THE COUNTY HOME IN INDIANA:
A FORGOTTEN RESPONSE TO POVERTY AND DISABILITY

A THESIS
SUBMITTED TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE
MASTER OF SCIENCE HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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MAY 2013
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This thesis would not have been possible without the encouragement and assistance of so many people. I would first like to give sincere thanks to my thesis advisor, Vera Adams, whose enthusiasm and insightful comments made writing this thesis a rewarding experience. I would also like to thank my readers, Paul Diebold and Frank Hurdis. Their attention to detail was invaluable.

It is absolutely necessary that I acknowledge the superintendents of Indiana’s remaining functioning county homes. After interviewing most of them, I am fairly certain that nobody knows or cares more about these buildings than they do. The average superintendent has worked at his or her county home for twenty-one years. Four live in them. I was happily surprised by their generosity and willingness to speak with me about the history and present situation of Indiana’s county homes. They are the heart and soul of this thesis.

I want to thank my father as well. He took me to visit my very first county home, in Kosciusko County, when I was fourteen, to see the place where my third great-grandmother spent her last days.
There are countless other people who I should be thanking. Several county home owners allowed me to tour their homes or businesses. Numerous librarians and local historians went out of their way to find obscure articles and records. I was constantly surprised by people’s kindness.
CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES .............................................................................................................................. iv
LIST OF TABLES ................................................................................................................................. v
INTRODUCTION ................................................................................................................................ 1
CHAPTER I. REVIEW OF LITERATURE AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ........................................... 4
CHAPTER II. METHODOLOGY ......................................................................................................... 20
CHAPTER III. SURVEY OF COUNTY HOMES .................................................................................... 24
CHAPTER IV. THE HISTORY OF COUNTY HOME BUILDINGS ......................................................... 125
CHAPTER V. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS .......................................................................................... 140
CHAPTER VI. CASE STUDIES .......................................................................................................... 154
CHAPTER VII. CONCLUSION ......................................................................................................... 186
BIBLIOGRAPHY ............................................................................................................................. 193
APPENDIX ..................................................................................................................................... 195
ILLUSTRATIONS

Figures

Figure 0.1 A map of Indiana’s ninety-two counties. ............................................................... vi

Figure 1.1 Development of Public Charities, timeline. ............................................................. 12

Figure 2.1 Form developed for this survey. ............................................................................... 21

Figure 4.1 Wayne County Infirmary, built in 1847. ................................................................ 126

Figure 4.2 Switzerland County Poor Farm, built circa 1832. ..................................................... 126

Figure 4.3 "Old County Infirmary," 1862-1890. ....................................................................... 127

Figure 4.4 Marshall County Infirmary. ....................................................................................... 127

Figure 4.5 Noble County Asylum, built in 1871. ..................................................................... 131

Figure 4.6 Warren County Poor Farm, built in 1869. ................................................................ 131

Figure 4.7 Randolph County Infirmary, built in 1899. .............................................................. 131

Figure 4.8 Kosciusko County Infirmary. .................................................................................... 132

Figure 4.9 Sullivan County Infirmary. ....................................................................................... 132

Figure 4.10 Union County Home. ............................................................................................. 132

Figure 4.11 Saint Joseph County Infirmary. .............................................................................. 133

Figure 4.12 Parke County Poor Asylum. ..................................................................................... 133

Figure 4.13 Wells County Home. ................................................................................................ 133

Figure 4.14 Whitley County Farm. .............................................................................................. 134

Figure 4.15 Cass County Infirmary. .......................................................................................... 134

Figure 4.16 Adams County Home. ............................................................................................. 135

Figure 4.17 Bartholomew County Home for the Aged. ............................................................ 135
Figure 4.18 Barns, Jay County Retirement Center ......................................................... 138
Figure 4.19 Blacksmith shop, Jay County Retirement Center ......................................... 138
Figure 4.20 Slaughterhouse, Jay County Retirement Center ........................................... 139
Figure 4.21 Chicken house, Jay County Retirement Center ............................................ 139
Figure 5.1 County Home Construction Years .................................................................. 142
Figure 5.2 Map, Indiana’s Extant County Home Buildings .............................................. 143
Figure 5.3 Map, Functioning County Homes .................................................................... 144
Figure 5.4 Map, Vacant County Homes ........................................................................... 148
Figure 5.5 Vandalized entrance, Parke County Residential Care Center ......................... 149
Figure 5.6 Broken windows and open doors, Parke County Residential Care Center ......... 149
Figure 5.7 Condition by Use ............................................................................................ 152
Figure 5.8 Map, Physical Condition ................................................................................. 153
Figure 6.1 County Homes Dwindle ................................................................................... 157
Figure 6.2 Howard County residents donate aluminum cans ........................................... 172
Figure 6.3 First floor plan, Orange County Poor Asylum .................................................. 175
Figure 6.4 Second floor plan, Orange County Poor Asylum .............................................. 176

