

Preserving Indiana

spring/summer 2008

DNR
Indiana Department of
Natural Resources



Barbara H Sternwheel Towboat Rescued in Switzerland County

Steve Kennedy, Assistant Director

In the summer of 2007, the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology received a plea for help from a local organization that maintained an historic sternwheel riverboat on the Ohio River. This vessel, now known as the *Barbara H*, was at risk of sinking because its steel hull plating was corroded, weakened, and beginning to develop pinhole leaks. The vessel was in real danger of sinking, but the cost of replating the hull with new steel was well beyond the means of the local organization. Without financial assistance, the owners were seriously considering selling the *Barbara H*, but were worried that new owners might alter its historical integrity. Because this vessel was so unchanged over time and also because of its lengthy service record, it had been designated by the National Park Service as a National Historic Landmark in 1989.

Originally named the *Standard* when built in 1923, the vessel was one of the earliest diesel powered sternwheel towboats. This type of vessel became very

common on major American rivers over the next several decades. However, propeller power gained prominence shortly after World War II, soon replacing sternwheel propulsion. By the mid-1950s, very few sternwheel towboats



The Barbara H is docked on the Ohio River between Vevay and Madison, Indiana. (Photo DHPA).

remained in service, yet this vessel continued hauling barges until 2000, earning the distinction of having the nation's longest commercial towing career.

The *Standard* underwent several changes over time, including two name changes, but modifications to the vessel were comparatively few. After just two

years of service, its original 60-horsepower gasoline engine was replaced with a 100-horsepower diesel engine in 1925. However, the replacement engine failed in 1939 and the boat was sold the following year. The new captain renamed the vessel *Donald B* in honor of his five-year-old son and installed the diesel engine that powers the sternwheeler to this day. The steel hull was replaced in 1958. Following retirement from commercial towing in 2000, the *Donald B* was purchased by Captain Steve Huffman and renamed *Barbara H* in honor of his wife. Since 2002, the vessel has been operated by the Historic Sternwheeler Preservation Society (HSPS) for public excursions and as a floating museum.

In order to allow members of the public aboard, the vessel requires a five-year inspection and permit from the U.S. Coast Guard. In 2005, this permit was denied due to the condition of the hull plating. HSPS was left with several options: replating the hull at a cost of about \$400,000; pull the vessel

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DNR
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News from the Director: Improvements to Our Services

The Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology staff is working on providing the best possible service to citizens of the state. Over the past year, with the support of DNR Director and State Historic Preservation Officer Rob Carter and Deputy Director Ron McAhron, we have removed the backlog of reviews for Section 106 projects in our office and since April of 2007, have responded to all submissions within 30 days. In 2006, the historic structures review and archaeology staff reviewed 2,746 projects, 19% took 30 days or more to review. Despite an 11% increase in reviews for 2007, from March to December 2007, that statistic was down to 0.002%. Thanks to all our archaeologists and historic structures reviewers for their hard work! We hope that those of you who work with us on completing Section 106 reviews have noticed the difference.

We are also meeting with as many constituent organizations and agencies who use our programs or engage in our environmental reviews and searching for ways to improve our working relationships. Among those organizations and agencies are Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana; the Indiana Archaeology Council; American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) DNR Committee; Indiana Office of Rural Affairs; Indiana University Committee on Historic Preservation; Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority; Public Works Division, Indiana Department of Administration; Indiana State Museum and State Historic Sites; Indiana Cemetery Advocates; historical consultants on Section 106 reviews; and the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission. In April, we are looking forward to meeting with the Indiana Freedom Trails organization.

We have also re-organized the division staff to provide better day-to-day supervision of our 9 federal and 12 state programs in historic preservation and archaeology. We've appointed three assistant directors to head three major areas of the office: Karie Brudis has become Assistant Director for Environmental Review; Frank Hurdis, Assistant Director for Preservation Services; and Steve Kennedy, Assistant Director for Administration, Financial Incentives, and Planning. Dr. Rick Jones and John Carr have become respectively Team Leaders for the Archaeology and Historic Structure Review staff areas, and Paul Diebold Team Leader for Survey and Registration. Jeannie Regan-Dinius has taken expanded responsibilities for Special Initiatives for the division. This new organization is reflected on the DHPA website staff page at: www.IN.gov/dnr/historic/staff.html. We will have more on the new division organization in the next issue of *Preserving Indiana*.

In addition, we've been working closely with our co-sponsors for the 2008 Cornelius O'Brien-Indiana Main Street Conference to provide an expanded range of subjects and types of educational and professional experiences at the October 16-18 conference in Bloomington. This year, for the first time, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs will become full major financial sponsors, and we're grateful for their participation. More details will follow in the next issue.

Indianapolis: A *Discover Our Shared Heritage* Travel Itinerary Webpage

Paul Diebold, Architectural Historian, Survey and Registration Team Leader



The rich history of the City of Indianapolis is the focus of the latest travel itinerary web page put on-line by the National Park Service. Staff from the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology researched, wrote, and took photos for the page, which was edited by National Park Service staff. The Indianapolis page is the 44th such page put on-line by the National Park Service and is by far the most extensive. The page was put on-line by the NPS in late 2007.

