

INDIANA PRESERVATION

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024



INDIANA LANDMARKS



10 MOST ENDANGERED

Calling attention to places in danger of disappearing

Sincerest Thanks

AFTER 18 YEARS AS Indiana Landmarks' president and several more in earlier positions, time has come for me to say farewell to an organization I have been privileged to serve. Through those many years, the historic preservation movement has changed dramatically and for the better. We are broader, more inclusive and more sophisticated in finding solutions to the challenges facing the preservation of our heritage. Through it all, Indiana Landmarks has been and remains a national leader.

I can express only gratitude for my time at Indiana Landmarks and the cherished relationships with people and organizations here in Indiana and at the national level. As an organization, we have a dedicated, creative, and talented staff and a truly outstanding board of directors that represent all corners of Indiana. Our members and wonderful volunteers provide the foundation for our work. It's a great team.

I am also grateful to the many generous donors—individuals, corporations, foundations—who have sustained Indiana Landmarks and enabled us to expand our programs and services far beyond what we might have envisioned only a few years ago. I have every confidence that Indiana Landmarks will continue to excel and grow long after my tenure ends.

But, as is said, it ain't over 'til the fat lady sings. Listen for her sometime about mid-April. Meanwhile we've got much work to do. I plan to remain fully engaged in service to our mission to the very last day.

Serving as president has been a humbling and gratifying honor for which I express my sincerest thanks.



Marsh Davis, President

On the Cover

A new entry on Indiana Landmarks' 10 Most Endangered list in 2024, the Rudicel-Montgomery Polygonal Barn in Shelby County is a rare example of a vanishing breed of historic barns and needs urgent investment. Read about it and other threatened properties on pp. 8-15. PHOTO BY EVAN HALE



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STARTERS

Budding Inspiration

*One summer day I chanced to stray
To a garden of flow'rs blooming wild,
It took me once more
To the dear days of yore
And a spot that I loved as a child;
There were the phlox, tall hollyhocks,
Violets perfuming the air,
Frail eglantines, shy columbines,
And marigolds everywhere.*

Lyrics from Cole Porter's 1919 hit "Old Fashioned Garden" are believed to have been inspired by the garden at the Miami County farm once owned by his step-grandmother Bessie Cole. Read more on pp. 6-7 about the farm now owned by the Jordan family, winners of the 2024 John Arnold Award for Rural Preservation.



Bethlehem Healing Temple
GARY

170

places have appeared on Indiana Landmarks' 10 Most Endangered list since 1991, when we introduced the annual lineup of places in serious jeopardy. Since then, 105 are restored or considerably safer thanks to our work to draw attention to their condition. Learn more about the sites featured on this year's list on pp. 8-15.

PHOTO BY EVAN HALE



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NATHAN ALLAIRE

FAMILY LEGACY

Indiana Landmarks lost an ally in July with the passing of Linda Kay Christian Davis (above), whose parents Catherine and Dr. John Christian left an architectural legacy in their home, the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Samara in West Lafayette. Through the John E. Christian Family Memorial Trust, Inc., Davis worked with Indiana

Landmarks to co-steward the property and make plans for its future, opening the home to the public so others could share her parents' vision. You can see Samara and learn more about the Christians' extraordinary story on regular tours of the property before it closes for the season in October. Learn more: samara-house.org.



Williamson Prize Winner Imparts the Value of Humble Places

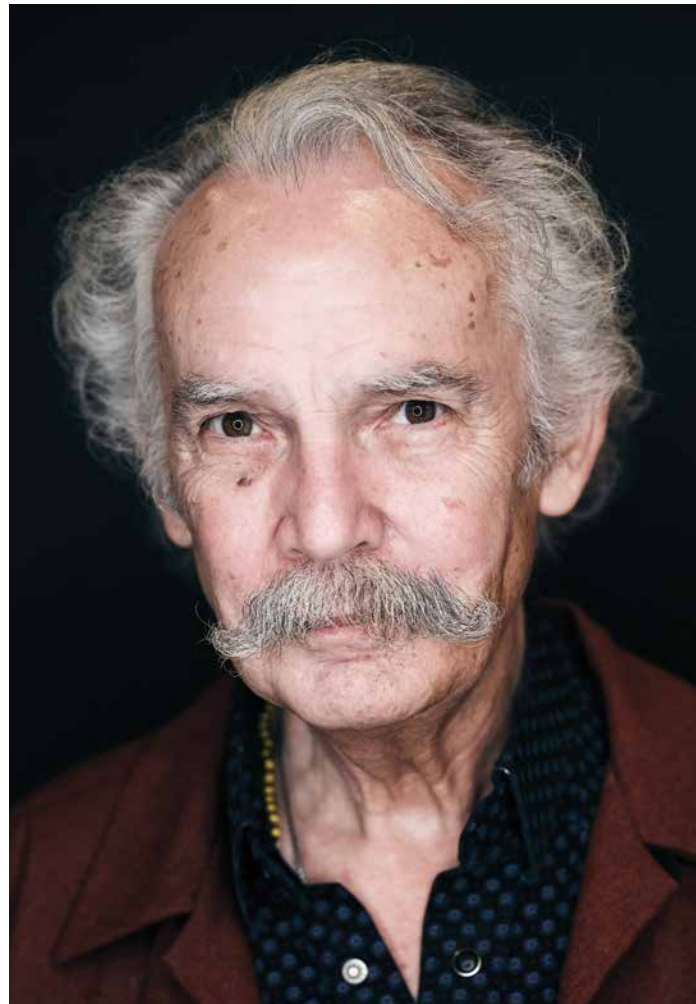
FROM APPALACHIAN LOG

buildings to rural Irish houses to agrarian Indiana landmarks, renowned folklorist Henry H. Glassie has spent a lifetime recording and identifying modest buildings, revealing their connections and significance in place and time. In recognition of his trailblazing work helping generations find value in humble historic structures, Glassie will receive Indiana Landmarks' 2024 Williamson Prize for outstanding leadership in historic preservation.

"More than anyone else, Henry has contributed to our knowledge of vernacular architecture and material culture, vastly broadening the scope of historic preservation," says Marsh Davis, president of Indiana Landmarks. "He understands buildings the way an anthropologist would, using clues in buildings' forms to point to their cultural and geographic origins. Many historic buildings would have been otherwise lost if Henry had not taught us what they are and why they are important."