Tables

Table 5.1 Current Use of County Home Buildings ............................................................. 152
Table 6.1 County Home Population Over Time ................................................................. 157
Figure 0.1 A map of Indiana’s ninety-two counties.
INTRODUCTION

In the first half of the twentieth century, the county home was a fixture in each of Indiana’s ninety-two counties.\(^1\) Known by a variety of names, such as poorhouse, poor farm, county farm, poor asylum, or county infirmary, the county home offered shelter to those unable to provide for themselves. In historic documents, the term used to refer to this place is symbolic of the current attitudes toward poverty and disability. This institution was publicly owned and managed at the county level,\(^2\) and it preceded any state or federal government welfare policies. Most counties built large, stately, institutional-style brick structures to serve this purpose. Poverty, until the Great Depression, was mainly a local problem.

However, with the Great Depression came changes in social welfare policies, most notably with the passage of the Social Security Act of 1935. Following this legislation, the need for the county home decreased drastically.\(^3\) Subsequent welfare legislation further emptied the county home, until the institution was widely abandoned across Indiana. Fourteen county homes remain in operation under public ownership, but this number is dwindling. A variety of

\(^1\) The Development of Public Charities and Correction in the State of Indiana (Jeffersonville, IN: Board of State Charities of Indiana, 1910), 118.
\(^3\) Ibid, 418.
interconnected and complex reasons have caused this widespread abandonment, as will be explained.

Over the past fifty years, more than half of Indiana’s county homes have been abandoned while very few have remained functional under county ownership, due to changing policy and ideas about public welfare. More than one-third of Indiana’s county homes have been demolished. The nearly systematic abandonment and subsequent destruction of county homes erases an era of Indiana history in which caring for the poor and disabled was a legitimate function of local government.

The increasing rarity of the county home structure makes it of special interest to the preservationist. The institutional form was rarely used twice in a county, and buildings of similar mass and scale are few. In most cases, the county home is second only to the county courthouse in architectural significance and social importance among local government buildings. Common architects were commissioned for the designs of both. A large wall atlas of Marshall County, Indiana, features prominent illustrations of both the courthouse and the county home. The existence of such a structure also tells of the social history of the county and state.

Today, there are very few people who can accurately define and describe the county home. Fewer people realize that county homes still exist or are aware of the services that county homes provide. The wide range of names by which the county home is known is one reason that it is increasingly forgotten. The term “county home” is not familiar to many people today. “Poor farm” or “poorhouse” acquaints people with the county home’s past, but it fails to accurately describe its present function. The county home’s rural setting hides it from the view
of most people while those who do pass by it have little idea of its original purpose or function. Finally, the gradual rate at which county homes have been closed or demolished has done little to raise the awareness of those interested in their preservation.

Scope

The goal of this graduate thesis is to understand the current state of Indiana’s remaining county home buildings. Research questions include:

*Why have half of Indiana’s county homes been demolished?*
*How has the purpose of the county home changed over time?*
*How many county homes are extant, or standing?*
*How are county home structures being used?*
*Why are fourteen county homes still functioning?*
*What is the current situation of functioning county homes?*
*Why are so many county homes vacant?*
*How does local government affect the county home?*
*How do local citizens influence the fate of the county home?*
*How should county homes be adaptively reused? What uses are most/least appropriate?*

The author hopes that by looking at the county home as a building type statewide, preservation groups, who have already recognized the county home as an endangered building type, might gain further understanding of the county home as it stands today. Similarly, this thesis might serve as a useful tool for local preservationists, local government, and local county home advocates. Through an understanding of county homes in other counties, county commissioners and other county home owners will understand the significance of their own county home and also what potential reuse options it may have.
CHAPTER I

REVIEW OF LITERATURE AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

This review includes a wide variety of literature related to social welfare, the county home, and its preservation. References range from histories of American social welfare to newspaper articles summarizing county commissioners’ meetings. The following review of literature will first discuss general sources and then turn to a review of available sources on specific topics.