The site explores Indy history, as told by its remarkable collection of National Register-listed districts, parks, and buildings. You can explore Indianapolis history by themes with essays, such as “Ethnic Indy” or “Feel the Need for Speed in Indy.” The themes relate to actual National Register sites; each featured site has a narrative, directions, attractions, and photos. For example, the theme essay “Neighborhoods in a City of Homes” features eleven National Register listed neighborhoods, including Speedway, Homecroft, Old Northside, Woodruff Place and North Meridian Street. In all, there are fifty-nine featured National Register listings within the Indianapolis travel itinerary page.

Many preservationists are concerned that web images and technology will overwhelm the need to experience real historic places. Travel itinerary pages tread a fine line by providing enough information for the armchair traveler to grasp the key points, while also encouraging visitation. The Indianapolis page is no exception. It includes directions and bus line information, mini walking tours of districts, and information about local attractions or festivals.

DHPA staff hopes that schools will take notice, too. Field trip budgets are climbing beyond reach, leaving many teachers wondering how they can work such experiences into the classroom. Now, educators can use the travel page as a guide to easily reached local landmarks, and have the background information for the sites readily at hand. The page is a great reference source for Indianapolis history for students young and old.

The Indianapolis travel page has a further distinction. Hyejung Kwon, a graduate student at George Washington University’s School of Business, Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, created a template and format that will simplify creation of future pages. The Indianapolis page was the first in this “new look” for NPS travel pages. Ms. Kwon worked under the guidance of Carol Shull, Chief of Heritage Education Services. Additionally, NPS staff devised a series of digital maps for the itinerary, another first.

Preserving Indiana readers can help promote this site by linking to it and encouraging its use in their schools, businesses and homes. No doubt, many readers outside the Central Indiana area will want to see their community featured on a Discover Our Shared Heritage Travel Itinerary Web Page. We hope to work with the NPS to make this happen in upcoming years. Visit the webpage at: www.nps.gov/history/nr/travel/indianapolis/



Above: Indiana War Memorial and University Park.
Right: Indianapolis City Market, interior. (Photos DHPA).



Delphi Celebrates City Hall Facade and Stearns Bridge

Malia Savarino, Associate Grants Manager

If you haven't visited Delphi, Indiana in Carroll County lately, your next trip will provide some wonderful surprises. The Delphi Preservation Society and the Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal Association, Inc. have been busy with two major projects which have recently been completed.

On November 10, 2007 the Delphi Preservation Society (DPS) hosted a ribbon-cutting to celebrate the façade restoration of the Old Delphi City Hall. DPS received an \$18,375 grant from the DHPA through the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Fund program. DPS matched the grant with funding from the Carroll County Community Foundation, Carroll County REMC Operation Roundup, the Efroymsen Fund of the Central Indiana Community Foundation fund, as well as local donations and volunteer contributions. DPS was also able to celebrate their acquisition of the one-third of the building they had not previously owned. This acquisition allowed DPS to complete the façade restoration, including removing the metal awning and wood shake pent roof over the store front and replacing it with an appropriate retractable fabric awning. The HPF project also installed replications of molding and cornice features, rehabilitated the 10 foot high windows on the second and third floors and painted them to match the new color scheme. The second floor wrought iron balcony was also replaced, including the missing pendants for the brackets of the balcony. Back in 1999, the building

also received a \$10,000 HPF grant from the DHPA to rehabilitate the roof.

Mayor Lee Hoard shared ribbon-cutting duties with DHPA Director Jim Glass. They were also joined by DPS members Lynn Corson, Anita Werling, Greg Norman, Joe Kitchel, and contractor Dick Traeger. About 40 supporters joined the festivities and were treated to tours of the opera house, and presentations of the Society's plans for continued restoration and eventual use as a performing arts center.

In west Delphi, at the Wabash & Erie Canal Park, the Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal Association also had reason to celebrate. The rehabilitation and installation of the 1905 Stearns Truss iron bridge was completed and dedicated in November, as well. The bridge had formerly been located in Pulaski County over Big Monon Ditch, it was disassembled and moved to Delphi in 2006. The rehabilitation work was accomplished by a core group of volunteers and about 70 other helpers. Funding for the project was provided by the DHPA through a Wabash River Heritage Corridor grant of over \$25,000, and with additional assistance from the CICF's Efroymsen Fund and Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana.

The bridge's new location is near where water from the canal powered two paper mills in the mid-1800s. There was also a "side cut" waterway from the canal to the base of Delphi's Main Street, along with industrial related warehouses and transport bridges.

More than 200 visitors were also treated to a visit by the 1903 Winton automobile owned by Dr. Peter Kesling of LaPorte that crossed the country in 2003 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the nation's first transcontinental crossing by a similar 1903 Winton. Dr. Kesling's son, Adam, and Cecil Richards, one of the engineers who helped restore the Winton, drove the car over the Stearns bridge, making it the last vehicle to cross, as it will now be used solely for pedestrian traffic on the canal's towpaths.

Congratulations to Delphi on these important preservation projects!