For his pioneering efforts to draw attention to humble historic places in Indiana and beyond, folklorist Henry Glassie of Bloomington wins Indiana Landmarks' 2024 Williamson Prize. Glassie's studies of modest building types offered new understanding of vernacular architecture in the field of historic preservation. Glassie's help in nominating Maple Grove Road (above) to the National Register as Indiana's first rural historic district set a precedent for future nominations.

PHOTOS BY INDIANA LANDMARKS' ARCHIVES; PROVIDED



Born in Washington, DC, Glassie says the first humble building that left an impression on him was his grandmother's birthplace: a log cabin in Virginia he visited as a young child. It was gone by the time Glassie was 20, when his family's heritage inspired him to explore Appalachia in North Carolina and Virginia to record the ballads and traditional songs of people who lived there. Along the way, he observed local houses—sketching and photographing them—and started thinking about buildings in anthropo-

logical terms. Inspired by his mentor, geographer Fred Kniffen, he developed typologies to classify them and earned an invitation from preservationist and architect James Marston Fitch to share his work with students in Columbia University's historic preservation program.

Glassie's expertise led him to be named State Folklorist of Pennsylvania—the first such position in the U.S.—and into a distinguished teaching career. In 1970, he came to Indiana to serve as professor of Indiana University's Folklore Institute, leaving to chair the department of Folklore and Folklife at the University of Pennsylvania from 1976-1988. In 1988, he returned to Indiana University's Folklore Institute, retiring from the university in 2008 with the title college professor emeritus of folklore and ethnomusicology.

As part of his fieldwork studying housing and material culture, Glassie traveled extensively in the United States, Turkey, Ireland, and India, and his seminal texts *Vernacular Architecture*, *Pattern in Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States*, and *Folk Housing in Middle Virginia* became defining guides for those interested in historic preservation. His study of humble, rural properties laid the groundwork for nominating rural historic districts to the National Register of Historic Places, including collaboration with Indiana Landmarks to successfully nominate Maple Grove Road in Bloomington—Indiana's first rural historic district—to the National Register.

Glassie also played a hands-on role promoting preservation in Bloomington, helping to restore six houses, serving as a member of the Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission, and chairing the board of local historic preservation nonprofit Bloomington Restorations, Inc. In the 1970s, he helped survey the city's historic structures, identifying buildings in need of preservation and laying the foundation for zoning ordinances to establish a downtown historic district.

"He impressed upon me the cultural meaning of architecture, understanding how buildings fit in the big picture of American and housing history," says Duncan Campbell, who served with Glassie on the Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission. "As preservationists, we are sometimes so busy trying to save this house or that house that we lose track of the bigger picture of why we got into it in the first place—that there's something important we want to be part of. Henry knows what that something is better than anyone I know."

"I have spent a life that has incorporated a lot of things, but mostly I've spent my life with people of modest means in backcountry places, and my work in vernacular architecture has had some influence on historic preservation," notes Glassie. "I take pride in this award being given to someone who has



As a member and board chair of Bloomington Restorations, Inc., Glassie aided the nonprofit preservation group's efforts to create affordable housing in historic neighborhoods and kickstart restoration of threatened properties such as the c.1845 Paris-Dunning House, an early project that helped establish the group as a local force for revitalization.

PHOTOS BY EVAN HALE; INDIANA LANDMARKS' ARCHIVES

committed himself to that kind of work, attending primarily to forgettable buildings which are more creative to me from an artistic standpoint than big fancy buildings."

The Williamson Prize honors the impactful career of J. Reid Williamson Jr., past president of Indiana Landmarks who championed the value of local preservation organizations and using restoration as a tool to revitalize communities. The prize includes a \$1,000 cash award and sculpture by Evansville artist John McNaughton. Glassie will be honored as part of Indiana Landmarks' annual meeting in Indianapolis on September 7.



Award-Winning Farm Keeps Blooming

LOOKING AROUND “OLD FASHIONED GARDEN,” where beds of colorful flowers dot the landscape, it’s easy to see the inspiration behind the Miami County farm’s name. However, more than just a charming reference on a sign at the entrance to the property, the title points to the farm’s history. The Cole family owned the property in the early twentieth century, and Bessie Cole—step-grandmother to songwriter Cole Porter—planted the flower garden believed to have inspired Porter’s first commercially successful song, “Old Fashioned Garden,” in 1919.

For their dedication to honoring the farm’s heritage and maintaining its historic buildings, current owners Larry and Susan Jordan received the 2024 John Arnold for Rural Preservation from Indiana Landmarks and Indiana Farm Bureau.

Originally part of land deeded by the U.S. to Chief Francis Godfroy of the Miami Nation in 1838, the farm sweeps up from the Mississinewa River southeast of Peru, a mixture of rolling farmland and pastures. Larry and Susan Jordan purchased the 217-acre farm in 1973 and today work with their

Recognizing stewardship of their historic Miami County farm southeast of Peru, Larry and Susan Jordan received the 2024 John Arnold Award for Rural Preservation from Indiana Landmarks and Indiana Farm Bureau. Once owned by Bessie Cole, step-grandmother to songwriter Cole Porter, the farm is known as “Old Fashioned Garden” in honor of the flower garden she planted and the popular song it inspired.

PHOTO BY LAURA HAYDEN

son A.J. to grow soybeans and corn on its tillable farmland, as well as farming an additional 800 acres on nearby farms. The Jordans live in a historic farmhouse built originally in the mid-1800s as a log structure and later enlarged and remodeled by Bessie Cole to the current Colonial Revival-style residence.

They raise livestock in a c.1910 gambrel roof dairy barn likely built by the Cole family. In addition to serving various agricultural purposes over the years, in the 1960s the barn also hosted trapeze artists from Peru’s amateur circus practicing aerobatics in the hayloft. Now, the space is used to store hay and straw for the Jordans’ small herd of Hereford and Simmental cattle, sheep, and a donkey named

Barkley. On the ground level, the barn holds livestock pens, farming equipment, tools, and houses the Jordans’ flock of chickens and many barn cats.

