

INDIANA PRESERVATION

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024



INDIANA LANDMARKS

Indiana's Oldest

Preserving the state's
early landmarks

SAYING GOODBYE

Celebrating Marsh
Davis's remarkable
legacy at Indiana
Landmarks

SEEKING HERITAGE

Partnering to map
Black history sites
around the state

Artistic Vision

LATE IN SEPTEMBER INDIANA LOST one of its great citizens when George Rapp passed away at the age of 92. A national leader in his field of orthopedic medicine, George was also a generous and visionary supporter of arts and culture—and historic preservation—in our state. With his late wife Peggy, he was particularly dedicated to sustaining the Indiana tradition of plein air painting, providing opportunities for today’s artists to show and sell their work.

George was devoted to his hometown of New Harmony where he and Peggy maintained a historic residence. They filled their home with art by both historic and living artists, displayed wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling. It was a joy to walk through the house with George as he would talk about each painting with genuine appreciation for the art and affection for the artists.

Inspired by an outdoor art contest at the T.C. Steele State Historic Site, George brought the idea of a “paint out” to New Harmony in 1999. Known as the First Brush of Spring, this collegial competition attracts scores of artists to New Harmony each April where the town’s natural beauty and historic places serve as inspiring subjects for the artists. The event also supports the Indiana Plein Air Painters Association and the Hoosier Art Salon, and it adds to New Harmony’s renown as a cultural destination.

The First Brush of Spring is but one of many contributions of George and Peggy Rapp to Indiana’s cultural vitality. I hope you’ll consider celebrating this legacy and great Indiana tradition by attending the 2025 First Brush of Spring, April 23 to 26, in historic New Harmony.



Marsh Davis, President

On the Cover

Chad Becker and Jennifer Adams are the proud caretakers of Butternut Hill, one of Vigo County’s oldest residences. Read about their journey to restore the house along with other examples of Indiana’s oldest architecture on pp.8-15.

PHOTO BY LARYSA WHITACRE, IMAGES PHOTOGRAPHY FOR TERRE HAUTE LIVING



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Headquarters
Indiana Landmarks Center
1201 Central Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46202
info@indianalandmarks.org
(317) 639-4534
(800) 450-4534

Morris-Butler House
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(317) 639-4534

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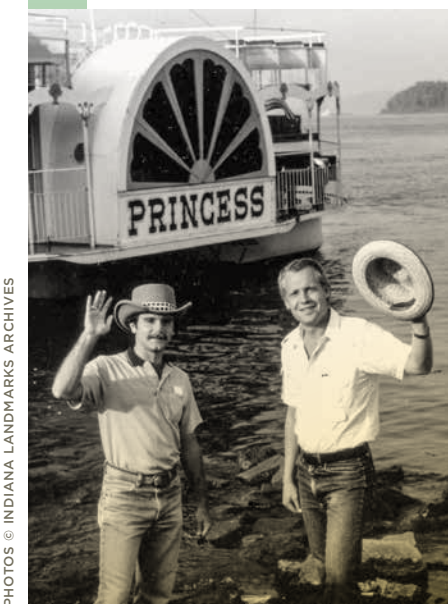
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STARTERS



Guess Who?

President Marsh Davis's history with Indiana Landmarks goes back to 1984, when he worked as a field surveyor documenting historic structures around the state. As he prepares to pass the torch to Indiana Landmarks' next president, turn the page to read more about Marsh's legacy and impact on Indiana.



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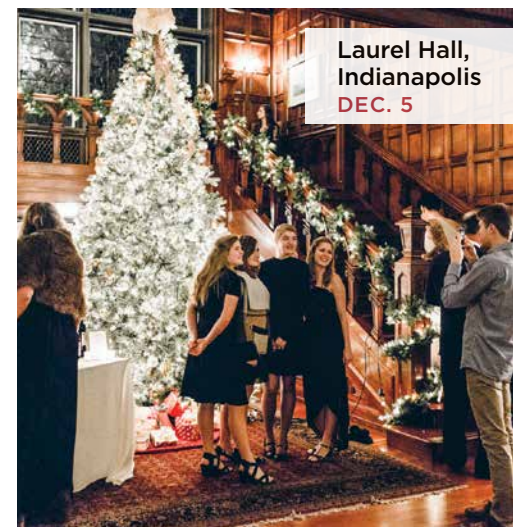
(Re)Making History

Grouseland, the Vincennes home built for Indiana's first territorial governor William Henry Harrison in 1802-1804, stands today as the state's oldest surviving house thanks to the intervention of some very early preservation activists. Saved from demolition in 1909 by the Francis Vigo Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and restored as a house museum, the National Historic Landmark continues to offer insights into Harrison's life and some of Indiana's earliest state history.

As part of a recent \$1.6 million comprehensive restoration of the 200-year-old house, experts scraped back layers of paint inside and out to uncover clues to the house's original historic colors, guiding a revised paint scheme. "We didn't realize how worn it had gotten," says Lisa Ice-Jones, executive director of the Grouseland Foundation. "Now it looks fresh and lovely, just as it did when Harrison built it." Learn more about the site at grouseland.org and read stories of other early Indiana landmarks on pp. 8-15.