Clockwise from top: The facade of the Delphi City Hall prior to restoration. (Photo DHPA). After restoration! (Photo courtesy of the Delphi Preservation Society). The Stearns Truss iron bridge at the Wabash & Erie Canal Park. The 1903 Winton automobile is the last vehicle to cross the bridge. (Photo courtesy of the Carroll County Wabash and Erie Canal Association, Inc.)

Evansville Museum Exhibit Tells the Mesker Story

Thomas Lonnberg, Curator of History, Evansville Museum of Arts, History, and Science

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the name Mesker was synonymous with the production of cast and galvanized metal storefronts that adorned buildings across the United States. The February 17-May 25 exhibition *Storefronts of America: The George L. Mesker Story* at the Evansville Museum of Arts, History and Science provides an overview of this history.

Through physical artifacts—including portions of original metal facades and original historic documents—*Storefronts of America* primarily focuses on the history of George L. Mesker Company of Evansville and also provides information on Mesker Brothers of St. Louis. Both these highly respected companies had a dramatic impact on architecture throughout the United States. Storefronts produced by the firms from the 1880s and beyond can still be found in various parts of the country.

Dutch immigrant John Bernard Mesker sold hardware, stoves and sheet metal and provided repair services to small towns along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers from a flatboat that he had constructed. After co-founding the Mesker and Busse partnership in Cincinnati in 1847, he moved to Evansville in 1850 where he opened a stove store and eventually began galvanizing ironwork for buildings. Upon John Mesker's retirement in 1876, his oldest son, Bernard (1851-1936), took over the management of Mesker and Busse, and John's youngest son Frank, (1861-1952), later joined him. In 1879, George L. Mesker (1857-1936) entered into partnership with his two

brothers. Three years later, Bernard and Frank sold their interest in the Company to George and moved to St. Louis, forming a competing firm, Mesker Brothers Iron Works. George remained in Evansville to head Mesker and Busse, which

ers, no other companies better exemplified this niche than these two. Their specialized ornamental sheet metal facades and cast iron storefront components were conveniently ordered through catalogs and easily shipped by rail to customers throughout the country.

George L. Mesker & Company alone sold over 5,000 storefronts through highly successful catalogue marketing. In 1903, the Company advertised that it had furnished storefronts in every state in the United States, "competing successfully with local foundries, cornice shops and planning mills, by furnishing better designs, better material and by making lower prices." Often called "Meskers," these facades can still be found on buildings throughout the United States.

In 1916, George Mesker moved from Evansville and resided in New York and Florida until his death in 1936. Although he had not lived in Evansville for 20 years, he generously left a Trust Fund of \$500,000 for the improvement of Mesker Park, 40 acres of wooded land at the top of Summit Drive that he had given the City of Evansville years earlier. Additional bequests included funds for the Mesker Amphitheatre, Mesker Park Zoo and the permanent Mesker Music Trust Fund.

Over the years, as George L. Mesker & Company diversified, it became George L. Mesker Steel Corporation and, finally, Mesker Steel, Inc. In 1974, Mesker Steel was sold to Fabsteel Company of Texas. Financial setbacks led to the closure of the company in the 1980s.



A beautiful, well-preserved Mesker storefront in Huntingburg, Indiana. (Photo DHPA).

was later renamed George L. Mesker & Company.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the two companies set the standard and became the leading producers of cast and galvanized metal storefronts in the United States. Both firms manufactured a prodigious amount of stamped-metal facades and exterior architectural features that graced buildings in Indiana, Illinois and around the nation. Although prefabricated architectural elements were available from a number of manufactur-

Mesker continued on page 15



Indiana's Earthworks Initiative

Amy Johnson, Senior Archaeologist

For many years, the earthworks built by early Native Americans have been recognized as important cultural resources in our state. *The Romance of Archaeology* (1929) specifically mentioned Indiana's efforts: "Attempts are now being made in a good many states to save the important mounds that have so far escaped plows and construction gangs. Indiana archaeologists and historians, for instance, have been making a survey throughout their state as a first step toward finding out exactly what material of this sort the state possesses." Early archaeological efforts at discovery and investigation helped in many cases to lead to increased awareness of these resources, and in some situations, to preservation efforts. For example, Angel Mounds State Historic Site in Evansville, was saved as a direct result of the preservation efforts spearheaded by Eli Lilly and the Indiana Historical Society.

Today, although our state has one of the strongest laws regarding the protection of archaeological sites on private property, earthworks are still sometimes damaged or threatened. In the twenty-first century, as we face growing issues including urban sprawl and industrial development, it appears even more critical to try to preserve, protect and understand these special sites built many centuries ago. A formal "initiative" began in 2002 with state efforts organized by the Department of Natural Resources' Executive Office. Archaeological representatives from several universities, archaeological staff from the DHPA, the Indiana State Museum, and representatives from the Division of State Parks organized meetings to discuss issues surrounding earthworks, their preservation, best management practices, among other concerns. The following year, the DHPA demonstrated its commitment to outreach regarding earthworks with an Indiana Archaeology Month commemorative poster focused solely on these resources and their importance. The 2003 earthwork stabilization efforts at the Angel Mounds State Historic Site involved the DHPA, Angel Mounds staff, and the National Park Service. To learn more about that important, and award winning, project go to http://www.IN.gov/dnr/historic/bin/nwsltr_sprsum2005.pdf.

