully maintaining and repairing the historic oak paneling. In the lobby and dining room, crews removed drop ceilings added in the ’60s, exposing original concrete beams stained during the inn’s construction to resemble wood. Other improvements include new heating and cooling systems, new plumbing, and new furnishings, fixtures, paint, and carpet in all guest rooms.

The project marked the inn’s first full-scale renovation since it opened more than 80 years ago, funded from \$100 million allocated by the State to DNR to address deferred state park maintenance. The renovation’s design team included The Engineering

The refurbished Spring Mill Inn incorporates a new ramp to improve accessibility into the lobby, where workers removed drop ceilings to expose original beams and took care to repair historic oak paneling. Funded by money allocated by the State to address deferred maintenance at state parks, the renovation also updated mechanical systems and refreshed guest rooms.

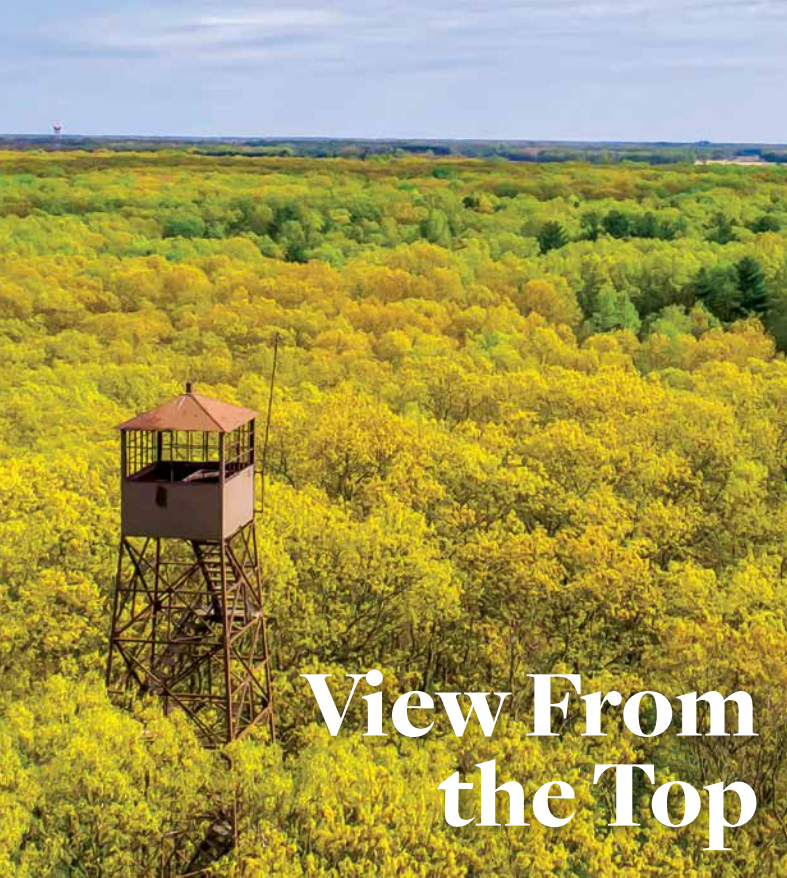
PHOTO © INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Collaborative, RATIO Design, and Lawson-Elser Engineering Consultants, who coordinated with the state Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology to ensure the inn’s historic character remained intact.

Along with the Spring Mill Inn’s recent makeover, work is expected to wrap up this spring on repairs to the park’s namesake 1817 grist mill. Lieber and others advocated for restoration of the mill and surrounding village when the area was incorporated into Indiana’s parks system in 1927. Today, Spring Mill remains a popular attraction, where visitors can see the historic grist mill in operation and buy ground cornmeal. In 2021, one of the mill’s gears became misaligned, making contact with the building’s floor and necessitating multiple repairs, including replacing the shaft, water wheel, and other mechanical components. The flume that supplies water to turn the giant wheel also required reconstruction. Finding a silver lining in the midst of tragedy, the repairs incorporated poplar wood salvaged from trees damaged by a tornado that hit McCormick’s Creek State Park in 2023.

More improvements are on the horizon. In 2024, Lilly Endowment Inc. awarded DNR a \$50 million grant for other state parks that—matched with \$10 million from the state agency—includes \$3 million for repairs to historic stone and log structures, retaining walls, and stone staircases built in 1930s, giving visitors to Indiana’s state parks even more to appreciate.

Today, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources manages 24 state parks. For more information and a map, visit in.gov/dnr/state-parks/parks-lakes.