PHOTO BY LEE LEWELLEN

7 holiday open houses around the state this November and December will welcome Indiana Landmarks members to historic locales to enjoy good food and seasonal cheer. Come to one or all! See the full list of sites on p. 18.



© LAUREL HALL

Laurel Hall,
Indianapolis
DEC. 5



Leading by Example

WHEN INDIANA LANDMARKS PRESIDENT

Marsh Davis announced his plans to retire, tributes and notes began pouring in from every corner of the state and beyond, putting into words what is nearly impossible to capture: Davis's profound professional and personal impact on historic preservation over more than four decades.

"Under his watch, Indiana Landmarks has launched countless successful preservation initiatives large and small, ensuring that places that tell the diverse stories of Indiana are available to future generations," says Randall Shepard, former chief justice of the Indiana Supreme Court and honorary chair of Indiana Landmarks.

As Davis prepares to step down in April 2025, he reflects on his time at the organization with an eye on the future and what his successor can build upon, "We've positioned Indiana Landmarks as a problem-solver. We've expanded the definition of what's worth preserving, and we are leading by example in committing to diversity in our work."

A native Hoosier, Davis first worked for Indiana Landmarks from 1984 to 2002, as a field surveyor and then as director of community services, before moving to Texas to serve as executive director of the Galveston Historical Foundation. In 2006, he returned to Indiana to become Indiana Landmarks' president, succeeding Reid Williamson and Robert Braun as only the third president in the organization's history.

When Indiana Landmarks President Marsh Davis (top left) retires in April 2025, he will leave a preservation legacy marked by collaborative partnerships that helped save many landmarks around the state. When Rush County's covered bridges (top right) faced demolition in the 1980s, he joined local advocates to form Rush County Heritage and mount an energetic campaign to save and restore them.

PHOTOS BY EVAN HALE,
© INDIANA LANDMARKS' ARCHIVES

In his early years with Indiana Landmarks, fresh from completing his master's thesis on vernacular architecture at Ball State University, Davis used his research to help develop survey methods for recognizing humble rural structures, such as barns and simple houses typically passed over in traditional preservation work. During this time, Davis met Rush County resident Eleanor Arnold, whom he credits with expanding his knowledge of rural buildings and landscapes.

When Rush County commissioners targeted the county's iconic covered bridges for demolition, Davis partnered with Arnold and Larry Stout to form Rush County Heritage and launch a successful campaign to save and restore five covered bridges—an early and precedent-setting preservation victory. Eleanor Arnold attributes Davis's diplomatic, calm, hard-working approach to preservation success then and now.

"He really helped get our group going, and when we finally got the bridges saved, we made Marsh an honorary Rush County citizen," says Arnold. "We couldn't have asked for a better person to lead Indiana Landmarks as he has through the years. The perfect person got into the perfect occupation. Indiana's been lucky to have him."

Since its founding in 1960, Indiana Landmarks has grown into the nation's largest statewide preservation organization, with more than 6,000 members and nine field offices. Widely recognized as a preeminent leader in his field, Davis built on and expanded his predecessor Reid Williamson's legacy, guiding Indiana Landmarks to its status as a national model in historic preservation.

As president, Davis led Indiana Landmarks in impactful preservation projects, including turnkey restoration of Evansville's Art Moderne Greyhound Bus Depot and the restoration-in-progress at the House of Tomorrow in Indiana Dunes National Park. Under his direction, Indiana Landmarks helped save Richmond's Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church and establish its reuse as a cultural center, sparked broad-based revitalization in Wabash's East Wabash Historic District, and secured National Historic Landmark designation for Samara, the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed John and Catherine Christian House in West

After serving as executive director of Galveston Historical Foundation, Davis returned to his home state in 2006 to become Indiana Landmarks' third president, steering the nonprofit's continued growth and strengthening its standing as a national model for historic preservation. Under his leadership, Indiana Landmarks spearheaded a \$24 million restoration of a nineteenth-century church in Indianapolis's Old Northside neighborhood for its headquarters (top right).

PHOTOS BY MIKE WILTROUT

Lafayette, co-stewarded by Indiana Landmarks with the John E. Christian Family Memorial Trust.

Among his favorite preservation victories, Davis counts helping establish Lyles Station Historic Preservation Corporation in Gibson County to save the 1919 Lyles Station School, one of few historic buildings left representing the free Black settlement's heritage. On the corporation's behalf, Indiana Landmarks won grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Efroymson Family Fund that, together with other contributions and grants, totaled \$1 million to restore the school as a museum sharing the community's unique story.

Through Davis's leadership, Indiana Landmarks acquired and restored the former Central Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church in Indianapolis as Indiana Landmarks Center. Completed in 2011 with support from the Cook Family of Bloomington and other generous donors, the \$24 million restoration transformed the historic church into

"Marsh leaves behind a thriving, robust organization built on his thoughtful leadership."

Indiana Landmarks' statewide headquarters and a stunning events venue in the city's Old Northside Historic District.