In 2006, the Division of State Parks and Reservoirs, Archaeological Resources Management Service (Ball State University) staff, and the DHPA's Dr. Rick Jones and Amy Johnson, continued efforts focusing specifically on the Mounds State Park property in Anderson, and fine-tuning preservation and planning goals and activities. State collaborative efforts are continuing and recently have involved more DNR property holding divisions that manage land with extant earthworks. Eventually, as meetings and discussions continue, one major goal is outreach to non-DNR property owners.

At the 2007 Cornelius O'Brien-Indiana Main Street Conference, Amy Johnson moderated a session titled "Archaeology and Heritage Tourism." State Archaeologist Dr. Rick Jones gave the presentation (by Jones and Johnson) titled "Preserving the Earthen Past: Heritage Tourism and Indiana's Earthworks Initiative." This was another way that the DHPA has continued its commitment to communicate the importance of complex and unique archaeological sites of this kind.

The Division has also demonstrated efforts to record and add to the body of knowledge about these resources by funding numerous Historic Preservation Fund grant projects, that have resulted in important new in-

EARTHWORKS: . . . earthen embankments, enclosures, mounds, or features used for public events or ceremonies.

- Some Indiana earthworks are among the most rare and unique sites in the United States.
- Earthworks and mounds are unique, non-renewable, and irreplaceable.
- Today, mounds and earthworks are protected by law.
- Earthwork configurations reflect the thoughts and lifeways of early Native American cultures.
- Several mounds and earthwork sites are preserved on state properties.
- Mounds and earthworks are features of our cultural landscape.
- Earthen features are markers of past events.
- Over time, many earthworks in Indiana have been damaged or destroyed.



Left: Representatives from DNR State Parks and Reservoirs, DHPA and Ball State University assessing the standing trees growing near and on the Great Mound at Mounds State Park in March 2006. (Photo DHPA).

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Indiana Historic Preservation Awards for 2007

2007 Hoosier Preservationist Award



Few have the opportunity to own a Frank Lloyd Wright house. Even fewer have had the experience of requesting a design from Wright himself. Dr. John Christian and his wife, Catherine, were fortunate in both. They met Wright in 1950 and soon after he agreed to be their architect. In January 1955 Wright presented the Christians with his design for their home in West Lafayette which he had named “Samara.”

Over the years the Christians cared for their home with the respect and honor due any great work of art. Repairs were made with strict adherence to Wright’s design and when they could, the Christians added elements of the original design, including furnishings that they could not afford as a young married couple.

Catherine passed away in 1986, and John has devoted his retirement years to ensuring that the home will be cared for well into the future. Recognizing that he is the steward of one of Indiana’s greatest architectural landmarks, John has shared the story of Wright and Samara with any and all who are interested. He has generously given of his time and knowledge to make the home available to preservationists, architects, students, and Wright enthusiasts from around the state and nation. The DHPA was pleased to present Dr. John Christian with the 2007 Hoosier Preservationist Award.

Left to right: DHPA Director Jim Glass, John Christian (seated), DNR Director and SHPO Rob Carter. (Photo DHPA).

Indiana Historic Preservation Award for Cataract Bridge

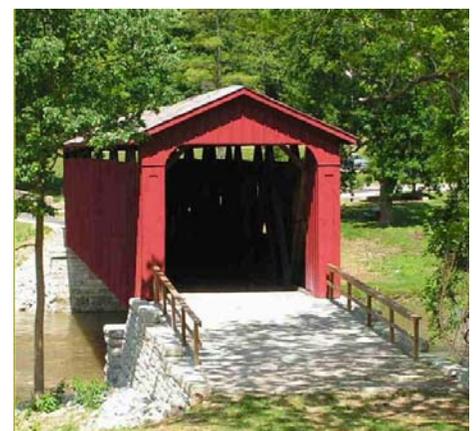
An Indiana Historic Preservation Award was presented for the restoration of Cataract Covered Bridge. Nationally-known bridge contractor Robert W. Smith built Cataract Bridge over Mill Creek in rural Owen County in 1876. Smith used his patented diagonal lattice truss of heavy timbers to create a span 140 feet long with a traffic lane 13 feet wide.

The bridge first carried harvest-laden wagons, then, auto and truck traffic. In the late 1980s, the county arranged to turn the bridge and adjacent property over to the Department of Natural Resources. The old bridge became part of an expanded Lieber State Recreation Area, under the name Cataract Falls State Recreation Area.

By 2004, staff of the DNR’s Division of State Parks and Reservoirs and Division of Engineering realized that the Cataract Covered Bridge needed major restoration. DNR sought Transportation Enhancement (TEA) funds from Indiana Department of Transportation, as well as “Lugar Bill” monies, a federal fund established for covered bridges, proposed by Senator Richard Lugar. Both grants were successful. Over \$600,000.00 was spent in the restoration effort.