View From the Top

Once part of volunteer-manned network used to spot signs of fire, at least 13 lookout towers still stand on public lands in Indiana today, including a 90-foot-tall tower offering unbeatable views at Tippecanoe River State Park (left). Appreciation for McCormick's Creek's New Deal-era tower (below) motivated a friends group to raise money for its restoration in 2017.

PHOTOS BY TOM JONES AND INDIANA LANDMARKS' ARCHIVES

IN A HANDFUL OF INDIANA'S STATE PARKS

and forests, galvanized steel towers rise above the trees, a lofty perch with scenic views for those brave enough to climb them. Primarily built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s and 1940s, they were part of a large network of watch towers manned by volunteers looking for signs of fire.

Most share a common design: diagonal steel stairs switch-backing up to triangular landings that lead to the “cab,” a room with panoramic views of the forest below. Local farmers usually staffed the towers, after passing vision tests and proving their ability to climb the stairs. They were equipped with alidades—special instruments for plotting fires on a map—and a telephone or radio to alert fire crews to signs of smoke. During World War II, women often took the place of male lookouts.

By the 1970s, airplanes replaced towers as the primary method of spotting fire activity. Today, 13 Indiana towers are known to remain on public lands—mostly in the southern half of the state—with nine registered in the U.S. Forest Service National Historic Lookout Register.

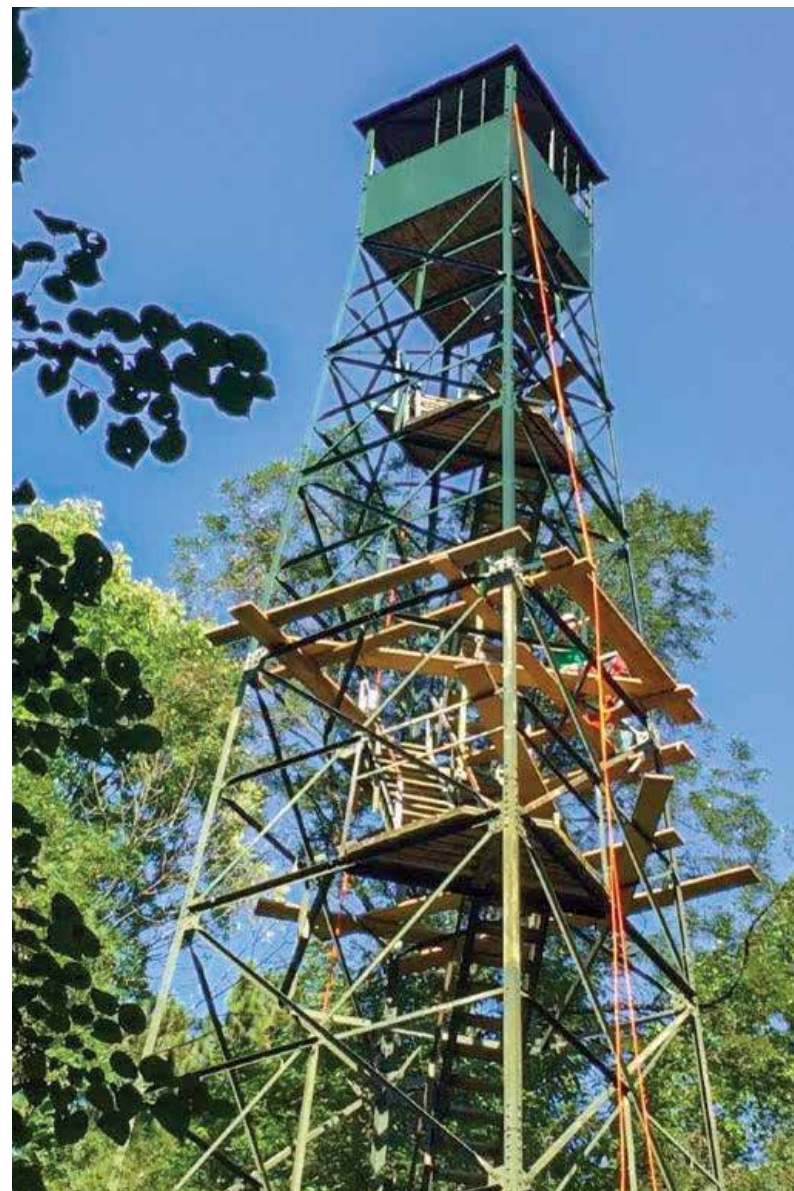
In at least two state parks, nonprofit groups spearheaded campaigns to rescue towers, preserving their heritage and unbeatable views.