"Indiana Landmarks Center helped establish the reputation of Indiana Landmarks as an organization that practices what it preaches," notes Davis. "And it has introduced us to new audiences who become familiar with our work in a tangible way through this building."

Furthering his commitment to recognize overlooked places, Davis led efforts to launch Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program in 2022, securing funding from Lilly Endowment Inc., the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and other donors to establish and endow the program, which focuses on saving and sustaining places that embody Indiana's Black history.

Davis (left as Dracula) enthusiastically embraced opportunities to welcome new audiences to Indiana Landmarks Center, using events such as Silent Halloween to introduce them to Indiana Landmarks and its work. He's also engaged in hands-on preservation efforts around the state, including joining a Juneteenth day of service at Lyles Station, a free Black settlement in Gibson County (below).

PHOTOS © INDIANA LANDMARKS ARCHIVE



He also helped establish Sacred Places Indiana, an unprecedented partnership between Indiana Landmarks and the national nonprofit Partners for Sacred Places, to address the critical needs of religious congregations stewarding historic places of worship. In 2022, Indiana Landmarks expanded the program through a \$10 million grant from Lilly Endowment, which will allow distribution of over \$8 million in planning and capital grants.

As a national leader, Davis served on the board of trustees for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, as chairman of the Trust's Statewide and Local Partners program from 2008 to 2010, and as a Trust advisor since 2016. He currently serves on the board of directors for Preservation Action, the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy, and the Robert Lee Blaffer Foundation.

Indiana Landmarks' board of directors has formed a committee and engaged executive search firm Aspen Leadership Group to conduct a national search for Davis's successor, aiming to have a candidate in place by next spring.

"Marsh leaves behind a thriving, robust organization built on his thoughtful leadership," says Indiana Landmarks' past board chair Doris Anne Sadler, who is leading the search committee. "He oversaw broad programmatic growth that expanded the reach and scope of historic preservation as a tool for community revitalization and engagement. His impact on Indiana Landmarks—and on modern preservation—will be memorable and long-lasting."

On Saturday, March 15, 2025, Indiana Landmarks invites members and friends to congratulate Marsh Davis during a celebratory reception at Indiana Landmarks Center from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Watch indianalandmarks.org/tours-events for details.

Putting Black History on the Map

INDIANA LANDMARKS BLACK HERITAGE

Preservation Program aims to help tell the story of places where Black history happened, even where little physical evidence remains. This year, the program plans to unveil an interactive map sharing the history of over 60 African American settlements established in Indiana from the early 1800s until the start of the Civil War.

The project is the result of a unique partnership between the Black Heritage Preservation Program and The Nature Conservancy to research sites with potential connections to Black history within some of the Conservancy's nature preserves, starting with Boone's Cave in Owen County. Located within Green's Bluff Nature Preserve, the cave was rumored to have been used for holding kidnapped African Americans before they were sold into slavery or as a hideout along the Underground Railroad trail believed to have existed in that county.

By looking at property records and interviewing local historians, researchers revealed the cave was more likely to have been a place where freedom seekers hid, located on land once owned by former slave Zilpha Boon, who is buried in a Black cemetery near the preserve. Indiana Landmarks funded a short film documenting the site's story, due to be completed later this year.

After exploring Boone's Cave, the partners are expanding their collaboration to include research of The Nature Conservancy's preserves statewide. The Nature Conservancy funded the Black Heritage Preservation Program's work, underwriting interns and costs of the documentary, and contributing information collected from its own initiative to map their nature preserves and share historic uses of the land with the public.

"For us, the conversation has been very exciting," says Melissa Moran, director of community programs for The Nature Conservancy's Indiana chapter. "Now where we're looking at properties where we've been made aware of their proxim-



Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program joined forces with The Nature Conservancy to research Black heritage at nature preserves around the state, starting with Boone's Cave in Owen County, shown here with program interns (picture top, left to right) Ahmaud Carroll-Tubbs, Sierra Ivy, and Mesgana Waiss. The research will be featured in an interpretive map of early Black settlements statewide and an upcoming short film.

PHOTOS BY EUNICE TROTTER

ity to historic Black settlements, we're able to open up conversations with partners we may not have reached out to previously."

Along with identifying the location of historic Black settlements, the new interactive map will include a brief history of each site, and resources for further research, such as census records and historic photographs.

"We hope this map will broaden awareness of early Black history in the state and spur further research," says Eunice Trotter, director of Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program.

Watch indianalandmarks.org/black-heritage-preservation-program for updates on launch of both the interactive map and the short film on Boone's Cave.



As the Indiana Territory

emerged in 1800, pioneers making their way west settled along the Ohio and Wabash rivers before heading north. Today, this early heritage remains evident in landmarks including Vincennes' Grouseland (see p.3)—home of territorial governor William Henry Harrison—and in the early nineteenth-century buildings of New Harmony, built for George Rapp's experimental utopian community. Preserved as museum sites, private homes, and businesses, Indiana's oldest landmarks speak to the aspirations of our forebears and offer insights into how they worked and lived.