Indiana DNR hired J.A. Barker Engineering, Inc. to plan the restoration of the bridge, and Matt Reckard took the lead in the effort. Barker Engineering has designed repair and restoration efforts for 12 timber truss covered bridges. The firm has also planned the restoration of metal truss, stone arch, and concrete arch bridges in Indiana and other states.

This award recognized Indiana DNR’s Division of State Parks and Reservoirs and Division of Engineering for outstanding stewardship of the Cataract Covered Bridge. The expertise of J.A. Barker Engineering were critical to the project, and they were also recognized for their outstanding efforts to preserve the character and materials of the bridge to the extent possible.



The Cataract Bridge. (Photo DHPA).



Outstanding Preservation of a National Historic Landmark

The Indiana Historic Preservation Award for Outstanding Preservation of a National Historic Landmark (NHL) was presented to Bill, Gayle, and Carl Cook for the restoration of the West Baden Springs Hotel.

The West Baden Springs Hotel is one of 37 NHL's in Indiana, the highest designation bestowed by the National Park Service as significant in the history, architecture, engineering, or prehistory of the nation as a whole. The West Baden Springs Hotel has often been called the Eighth Wonder of the World, with its concentric circle structure and its 195 foot diameter atrium rising 130 feet in height, accomplished with steel trusses and no columns.

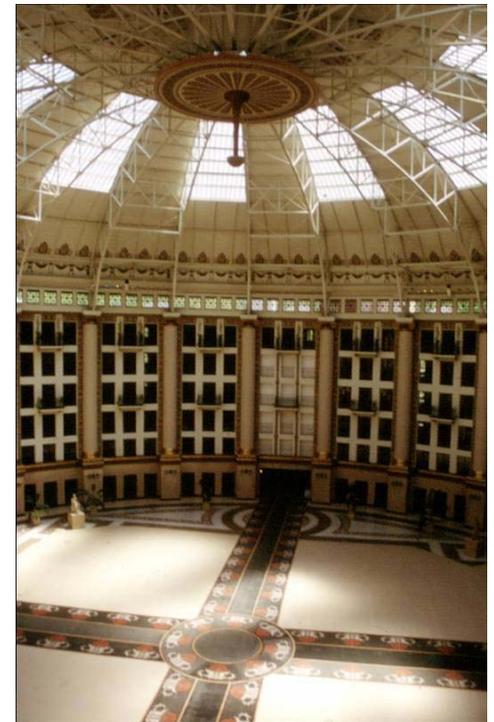


After the Depression, the hotel was forced to close, and was occupied by several educational institutions over the years. By 1991 it was vacant, and part of the outer walls had collapsed. There was no money for repairs.

Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana purchased the hotel to try to prevent its demise, and enlisted the help of passionate preservationists Bill and Gayle Cook. The Cooks invested their own money to shore up the structure, rehabilitated the exterior, and restore the interior of the atrium, dome, lobby, dining room, the formal garden and one of the spring houses located on the grounds. The 1998 completion of Phase I awed

and inspired Hoosiers and other visitors who toured the hotel.

In 2005, the Cooks and their son, Carl, decided to complete the restoration of the West Baden Springs Hotel as a 5-diamond hotel and to undertake a renaissance for the whole Spring Valley, including the historic sister hotel, the French Lick Resort Hotel. The Cooks and the Cook Group companies took special care to meticulously restore the West Baden hotel and its distinctive historic features with the highest standards of craftsmanship. The result, due to the commitment and generosity of Bill and Gayle and Carl Cook, is a stunning and luxurious hotel and resort nestled in the valley of Orange County, Indiana.



Clockwise from top: The atrium of the West Baden Springs hotel before restoration. After restoration. An exterior view of the hotel and the grounds at West Baden Springs. (Photos DHPA).

Outstanding Restoration Award

The Indiana Historic Preservation Award for Outstanding Restoration was presented to the Spencer County Commissioners for the restoration of the vaulted art glass ceiling in the Spencer County Courthouse Rotunda.

The Spencer County Commissioners, with the assistance of Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission, submitted a grant proposal to the Historic Preservation Fund program in 2006, requesting \$35,000 for the rehabilitation and restoration of the deteriorating art glass ceiling in the courthouse dome.

The Spencer County Courthouse is located in Rockport, along the Ohio River. The cornerstone of the Classical Revival building was laid in 1919 and dedicated in 1921. One of its most striking features is the central rotunda with a vaulted art glass ceiling, which can be seen from each of the three floors.

The dome is approximately 453 square feet in area and consists of 16 wedge-shaped panels of stained glass resting in a steel frame. Each wedge-



shaped section is further divided into three parts. Many of these panels were bowing, sagging, and warping out of plane, indicating that the lead was losing its strength and ability to keep the glass in place. With the Historic Preservation Fund grant money, and the County's \$35,000 match, they hired Universal Design as the project architect and Mominee Studios to do the restoration work. The delicate undertaking required installing a debris protection buffer in the rotunda, carefully removing the art glass panels and transporting them off site for cleaning and repair, and ultimately replacing the structural "T"s between the panels with anodized aluminum, which is lighter weight and more resistant to corrosion. Finally, the art glass was reinstalled, and a cat walk was also installed to allow better access within the rotunda with less risk to the vaulted ceiling. The restored dome was rededicated on August 20, 2007.