Built in 1935 by Civilian Conservation Corps Company #589, the fire tower at McCormick's Creek State Park operated until 1967; by the early 1980s disrepair forced its closure. In 2017, Friends of McCormick's Creek launched a fundraising campaign to rehabilitate the tower, kickstarted by a \$10,000 Efroymsen Family Fund grant from the Central Indiana Community Foundation recommended by Indiana Landmarks. The group

eventually raised \$100,000 for the project, and the tower reopened in 2019.

In 2016, the Friends of Ouabache State Park set up a GoFundMe to launch a turbo-charged campaign, raising \$75,000 in just nine months to rehab the park's shuttered CCC-built fire tower. The group staged events, sold commemorative bricks and t-shirts, and shared their story with local groups and media to garner support. The successful effort restored the tower to like-new condition and added a new plaza and wheelchair access to the structure's base.

Both towers are open to park visitors. Find an Indiana's lookout inventory at the Forest Fire Lookout Association's website, firelookout.org.



Happy Campers

DURING RECENT REHABILITATION WORK AT Good Fellow Youth Camp Lodge in Indiana Dunes National Park, a member of the construction crew discovered a small copper box in the building's stone foundation. Dating to January 18, 1941, the time capsule included a silk 48-star American flag, a speech, a deed, and period newspaper articles. It also included a memorandum by the Illinois Steel Company Welfare Association of Gary, noting Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corporation Vice President E. Earl Moore laid the last stone to seal the box within.

U.S. Steel created the 63-acre Good Fellow Club Youth Camp in 1941 to provide recreational opportunities for employees' children. Constructed just south of Lake Michigan, the Adirondack lodge's rustic design was meant to harmonize with the surrounding fields and rolling woodland, incorporating oak floors, exposed log rafters, two massive chimneys of rough limestone, and casement windows. A mezzanine over-

Built in 1941 as the heart of Good Fellow Club Youth Camp, the rustic Goodfellow Lodge in Indiana Dunes National Park hosted meals, recreation, and other events for U.S. Steel employees' children until it closed in 1976. Work is currently underway to rehabilitate the building for a return to public use.

PHOTOS © INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL PARK AND BERGLUND CONSTRUCTION

looked a great hall and dining room; in the basement, campers could visit two skittle ball alleys and a log “store front” representing Joseph Bailly's fur trading post. Before being shuttered in 1976, the lodge served as the heart of the camp, hosting campers' meals, recreation, and talent shows, and events for U.S. Steel.

Today, the building is being revived for return to public use. Beginning in 2024 in coordination with the National Park Service and G-Force Construction, Berglund Construction embarked on a full-scale rehabilitation of the lodge to restore its historic features and equip the landmark with new mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems. Workers are addressing deterioration and water infiltration from years of vacancy, installing a new roof, repairing steel casement windows, rebuilding a porch, and restoring and replacing original wood and masonry.

The lodge is one of three historic park properties—along with House of Tomorrow and the Bailly Homestead—undergoing improvements paid for with \$22 million from the Great American Outdoors Act Legacy Fund. Work on all three buildings is expected to be wrapped up this fall.



Signaling their Support

IN GARY'S MARQUETTE PARK, the 1921 Gary Bathing Beach Aquatorium rises like a Roman temple on the shore of Lake Michigan, a restored columned pavilion with spectacular views of the Chicago skyline. But every time she drives past it, Sue Rutsen imagines how the park would have looked had her partner, Gary native George Rogge, not spearheaded the restoration and preservation of the Aquatorium after it was shuttered and threatened with demolition.

"It's critical to remember what would have happened if no one had taken care of it," says Rutsen. "There would be a hulk of a ghost building in the middle of beautiful Marquette Park."

Sue Rutsen and George Rogge support preservation in northwest Indiana. Their interests aligned with Indiana Landmarks' mission, leading Rogge to serve on the organization's board and inspiring Rutsen to leave her Modernist home (below) in Gary to Indiana Landmarks as part of her estate plans. PHOTOS BY BLAKE SWIHART AND © GEORGE ROGGE



Rutsen dates her interest in architecture to the 1980s when she worked at the Chicago Board of Trade Building, an Art Deco standout she credits with opening her eyes to historic buildings. Among other interests, a shared passion for architecture and preservation drew her and Rogge together in 2005. Rutsen had just purchased a Mid-Century Modern home in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood as a retreat from her job in Chicago. Rogge holds long ties to the area, where he continues to help run his family's century-old insurance business in Merrillville.