Transportation routes were essential to Indiana's early development. In 1836, legislators passed the Indiana Mammoth Internal Improvement Act prioritizing construction of canals, and the resulting Wabash and Erie and Whitewater canals spurred economic growth along their routes before financial woes, floods, and the rise of railroads later spelled their demise.

The Whitewater Canal, created to connect the Ohio River to east central Indiana, stretched from Lawrenceburg to Hagerstown, providing waterpower to run grist mills and other industry even after it ceased functioning as a transportation route.

In 1946, the State took ownership of the canal between Laurel and Brookville, a 14-mile stretch that now comprises the Whitewater Canal State Historic Site, a centerpiece for tourism in Franklin County's Metamora. A trip to the picturesque village allows visitors to step back into a bygone era, where they can walk along the remains



OUR EARLY ERA

In eastern Indiana, remnants of the Whitewater Canal help tell the story of how the transportation route spurred the area's growth in the early nineteenth century. Supporters are raising funds to make essential repairs to structures within the Whitewater Canal Historic Site, including the Duck Creek Aqueduct (pictured) a National Historic Landmark built in the 1840s.

PHOTO © INDIANA STATE MUSEUM AND HISTORIC SITES



of the Whitewater Canal and visit the town's collection of nineteenth-century buildings.

On Main Street, one of Metamora's earliest landmarks still stands, an office and later tavern built in 1838 by Whitewater Canal shipping agent Ezekial Tyner. Amos Martindale enlarged the building in 1870 to serve as a hotel, conferring the name it still holds today.

More than a century later, when the vacant and neglected Martindale House needed immediate investment, Indiana Landmarks acquired the property and completed exterior restoration before selling the building to tinsmith David Bowser and stained-glass artist Dirk Leffew in 2015. Inspired by its storied past, the pair set about turning Martindale House back into a tavern and family-friendly restaurant.

To restore the landmark's canal-era appearance, the partners repaired historic windows, refinished original wood, and tuckpointed brick fireplaces, sourcing historic replacement glass from Germany and sand from a local creek for new mortar. "It's too important a building for this town to lose," says Bowser. "We wanted to keep it preserved and not see the inside remodeled and ruin all its history."

Visitors to the Metamora Grist Mill (top) can watch corn being ground into flour, meal, and grits and learn about the region's history through interactive exhibits. One of the town's oldest buildings, the 1838 Martindale House (below) was saved from neglect and today operates as a tavern and family-friendly restaurant.

PHOTOS BY AMY PAYNE—INDIANA STATE MUSEUM AND HISTORIC SITES; JOEY SMITH



A few blocks away, Indiana Landmarks' affiliate Historic Metamora is working to safeguard the village's oldest house of worship, the former Methodist Episcopal Church on Wynn Street. Built in 1853, the building now houses a non-denominational congregation and a community food pantry. Aided by a \$12,500 grant from the Efroymsen Family Fund of Central Indiana Community Foundation, Historic Metamora is undertaking roof and steeple repairs to make the building watertight.

To address ongoing maintenance needs and threats from flooding, the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, local, state, and federal officials, and community leaders are raising funds for essential repairs to structures within the Whitewater Canal Historic Site—including the Laurel Feeder Dam, Locks 24 and 25, a canal boat and docking system, and the National Historic Landmark Duck Creek Aqueduct. Believed to be the only surviving covered wooden aqueduct in the United States, the aqueduct was first built in 1843 to carry the Whitewater Canal over Duck Creek at Metamora. In 2023, the state legislature allocated \$7 million for the work that can only be accessed after a matching \$7 million is raised from private donations and non-state funding. Project donations are being collected by the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites at [IndianaMuseum.org/Invest](https://indianamuseum.org/invest) and through The Franklin County Community Foundation's I Love Metamora Fund at fccfin.org/giving.

"We've worked very hard over the past couple years to reach our goal," says Candy Yurcak, who is coordinating local efforts. "The canal is vital to not only Metamora, but our county's economy, drawing people as far away as California and other countries to see the canal and travel the scenic byway. We couldn't bear to lose this history."



RECLAIMING HISTORY

At first glance, the c.1834 Wilkinson-Hull House seems out of place. One of Carmel's oldest homes, the historic Greek Revival structure sits on a wooded parcel near Keystone Parkway and Smoky Row, surrounded by mushrooming modern development.

When developers showed interest in the surrounding acreage for new housing construction, Indiana Landmarks urged the Carmel Historic Preservation Commission to temporarily protect the historic property from demolition. We later convinced developer Epcon Corporation to donate the house and two acres to Indiana Landmarks.

Then, preservation-minded buyers emerged literally in the house's backyard.

From their neighboring home, Matt and Erin Uber were very familiar with the old house in the woods. The couple knew the last homeowner before his passing, and their four daughters often played among the surrounding trees. One of their daughters even researched the house for a school history project.

Hamilton County pioneer William Wilkinson bought land in the area in 1823, his son David building the site's original log house c.1834, incorporating brick additions c.1840 and 1853. Captivated by the historic brick, hand-hewn joists, and underlying log construction, Matt convinced Erin they needed to buy the house.