The History of American Welfare

Knowledge of the history of American welfare provides foundational understanding for how the county home originated and existed among other forms of welfare. June Axinn and Mark J. Stern’s *Social Welfare: A History of the American Response to Need* offers a concise and well-organized summary of the welfare system, broken down into eight chronological phases, starting with the colonial era and ending at present day.

The first phase explores welfare prior to American independence. British colonists instituted poor laws modeled after those of their native country. Relief was administered at the level of the local government and was distributed to the poor in their homes. Relief was
granted only to those with no family able to support them, as colonial America required adults
to look after their children, grandchildren, and aged parents, as had been the case in Great
Britain. Similarly, the poor were only given aid in their place of residency, which deterred the
poor from becoming wandering vagrants. During this time period, the poor were largely
dependents of men who were killed or disabled in various Indian skirmishes, but they also
included the chronically ill, the elderly, and the disabled.

However, a change in treatment of the poor was fast approaching following the
establishment of the nation’s first almshouse in Rensselaerswyck, New York, in 1657. In 1753,
Benjamin Franklin expressed what many colonists were coming to believe regarding the
treatment of the poor, especially the able-bodied. He wrote:

*If these [workhouses] were general, I should think the poor would be more
careful, and work voluntarily to lay up something for themselves against a rainy
day, rather than run the risk of being obliged to work at the pleasure of others
for a bare subsistence, and that too under confinement.*

Franklin’s comments illustrate the beginning of a marked shift toward institutionalized
public welfare in the New World.

The second phase of welfare thought, identified by Axinn and Stern, dates from the
American Revolution to just before the Civil War. The authors note an important difference
between these first two phases. As the United States grew into a thriving, capitalist nation, the
poor were seen less as a naturally occurring sector of society and more as a class of outcasts.
This less generous view of the poor was caused partially by the mass immigration of people

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5 Ibid, 16.
6 Ibid, 20.
7 Ibid, 29.
8 Ibid, 37.
from Germany and Ireland. These newcomers were usually poor upon their arrival. Their foreignness, exemplified by distinctly different religious practices and cultural values, along with their willingness to take extremely low-paying industrial jobs that native-born Americans were loath to accept alienated them to most of the American populace. These immigrants were not perceived as deserving of the charity of the American public.  

It was during this era that poor laws and welfare were nearly abolished in some eastern states, due to this new perception of the poor. 

An early reform movement emerged around the notion that individuals of all ill-perceived tendencies and afflictions could be remediated if they only were placed in the right environment. This belief led to the construction of insane asylums, penitentiaries, orphanages, schools for the deaf and blind, and almshouses for the poor. Following President Pierce’s veto in 1848 of a bill promoted by Dorothea Dix that would have allowed federal support for insane asylums, it was confirmed that erection and management of such institutions was the responsibility of the local and state governments or, more rarely, private charity. 

Following the Civil War, a more progressive era of social reform was born. Immigrants continued to pour in from Europe and westward migration within the country intensified. Growth of the railroad made movement within the country much easier. It also produced some of the greatest wealth the country had ever seen, though it rested in the hands of just a few Americans. This era also saw a new class of welfare recipients: veterans.

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10 Ibid, 52-53.
11 Ibid, 49-51.
12 Ibid, 86-87.
13 Ibid, 84-85.
While veterans of previous wars had been remunerated with land grants and pensions, such treatment of the veterans of the Civil War was insufficient. Forty-three percent of Union troops and fifty-two percent of Confederate forces were either killed or wounded. The total number of casualties was nearly 1.5 million. This does not take into account the even larger number of women and children dependents. A pension system was instituted in 1862 for veterans and their families,14 but it was soon apparent that veterans were in need of greater services. By the end of the war, legislation had passed ensuring that veterans and their families who were in greater need would be cared for in national soldiers’ homes. There was no stigma attached to staying in a soldiers’ home as there was to staying in an almshouse. Soldiers were seen as deserving of such care because of their service to the country.15

While the federal government took a greater interest in veterans, private charities grew to care for the impoverished, mostly in urban areas. New approaches to welfare rested on the idea of “scientific charity,” which was informed by the findings of Charles Darwin.16 Studies tracked the hereditary nature of disabilities like “feeblemindedness,” which fueled the later eugenics movement and resulted in the forced sterilization of certain classes of people in institutions.17 Such ideas about heredity influenced the treatment of pauper children. Prior to this era, children had remained with their parents upon admission to the poorhouse. In the late nineteenth century, public and private charities alike decided that the only way to save the child