The couple have been steadfast supporters of Indiana Landmarks' work in the region. Rogge served on Indiana Landmarks' board of directors, and Rutsen has donated overnights at her downtown Chicago condo for our annual Rescue Party's fundraising auction. In 2015, the pair partnered with Indiana Landmarks to open the Nelson Algren Museum of Miller Beach in the 1928 telephone building housing our northwest office. A Chicago writer best known for his novel *The Man with the Golden Arm*, Algren maintained a cottage in Gary, and the museum contains an extensive collection of artifacts including his desk, typewriter, manuscripts, and archives, as well as an Algren pocket park next door.

They've been excited to see exterior restoration begin at the House of Tomorrow in Indiana Dunes National Park, after decades of work by Indiana Landmarks and the National Park Service to save the 1933 Chicago World's Fair home. Confidence in Indiana Landmarks prompted Rutsen to leave her home on Lake Michigan to Indiana Landmarks in her estate plans.

"We want important places in Indiana to be restored and preserved, and the management of Indiana Landmarks gives me faith my money will be used well," says Rutsen.

Upcoming Grant and Award Deadlines

The **Sacred Places Indiana Fund** awards matching grants in a competitive process to congregations who are committed to good stewardship of their historic structures and have demonstrated signs of organizational health. Applications for the next round of grant funding are now open and will be accepted through June 15, 2025. Apply online:

indianalandmarks.org/sacred-places-indiana.

Applications for the **Cox Funds of the Central Indiana Community Foundation** are due April 1, 2025. The Standiford H. Cox Fund supports the restoration, preservation, operation, and ongoing maintenance of African American historic sites in Indiana. Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program committee reviews initial recommendations. Interested in applying? Email coxfunds@indianalandmarks.org.

Nominations for the Sandi Servaas Memorial Award for outstanding achievement in historic preservation and John Arnold Award for Rural Preservation are due April 15, 2025.

The annual **Servaas Memorial Award** recognizes winners in two categories: an organizational award, which comes with a \$2,000 cash prize, and a youth-serving award, which comes with a \$1,000 cash prize. Both winners also receive the Servaas Memorial Award sculpture, "No Doors to Lock out the Past."

The annual **John Arnold Award** recognizes the preservation and continued use of historic farming-related buildings in an active farming operation. The award winner receives an outdoor marker and feature coverage in Indiana Landmarks' member magazine, *Indiana Preservation*.

Nomination forms for both awards can be found at indianalandmarks.org/awards.



FOR SALE

LANDMARKS ON THE MARKET

see more at indianalandmarks.org/for-sale



415 Meigs Avenue

Jeffersonville

Built in 1864, this Queen Anne cottage retains original windows, woodwork, coal fireplaces with tile hearths, stained glass, and hardwood floors. Zoned neighborhood commercial, the versatile property has served as residential, commercial, and mixed-use space and is located just blocks from downtown shops, dining, and offices.

\$252,500 • Kelley Curran, Southern Realty • 812-207-3416



BRIEFLY NOTED

Indiana Landmarks welcomes **Elicia Garske** as program coordinator in our northern regional office in South Bend, where her work in heritage trades training, project management, and preservation programming combines her interests in preservation and sustainability. Garske holds a bachelor's degree in interior design from Purdue University and previously worked as preservation project manager at H.G. Christman Construction.

Susan Shepherd joined Indiana Landmarks staff as an accountant, bringing a background in community development and real estate. She holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from IUPUI Kelley School of Business and an MBA from Indiana Wesleyan. Shepherd previously worked as an underwriter at Merchants Capital Corporation in Multifamily Affordable Housing working with borrowers seeking funding to develop affordable housing.

In the January/February issue of *Indiana Preservation*, we provided the wrong attribution on page 16 for a photo of an Indiana Landmarks bike tour. The image should be credited to Greg Wagoner Photography, tcdriver.smugmug.com.

Tours & Events

March/April 2025



The Landscapes of Jens Jensen & O.C. Simonds
Mar. 19

Celebrating Marsh Davis

Mar. 15, Indianapolis

Indiana Landmarks invites members and friends to honor President Marsh Davis at a celebratory retirement reception at Indiana Landmarks Center. Join us to raise a glass and congratulate Marsh on his outstanding legacy at Indiana Landmarks. 4:30-6:30 p.m., with brief remarks at 5:30 p.m. Free with RSVP strongly encouraged. Space will be limited.