"It took me a little longer to get on board with this big project. It's truly like walking through centuries, from our modern updated home just one hundred steps away, you walk through the woods and it's like a time warp where you emerge on the other side in the 1830s," says Erin. "Kind of a crazy, whimsical experience for sure."

After closing on the property in September, the Ubers' first priority is cleaning up the outside and improving the house's neglected appearance. They've created renderings for improvements, consulting with Indiana Landmarks and other old house experts on immediate plans to secure the exterior—

Worried encroaching development pressures might threaten Carmel's c.1834 Wilkinson-Hull House, Indiana Landmarks negotiated temporary protection for the house and later convinced the site's developer to donate it. We found the perfect buyers in the Uber family, who purchased the home and plan to start repairs soon. Pictured left to right, top to bottom: Matt, Erin, Nora, Emma, Vera, and Georgia Uber, and Georgia Uber. PHOTOS COURTESY UBER FAMILY

including repairing brick and broken windows—before they turn their attention inside. With the Ubers' support, Indiana Landmarks is nominating the house to the National Register of Historic Places.

"You could recognize the home was loved," adds Erin. "It's in such disrepair right now, but if you squint hard enough, you can still recognize what's there."

"It's kind of this storied place that's been there for a long time," says Matt. "When I saw the details of how it was put together and imagined that it was probably way too close to being destroyed, it became an amazing thing to be part of restoring it."





HAPPY CHANCE

In 2009, Chad Becker first glimpsed one of Vigo County's oldest houses almost by happenstance. While commuting along U.S. 40 to work at Indiana State University, he spotted an auction notice in front of a partially obscured driveway. Intrigued, he drove up the wandering road to discover a sprawling old brick house.

"It was mesmerizing. I came up this brick driveway and very soon see this wonderful old plantation-style house pop up on the hill," says Chad. "It was just striking."

His partner, Jennifer Adams, was equally captivated by pictures Chad snapped of the place. They quickly contacted the auction house to get a peek inside, where they found original details including high ceilings, built-in cabinetry, a cherry staircase, and multiple fireplaces. An inspection proved the house to be solid despite obvious repair needs, and the couple made an offer before it ever got to auction, becoming just the third family to own the early nineteenth-century house known as Butternut Hill.

War of 1812 veteran Major George Bourne built the original one-and-a-half story house around 1831, incorporating Federal and Greek Revival-style details popular at the time. Additions in 1869 and 1902 incorporated a second story and attic, new kitchen, front porch, and brick exterior. Today, the outside looks much as it did at the turn of the twentieth century. The property's early origins and appearance qualified it for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1832, Bourne sold the house to Dr. Richard and Francesca Blake who had moved to Terre Haute from

In 2009, an auction notice inspired Chad Becker's impromptu visit to Butternut Hill (top), one of Vigo County's oldest residences, leading him and partner Jennifer Adams (right) to put in an offer on the house. They've been steadily rehabbing it ever since, becoming just the third family to own the property in its nearly 200-year history.

PHOTOS BY BY LARYSA WHITACRE, IMAGES PHOTOGRAPHY FOR TERRE HAUTE LIVING

Maryland to open a medical practice. Bourne called the house Prospect Hill for its expansive views, but it later became known as Butternut Hill, likely inspired by the trees on the property—though some believe the



Blakes were Southern sympathizers or "butternuts" during the Civil War, so called for the butternut juice that dyed Confederate soldiers' uniforms.

The property remained in the Blake family until the 1990s, when Blake's great-granddaughters Mary Ross McMillan and Frances Ross Chase Smith donated the house and a few acres to Indiana Landmarks to ensure its preservation. We sold the house at auction with protective covenants, and for many years Butternut Hill served as a bed and breakfast.

By the time Chad and Jennifer bought the place in 2009, it had been vacant for some time, with mold and water damage from burst pipes. "It felt like a race against time in a lot of ways," says Jennifer.

Both university professors, the couple came to the project with prior old-house experience after rehabbing the historic home of former Gov. Emmett Branch in Martinsville, which they sold to purchase Butternut Hill. They set up living quarters upstairs and spent the next four years making the first floor habitable again, repairing damaged materials and ripping out inappropriate modifications such as brick flooring.

"For a couple years, we lived almost strictly upstairs with a little makeshift kitchen and our entertainment and living space in the hall," says Jennifer. "It wasn't until year four it felt like a home," adds Chad.

To date, they've completed the kitchen, living room, library, dining room, butler's pantry, bathroom, and laundry room on the first floor and three bedrooms upstairs, taking cues from historic color schemes in painting the interior. Outside, they've redone the roof, repainted the exterior, and worked to banish invasive honeysuckle and bring back gardens and

landscaping. "We still have a long list of things to be done but looking at the big picture, we're over the hump," says Chad.

Jennifer and Chad have enjoyed connecting with extended members of the Blake family; they've even received donations of Blake family books to add to their own antique book collection in the house's library, including an 1890s edition of Longfellow's poetry in which they discovered a folded paper with a lock of Joseph Blake's hair. The cozy room with its fireplace and built-in shelving is Jennifer and Chad's favorite space in the home.