15 Ibid, 92.
16 Ibid, 100-01.
17 Ibid, 102-03.
from a life of poverty was to remove it from its parents and place it with a foster family who could instill in the child good morals and character.\textsuperscript{18}

Axinn and Stern outline a fourth phase of welfare philosophy in chapter five, titled “Progress and Reform: 1900-1930.” The context of this era is painted as increasingly globalized and corporate-owned. The United States continued to grow in wealth and benefited from many technological innovations in a variety of fields. However, the wealth produced by these advances continued to go to a minute sector of society, while the average American worker, who was increasingly urban, struggled to get by on the wages paid by industrial employers.\textsuperscript{19}

Victories of the Progressive Era included child labor laws, the eight-hour work day, and women’s suffrage.\textsuperscript{20}

The authors devote an entire chapter to the decade that contained the Great Depression and provide a fairly succinct explanation of New Deal programs, which can be quite confusing. At the height of the Great Depression, in 1933, twenty-five percent of the workforce was unemployed. Many of those who had jobs were underemployed. Axinn and Stern make the important observation that views of poverty changed during the Great Depression. “The depression demonstrated that one could be poor and unemployed as a result of the malfunctioning of society,” not because one was lazy, unintelligent, or conniving.\textsuperscript{21}

Of course, one of the most daunting tasks for government during the Great Depression was the distribution of welfare. Prior to this point, this duty had been almost entirely the responsibility of the local government. However, considering the mass quantity of people

\textsuperscript{19} Ibid, 127-31.
\textsuperscript{20} Ibid, 139-43.
\textsuperscript{21} Ibid, 173-74.
requiring aid, localities across the United States found themselves severely ill-equipped for such a task. The federal government did three things to alleviate the situation. First, it provided more welfare money to the states in the form of grants. Secondly, it started public works projects. Thirdly, it formed public employment programs to employ the many jobless. \(^{22}\) A later, even more significant action was the passage of the Social Security Act in 1935. This act provided social insurance for the aged, the blind, “dependent and crippled children”, and the temporarily unemployed. It also provided aid to women with children to support. \(^{23}\) Social Security benefits were not available to those who resided in almshouses, a fact especially pertinent to this thesis. \(^{24}\)

The sixth phase identified in Axinn and Stern’s history of American welfare is titled “War and Prosperity: 1940-1970.” World War II was the beginning of an era of economic prosperity in the United States. The number of people considered poor in 1970 lessened to nearly half of what it was in 1960. \(^{25}\) More women entered the workforce, and job opportunities for nonwhite workers improved as well. \(^{26}\) Amendments to the Social Security Act in 1965 broadened its coverage, namely through the creation of Medicare and Medicaid. These new services provided health insurance to the elderly and the poor. \(^{27}\) However, in a country that was so prosperous, those who needed additional welfare were viewed negatively. \(^{28}\)

The twenty years that followed, from 1970 to 1990, are defined by Axinn and Stern as years of “economic and social stagnation.” As post-World War II-era prosperity faded and


\(^{23}\) Ibid, 193-95.

\(^{24}\) Ibid, 197.


\(^{26}\) Ibid, 228, 236.

\(^{27}\) Ibid, 254.

\(^{28}\) Ibid, 244-45.
economic growth slowed, the federal government began to retreat from its role in welfare.\textsuperscript{29} However, rather than taking a new approach to welfare distribution or reverting back to a previous method, the federal government cut funding to social welfare programs. This served only to make federal welfare programs ineffective, rather than removing them altogether.\textsuperscript{30}

The final phase of welfare thought, “Social Welfare and the Information Society: 1990-2003,” brings readers to one decade from present-day. The authors define this phase as one in which the federal government continued to cut social programs while providing tax cuts for the rich, thus widening the income gap between the richest and poorest Americans.\textsuperscript{31} A negative stereotype of the typical welfare recipient persisted.\textsuperscript{32} The authors wisely include an entire section focused on the involvement of private charities and businesses in welfare during this era. For example, the authors note that private residential care facilities increased by forty-five percent between 1977 and 1987.\textsuperscript{33} The trends of privatization and returning welfare administration to the states is an attempt to rid the federal government of its involvement in welfare altogether.\textsuperscript{34}