Visit indianalandmarks.org/tours-events to RSVP and learn more about upcoming events. All event times are Eastern unless otherwise noted.

The Landscapes of Jens Jensen & O.C. Simonds

Mar. 19, Indianapolis and online

Get to know the world of Prairie Style landscape gardening, developed beginning in the late 1800s by landscape architects Jens Jensen and O.C. Simonds, and the style's connection to today's native gardens. Bob Grese, author and professor emeritus at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, shares an overview, highlighting work in Indiana and throughout the

PHOTO BY BRANDON SMITH

Midwest. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center and talk begins at 6 p.m. followed by Q&A. \$10/general public; free to members with RSVP.

Conversations in Indiana African American History and Culture

Mar. 20 & Apr. 17

Freetown Village presents historians, researchers, and educators sharing their knowledge of Indiana's Black heritage and culture. 6 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center and online. Free with RSVP.

If These Walls Could Tell

Mar. 30, Indianapolis and online

Storyteller Jos N. Holman comes to Indiana Landmarks Center to share an original story on the history and revival of Hotel Elkhart, winner of Indiana Landmarks' 2024 Cook Cup for Outstanding Restoration. Indiana Landmarks and Storytelling Arts of Indiana host the *If These Walls Could Tell* series with support from Frank and Katrina Basile. 4-5:30 p.m. In-person tickets cost \$20/person, \$10/student; or attend virtually for \$15/person. Purchase at storytellingarts.org.

Affiliate Council Meeting

Apr. 2, Indianapolis

Taking on a real estate project can be intimidating, especially for volunteer organizations. Indiana Landmarks affiliates are invited to an interactive session exploring strategies used by fellow affiliates Richmond Neighborhood Restoration and Save Our Stories (Marion) to stabilize, restore,

FRENCH LICK & WEST BADEN SPRINGS TOURS

Discover the fascinating history of two turn-of-the-century hotels and their award-winning restorations on daily guided tours. Advance tickets encouraged. (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 select Thursdays, March-December. Mar. 27 & Apr. 24. Tickets cost \$50/person, \$45/member.

indianalandmarks.org/french-lick-west-baden

and sell historic properties. 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center. \$15/person payable at door includes lunch. RSVP required.

Talking Track with Al Unser, Jr.

Apr. 3, Indianapolis and online

Two-time Indianapolis 500 champion Al Unser, Jr. takes the stage at Indiana Landmarks Center to share tales of racing and track culture at the famed Brickyard, a National Historic Landmark. Sponsored by our Indiana Automotive affinity group. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center and talk begins at 6 p.m. followed by Q&A. \$10/general public; free with RSVP for Indiana Automotive and Indiana Landmarks members.



KELLY HARRIS

Indianapolis Neighborhood Tours

Apr.-Oct.

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

April 5 & June 7	Old Northside
April 12 & June 11	Herron-Morton Place
May 17 & June 18	Chatham Arch



JESSICA KRAMER

RESCUE PARTY

Apr. 26, Indianapolis

From Gary Roosevelt to Shortridge to Notre Dame to Purdue—school days are back again at our annual Rescue Party at Indiana Landmarks Center. This year, we'll pay homage to Indiana's academic landmarks, both restored and endangered, with a school-spirit inspired party featuring food, drinks, music, and a live auction of one-of-a-kind experiences at historic Indiana locales. All proceeds support Indiana Landmarks' work to save meaningful places. 5-10 p.m. Early bird pricing is \$100/person through April 1.

First Friday Art Show

Apr. 4, Indianapolis

Indiana Landmarks Center's Rapp Family Gallery hosts a free art show and reception featuring drawings and paintings by award-winning Indiana artist Michael Martin. 6-9 p.m.

White River State Park Tour

Apr. 23, May 7, & May 21; Indianapolis

Explore the cultural significance of White River State Park on a guided walking tour highlighting the area's history from Indianapolis's settlement to the present day. Take a closer look at landmarks within the park including the historic Washington Street bridge, limestone-lined river promenade, 1870 pumphouse, and more. Presented in partnership with White River State Park Development Commission. Tours depart at 6:30 p.m. \$12/general public (ages 18 & up); \$10/member; \$7/child (ages 6-17); free to children 5 and under.