"It's such a neat house and we're proud of the work we've done to bring it back," says Chad.

Coming to Butternut Hill with prior old-house experience, Chad and Jennifer took cues from historical color palettes in designing spaces that incorporate an eclectic mix of old and new. Their favorite room, the restored library (top) houses their antique book collection, which includes selections from the property's prior owners, the Blake family.

PHOTOS BY BY LARYSA WHITACRE, IMAGES PHOTOGRAPHY FOR TERRE HAUTE LIVING





LOGGING ON

Within Indiana Dunes National Park, the Bailly Homestead represents the story of one of the region's earliest settlers. Now a National Historic Landmark, the site was once part of 2,000 acres owned by fur trader Honore Gratiem Joseph Bailly de Messein (1774-1835), who set up a post on the northern branch of Sauk Trail in 1822.

"I like to tell people there's over two hundred years of architectural design and construction in this park and it starts with the Bailly Homestead," says Judith Collins, the park's historical architect.

Around 1834, Bailly replaced his original simple log house with a larger residence constructed of hewn logs and weatherboard. Decades later, Bailly's descendants expanded and modified the home, adding a third floor and incorporating Eastlake influences in a design makeover. Using logs salvaged from the remnants of the summer kitchen, they constructed a log chapel and from remnants of an older dairy house and tool shed, they also constructed a two-story outbuilding. After the last of the family left in 1917, the buildings served a variety of uses until the National Park Service acquired them in 1971 and opened the property for periodic interpretive programs on the site's history.

In 2018, a study of the homestead's historic structures revealed some of the stylistic modifications made to the main

This fall, workers embarked on critical repairs at the nineteenth-century Bailly Homestead in Indiana Dunes National Park, incorporating systems to address earlier stylistic modifications that left the main house structurally unsound. Improvements to the site are expected to be complete by fall 2025, in hopes of preparing the significant early landmark for expanded future use.

PHOTOS BY TODD RAVESLOOT

house in the 1890s had caused major structural damage, necessitating urgent repairs.

"The modifications in the 1890s took out heavier support beams for smaller ones that fit the Eastlake style but weren't adequately supporting the weight of the upper floors," adds Collins. "It's remarkable the house was still standing."

Now, supported by \$5 million from the Great Americans Outdoors Act Legacy Restoration Fund, work is underway to make the house safe for visitors once again. The funds are also being used for repairs to a c.1875 brick house at the homestead and to bring utilities to the site in anticipation of expanded future use.

The Bailly Homestead is one of three sites in the National Park undergoing improvement through the Great Americans Outdoors Act Legacy Restoration Fund, which awarded \$22 million in 2020 to support restoration of the Bailly Homestead, the 1940s Good Fellow Camp Lodge, and the 1933 House of Tomorrow. Improvements are expected to be wrapped up in fall 2025.



PICKING UP THE TAB

Along the Ohio River between Cincinnati and Louisville, the small town of Vevay lies nestled in the hills of southeast Indiana. Swiss immigrants settled the area in the late eighteenth century and established a prosperous wine-producing industry, a local tradition that takes center stage every August during the Swiss Wine Festival.

By 1815, Vevay settler David McCormick was serving even stronger stuff at his tavern on Walnut Street. Today, it's one of the city's oldest landmarks—one that's been decaying for decades.

When the property went on the market in 2020, no buyers emerged to take on the long-neglected building. Indiana Landmarks acquired the house in 2022 and began making improvements in anticipation of listing it for sale. We hired contractors to stabilize the building and make it watertight, including leveling the foundation, removing rotted sills and beams and installing new supports and windows. This fall, workers are installing new wooden clapboard siding before adding fresh paint.

"When no one else would take this on, Indiana Landmarks did," notes Indiana Landmarks President Marsh Davis.

The two-story house retains several features hinting at its more-than-200-year history, including two fireplaces and Victorian-era built-in cabinetry. With ample square footage, the building could be developed as a single-family home, for an office or business, or a mix. The property offers plenty of room for a small parking lot, garage, or serene garden.



Dating to 1815, McCormick's Tavern qualifies as one of Vevay's oldest landmarks. When neglect threatened the property in 2022, Indiana Landmarks stepped in to acquire and save it. We're currently directing rehabilitation in anticipation of placing the property on the market in 2025.

PHOTOS BY MITCHELL KNIGGA



Vevay is a thriving community with an elegant nineteenth-century courthouse, popular historic sites including Musée de Venoge and Thiebaud Farmstead, and the historic Hoosier Theatre, which is home to stage plays, musical acts, and movie nights. The historic tavern is located at 306 Walnut Street, just a block off both the Ferry Street and Main Street commercial corridors.

Watch indianalandmarks.org/properties-for-sale for McCormick's Tavern to go on the market in 2025.

