

## Grants to preserve local history across state

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) helps strengthen Indiana's historical and cultural heritage through annual federal matching grants it awards to communities and not-for-profit groups to assist local preservation projects. This year, the DNR Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology has awarded fourteen federal Historic Preservation Fund grants totaling more than \$481,000 for historic preservation and archaeology projects in Indiana communities (see list below). In most cases, these grants require a dollar-for-dollar match of local or private funds, for a total projected investment of \$929,000 in these important cultural resource projects.

Funding comes from the National Park Service, a unit of the U.S. Department of the Interior, which distributes federal funds to the states through its Historic Preservation Fund Program. Since 2000, the state has awarded \$11 million to assist more than 500 important heritage preservation projects across Indiana. When combined with local matching funds, this represents investment of more than \$23 million into preservation of Indiana's heritage.



### **Steuben County (Angola)**

The Powers Church and Cemetery Association will receive a \$25,000 grant to rehabilitate the bell tower and steeple of the 1876 wood-frame church. It was built as part of the community established by the Powers brothers, and served the community until the early 20<sup>th</sup>

century. A committee to save and protect the church formed in the 1970s and found the church to be almost entirely intact with original interior features and décor. The committee has carefully maintained the church since then. Currently, there is water infiltration and wood rot evident in the steeple and bell tower, which is threatening these prominent features as well as interior spaces with original finishes. The scope of work includes inspecting and reinforcing the structural portion of the tower and steeple, and repairing damaged and rotted woodwork that clads the steeple and bell tower.

**Monroe County (Bloomington):** The Monroe County Government will receive a \$49,850 matching grant to rehabilitate the Alexander Memorial on the grounds of the County Courthouse. The memorial was erected in 1928 at the direction of Mr. Alexander, who was a Monroe County native and Civil War veteran. The monument was placed on the courthouse grounds as a memorial to honor all the soldiers and sailors from Monroe County who have served in all wars. A 2017 assessment documented physical conditions as well as the original construction methods, and found that most mortar joints were severely eroded and allowing water infiltration into the interior of the monument structure. In addition, biological growth may be holding moisture that is causing staining and stone erosion. The scope of work includes gently cleaning the historic limestone elements of environmental staining as well as organic growth, and repointing all mortar joints. Mortar pointing will also be conducted during the reassembly and reinstallation of the carved stone panels that are being restored outside of the grant scope.





### **Madison County (Chesterfield)**

The Friends of Camp Chesterfield will receive \$11,500 to rehabilitate the Koch Cottage, believed to have been constructed in 1899. It is the most architecturally intact example at the Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp of a two-story cottage from the late nineteenth/early-twentieth century. It is located on the park side of the district and has few exterior alterations and a high degree of architectural integrity. The cottage has had recent preservation investment, including installation of a new roof, fabrication of 14 custom-made wood windows to replace original units that were damaged and rotted beyond repair, removal of asphalt siding, and replacement of rotted foundation sill plates. The HPF project will result in a number of exterior rehabilitation activities in order to halt water and animal infiltration, repair damaged and deteriorated features, and finish securing the building envelope.





**Allen County (Fort Wayne):** The City of Fort Wayne will receive a \$50,000 matching grant to assist with rehabilitation of the ironwork on the Wells Street Bridge. The bridge is a metal Whipple through truss built in 1884. It is a 180' single span across the St. Mary's River that was used for vehicular traffic until 1982, connecting the downtown with the near north side of Fort Wayne. Since its closure to vehicles, it has been used exclusively by pedestrians and bicyclists as part of a popular trail in Promenade Park. Although the bridge remains structurally sound, many decorative cast iron elements have deteriorated, cracked, and broken, resulting in loss of many of the pieces that have been shed and posing a safety hazard for users of the bridge.



**Marion County (Indianapolis):** The Indianapolis Propylaeum will receive a \$48,465 grant for masonry rehabilitation on the original carriage house of the Schmidt-Schaf home. It is the only original, two-story, brick-clad structure of its type in the Old Northside Historic District. This building originally housed carriages and automobiles, as well as the boiler plant, laundry facilities, and rooms and apartments for servants that worked in the main house. The building was later adapted into two storefronts facing 14<sup>th</sup> Street, an upstairs apartment, a large studio space, and a townhouse. Masonry deterioration has resulted in water infiltration that has damaged interior spaces and left parts of the building unfit for use or occupancy.



