



MARKTOWN UPDATE

A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society

APRIL 2006

Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana Announces 10 Most Endangered List For 2006

Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana urgently calls your attention to irreplaceable historic sites on the verge of extinction. Jeopardized by deterioration, development pressure, sprawl, and lack of imagination, the 10 Most Endangered face imminent threats. Time ran out for two landmarks on the 2005 Most Endangered list: the wrecker's ball claimed the 1927 Terre Haute House, a nine-story hotel, and the 1929 First National Bank in East Chicago.

Indiana's 10 Most Endangered Landmarks in 2006 are:

- Beck's Mill**, Salem
- Colgate-Palmolive Plant and Clock**, Clarksville
- Evansville State Hospital**, Evansville
- Frankfort Roundhouse**, Frankfort
- Illinois Building**, Indianapolis
- Marktown Historic District**, East Chicago
- National Military Home**, Marion
- Randolph County Courthouse**, Winchester
- Studebaker Administration Building**, South Bend
- Indianapolis Public School #97**, Indianapolis



Colgate-Palmolive Plant and Clock
(NEW on 10 Most list)
South Clark Boulevard & Woerner Avenue, Clarksville.

The Southern Indiana Reformatory used prison labor to produce furniture and many other items used in the state's hospitals, asylums and

schools. When the state announced its intention to close the jail, a commercial manufacturer saw opportunity in the complex and its location. Colgate-Palmolive bought the Clarksville site in 1921 and began making soap even before all the prisoners were relocated. Colgate-Palmolive added structures to accommodate its expanding product line, including a 1940s Art Moderne office building. Since the '20s, folks in southern Indiana and Louisville have checked the time by glancing at the huge lighted face of the Colgate-Palmolive clock mounted atop the main reformatory-turned-factory building, built in 1890. Measuring 40 feet across, the landmark time-piece ranks among the largest clocks in the world.

The threat: Colgate-Palmolive plans to shutter the Clarksville plant in 2008. A vacant, aged industrial complex, even one with time on its side, presents a tough preservation challenge. And Colgate-Palmolive has not revealed its plan for the beloved clock, which it moved to Indiana from its New Jersey plant in 1924.



Illinois Building (NEW on 10 Most list)
Southeast corner of Illinois and Market Streets, Indianapolis

It could be argued that the firm of Rubush and Hunter set the tone and the standard for the architecture on Monument Circle and its immediate environs. The Columbia Club, Circle Tower, Guaranty, and Illinois Buildings—all designed by Rubush and Hunter in the 1920s—create the respectful, complementary context for the Monument

in Indianapolis. Like the other three, the 1925 Illinois Building shows limestone as the dominant material, but dark green marble distinguishes the two tall ground floors. Massive bronze lamps, cast stone panels, and an ornamented cornice offer elegant yet restrained decoration that does not attempt to compete with the Monument.

The threat: A sound yet empty ten-story building in a thriving downtown triggers preservation alarms. It has been suggested that the Illinois Building may be leveled for a condominium tower. The owner is remaining silent, an ominous sign.



Marktown Historic District

(NEW on 10 Most list)

Bounded by Pine Avenue, Riley Road, Dickey and Broad streets, East Chicago

Commissioned by industrialist Clayton

Mark to house his factory workers and designed by famed Chicago architect Howard Van Doren Shaw, Marktown is unique and unexpected. An intact English Garden City sandwiched between giant steel mills and refineries, the 1917 planned community retains all 218 of the original structures. Its European-patterned streets are so narrow that cars park on the sidewalk and people walk in the roadway.

The threat: Marktown faces a dual threat to its unique character. The deteriorated condition of many of its structures suggests the ominous declining level of investment in the village. Without local preservation protection and a sensitive development plan, the district faces the loss of its distinctive architecture and intimate scale. Fences, additions and driveways in yards have already diminished the village's quaint European atmosphere.

Historic preservation saved this community from the wrecker's ball in 1975 and should be the foundation for this neighborhood for generations to come.



Randolph County Courthouse

(NEW on 10 Most list)

Courthouse Square, Winchester

The Randolph County Courthouse has anchored the public square in Winchester since 1875. Even without its Second Empire-style mansard roof and clock tower—removed in a 1950s remuddling—the imposing brick and limestone Randolph County Courthouse reflects the commitment our nineteenth-century counterparts gave to this symbol of community life and the seat of local justice.