2024 Board Elections

INDIANA LANDMARKS' BOARD OF DIRECTORS

helps guide the organization in its work to save meaningful places and raise awareness of the state's diverse heritage. Each year, Indiana Landmarks conducts elections at its annual meeting to select individuals to serve on the board. In 2024, Indiana Landmarks' membership confirmed four candidates recommended by the governance committee:

Regina L. Emberton of South Bend is CEO of ChoiceLight, Inc., a nonprofit that champions digital equity by expanding fiber infrastructure. In addition to her current role, she sits on several boards, including the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County, Indiana University South Bend Chancellor's advisory board, Medical Education Foundation, and Marian University Ancilla College. The *Indianapolis Business Journal* recognized Regina as an "Indiana 250" awardee in 2022 and 2023.



Rick L. James of Auburn is the CEO and founder of Metal Technologies and chairs the James Foundation, Inc., which supports education and early childhood development through grants and scholarships. In addition to these roles, James chairs the Board of Trustees for Trine University and the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. He is also a board member of the Boys and Girls Club of Fort Wayne and a past chair of the National Parks Foundation. He and his wife, Vicki, have received the Sagamore of the Wabash Award honoring their community service.



Ralph G. Nowak of Indianapolis is a current member of Indiana Landmarks' Investment Committee and previously served as board treasurer. Retired from a career in wealth management, Nowak also serves on the finance committee for the Eiteljorg Museum, as vice chair of the advisory board for Bishop Simon Bruté Seminary, and as vice president of membership for the Serra Club with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.



Charlie Shook of Lafayette is owner and broker of The Shook Agency, a fourth-generation family real estate development and brokerage focusing on residential and commercial rental properties near Purdue University and Lafayette. He is a current member of the Indiana Real Estate Commission and the West Lafayette Human Relations Commission. Shook also serves on the board of directors for Legal Aid of Tippecanoe County and Homestead CS, a nonprofit working to keep people housed. He has also received a Sagamore of the Wabash Award.



In addition, the governance committee recommended for approval by the board itself the following officers, which were confirmed for the coming year: Randall Shepard, honorary chair; Doris Anne Sadler, past chair; Greg Fehribach, chair; Hilary Barnes, vice chair; Emily Harrison, secretary; Thomas Engle, assistant secretary; Ralph Nowak, treasurer; Marsh Davis, president; and Judy O'Bannon, secretary emerita. See the full list of board members and officers on p.2 or at indianalandmarks.org.



Sound Investment

INDIANAPOLIS NATIVE DR. THOMAS MOTE credits his years at school in Boston and Cleveland, Ohio, with sparking his interest in the way architecture, sound, landscaping, and public art can combine to create special places.

When he returned to Indianapolis in 1988 to practice anesthesiology, he and his wife Deanna purchased a historic house in the Old Northside Historic District, where they joined a group investing in the neighborhood.

"We tried to create a sense of place to attract people who would restore and preserve old homes," notes Dr. Mote, who became the first president of the Old Northside Foundation. "We built pocket parks and added streetlights, historical markers, and landscape elements including a street clock and

limestone pylons on Central Avenue by artist Dale Enochs." Though he no longer lives in Indianapolis's historic Old Northside, Dr. Thomas Mote sponsored installation of a new carillon at Indiana Landmarks Center in hopes of drawing continued attention to the neighborhood he helped revitalize and a building he helped preserve.

PHOTO BY EVAN HALE

limestone pylons on Central Avenue by artist Dale Enochs."

The group worked with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful to plant hundreds of trees along neighborhood streets and purchased empty lots and dilapidated buildings to encourage sympathetic development, even creating a brochure touting the benefits of living in the Old Northside. Their efforts became a model for other downtown neighborhood foundations.

In the 1990s, Mote also supported creation of the Old Centrum, a hub for nonprofits in the former Methodist Episcopal Central Avenue Church at 12th Street and Central Avenue. When it became clear the building's needs exceeded their resources, the organization turned the building over to Indiana Landmarks, which joined with the Cook Family to restore the former church as our statewide headquarters.

Though Dr. Mote later moved out of the Old Northside, the neighborhood remains dear to him. As he considered how he could further contribute to the area, he recalled old controls that he and others at the Old Centrum suspected had once operated a carillon in the historic church.

"Over many years training for the Mini-Marathon along the canal by Butler, I came to appreciate the school's carillon ringing out on wonderful fall evenings, as well as the Blind School's carillon along the Monon Trail," says Dr. Mote. "So, it seemed appropriate to revisit what I had thought about a long time ago."

Dr. Mote underwrote our acquisition of a new carillon installed in September at Indiana Landmarks Center. Today its bells and recorded songs ring out from the tower of the preserved church and over the neighborhood that captured his heart long ago.

Tours & Events

November/December 2024

Athenaeum Building Tour

Nov. 3 & Jan. 12, Indianapolis

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. Advance tickets encouraged. \$12/adult; \$10/member; \$5/child (age 6-11); free to children ages 5 and under.

Indianapolis Architecture Talk

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.

Affiliate Council Meeting

Nov. 9, Richmond

Indiana Landmarks affiliates are invited to an interactive workshop led by nonprofit 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.

Athenaeum Bier & Building Tour

Nov. 10 & Mar. 2, Indianapolis

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. Advance tickets encouraged. \$35/general public; \$30/member.