Indianapolis Downtown Tours

Monument Circle Historic District

One-hour guided walking tours explore Indianapolis's most recognizable historic district, highlighting how and why these blocks have become a symbol of the city. Tours depart at 1:30 p.m. on April 5 and at 6:30 p.m. on May 8. \$10/general public (ages 12 & up); \$8/member; \$5/child (ages 6-11); free to children 5 and under.

Decoding Downtown

Explore the hidden history of downtown Indianapolis landmarks on a 90-minute guided tour. Along the way, learn about architectural styles and compete for fun prizes. Tours depart at 1:30 p.m. on April 12 and at 6:30 p.m. on May 1. \$20/general public (12 & up); \$17/member; \$15/child (ages 6-11); free to children 5 and under.

Indy's Notable & Notorious

Part historic walking tour, part imaginary showdown, discover Indianapolis through some of the city's most memorable characters. Get to know our 16 contenders and rank your favorites tournament-style to reveal Indy's most notable—or notorious—historical figure. Tours depart at 6:30 p.m. on April 17 and May 15. \$20/general public (ages 12 & up); \$17/member; \$15/child (ages 6-11); free to children ages 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 repair needs. Visit our website for individual workshop details.

MARCH 5 - Wood Window Restoration 101

APRIL 2 - Exterior Carpentry Repair 101

MAY 7 - Masonry Repair 101

Logs to Lustrons Talk and Tour

May 2-3, Indiana Dunes National Park

On May 3, Indiana Landmarks partners with the National Park Service to highlight a century of architecture in the Indiana Dunes—from log homes to Victorian-era houses to Modernist residences—on the annual Logs to Lustrons tour featuring 14 sites and 6 interiors. Tourgoers park at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. State Road 49, Porter, and join a ranger-led group tour by bus. Departure times vary. \$30/general public; \$25/member; free to children or youth under age 16 with RSVP.

The evening before the tour, get deeper insight into the park's historic architecture at an educational talk hosted at the visitor center. 6-8 p.m. Central Time. \$15/general public, \$10/member.

Wood Window Restoration

May 3, Delphi

Learn the basics of historic window repair at our popular Wood Window Restoration 101 workshop hosted in partnership with Delphi Preservation Society at the group's Delphi Opera House, winner of Indiana Landmarks' 2017 Cook Cup for Outstanding Restoration. 10-11:30 am. \$25/general public; \$20/member; \$10/student.

For a deeper dive into window restoration, a four-hour afternoon session gives attendees the opportunity to put their knowledge into practice and hone skills in a hands-on setting. Separate ticket required. 1-5 p.m. at Delphi Opera House. \$75/general public; \$50/member; \$40/student.



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SAVE THE DATE

Back to the Future

Indiana Modern's annual Back to the Future tour returns on Saturday, June 7 with an up-close look at five of Fort Wayne's standout Mid-Century Modern homes.

For modern fans who want to learn even more, Indiana Modern sponsors two special events the evening before the tour focusing on the works of architects Eliel and Eero Saarinen: a free lecture by Kevin Adkisson, curator for the Cranbrook Center for Collections and Research, hosted at Concordia Theological Seminary (above) and an exclusive post-lecture tour (paid ticket required) of the seminary's Kramer Chapel, followed by rare access to the A.C. Wermuth House—both designs by the famous father-and-son team.



INDIANA LANDMARKS

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AND FINALLY



Continuing the Momentum

WHEN A NINETEENTH- century house at 119 Madison Avenue in Hanover was targeted for demolition last fall, Indiana Landmarks stepped in with an offer to buy the property. The owner agreed, and now we're embarking on a full-scale rehabilitation to return the landmark to use as a single-family home.

The save carries on a revitalization ripple effect underway in Hanover, where we've helped rescue

In December, Indiana Landmarks purchased a threatened nineteenth-century house in Hanover, carrying on our record of rescue and revival in the town, where we're partnering with Hanover College and others in community-led revitalization efforts.

PHOTO BY GREG SEKULA
AND DONATED TO INDIANA
LANDMARKS

and stabilize three historic houses on Main Street, finding preservation-minded owners to continue the work. Indiana Landmarks also recently supported a survey update of Hanover's historic resources for potential nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and is working with Hanover partners on other planning initiatives aimed at revitalizing key corridors in town.

Hanover College is supporting the Madison Avenue house's rehabilitation with a portion of the \$30 million College and Community Collaboration grant it recently received from Lilly Endowment Inc. Stay tuned for the "after" photos!