The threat: The County Commission voted in 2005 to demolish the Randolph County Courthouse, declaring it too deteriorated and outmoded for renovation. Subsequent public outcry and organized opposition in the county—and throughout the state—has not swayed the two commissioners, who once favored moving the county government to a vacant Wal-Mart on the outskirts of town. If the Randolph County Courthouse falls, it will be the first courthouse demolition in Indiana in 30 years.



Studebaker Administration Building

(NEW on 10 Most list)

635 North Main Street, South Bend

From 1868 to 1963, Studebaker wagons and automobiles rolled out of the

manufacturer's South Bend plants and into America's barns, garages, and hearts. By 2008, only two landmarks will remain to mark the company's storied industrial presence in the city. The four-story Studebaker Administration Building opened in 1909 to accommodate the firm's expanding white-collar staff. Designed in the Renaissance Revival style by influential architect Solon Spencer Beman, the massive red-brick structure also housed employee clubs that offered recreation and fellowship, with a bowling alley, billiard tables, an exercise room and more. In 1941, the company declared the Administration Building a landmark reflection of "the character of Studebaker....strong...ruddy and robust, but not fancy or smeared with gadgets."

The threat: The South Bend School Corporation owns the Administration Building, which it received as a gift from the city in 1970 and will occupy until this summer. Negative local perceptions of the building's size—150,000 square feet—and reusability cloud its prospects. Historic Landmarks has been given permission to market the structure for redevelopment; if we don't find a buyer, the building may meet the same fate as all but one of the historic Studebaker manufacturing facilities—demolition.



Beck's Mill (on 10 Most list since 2005)

Beck's Mill Road at Mill Creek, Salem

Built in 1864, Beck's Mill employed both a water wheel and a turbine to propel the grinding stones until 1914, long after technological changes and centralization signaled the demise of most rural mills. Today, less than 20 of 2,000 gristmills survive in Indiana. Beck's Mill is believed to be the only extant example that was never modernized beyond the grindstone and turbine technology.

The threat: Descendants of the founding family recently deeded Beck's Mill to a new nonprofit group, but the gift has not reversed the landmark's severe

deterioration nor solved the constant threat of vandalism. Water, the lifeblood of a mill, may be its downfall as it streams in through holes in siding and windows.



Evansville State Hospital

(on 10 Most list since 2005)

Four buildings on the grounds of the state hospital, Evansville

Evansville State Hospital carried the name Southern Indiana Hospital for the Insane when it was authorized by the legislature in 1883. Like most of Indiana's state hospitals, the Evansville facility was created in an out-of-the-way place on the city's east side and given a peaceful campus-like design.

The threat: Advancements in medical knowledge and treatment have combined with greater social tolerance and community-based solutions to shrink the populations of state hospitals. As operations at these institutions have been scaled back, many historic structures face cloudy to downright dismal futures. Permission has been sought to demolish vacant and deteriorating historic buildings at Evansville State Hospital, including the Gothic Revival style c.1907 laundry, the vernacular c.1920 bakery, c.1927 headquarters/ward building, and the Neoclassical Revival c.1929 auditorium.



Frankfort Roundhouse

(continued on next page)

The height of your accomplishments will equal the depth of your convictions.



Frankfort Roundhouse

(on 10 Most list since 2004)

Between Morrison and Walnut streets on west side of Frankfort

In the age of the iron horse, engines and cars lumbered into the Frankfort Roundhouse for ash removal, lubrication, coal and water replenishment, and repairs. The roundhouse sheltered radiating tracks and stalls, accessed via a rotating turntable. Frankfort's role as a locomotive and rail car repair hub began in the 1870s. The Frankfort complex includes eight structures, the earliest of which dates from the 1890s, with the 1924 roundhouse dominating the site.

The threat: In spite of its role as a railroad nexus, Indiana has lost nearly all of its roundhouses. Norfolk Southern owns Frankfort's abandoned Clover Leaf-Nickel Plate Railroad Roundhouse and associated structures. In addition to environmental challenges arising from the property's long history as an industrial site, the rare steam-age survivor faces accelerating demolition by neglect.



National Military Home

(on 10 Most list since 2004)

Campus bounded by the Mississinewa River, railroad tracks, 38th Street and Lincoln Boulevard, Marion

The National Military Home in Marion was created in 1890 to look after aging Civil War veterans. The 151-acre, tree-shaded complex included a working farm, barracks, administration and ward buildings, dairy, hospital, chapel, cemetery, theater, greenhouse, canteen, and more. The National Home's handsome red brick buildings, many constructed in the Romanesque Revival style, served veterans of the Civil War and every conflict thereafter.