Susan Jordan maintains the old-fashioned garden, planting flowers made popular by Porter’s hit song—phlox, hollyhocks, violets, eglantines, columbines, and marigolds. “I’m a rose lover and have always had flowers, so it was natural to look up the song and make sure I could plant everything referenced,” says Susan. “Everything was fairly common except eglantine. I had no clue what that was. It took a while, but I figured out it was an old-fashioned garden rose.”

Susan enjoys sharing the garden and song’s origins, as well as the farm’s history, with tourgoers during Peru’s annual Cole Porter Festival.

The Jordans also take care of Butler Township School 11, known as Iddings School, which was built in 1894 on the farm as one of several one-room schools in the township. Consolidation closed the school in 1915, and it was later enlarged to become a home.

“My husband and I grew up on farms and I think it’s ingrained in us who do farming that you are stewards



Today, Susan Jordan maintains a large garden with flowers referenced in Porter’s hit song, sharing the farm’s history on annual tours during the Cole Porter Festival. The Jordans continue to store hay and keep livestock in the c.1910 dairy barn built by the Cole family (bottom right) and maintain the 1894 Iddings School (bottom left) on the property.

PHOTOS BY LAURA HAYDEN

and keepers of the land,” says Susan Jordan. “That view moves into how we see our property as well. We were always taught that you maintain what you have, make it better, and leave it better for future generations. When you walk into the barn and see the rafters and the kind of labor that went into making that barn back in 1910, it’s kind of awesome. We want to preserve it for people who might never have thought of how something was put together at that time.”

Indiana Landmarks and Indiana Farm Bureau presented the Arnold Award to the Jordan family on August 8 at the Indiana State Fair. The award is named in memory of John Arnold, a Rush County farmer who combined progressive architectural practices with a deep respect for the natural and historic components of rural landscapes, including the farm owned by his family since 1820.



10 MOST ENDANGERED

Every day, Indiana Landmarks works to raise awareness of historic buildings and find solutions for landmarks in jeopardy. Since 1991, we've used our 10 Most Endangered list to shine a spotlight on the state's most threatened buildings. The designation brings some of Indiana's most significant landmarks to the forefront and helps rally advocates and funding for their preservation. You can help us save these sites by telling others their stories and sharing your support for saving them with decision-makers who can influence their fates. See more photos of landmarks on this year's list at indianalandmarks.org.



College Hall, Merom Camp & Retreat Center MEROM

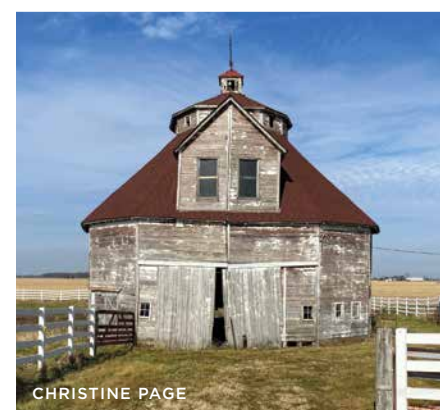
ON A BLUFF OVERLOOKING THE WABASH RIVER IN WESTERN Indiana, College Hall stands high over the landscape, the visual heart of a campus that has served the local community for generations. Today, it needs immediate repairs to ensure it remains standing for the next century.

Constructed between 1859 and 1863 for Union Christian College, the five-story brick building's towering design spoke to the founders' lofty aspirations as one of the state's earliest places of higher education, offering both men and women the opportunity to pursue degrees. After the college closed in 1924, the Romanesque Revival-style building reopened as Merom Institute, a religious camp and meeting space. From 1941-1943, the campus served as a base camp for the Soil Conservation Service operated by the American Friends Service Committee, housing conscientious objectors who worked on area farmlands creating stock water ponds and drainage systems, constructing fences, building terraces, and planting trees.

College Hall continues to be the centerpiece of the Merom Camp and Retreat Center today, providing a gathering place for camps, retreats, weddings, reunions, and a variety of other events. While the landmark remains in use, repair needs exceed what the nonprofit organization can afford. The building's deferred maintenance is causing more serious issues, including crumbling and collapsed masonry, leaky windows and plumbing, and failing mechanical systems. Camp owners hope that adding College Hall to the 10 Most Endangered list will help elevate awareness of the landmark and secure funding for its rehabilitation.

PHOTOS BY EVAN HALE





CHRISTINE PAGE

Rudicel-Montgomery Polygonal Barn

SHELBY COUNTY

HISTORIC BARNs ARE ICONIC AND ARTISTIC

representations of Indiana's agricultural heritage, but as changing farming practices leave many barns without use or incentive for maintenance, they are disappearing at an alarming rate. In Shelby County, the 12-sided Rudicel-Montgomery Polygonal Barn is a particularly rare survivor.

Interest in building octagonal barns spread in the late nineteenth century, aided by arguments that they were sturdier and more cost-effective to build than rectangular barns and that their layout was more efficient for feeding livestock. The interest spread to more multi-sided forms, and between 1850 and 1936, 67 polygonal barns were built in Indiana, though round barns eventually outpaced them in popularity. In 1910, George Rudicel worked with local carpenters Roy and Earl Henderson

to build his polygonal barn, using the lower level to pen horses and other animals and the upper level to store hay and straw.

A 1990s survey of the state's round and polygonal barns for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places found that only 10 of 18 known 12-sided barns still stood, including the Rudicel-Montgomery Barn. In 2024 the barn is mostly vacant, leaning and in need of cost-prohibitive repairs. Indiana Landmarks and our affiliate Indiana Barn Foundation funded a study to assess its condition and rehabilitation needs, aiming to help provide direction for future fundraising efforts. As the number of historic barns in Indiana shrinks, the Rudicel-Montgomery Polygonal Barn's unusual design and heritage make it a rural landmark worth saving.

West Side Recreation Club

SOUTH BEND

ON SOUTH BEND'S WEST WASHINGTON STREET, water pours through holes in the roof of an empty commercial building, steadily soaking its interior. The landmark's neglected condition offers little clue to the important role it once played as the West Side Recreation Club, a political and social hub for South Bend's Black community in the early twentieth century.

Built c.1912 as a dry goods store, the building became the West Side Recreation Club in 1929. In an era of segregation, it quickly became a gathering space for many African American social clubs, as well as a place where Black professionals could socialize and set up their practices in rented office space. The club housed offices for attorney and politician J. Chester Allen, attorney Zilford Carter, and dentist Dr. Bernard Streets, who all became leaders in efforts to desegregate the nearby Engman Public Natatorium. Judge Chester L. DuComb also came to the club to gather support in his campaign to become the Republican nominee for mayor in 1929.