The courthouse is still the seat of county government, and the commissioners' commitment to retain and preserve one of its most significant features and the beautiful restoration were the reasons for the award.



Top right: The Spencer County courthouse art glass dome was in danger of collapse before restoration. (Photo DHPA). Middle and bottom right: After restoration: the vaulted ceiling was cleaned and strengthened. Bottom left: Employees undertake the delicate restoration. (Photos courtesy of Mominee Studios).



Outstanding Tax Credit Project

First constructed in 1920, after fire demolished the Oak Street School, the Hoosier Place Apartments, historically known as the Union City School, originally housed all grade levels from elementary through high school. It was most recently known as the West-side Middle School, and now houses 31 apartments. Although the school originally did not provide hot meals it presently includes a small cafeteria. The auditorium and gymnasium have been unaffected by the change of occupancy and remain available for their original functions.

Quality Housing Development's project first came to the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology for review under Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act, pursuant to seeking HOME mortgage funding from HUD through IHFA, now known as IHCDA. The work proposed in that original submittal would have radically altered the original arrangements and features of the historic school.

With the assistance of Maxwell Construction, the development plan was redesigned to preserve the significant historical features of the building as well as bringing additional funding to the project through the federal program for certified historic rehabilitation tax credits. The project was selected for this year's outstanding Tax Credit Project award not only for the excellence with which it retained the historic character of the building but also as it exemplifies how the Section 106 and Rehabilitation Tax Credit (RITC) can come together to preserve important community assets.



Above: No longer housing students and teachers, the Hoosier Place Apartments entrance welcomes residents to a comfortable home. Below: Before and after photo show the adaptive reuse of classroom space to residential units. (Photos DHPA).



These awards were presented on October 19, 2007 by the DNR Director and State Historic Preservation Officer, Rob Carter, at the 2007 O'Brien Conference on Historic Preservation-Indiana Main Street Annual Meeting in Richmond, Indiana. Indiana Historic Preservation Awards are presented annually to recognize and congratulate the efforts of individuals, organizations, and agencies that educate, preserve, and advocate on behalf of historic preservation and archaeology throughout Indiana.



out of the water at great expense if an appropriate storage location could be found; sell the vessel to a new owner, possibly one outside Indiana, who could afford the needed repairs; or inject flotation foam into the hull compartments at a cost of about \$25,000. The last option was the most attractive, but HSPS lacked the financial resources for this treatment method.

The DHPA secured a small discretionary grant of \$5,000 from the Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service. In addition, the DHPA committed another \$16,000 of its annual Historic Preservation Fund grant from the National Park Service. In exchange, HSPS pledged to provide necessary materials and many hours of necessary skilled labor.

It was imperative to undertake the hull repairs before winter. When docked, the *Barbara H* was vulnerable to impact damage from floating debris. In the winter months, when the water level is highest, more debris is present on the river. An impact from a log on a weakened section of hull plating could have caused a leak, allowing one or more hull compartments to flood. HSPS believed that a single flooded compartment could be catastrophic.

In preparation for the project, Captain Steve Huffman painstakingly cleaned the eight hull compartments by pumping out water and sludge, removing bilge pumps and other items, and sweeping and vacuuming out loose rust. Over 1,600 pounds of corrosion material was removed – enough rust to fill 15 five-gallon containers!

Maxwell Marine of Downers Grove, Illinois was hired to inject flotation foam approved by the U.S. Coast Guard into the eight hull compartments. The



foam material expands to many times its original volume to fill voids, and is very similar to spray-on wall insulation foam often seen on episodes of “This Old House.” The closed-cell foam will not absorb water if a hull breach occurs so it provides guaranteed buoyancy. By bonding with the hull plating and structural members, the foam halts corrosion by protecting metal surfaces from contact with oxygen and moisture. Finally, the foam actually

strengthens the hull by making it more rigid. Flotation foam has a service life of at least 20 years, greatly extending the life of the existing hull plating.

Maxwell Marine completed its work in late November. The U.S. Coast Guard will inspect the *Barbara H* this spring and is expected to grant a new operating permit, allowing the public aboard the vessel once again. Revenue from public events and excursions enables HSPS to afford routine maintenance and fuel so this floating museum can remain open.

Funding from the National Park Service made possible the partnership that saved this vessel. The project was a team effort by Captain Steve Huffman and crew, the Historic Sternwheeler Preservation Society, Historic Hoosier Hills, Inc., and the DHPA. This historic vessel will remain in Indiana and will continue to illustrate a past way of life and an important chapter in the history and development of our state.

Top: More than 3/4 of a ton of loose rust was delicately removed from inside the hull compartments — enough material to fill 15 five-gallon buckets. Middle: Captain Steve Huffman inspects the flotation foam that has filled the hull compartments to the top of each deck hatch. Bottom: Vent holes had to be cut through the steel deck to let air escape when the foam expanded. Following Coast Guard inspection, these cut-outs will be welded back in place, ground smooth, and the steel deck repainted. (Photos DHPA).