Axinn and Stern’s book testifies that welfare has a long history in the United States, dating back to colonial times. However, despite this long history, the welfare system remains imperfect. This flawed system is thoroughly explored in Michael B. Katz’s \textit{In the Shadow of the Poorhouse: A Social History of Welfare in America}. As the word “poorhouse” is mentioned in the title, it receives ample attention in the book. Katz makes several important observations that

\footnotesize{\textsuperscript{29} Axinn and Stern, \textit{Social Welfare: A History of the American Response to Need}, 277.\textsuperscript{30} Ibid, 278-79.\textsuperscript{31} Ibid, 318.\textsuperscript{32} Ibid, 327.\textsuperscript{33} Ibid, 330-31.\textsuperscript{34} Ibid, 338.}
are relevant to county homes in Indiana, both past and present. For example, despite federal
and state involvement in nearly all present-day forms of welfare, local differences still exist.\textsuperscript{35}
Another very interesting point is Katz’s exploration of the “incompatibility of policies that
simultaneously preach compassion and stress deterrence,” which is so obviously observed in the
history of the county home.\textsuperscript{36} Additionally, Katz discusses industrialization and joblessness in
the United States in the nineteenth century, which led to the construction of so many
poorhouses.\textsuperscript{37}

\textbf{The History of Welfare in Indiana}

An especially interesting work informs this author’s knowledge of welfare history within
the state of Indiana. In 1936, at the height of the Great Depression, three women, Alice Shaffer,
Mary Wysor Keefer, and Sophonisba P. Breckinridge, authored a book titled \textit{The Indiana Poor
Law: Its Development and Administration with Special Reference to the Provision of State Care
for the Sick Poor}. The book is divided into three parts, each written by one of the
abovementioned authors, respectively. Part one tells of the history of welfare within Indiana.
Part two discusses the beginning of state involvement in healthcare. Finally, part three includes
a collection of primary resources compiled by Breckinridge.

The first part of the book, written by Alice Shaffer, is most pertinent to this thesis. It
discusses in great detail the various methods of caring for the poor in Indiana up to the Great
Depression (see Figure 1.1). Shaffer is especially adept in her description of nineteenth-century

\textsuperscript{35} Michael B. Katz, \textit{In the Shadow of the Poorhouse: A Social History of Welfare in America} (New York:
\textsuperscript{36} Ibid, xi.
\textsuperscript{37} Ibid, 5-6.
Figure 1.1 Treatment of Indiana’s sick and poor became more refined throughout the nineteenth century. Source: Board of State Charities of Indiana, *The Development of Public Charities and Correction in the State of Indiana* (Jeffersonville, IN: Indiana Reformatory Printing Trade School, 1910), 10.
forms of welfare. For example, she identifies five methods through which antebellum Indiana
government cared for the poor. The first of these methods was the farming-out system, in
which paupers were auctioned off annually to the lowest bidder, who was responsible for their
room and board. They were also expected to keep the pauper “at moderate labor.” This was
the favored method of dealing with the able-bodied poor from at least 1799 to well into the
nineteenth century. Similarly, a county could contract with an individual for the care of the
entire county’s poor. Apprenticeships for youth became popular following the formation of
the Indiana Territory in 1800. Poor farms were suggested in Indiana’s 1816 constitution, but
it was not until 1821 that the state approved the establishment of one poorhouse, in Knox
County. A decade later, in 1831, the state authorized the establishment of asylums for the
poor in each of Indiana’s counties, which grew to number ninety-two. Outdoor relief, or the
payment of money to paupers in their homes, has always been practiced in Indiana, though it
has gone in and out of favor repeatedly. Shaffer recognizes this on various occasions in part
one, noting that provisions were made so that aid could be distributed to the poor in their
homes if it was comparably economic to staying in the poorhouse. Even in the nineteenth
century, when poorhouses were common, those in charge of poor relief recognized the
importance of family relationships.

38 Alice Shaffer, Mary Wysor Keefer, and Sophonisba P. Breckinridge, The Indiana Poor Law: Its
Development and Administration with Special Reference to the Provision of State Care for the Sick Poor
39 Ibid, 12.
40 Ibid, 30.
41 Ibid, 12.
42 Ibid, 15.
43 Ibid, 17.
44 Ibid, 34.
One of this book’s greatest assets is its description of township, county, and state interaction in welfare administration. Due to its publication in 1936, it just begins to touch upon the great changes that were taking place during the Great Depression. While the depression did alter the federal government’s involvement in welfare, it is remarkable how township and county government roles remained relatively unchanged.