Over the years, the club became a frequent site of police raids targeting illegal gambling, eventually leading to the owner's imprisonment in 1979. The West Side Recreation Club stopped meeting at the location in the 1980s, and the building later served briefly as a food pantry before becoming vacant.

Members of Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program task force in South Bend have identified preserving the West Side Recreation Club as a priority. A new owner purchased the building a year ago hoping to reuse it, but years of previous owners' disinvestment and neglect have endangered the building. It needs swift investment and a plan for reuse before it's lost, a fate already met by too many other Black heritage sites around the state.



MARSH DAVIS

Sollman School

GIBSON COUNTY

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE MANY BUILDINGS AS

nostalgic as one-room schools, which conjure sentimental images of childhood and a simpler way of life. At one time, hundreds of rural schoolhouses dotted the Indiana landscape. Today, they are a rarity, which makes efforts to save one such landmark in Gibson County even more important.

Built c.1875 during a post-Civil War boom of school construction, the Sollman School in Snake Run played an important role in the daily life of the small farming community. Beyond serving as the local school, the building functioned as a venue for events and civic gatherings.

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

Picturesque even in its decay—a modest white frame building with simple classical details and belltower—the landmark continues to be a favorite in the community. Gibson County leaders are interested in moving the school and restoring it as field trip destination, but they don't have funds for such an ambitious endeavor. In a rural community with limited resources, raising the money will be a significant challenge. In the meantime, deterioration continues to take a growing toll on the county's only remaining one-room school.





Sposeep & Sons Building

WABASH

AT THE HEIGHT OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION, workers took slabs of rugged beige limestone from the banks of the Wabash River to construct sturdy commercial and manufacturing buildings around the growing city of Wabash. Several of the structures still stand, but one faces an uncertain future.

In 1890, Russian immigrant Simon A. Cook constructed a warehouse on Water Street to house his scrap business, stamping “S.A. Cook” on a lintel above the entrance. Abe Sposeep & Sons took over the recycling business in 1924 and operated out of the building for nearly a century before shutting down in 2018. The City of Wabash acquired the site, and now the Wabash Redevelopment Commission is marketing the property for reuse.

With rough-hewn stone walls, exposed wooden beams and columns, and original plank floors, the building presents a dramatic backdrop for any number of adaptive new uses. Tall ceilings and a vast open floor plan offer possibilities for retail, entertainment, restaurant, office, or mixed development. But the effects of a century of hard use have compounded, and water infiltration has weakened mortar joints and floor joists. City officials would prefer to see the building preserved and adapted for new use, but they are willing to consider demolition to clear the site for new construction if no viable reuse plans emerge.

With a renaissance happening in Wabash’s nearby historic commercial district, it would be a shame to lose a historic building with potential to contribute to the ongoing revival.

Starr Historic District

RICHMOND

AT ONE TIME, ARCHITECTURE ENTHUSIASTS considered Richmond’s Starr Historic District one of the Midwest’s best-preserved Victorian-era neighborhoods. In recent years, however, the area—a repeat entry on the 10 Most Endangered list—is better known for its ongoing decline.

Named for early residents Charles and Elizabeth Starr, the district developed in the 1860s as an elite residential neighborhood, where the city’s well-to-do built large homes reflecting their elevated status. Most of the houses have since been divided into multi-unit rental housing, much of it controlled by negligent or absentee owners. Though revitalization is on the rise in downtown Richmond, it has yet to spread to the Starr neighborhood in any substantial way, and the district’s National Register status offers no protection against neglectful property owners.

Local stakeholders, including Richmond Neighborhood Restoration and Richmond Columbian Properties, are trying to turn the tide, promoting community engagement initiatives and advocating for improved code enforcement. Indiana Landmarks added its support by investing in neighborhood properties and relocating our Eastern Regional Office to the district’s formerly endangered Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church, now operated by a local nonprofit as The Reid Center.

Spurred by last year’s 10 Most listing, city leaders are taking steps to help the Starr neighborhood. Conversations are moving forward on designating the area as a local historic district—a status that would provide a measure of protection against demolition. It’s encouraging progress, but there is still much to do to combat blight eroding the neighborhood’s former grandeur.



Bethlehem Healing Temple

GARY

NOT LONG AFTER IT WAS COMPLETED IN 1923, the Bethlehem Healing Temple church in Gary was lauded as “a distinct contribution to the architecture of the city” and a credit to Indiana architect A. Frank Wickes’ prodigious talent. A century later, however, the landmark’s architectural and community legacy are in serious jeopardy.

When the congregation of Gary’s Central Christian Church decided to construct a new building, Wickes—a member of the congregation—was the natural choice for architect. With a national reputation for designing churches and libraries, Wickes pulled out the stops for his own church home, creating a spectacular facility to serve a vibrant congregation.

Outside, the Renaissance Revival building showcased a handsome brick and Bedford stone façade with a towering campanile. Inside, the new church boasted a sanctuary with

soaring 36-foot ceilings, a Bible school wing with space for 700, and an assembly room with a kitchen and serving pantry.

Occupied since 1996 by the congregation of Bethlehem Healing Temple, the building now suffers a plight shared by many historic churches: a decreasing and aging membership struggling to maintain the large historic structure. With no gutters, water has undermined exterior masonry, resulting in the partial collapse of one wall. Following years of deferred maintenance, the church’s roof failed a couple of years ago, necessitating emergency repairs.

In the meantime, the small congregation continues to hold services in the basement, though the critical water damage is painfully evident in crumbling plaster and peeling paint. Members are trying to raise funds for desperately needed repairs, but it’s an uphill battle.

In a city already struggling with the loss of so many landmark structures, saving Bethlehem Healing Temple would be a reason to rejoice.



International Harvester Engineering Building

FORT WAYNE

ON FORT WAYNE'S EAST SIDE, ONE PROLIFIC manufacturing complex contributed significantly to the success of International Harvester, producing over 1.5 million heavy-duty trucks and 500,000 Scouts (an early sports utility vehicle) from 1923 to 1983. The site's 1952 Engineering Building and nearby test track played an important role in the story, serving for decades as the place where every International Harvester truck was designed, developed, and tested.