### **White County (Monticello)**

The Twin Lakes School Corporation will receive \$26,558 to address foundation issues at the Southside School. The brick Romanesque Revival style school was built in 1892 and continues to serve the school corporation. In 1963 it became the administration building, it withstood the 1974 tornado that damaged and destroyed part of downtown Monticello, was renovated in 1988, and had an addition built in 2007 to better accommodate staff and provide ADA compliant access. The building has some masonry deterioration and water infiltration issues due to ponding, improper water runoff, and settling of the foundation. The scope of work includes rehabilitating the masonry foundation and properly addressing guttering and runoff issues that have exacerbated brick masonry deterioration in certain locations, particularly the southwest corner.

**Muncie:** Cornerstone Center for the Arts will receive a \$37,100 grant to stabilize and rehabilitate the exterior masonry of the six-story Tudor Gothic Revival style Masonic Temple built in 1926. Currently, the building is home to the Cornerstone Center for the Arts, which provides arts, arts education, and community enrichment in East Central Indiana. Over the years, multiple projects to maintain, rehabilitate, and modernize the building for use have been completed. A 2019 assessment identified ongoing areas that require attention. One is exterior masonry rehabilitation on the weather-exposed west elevation, which has extensive mortar loss that is allowing water infiltration. This water damage has resulted in significant plaster and paint deterioration on the third floor and third mezzanine level.





## **Floyd County (New Albany)**

The Floyd County Historical Society will receive \$10,000 for masonry rehabilitation on the William Young House. The ca. 1837 brick residence now houses the Floyd County Historical Society's Padgett Museum. The building retains significant integrity with original six-over-six windows, interior woodwork, and other features intact. Some masonry rehabilitation was performed in 2005, and the north and east side elevations are in good condition. The west and south elevations both exhibit brick deterioration, mortar loss, and some areas of deflection. The project consists of masonry rehabilitation to stabilize the west and south sides and protect the building and the collections within.



**Vincennes:** The City of Vincennes will receive a \$50,000 grant to continue window rehabilitation on the Beaux Arts style Post Office, which is now the Police Department building. For this project, twenty-five original windows will be rehabilitated, and appropriate wood replacement units will be fabricated for five vinyl windows. Most of the original windows covered by this phase are six-over-six double hung units or paired six-light casements. The wood windows are deteriorated due to weathering, paint loss, dry rot, joint separation, and water infiltration. The five vinyl windows will be replaced with newly fabricated wood windows to match the original windows throughout the building.



**Fort Wayne:** The City of Fort Wayne will receive a \$3,020 matching grant to nominate the Beechwood Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places. It is comprised of several plats, with large homes constructed from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century through the 1940s. Significant for community development and planning, this picturesque neighborhood with large lots, mature trees, and some curvilinear streets seamlessly incorporates the natural topography into the neighborhood design. This district will include approximately 57 contributing properties.

**Huntington:** The City of Huntington will receive a \$20,000 grant to prepare rehabilitation plans for the Memorial Park Water Race. In 1937, a WPA project consisted of embedding large flat stones into the sloping banks of the park in order to create a water race that carried storm water from the spillway of the south pond to West Park Drive. The stone race channel walls are roughly 16” thick, range in height from 3’ to 5’, vary in width from 8’ to 12’, and run nearly 500 feet in length. Overall, the water race is in fair to poor condition. There are several places where deterioration has caused some of the stone walls to collapse due to hydraulic forces, freeze-thaw cycles, undercutting, and vegetation growth. In addition, the channel and in-line basin are impacted by debris and vegetation growth. The project will use HPF funds to hire a professional engineering firm to evaluate the current condition of the stone race and develop plans for appropriate rehabilitation.

**Tippecanoe County:** The University of Indianapolis will receive a \$49,998 grant for an archaeological survey at Prophetstown State Park. Park staff have identified four high priority areas for survey, totaling about 29 acres. The project will conduct Phase I-b survey of at least 19 acres across three of these four areas and conduct ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey of the four pre-Contact mounds located within the park. The HPF-assisted survey activities will encompass a total of approximately 25 acres.

**Morgan-Monroe Counties:** Ball State University’s Applied Anthropology Laboratories will receive \$49,999 for an archaeological survey at portions of the Morgan-Monroe State Forest (MMSF), a DNR property of over 24,000 acres. Properties that eventually became the MMSF were initially acquired by the state in 1929 and in the 1930s two Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps were established. The project will conduct a Phase I-a survey of approximately 60 acres, situated in the vicinity of the CCC camps. The focus will be on areas surrounding two reported CCC camps, one of which was for African American workers. The project will fully delineate the extent of the camps and document any archaeological features.