Cone House
NORTH VERNON

GREG SEKULA

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSES

You're invited to join fellow Indiana Landmarks members for good food and holiday cheer this November and December. Get an exclusive look at a different architectural style and preservation story at each open house location, including a George Barber design saved from demolition, an Art Deco high-rise ready for redevelopment, and historic private homes not ordinarily open to the public. Free to members with RSVP. Learn more at indianalandmarks.org/tours-events.

NOV. 26 - Aurora

Veraestau, 4696 Veraestau Lane
5-7 p.m. EST

DEC. 4 - New Castle

Henry County Historical Society & Museum, 606 S. 14th Street
5-7 p.m. EST

DEC. 5 - Terre Haute

Ohio Boulevard Home Tour (multiple sites)
5-7 p.m. EST

DEC. 5 - Indianapolis

Laurel Hall, 5395 Emerson Way
5-7 p.m. EST

DEC. 11 - Wabash

Bain House, 143 E. Main Street
5-7 p.m. EST

DEC. 12 - North Vernon

Cone House, 305 S. Jennings Street
5-7 p.m. EST

DEC. 19 - Evansville

Hulman Building, 20 NW 4th Street
5-7 p.m. CST

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

Conversations in Indiana African American History and Culture

Nov. 21, 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.

First Friday Art Show

Dec. 6, Indianapolis

Indiana Landmarks Center's Rapp Family Gallery hosts a free reception and art show featuring photography and book art by Alexander Toms, an Indianapolis artist and recent graduate of Indiana University Indianapolis Herron School of Art and Design. 6-9 p.m.

Indianapolis Holiday Church Tour

Dec. 7, Indianapolis

Explore the architecture, history, preservation, and tradition of select historic churches in Indianapolis's Irvington neighborhood, including Irvington United Methodist Church, Irvington Presbyterian Church, and Downey Avenue Christian Church. Participants can go at their own pace on this self-directed tour, with church interiors open from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tourgoers must provide their own transportation. \$20/general public, \$15/member, \$10/child (ages 6-11) in advance, with all prices increasing by \$5 on day of tour.

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.

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

The Holly & the Ivy Concert

Dec. 19, Indianapolis

Experience the sounds of the season at our popular annual concert featuring singers, handbells, and instrumentalists, including accompaniment on the historic organ in Indiana Landmarks Center's Grand Hall. Colorful lighting and wintry décor set the stage for a merry evening, complete with a holiday sing-along and after-concert reception with spiced cider and holiday treats. \$28/general public, \$22/member, free to children ages 10 and under. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., concert begins at 7:00 p.m.

Save the Date to Celebrate!

March 15, 2025, Indianapolis

Indiana Landmarks invites members and friends to save the date for a retirement celebration in honor of President Marsh Davis hosted at Indiana Landmarks Center, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.. We'll raise a glass and share memories of an inspiring job (or many jobs) well done! Look for more details in early 2025 at indianalandmarks.org/tours-events.



© HARVESTER HOMECOMING

Automotive Heritage Talk

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.

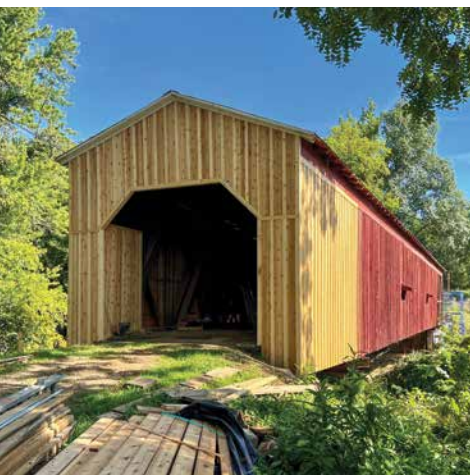


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AND FINALLY



Cover Story

THIS FALL, CREWS WILL apply a fresh coat of paint to Fountain County's Cades Mill Covered Bridge, marking the culmination of a years-long effort to save the 1854 span, which holds status as the state's oldest covered bridge still in its original location.

When an inspection in 2019 revealed that a broken chord seriously compromised the historic span, the Fountain County Art Council rallied to save the structure, partnering with the Western Indiana Community

Restoration of Fountain County's 1854 Cades Mill Covered Bridge is nearing completion after a multi-year effort to save the span, which received widespread attention from its inclusion on Indiana Landmarks' 10 Most Endangered list in 2022.

PHOTOS BY TOMMY KLECKNER

Foundation to set up a fund for repair. The effort got state-wide attention in 2022, when Indiana Landmarks added the threatened bridge to its 10 Most Endangered list and gave a grant to help develop rehabilitation plans.

This summer, Structural Systems Repair Group from Cincinnati began repairs, using Douglas fir to restore the landmark.

To date, over \$550,000 has been raised to stabilize and repair Cades Mill Covered Bridge, but rehabilitation costs climbed when workers discovered previously unknown termite damage. The Western Indiana Community Foundation is still accepting donations at P.O. Box 175, Covington, IN, 47932, marked for the Cades Mill Bridge Restoration Fund.