Designed by notable architectural firm Albert Kahn and Associates, the Modernist building on Meyer Road takes inspiration from the shape of the International Harvester logo. It's been a rallying point for preserving the company's heritage since 2019, when nonprofit Harvester Homecoming hosted its first festival at the site, drawing thousands of Harvester fans and former workers to share memories and show off vehicles once manufactured there. Inside the Engineering Building,



65 International Harvester and Navistar trucks, engines, blueprints, photos, models, toys, and other artifacts were on display—a collection Harvester Homecoming had hoped would be granted permanent museum space inside the building and become a tourism destination.

That outcome now appears unlikely, after Allen County Commissioners acquired the site in 2023 with plans to build a new jail on the undeveloped land and consider the building for county offices. They've terminated Harvester Homecoming's rental agreement for the Engineering Building and approved funding to study remodeling the site. No design plans have been approved yet, and preservation advocates want to ensure that any new use respects the building's architectural significance and important role in Fort Wayne's manufacturing history.

State Theatre

ANDERSON

A YEAR AFTER THE BUILDING WAS named to Indiana Landmarks' 10 Most Endangered list, Anderson's State Theatre remains in limbo.

In the early twentieth century, Chicago's Publix Theater Corporation built the State Theatre along with Anderson's Paramount Theatre, now the only surviving movie palaces in a once-thriving collection of theaters in the city's core. Opened in 1930 at the corner of 13th and Meridian streets, the State Theatre retains many original architectural details, including its eclectic Spanish Baroque façade with white and emerald-green glazed terracotta. Inside, however, the picture looks much different, a scene of decay with disintegrating plaster and peeling paint.

The nearby Paramount remains a showplace that regularly hosts events and movies, but the State Theatre sits vacant, closed in 2008 and little-used thereafter following a series of failed attempts to redevelop and reopen the property. The City of Anderson purchased the theater from an out-of-state owner in 2019, in part to resolve previous legal issues alleging it had contributed to damage at the site in the 1990s by failing to shut off the building's water service. While city leaders expressed hopes of making the landmark part of downtown redevelopment efforts, they've shared no clear plans for the State Theatre's future and won't respond to Indiana Landmarks' offers to assist. Meanwhile, the building continues to deteriorate.



Historic Fraternal Lodges

IN THE LATE NINETEENTH AND EARLY TWENTIETH centuries, fraternal orders proliferated across the U.S., and lodges built by Masons, Odd Fellows, Elks, and other orders became important community landmarks.

Today, participation in fraternal organizations is on a steep decline. As numbers dwindle, more lodges have disbanded or vacated aging outsized facilities, leaving hundreds of significant buildings at risk.

Since including lodges on last year's 10 Most Endangered list, Indiana Landmarks helped save previously threatened lodge buildings in Vernon, North Vernon, and Bedford, but other sites remain imperiled, including Prince Hall Masonic Temple in Indianapolis.

Built in 1916 for Oriental Masonic Lodge No. 500, the monumental building's details capture the Exotic Revival architectural style popular in the early twentieth century, with geometric brick patterns and keyhole windows intended to reflect Islamic architecture of the Middle East, North Africa, and Spain.

Membership in the lodge declined after World War II and during desegregation in the '60s and '70s, when white families began fleeing the urban neighborhood. In the 1980s, the historically African American Prince Hall Masonic Temple Association bought the building to serve as a permanent home for its Grand Lodge of Indiana, and for decades the Prince Hall Masonic Association's many lodges and chapters have used the building for ceremonies, meetings, and social events.

With members now dispersed around the city, Indiana's Prince Hall Association wants to sell the building and construct a new easier-to-maintain facility elsewhere. Ironically, current revitalization in the area poses an additional threat to the historic lodge. With construction of huge apartment blocks across the street and developers eyeing additional opportunities, the land the lodge occupies may be more valuable than the building itself.

Solidly built with long history as community institutions, Prince Hall and other historic lodges warrant attention as valuable community landmarks worthy of reuse.



Unwavering Support

LEADING BY EXAMPLE HAS

been a model for Indiana Landmarks since its founding in 1960, from the organization's first "save" restoring the 1865 Morris-Butler House in Indianapolis's Old Northside to our work in the 1970s in the city's other historic neighborhoods, buying and selling dozens of houses, restoring key landmarks, moving threatened ones, and selling others to buyers that could finish the restoration.

It was during this era that Jane T. Walker came to work for Indiana Landmarks, where she assisted with bookkeeping and provided staff support for our work in Lockerbie Square, where we partnered with the Junior League of Indianapolis to restore the historic Holler Cottage as headquarters for the city's 1976 national bicentennial celebration. The experience sparked an ongoing appreciation for historic architecture and a decades-long association with Indiana Landmarks.

A Connersville native, Walker inherited a love of history from her father, who shared stories of attending Grand Army of the Republic meetings with his grandfather, a Civil War veteran. She appreciated old buildings early on, growing up in the early nineteenth-century home passed down from her great-grandfather and visiting her grandparents' Tudor Revival-style house on Indianapolis's



Jane T. Walker's long ties to Indiana Landmarks began in the 1970s when she worked for the organization and became acquainted with our mission. A member ever since, Walker also served on Indiana Landmarks board, provided fundraising support during a capital campaign, and included us in her estate plans.

PHOTO BY PAIGE WASSEL

Washington Boulevard. Her father, who worked as the third generation in the family-owned newspaper and printing business, also imparted to Walker an interest in community, civic engagement, and storytelling that continued as she earned her bachelor's degree in history at Sweet Briar College.

Walker drew upon these experiences and her work at Indiana Landmarks when she went on to work at The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, where she developed walking tours of Meridian Street and downtown. She enjoyed sharing history with students and pointing out often-overlooked architectural details, such as the bears

and eagles surrounding the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on Monument Circle, which remains her favorite Indiana landmark.

"I look at buildings that are old and see such beauty and art," says Walker. "We build upon the past. We're a result of the past and we're responsible for the future. I think it's nice to be living in an area that is attractive that reflects the culture and time in which it was built—the people and their tastes."

A long-time member of Indiana Landmarks, Walker served on our board of directors and on the Saving Meaningful Places capital campaign from 2010-2015, raising support for our work statewide. Along with volunteering her time, she's supported our work financially and included Indiana Landmarks in her estate plans.