The threat: The Veterans Administration (VA), which took over in 1930, intends to demolish eighteen his-

toric buildings rather than allow non-VA adaptive uses. Most of the threatened structures were built between 1890 and 1897, including the original hospital buildings. The Military Home's cloistered, self-sufficient past means its landmarks suffer a low public profile.



Indianapolis Public School #97

(NEW on 10 Most list)

1401 East Tenth Street, Indianapolis

The distinctiveness of James E. Roberts School #97's Art Moderne design, unusual for a public school, matches its unique early function as a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to educating physically handicapped students. Named for a philanthropist who made substantial gifts to aid handicapped residents of the city, the 1936 school includes ramps for wheelchair users as well as stairs and an elevator. In addition to the standard classrooms, the building once held areas dedicated to occupational and physical therapy, hydrotherapy, medical facilities, and a sun deck. Now functioning as Horizon Middle School, the two-toned brick landmark occupies an important corner on the northern edge of the National Register-listed Arsenal Technical High School campus, between the historic Cottage Home, Windsor Park, and Woodruff Place neighborhoods.

The threat: The Indianapolis Public Schools' (IPS) position on the James E. Roberts School #97 comes through loud and clear—demolition for a parking lot and expanded playground for an adjacent, non-historic middle school. The loss of the unusually hip-looking School #97 would diminish the city as a whole and create a void on a corner that touches four landmark areas.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

What we do for ourselves dies with us.

What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal!

We're watching...

While not in imminent jeopardy, a handful of former 10 Most Endangered places cannot be considered entirely safe. They are:

- ◆ Medora Brick Kilns, Medora (listed '04-'05)
- ◆ Simpson Hall, Indiana School for the Deaf, Indianapolis (listed '99-'05)
- ◆ Pennsylvania Railroad Station, Richmond (listed in '96, '05)
- ◆ Guilford Township, Hendricks County (listed '96-'97)

To learn more about the 10 Most and those on the watch list, visit:

www.historiclandmarks.org

Make the save!

For more information on the 10 Most Endangered—or for help in saving a threatened landmark in Northwest Indiana—call the office nearest you.

Historic Landmarks Foundation offices:

Calumet Office - Miller Beach 219-938-2200

Northern Office - South Bend 574-232-4534

Headquarters - Indianapolis

317-639-4534 / 800-450-4534

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Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana's
10 Most Endangered brochure, 2006.

As for the Marktown Historic District...

"Make no little plans: They have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will never die, but long after we are gone will be a living thing, asserting itself with ever growing insistency. Remember that our sons and grandsons are going to do things that would stagger us. Let your watchword be order and your beacon beauty."

Daniel H. Burnham, Architect

The Plan of Chicago C. 1909

"...Marktown presents a living lesson in history and culture from the pioneer growth period of the Calumet Region. This region, which is America's industrial heartland, is quite young compared to other great regions of this nation. Sometimes in such areas the concern for history is lost. But here there is the opportunity to preserve the Marktown community as a living and useful landmark of genuine architectural and cultural significance for the Calumet Region, the state and the Country. The Marktown area is an important cultural resource which should be restored to accurately present the intentions of the original design."

National Register of Historic Places

Marktown Historic District Nomination 1975

Richard Morrisroe - City Planner



No title to this photo is necessary. For those of you who have not noticed, Mittal Steel has placed a new sign on the catwalk over Riley Road. Yes, they included the Marktown Historic District in their new signage and they gave us top billing in the text department.

Well done Mittal Steel. Being good neighbors is what it's all about.

Please contact us via the internet at mrmarktown@sbcglobal.net

E.C. neighborhood 'marked' by the state

Marktown finds place on state's most endangered historic places

BY STEVE ZABROSKI - Times Correspondent

EAST CHICAGO | The tiny Marktown neighborhood was named one of the state's most endangered historic places on Monday, and residents there hope to avoid the fate of the last city property to make the list.

The Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana released its annual 10 Most Endangered List of Hoosier Landmarks, which this year includes the 1917 planned community on the city's far northwest side.

The 1929 First National Bank Building at Chicago Avenue and Indianapolis Boulevard is no longer on the endangered list, having been demolished last year to make room for a retail shopping center.

"Being on the list might help, it might not," said Raphael Bejar, president of the Marktown Preservation Society, Inc. "Only time will tell."