National Register Listings

Amy Walker, Architectural Historian

This list includes all properties and archaeological sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places between April and December 2007. The National Register is the nation's official list of historical and cultural properties that are worthy of preservation. The DHPA processes all National Register applications for Indiana properties. This list is arranged by county and includes the historic property name, period of significance, location, and areas of significance for which the property is eligible. For all sites in Indiana listed in the National Register of Historic Places, go to www.IN.gov/dnr/historic.

**Indicates nominations that were completed as part of the DHPA and Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana's Historic Courthouse Initiative.

Blackford County

Montpelier Carnegie Library, 1908-1955
Montpelier
Architecture, Education

Elkhart County

C. G. Conn Mansion, 1884 & 1900.
Elkhart
Architecture, Industry, Invention

Violett-Martin House and Gardens, 1855-1949.
Goshen
Architecture, Landscape Architecture

Hamilton County

Sheridan Downtown Commercial Historic District, c.1886-1956.
Sheridan
Architecture, Commerce

Hendricks County

Smith Farm, 1928-1955.
Plainfield
Architecture, Agriculture

Jackson County

Cavanaugh Bridge, 1899-1957.
Brownstown vicinity
Engineering, Transportation

Medora Covered Bridge, 1875-1950.
Medora vicinity
Engineering, Transportation



The Benton County courthouse was listed as part of the joint Historic Courthouse Initiative between the DHPA and Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. (Photo DHPA).

Lake County

George John Wolf House, 1929.
Hammond
Architecture

Van Buren Terrace Historic District, 1910-1957.
Gary
Architecture, Community Planning/
Development, Engineering, Invention
(Concrete in the Steel City: The Edison
Concept Houses of Gary, Indiana)

Madison County

Central Avenue School, 1891-1956.
Anderson
Architecture, Education

Marion County

Woodstock Country Club, 1923-1956.
Indianapolis
Landscape Architecture, Entertainment/
Recreation, Social History

Owen County

Spencer Public Library, 1912-1957.
Spencer
Architecture, Education

Porter County

Josephus Wolf House, c.1875.
Valparaiso vicinity
Architecture

Posey County

Harmony Way Bridge, 1930.
New Harmony
Engineering, Transportation

Pulaski County

**Pulaski County Courthouse, 1894-1957.
Winamac
Architecture, Politics/Government

Vermillion County

**Vermillion County Courthouse, 1925-1957.
Newport
Architecture, Politics/Government

Washington County

Beck's Mill Bridge, 1922-1957.
Salem vicinity
Engineering, Transportation



The Wolf-Knapp House in Lake County (Photo DHPA).

Questions?
Call the DHPA National Register
staff: 317-232-1646
or go to the DHPA website:
www.IN.gov/dnr/historic

REMEMBER!

Listing DOES:

Give a property prestige;
Provide eligibility to non-profit properties for preservation grants;
Provide eligibility to home- and business- owners for rehabilitation tax credits.

Listing DOES NOT:

Prevent owners from altering their property;
Restrict the use or sale of the property;
Establish times the property must be open to the public.

Earthworks continued from page 6

formation. Research and field investigations combine to produce critical insights into these places. Some projects have even resulted in several important earthworks being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

The majority of the remaining earthworks, or portions of them, in our state are owned by private individuals, and communication with land owners (who could be positive site stewards) seems critical to future preservation efforts. Anticipated issues for future discussion include:

- Continued and expanded interpretation and preservation of mound sites on State land.
- Development of a broad heritage tourism “master plan” for sites such as these, with specialized objectives for individual sites.
- Other preservation methods when acquisition of sites currently in private hands is not feasible.
- Formation of additional partnerships with others who share the goal of preservation of earthworks.

To learn more about the Earthworks Initiative, recording, and protecting mound sites contact the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. Through cooperative efforts, we can work towards the goals of better protection, preservation, appreciation, and interpretation for these irreplaceable sites which are of local, state, national, and even world significance.



UPDATES... Here's What's New

Preserve America

Congratulations to the City of Richmond on its designation as Indiana's newest Preserve America Community! Indiana currently has nine designated Preserve America Communities: Bedford, Crown Point, the Irvington Neighborhood in Indianapolis, Lafayette, Madison, Monroe County, New Albany, New Harmony, and Richmond. In addition, Elkhart and Noblesville have submitted their applications and are awaiting formal designation, which comes from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

To be eligible for designation, communities must demonstrate that they: (1) protect and celebrate their heritage, (2) use their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization, and (3) encourage people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs. An applicant community can be a county, city, town, or a distinct neighborhood of a city with a population greater than 200,000.

Preserve America Communities are eligible for 50/50 matching grants through the program. Grant awards can range from \$20,000 to \$150,000 for projects that will research, document, interpret, promote, or conduct needed planning for local heritage resources. There is \$7.5 million available for grants in federal fiscal year 2008, but only about 600 designated communities can compete for this funding.

For more information on this White House initiative, go to: www.preserveamerica.gov, or contact Steve Kennedy at the DHPA for guidance on the application to become a Preserve America Community.