"I really believe in Indiana Landmarks' mission and the work the organization has done to restore and develop neighborhoods, starting in Indianapolis and continuing statewide," says Walker. "They've been a catalyst seeing potential and making a difference in so many communities."

Help Indiana Landmarks achieve even more

- Renew your membership
- Make a donation in addition to membership
- Include Indiana Landmarks in your estate plans

For more information talk to Sharon Gamble, 800-450-4534 or visit indianalandmarks.org



BRIEFLY NOTED



In July, Indiana Landmarks hosted **Carol Quillen**, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, at our Indianapolis headquarters, where we shared details about our work to save historic places around the state. Pictured: Indiana Landmarks President Marsh Davis, Carol Quillen, and Indiana Landmarks Board Chair Doris Anne Sadler at Sadler's home, the historic residence of author Booth Tarkington in Indianapolis's Butler-Tarkington neighborhood.

Indiana Landmarks welcomes **Stephanie Richard** as director of our Southwest Field Office in Evansville, where she'll oversee Indiana Landmarks' work to save historic places in Gibson, Posey, Pike, Spencer, Vanderburgh, and Warrick counties. An Evansville native, Richard holds degrees in interior design, business management, and English from Purdue University and the IUPUI School of Engineering & Technology. Prior to joining Indiana Landmarks, she worked as a project manager at Architectural Renovators, LLC, in Evansville and has served as a commissioner on the Evansville Historic Preservation Commission since 2018.

Indiana Barn Foundation Wins Local Leadership Challenge Grant

TO BOOST INDIANA BARN FOUNDATION'S significant work to save remnants of the state's rural heritage, Indiana Landmarks selected the preservation nonprofit to receive our 2024 Local Leadership Challenge Grant, providing \$100,000 to help the group hire its first full-time executive director.

Alarmed by the loss of historic barns across Indiana, Indiana Barn Foundation formed in 2013 to support preservation of the iconic rural structures, aiming to raising awareness about threats to barns and improve financial incentives for their rehabilitation. An all-volunteer group, Indiana Barn Foundation offers educational programs and workshops on barn heritage and preservation and conducts assessments of barns around the state.

"Indiana Landmarks' selection committee was impressed by Indiana Barn Foundation's statewide efforts to engage rural residents and the hands-on participation of its board members," says Marsh Davis, president of Indiana Landmarks. "The group presented a clear plan for a new full-time director who can lead the organization in expanding its important mission."

Indiana Barn Foundation will receive Indiana Landmarks' 2024 Leadership Challenge Grant of \$100,000 to assist the nonprofit in hiring its first full-time executive director, bolstering the group's mission to preserve the state's historic barns. At the foundation's annual meeting in July, attendees toured Hancock County's Littleton-Kingen Round Barn with timber framing specialist Rick Collins.

PHOTO BY TOMMY KLECKNER

The group also coordinates an annual barn tour highlighting local agricultural heritage in various parts of Indiana. This year's tour on September 14 showcases barns in Shelby County, including the 10 Most Endangered-listed Rudicel-Montgomery Barn, where attendees can learn more about efforts to save the unusual polygonal structure.

Indiana Landmarks introduced the Local Leadership Challenge Grant program in the late 1990s to provide funding for affiliate preservation organizations to hire their first full-time staff. The program's first three recipients—Bloomington Restorations, Inc., Franklin Heritage, Inc., and Historic New Carlisle, Inc.—remain stalwart forces for preservation in their communities, serving as a blueprint for other groups looking to broaden their impact.

Between 2024 and 2030, Indiana Landmarks will provide a total of \$300,000 through the program—\$100,000 to three affiliate preservation organizations—to help them hire full-time directors.

As part of the grant agreement, Indiana Barn Foundation will be tasked with raising an additional \$80,000 in matching funds by 2026. Indiana Landmarks staff will work with the board of Indiana Barn Foundation to promote the director's position, hire a qualified candidate, and begin implementing first-year goals.

Learn more about the Indiana Barn Foundation's work and mission at indianabarns.org.



Tours & Events

September/October 2024



Understanding Masonic Temples
Oct. 15
See p. 20 (Pictured: Vernon's 1860 Masonic Building)

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

Indiana Landmarks Annual Meeting Sept. 7, Indianapolis

Join fellow Indiana Landmarks members in Indianapolis for our 64th Annual Meeting. We'll elect new directors, applaud winners of the Sandi Servaas Memorial Awards, Williamson Prize, Cook Cup for Outstanding Restoration, and Renaissance Award, and celebrate this year's preservation wins around the state. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. for a members' reception at Indiana Landmarks Center with program 3:30-5 p.m. Free with RSVP.

White River State Park Tour Sept. 7 & 21, Indianapolis

Explore the cultural significance of White River State Park on a guided one-hour 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 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. \$12/adult (ages 18 & up); \$10/member; \$7/child (ages 6-17); free to children 5 and under.

Herron-Morton Place Neighborhood Walking Tour

Sept. 14, Indianapolis

Join Indiana Landmarks for a guided walking tour of Herron-Morton Place, an Indianapolis neighborhood with history spanning an impressive 160 years from its time serving as a Civil War camp to its unique role in later decades as a hub of LGBTQ+ life and culture for the city. Tours depart at 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. \$20/general public; \$17/member; \$15/child (ages 6-11); free to children 5 and under.

Conversations in Indiana African American History and Culture

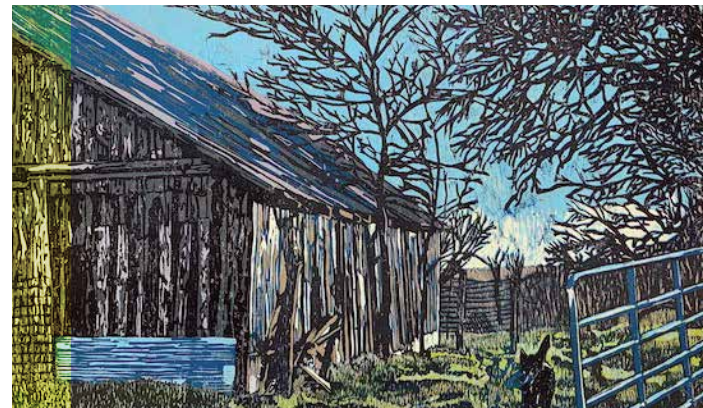
Sept. 19 & Oct. 17, Indianapolis and online

Freetown Village presents historians, researchers, and educators sharing their knowledge of Indiana's Black heritage, followed by a question-and-answer session. Sponsored by Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program, Indiana Humanities, and IUI Africana Studies. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center and talk begins at 6 p.m. in person and online. Free with RSVP.