The Indianapolis-based foundation published its annual tally of threatened places to raise awareness about rescuing endangered

landmarks and preserving historic neighborhoods and downtown areas.

"The list can attract grants to study structural conditions or fund rehabilitation, and it also draws attention from elected officials who can contribute to finding solutions," said Mark Dollase, the foundation's vice president for preservation services.

Marktown has been identified for concern due to the deteriorated condition of many of its 218 homes, and unregulated modifications to their original appearance such as amateur-built building additions, fencing and driveways.

"There's so much that can be done here," Bejar said. "The politicians come around and tell us that money is available for things, but once the election is over, Marktown gets put on the back burner again."

The city's Redevelopment Department recently hired Bauer Latoza Studios, a well-known

Chicago architectural firm, to develop a revitalization plan for the Marktown community.

"Professionals will meet with city officials, Marktown residents and property owners to define the problems facing the neighborhood and develop viable solutions designed to reverse the trends established over the past 30 or more years," said Paul Myers, redevelopment commissioner and Marktown resident.

Myers said a local street repair project begun in 1990 — and originally scheduled to be finished in 1995 — is now under contract and should be completed this summer.

Since the inception of the Most Endangered program in 1991, the landmarks foundation claims 40 saves and nine losses.

"There are a lot of good people in Marktown," Bejar said. "We've been promised a lot of things. When I see something actually happening, I'll believe it."

(reprinted with permission of the journalist)

TOP 10

See the Whole List of the 10 Most Endangered Hoosier Landmarks at the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana website at www.historiclandmarks.org or learn more about the Marktown Historic District at www.marktown.org.

The 1929 First National Bank building at the corner of Indianapolis Boulevard and Chicago Avenue in East Chicago is no longer on the list of endangered Hoosier landmarks. The limestone, granite and marble structure was demolished last summer to make room for a retail shopping center with a drive-through pharmacy window.

Photo by Steve Zabrowski



Spruce Avenue Restoration Moves Forward

In 1989 plans were being made to drastically change Marktown. The city engineer at that time had three ideas, none of which are worth repeating at this or any other time. Let's just say that none of them would have worked well in this or any other neighborhood.

Our precinct committeeman at the time was Dave Peterson. Dave worked with the Marktown Preservation Society members Darrell Gray, Barbara Perez and Paul Myers to acquire the services of an architectural firm for the renovation of the Marktown streets and sidewalks

The East Chicago Department of Redevelopment hired Carrow Architects and Planners who in turn brought in Chuck Gregersen of the Pullman Historic District in Chicago.

Public meetings were held, concepts were discussed and a final plan was developed. The bottom line is that virtually all of

the residents and property owners of Marktown approved the specific designs for the project.

Since governmental funds were being utilized on the project, both state and federal approval were required before the project could move forward.

While the project was begun under a five year timetable in 1990 funding was deferred to a number of other projects over the years.

Now, sixteen years later the last street to be completed under this plan is about to move forward. The contract has been signed by the Board of Public Works, and the order to proceed has been issued. Over the next three months Spruce Avenue will be totally removed and replaced. Please, excuse our dust while we finish what we started! Special thanks must go to Mayor George Pabey, City Engineer Ernie Jones and all of those who have worked on this project.



Safety Kleen Acquires Additional Lands

We've said this before and we will say it again: "Safety Kleen is a good neighbor!" It is just that simple. Years ago before they purchased their primary site on Riley Road, the property was plagued with problems. It was an unsightly mess and fires broke out on such a regular occasion we thought the E.C. Fire Department was using the property for training purposes.

Then came Safety Kleen and things changed completely. They literally cleared the property and built one of the most modern facilities for oil recovery and recycling in the world. They celebrated their accomplishment by doing a truly outstanding job of landscaping and continued maintenance in the area.

So, what's new you ask? Safety Kleen, after several years of negotiations, has acquired the old NIPSCO site on the

corner of Indianapolis Boulevard and Riley Road which is located just west of their current facility.

Knowing that this was about to occur is what spurred on the Marktown Preservation Society to refurbish the planter on the corner of that property last year. When spring arrives in a month or so look to all of our planters for the first signs of spring when tulips and daffodils make their first appearance. It was our way of saying "Great things are about to happen here - just watch!"



Exactly what Safety Kleen will be using the property for has not been discussed publicly thus far. What we do know is that whatever Safety Kleen does they do well and with style and dignity. Look for this property to be cleaned out and cleaned up and look to this entrance way to Marktown for great things in the coming years.