Historic Courthouse National Register Nominations

As a result of the Indiana Historic Courthouse Initiative, five National Register nominations have been prepared by contracted consultants and approved by the State Historic Preservation Review Board. The historic courthouses in Fountain, Miami, Pulaski, Vermillion, and Warren Counties will soon be officially listed by the Keeper of the National Register in Washington D.C. Benton and Newton Counties are pending with the DHPA staff and will be on the next agenda of the Review Board. Thanks to Camille Fife, Eliza Steelwater, and Joanne Stuttgen who researched and wrote the nominations for the first round of this important initiative. A cooperative agreement between the DHPA and Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana has selected the courthouses of Adams, Daviess, Greene, Pike and Sullivan Counties for the next round of National Register nominations and are currently in the works.



The Vermillion County Courthouse. (Photo DHPA).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Check Preservation and Archaeology events at the DHPA's website: www.IN.gov/dnr/historic/calendar.

The Geological Society of America's Annual Meeting will be April 24-25 in Evansville, IN. For more information: www.geosociety.org

The next quarterly meetings of the **Indiana Freedom Trails** will be in April and October 2008. Contact the DHPA for more information.

The next quarterly meetings of the **Indiana Historic Preservation Review Board** will be April 24, and July 23, 2008. Contact the DHPA for more information.

Historic Preservation Month is May 2008. For more information: www.IN.gov/dnr/historic

Indiana Archaeology Month is September 2008. The DHPA and other organizations will sponsor activities around the state. For more information go to: www.IN.gov/dnr/historic

The Cornelius O'Brien Conference on Historic Preservation and Indiana Main Street Annual Meeting will be October 16-18, 2008 in Bloomington. More information will be available at the DHPA website: www.IN.gov/dnr/historic.

Program on Ancient Technologies and Ancient Materials at the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign on Friday, November 7, 2008. For information: www.itarp.uiuc.edu/atam/atamconf08_000.html



This corner building in the North Vernon Historic District is another example of decorative Mesker storefronts (Photo DHPA).

Mesker Brothers Iron Works in St. Louis eventually established itself in the steel sash industry. In 1961 Frank Mesker, Jr. sold the St. Louis company to his brother John Mesker. Under John Mesker's ownership, the company was sold to Barry Wehmiller Companies, Inc.

Thomas Lonnberg is the Curator of History at the Evansville Museum of Arts, History, and Science.

The museum is located at: 411 Southeast Riverside Drive in Evansville. Go to www.emuseum.org for more information. This exhibition is presented in partnership with the William A. Carson Foundation.



In the Linton Historic District the storefront pilaster on the left bears the Mesker stamp. The one on the right is a Thatcher A. Parker (Terre Haute, IN). (Photo DHPA).

Historic Preservation Month May 2008

Amy Walker, Architectural Historian

May is rapidly approaching so the time has come to celebrate historic preservation. The national theme this year is "Preservation Matters" so we hope you'll help us promote preservation. Here's what the DHPA is doing this year:

- **NEW THIS YEAR:** We're partnering with INShape Indiana, the governor's fitness initiative, to bring you INShape in Historic Indiana—a series of walking tours around the state that teach you about history and architecture while getting you a little exercise! So organize a tour in your community, register at www.IN.gov/dnr/historic for INShape in Historic Indiana by April 18th, and receive a packet of promotional items and freebies along with free publicity to INShape's 63,000 members!
- The entry deadline for the 4th annual Preservation Month photo contest is April 18, 2008 at 5:00pm.
- Exhibit of photo contest entries at the Indiana Statehouse from May 5-16, 2008
- Exhibit of selected photo contest entries at the Indianapolis Artsgarden from May 19-30, 2008
- Preservation Month posters
- Online calendar of events for preservation related activities around the state—there's bound to be something nearby!

If you would like to register for INShape in Historic Indiana or submit an event for the calendar, go to www.IN.gov/dnr/historic.

Indiana Historic Bridges Inventory

The Indiana Historic Bridges Inventory, managed by the Indiana Department of Transportation, in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the DHPA is still underway with a targeted completion date at the end of 2008. This spring, INDOT will host two public presentations to provide an update on Historic Bridge Inventory activities, and an opportunity for questions and public comment. A 60-day public review period of the National Register eligibility recommendations report is expected to begin in April or May 2008. A 60-day public review period of the select and non-select recommendations report is expected to begin in late Fall 2008. The project website is updated frequently with all of the latest project developments: www.IN.gov/indot/7035.htm.



Preserving Indiana

spring/summer 2008

DNR
Indiana Department of
Natural Resources



402 West Washington Street, Room W274 • Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2739
Phone: 317-232-1646 • Fax: 317-232-0693
Email: dhpa@dnr.IN.gov • www.IN.gov/dnr/historic



Still Need a 2008 Calendar?

The DHPA is celebrating is the 75th anniversary of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Public Art program (which employed artists to create murals in various public buildings, like courthouses and post offices) with a calendar highlighting murals in Indiana. To order a calendar, contact the Indiana Historical Bureau at 317-232-2535. Cost is \$5.60 + tax per calendar + shipping and handling.

DNR-DHPA

402 West Washington Street, Room W274
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CHANGE OF SERVICE REQUESTED