Indy's Notable & Notorious

Sept. 25, Indianapolis

Part historic walking tour, part imaginary showdown, discover Indianapolis history through the lives of some of the Circle



JODY BRUNS

First Friday Art Show

Oct. 4, Indianapolis

Indiana Landmarks Center's Rapp Family Gallery hosts a free reception and art show featuring work by Indianapolis's 67th Street Printmakers, representing diverse printmaking techniques and a variety of subjects from fantasy and abstract pattern to landscape, portraiture, and still life. 6-9 p.m.

City's most memorable characters. Get to know our 16 contenders and rank your favorites tournament-style to reveal your choice for Indianapolis's most notable—or notorious—historical figure. Tours depart at 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. \$20/adult (ages 12 and up); \$17/member; \$15/child (ages 6-11); free to children ages 5 and under.

John A. Hasecoater Walking Tour

Oct. 5, Richmond

Discover the diverse designs of architect John A. Hasecoater, “the man who built Richmond,” on a guided walking tour through Richmond's historic downtown, including an interior tour of the Gennett Mansion. Hosted in partnership with Richmond Columbian Properties, Gennett Mansion, and Richmond Neighborhood Restoration. 4-6 p.m. \$10/general public; \$5 child (ages 6-11); free to children ages 5 and under.

Understanding Masonic Temples

Oct. 15, Indianapolis and online

Between 1870 and 1930, Masonic organizations constructed meeting spaces in almost every American community. As we consider the endangered status of fraternal lodges across Indiana, William Moore, associate professor at Boston University, presents an illustrated talk on Masonic architectural spaces and practices. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center and talk begins at 6 p.m. in person and online. Sponsored by the Cornelius O'Brien Lecture Series Concerning Historic Preservation. Free and open to the public.

Preserving Historic Places, Indiana's Statewide Preservation Conference

Oct. 22-25, Madison

Hear from preservation experts on bringing Main Street buildings back to life, navigating rehab projects, documenting Black heritage, and more. Sponsored by Indiana Landmarks, the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, Indiana Main Street, and Indiana University. Visit indianalandmarks.org/preserving-historic-places to learn more.

Indianapolis Architecture

Nov. 7, Indianapolis and online

Dr. James Glass, architectural historian, presents an illustrated talk on the origins and popularity of Italianate and Second Empire styles in Indianapolis's commercial and residential architecture from 1850 to 1880. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center and talk begins at 6 p.m. in person and online. \$10/general public; free to members with RSVP.



Banking on Support

Terre Haute's long vacant First National Bank building, which features a grand three-story main hall and murals by renowned artist Vicente Aderente, needs community support and ideas for a new use.

Indiana Landmarks took on the project in June 2018 when First Financial Corporation donated the Neoclassical landmark, plus \$110,000 to jumpstart the renovation. Designed by Chicago architect Solon Beman in 1903, a late 1920s makeover by prominent Terre Haute firm Miller & Yeager and Taylor Palmer Company of Milwaukee added a stunning coffered barrel-vaulted ceiling and incorporated seven murals by Aderente, a New York artist whose work adorns landmarks nationwide.

Since taking title to the property, Indiana Landmarks has invested over \$700,000 in substantial exterior rehabilitation and interior cleanout, including roof replacement, masonry repair and cleaning, installation of a new panel system to protect exterior brick on the west facade, and window and front entry restoration.

Addressing deterioration of the bank's significant artistic features will be an important component of the rehabilitation, but restoration of those irreplaceable details comes at no small cost. Earlier this year, Indiana Landmarks received a \$300,000 challenge grant from Wisconsin-based Jeffris Family Foundation to repair and restore the main hall's ornamental murals and plaster.

Landmark Open House: Terre Haute First National Bank

Oct. 10, Terre Haute

Get an inside look at the former bank building and lend your ideas as we seek community input to identify the landmark's best new use. Free with RSVP. Open 5-6:30 p.m. with remarks at 5:45 p.m.

As part of the grant agreement, Indiana Landmarks must raise an additional \$600,000 in matching funds for the project by June 30, 2026.

“The spectacular banking hall is one of Indiana's grandest interior spaces, and we're grateful to the Jeffris Family Foundation for boosting efforts to preserve it,” says Marsh Davis, president of Indiana Landmarks.

Indiana Landmarks has also assembled an advisory committee of key community representatives to identify potential reuse scenarios for the site. Any future sale of the property will retain Indiana Landmarks' protective covenants on the building.

“We understand the building's significance to the community and its critical role in supporting a vibrant downtown. We look forward to working with local partners to identify the highest and best use for this important landmark,” says Davis.

PHOTOS BY TOMMY KLECKNER



Good & Scared

USHER IN THE FALL SEASON WITH A delightfully spooky stroll through Indianapolis's Old Northside Historic District on October 19, when our Old Northside Spooky Tour highlights a different side of one of the city's earliest residential neighborhoods.

The Old Northside may be known in preservation circles for its grand restored homes, built by the movers and shakers of nineteenth-century Indianapolis, but our guides have uncovered a few more neighborhood tales to keep you up at night—from true crime and local lore to spooky architecture and truly scary renovations. The guided evening tour features select home interiors including Psychic Spiritualist Scientist Church, built in 1909 as the Herman P. Lieber House, and Indiana Landmarks' 1865 Morris-Butler House, built in the late nineteenth century's popular Second Empire style.

Often typecast in popular culture as the ultimate haunted house design, Second Empire homes are known for their tall towers, steeply sloped mansard roofs, and hospitable environs for creepy residents. It's a stereotype we love to hate or love to love, depending on your penchant for a good Halloween scare. Restored in the 1960s as Indiana Landmarks' first save and a catalyst for restoration in the Old Northside neighborhood and beyond, we're glad the Morris-Butler House is still around to inspire the Second Empire debate.