**With TEAMWORK all things truly are possible.
You don't have to be elected to be a leader in a community.**

Letters From Our Readers

March 6, 2006

Hey Paul,

Sorry it has taken us so long to get back to you about Kaylee's report on Marktown. It has been kind of crazy around here. Jeff just asked me if we ever e-mailed you about her grade. Anyways, she received an A on her whole report. Actually I think it was a 100%!!! We were thrilled. On her oral report she said a lot of kids were asking her questions.

The good thing was she could answer most of them. We had a couple people call and ask us where this place is and how we found it, because they would be interested in doing a report next year on it. You may become bombarded! hahah Anyways, thanks for all your time and help we really appreciated it.

And also thanks for sending us the newsletter each month, we really like reading up on your town.

Sincerely,

Sherry, Jeff and Kaylee Bluethmann

Lake County Historian

Lowell, Indiana

My name is Barbara Luft. I have been doing some research on my family history and am in need of your help. My grandparents lived in East Chicago for quite some time. It's possible my grandfather was even born there. I know he was born in Indiana. The trouble I'm having is that all I know about them is their names. I'd like to know their birth dates and where they were born. Also, I'd like to know when and where they died.

My grandfather did work for the railroad at the time of his death, although I don't know which one. I believe he was living in East Chicago when he died. If I give you their names would you see what you could find out about them? I've written to every agency I can find on the Internet. I'm hoping someone will be able to help me.

(continued in next column ►)

Grandfather's name -

Herman Harvey Geutzke

Grandmother's name

Eva Victoria (Pajeau) Guetzke
1920 census states they were living at 308 3rd Street in East Chicago

By the way, my grandfather had a badge when he worked for the railroad. On it is "Police - M.M. Co. - 5 - East Chicago". Could this be the Railroad Police? Or a Security Company of some kind?

I do hope you'll write back. I'll be looking forward to hearing from you.

Barbara Luft

Froid, Montana

Note to our readers:

We will publish our response to Barbara Luft in the May issue of Marktown Update. The Marktown Preservation Society receives a number of letters like this each year. In some cases they are answered quite easily. See you next month!

THE LAKE COUNTY TIMES

VOL. XIV, NO. 94

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1919

HAMMOND, INDIANA

MARTIAL LAW DECLARED AT EAST CHICAGO

Gov. JAMES F. GOODRICH of Indiana yesterday issued the following proclamation explaining the state of riot in the Calumet region and declaring martial law.

WHEREAS, There now exists within the cities of East Chicago and Indiana Harbor, Lake County, Indiana and the immediate environments thereof a state of riot and lawless insurrection against the laws of the State of Indiana involving violence and continued breeches of the peace, and the destruction of property and personal injury to peaceful and law abiding citizens: and

WHEREAS, there has existed and now exists in such cities a certain class of individuals who have been and are disregarding the laws of such state and are offering violence to property and the citizens of said cities and vicinity; and

WHEREAS, there has been and are upon said streets lawless assemblages aided by and under the direction of vicious and lawless persons; and

WHEREAS, from time to time prop-

erty has been destroyed and citizens assaulted: and

WHEREAS, there is intimidation and violence are being resorted to by said lawless class of individuals; and

WHEREAS, the civil authorities of said cities and county by reason of such lawlessness, such acts of violence and such disturbances, have been and are unable to cope with or control conditions and have so certified such fact to the under signed as Governor of the State of Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the constitution of the state constitutes the Governor thereof the highest executive authority therein and provides that he shall take care that the laws of the state be faithfully executed; and NOW THEREFORE, I JAMES F. GOODRICH GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF INDIANA and COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of the Military Forces thereof by virtue of the authority vested in me by the constitution of said state, do hereby proclaim and declare said cities and their

immediate environments to be in a state of riot and insurrection against the laws of the commonwealth and the peace and dignity of the state and do hereby proclaim martial law throughout said cities and throughout the territory adjacent thereto and for a distance of five miles in all directions from the boundaries of said cities and do hereby command all turbulent and disorderly persons immediately to disperse and retire peacefully to their respective homes and hereafter submit themselves to the lawfully constituted authorities of said county and cities and do hereby invoke the aid cooperation of all good citizens of said county and cities to uphold the law and preserve the public peace.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand as the governor of State and as Commander in Chief of the Military Forces thereof and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State at the Capitol of the City of Indianapolis at One O'clock p.m. this 4th day of October, 1919.

Text confirmed by the Indiana State Archives, Commission on Public Records