During the Old Northside Spooky Tour, attendees can also trick-or-treat at designated tour stops, capture the mood at atmospheric photo stations, and put their creepy creativity to the test in an optional costume contest. The final stop of the evening includes hot cider, seasonal treats, and an eerie serenade of live organ music in Indiana Landmarks Center's Grand Hall, featuring the site's restored 1892 Sanborn organ.

Old Northside Spooky Tour

Oct. 19, Indianapolis

Enjoy an evening of spooky fun and local lore in Indianapolis's Old Northside on guided tours with Indiana Landmarks, including trick-or-treating at designated stops, an eerie organ serenade, and a look inside the 1865 Morris-Butler House. Costumes encouraged (but not required). Departure times vary. \$20/general public, \$17/member, \$15 child (ages 6-11), free to children 5 and under.

PHOTO BY JESSICA KRAMER

Affiliate Council Meeting
Nov. 9, Richmond
 Indiana Landmarks affiliates are invited to an interactive workshop led by non-profit marketing expert Emily Heck on building a communications plan with storytelling. 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at The Reid Center. \$15/person payable at door includes lunch. RSVP required.

Harvester History
Nov. 14, Indianapolis and online
 Ryan DuVall, founder of Harvester Homecoming, highlights the legacy of International Harvester in Fort Wayne, including the Engineering Building, a current entry on Indiana Landmarks' 10 Most Endangered list. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center and talk begins at 6 p.m. in person and online. \$10/general public; free to members with RSVP.

Trades Training Workshops
South Bend
 A series of trades training workshops presented by Indiana Landmarks and South Bend TradeWorks aims to equip historic homeowners with DIY knowledge and contractors with in-demand skills to offer clients with historic building repair needs.

Restoring Wood Floors, Sept. 4
 Learn how to restore and maintain your historic wood floors. Demonstrations include steps for refinishing vintage wood flooring from sanding and repairing to staining and protecting, plus tips for ongoing care. Noon and 6 p.m. \$10/general public; \$5/member.

Plaster Wall Repair, Oct. 2
 Learn best practices for plaster wall repair in your historic building, including how to refasten loose plaster, tape and mud cracks, and mix plaster repair materials. Noon and 6 p.m. \$10/general public; \$5/member.

FRENCH LICK & WEST BADEN SPRINGS TOURS

Discover the fascinating history of two turn-of-the-century hotels and their award-winning restorations on daily guided tours. Advance tickets encouraged. (Tues.-Sat., June-Dec. & Wed.-Sat., Jan.-May)

West Baden Springs Hotel
 2 & 4 p.m.

French Lick Springs Hotel
 Noon
 Tickets cost \$18/adult, \$15/member, \$8/child ages 6-15, and are free to children ages 5 and under.

Twilight Tours
 Costumed characters depict famous guests at West Baden Springs during its heyday in the 'teens and '20s. Tours depart at 7 p.m. on Sept. 14. Tickets cost \$25/adult; \$20/member, \$10/child ages 6-15. Advance tickets required.

Behind-the-Scenes Tours
 Get an exclusive peek 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. Tickets cost \$50/person, \$45/member. Advance tickets required.

indianalandmarks.org/french-lick-west-baden

SAMARA TOURS

April-Oct. West Lafayette
 Explore Samara, one of Frank Lloyd Wright's most fully realized Usonian designs, on regular public tours offered at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., Wednesdays-Sundays, except when the house is closed for private events. \$20/general public; \$18/Indiana Landmarks member; \$5/child (ages 6-11); free to children ages 5 and under.
samara-house.org

Indianapolis 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 6 and 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 4. \$10/adult (ages 12 & up); \$8/member; \$5/child (ages 6-11); free to children 5 and under.

Downtown Safari
 Discover animals in architecture and sculpture on a one-hour guided tour exploring downtown Indianapolis. Guides share stories and symbolism behind these creatures and explain what they reveal about the city's history. Tours depart at 6 and 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 11. \$10/adult; \$8/member; \$5/child (ages 6-11); free to children ages 5 and under.

Decoding Downtown
 Explore the hidden history of downtown Indianapolis landmarks on a 75-minute guided tour. Along the way, learn about architectural styles and compete for fun prizes. Tours depart at 6 and 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 18. \$20/general public; \$17/member; \$15/child (ages 6-11); free to children 5 and under.

Athenaeum
 One-hour guided tours explore the history, architecture, and preservation of the Athenaeum, as it evolved from German clubhouse to a hub of modern urban life. Tours depart at 1:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Sept. 22 & Nov. 3. Advance tickets encouraged. \$12/adult; \$10/member; \$5/child (age 6-11); free to children ages 5 and under.

Bier & Building
 Sample German-American heritage through beer, appetizers, and activities on this adults-only (ages 21+) version of our Athenaeum tour. Tour departs at 1:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Oct. 13 & Nov. 10. Advance tickets encouraged. \$35/general public; \$30/member.



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AND FINALLY

Sweet Save

IN JUNE, RESIDENTS OF

South Bend's Chapin Park neighborhood gathered to celebrate the arrival of the Poledor House, moved two blocks from its original home on Marion Street to save it from the path of development.

Constructed c.1913, the Poledor House is one of the city's best examples of Craftsman-style architecture. The home is named for the Poledor family, who operated the Philadelphia confectioner's shop and restaurant in downtown South Bend for over 70 years. Members of the family occupied the house for more than a century, until Ted Poledor passed away in 2022 at the age of 90.

When construction of a new parking garage next door and other planned development made the Poledor lot valuable for future commercial use, St. Clair Development donated the historic house to Indiana Landmarks. We worked with Notre Dame School of Architecture students to document the house and family



In June, Crowds gathered to watch South Bend's Poledor House roll ever-so-slowly to a new location in the city's Chapin Park Historic District. Members of the Poledor family (below, from left to right) Alex and Stephanie Manikas, Peter Corolis, and Ted Poledor's friend Marie Pauwels helped cheer on the move. Indiana Landmarks will offer the house for sale after making repairs.

PHOTOS BY TODD ZEIGER

history before Wolfe House and Building Movers from North Manchester relocated the house to a vacant lot on Navarre Street. We're making minor repairs and stabilizing the property before offering it for sale with preservation covenants to protect its architectural character.