Another important observation made by Shaffer, Keefer, and Breckinridge is the changing role of the county home. They note that, beginning in 1844, care for certain classes of sick poor, like the deaf, the blind, and the insane, shifted from the county home to state-run institutions, leaving the county home with only the “aged poor” population. Furthermore, as the Great Depression redefined poverty, exposing “the inherent weaknesses of an antiquated poor law system,” the authors conclude that even greater changes in Indiana welfare are fast-approaching.46

A current document, the Indiana Code, outlines just how much Indiana has changed and not changed in regard to its involvement in poor relief as established by the state’s legislature. Title 12 contains information about human services of all kinds. Article 30 pertains solely to county homes and similar county facilities. It both outlines the purpose of the county home and explains its administration. This is all pertinent, current information that existing county homes and their governing bodies abide by today. Article 20 is also of interest, as it describes the various forms of assistance that may be provided by the township trustee.47 In this area, little has changed from the nineteenth-century duties of the township trustee as described by

Information about the roles and duties of the county commissioners, county council, and township trustees beyond poor relief are included in Title 36.  

**The County Home**

A very interesting historic resource, and one of the few that does refer to all county homes in Indiana, is *The Indiana Bulletin*. Published in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries by the State Board of Charities and Corrections, later the Department of Public Welfare, *The Indiana Bulletin* was a statewide report on the conditions of each county’s poor asylum, jail, orphanage, or hospital. State institutions are mentioned as well.

The Board of State Charities was formed in 1889, and included six governor-appointed individuals from the two major political parties. Following the initial appointments, terms lasted for three years. Members would visit the abovementioned places and report their findings in the annual *Indiana Bulletin*. The organization of the State Board of Charities and Correction was partially in response to the public’s growing awareness of abuse allegations coming from public welfare institutions. This is mirrored by the great amount of welfare legislation that was passed into law by the state in the decade following the board’s establishment. Such laws set standards, or at least created consequences, for the behavior of employees and administrators of public infirmaries and jails. However, apart from their general influence and their reports,

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48 Shaffer, Keefer, and Breckinridge, *The Indiana Poor Law: Its Development and Administration with Special Reference to the Provision of State Care for the Sick Poor*, 52-53.
49 [Indiana Code](https:// legis.in.gov/laws/indiana/).
50 Board of State Charities of Indiana, *The Development of Public Charities and Correction in the State of Indiana* (Jeffersonville, IN: Indiana Reformatory Printing Trade School, 1910), 1-2.
51 Ibid, 31-41.
the board had little authority to change any welfare institution.\textsuperscript{52} Nevertheless, for the purpose of the preservationist or historian, the board’s reports offer invaluable access to the past, describing treatment and conditions of both people and the structures in which they were housed. For example, it was the board’s duty to review the designs of new public welfare structures, which gives readers today insights into the thoughts that literally shaped the county home.\textsuperscript{53}

A 1955 publication by the Health and Welfare Council of Indianapolis and Marion County explores the legal basis for county homes in Indiana, the present-day form of which is in the abovementioned Indiana Code. The council notes four years in which landmark legislation was passed in regard to the county home in Indiana: 1816, 1851, 1935, and 1947. Indiana’s 1816 constitution, as mentioned in Shaffer, Keefer, and Breckinridge’s book, provided the initial provision for poor farms, though it did not mandate such farms or state that each county should have one. Administrative power to establish poor farms, rather, was handed to the counties in the state’s second constitution, in 1851. Once again, however, it was not required that each county possess a poor farm.\textsuperscript{54} It was not until 1935, during the Great Depression, that the state mandated that “every county shall maintain a county asylum.”\textsuperscript{55} However, by that time, most, if not all, counties already had a county home.

As readers know from Axinn and Stern’s work on the history of American welfare, the Great Depression transformed the welfare system across the country. The federal government became deeply ingrained in the disbursement of welfare. Thus, not too many years later, the

\textsuperscript{52} James H. Madison, \textit{The Indiana Way} (Indianapolis, IN: Indiana University Press, 1990), 223-24.
\textsuperscript{53} The Development of Public Charities and Correction in the State of Indiana, 2.
\textsuperscript{54} Health and Welfare Council of Indianapolis and Marion County, \textit{Social, Economic and Other Factors Affecting the Use of the Marion County Home at Julietta} (Indianapolis: 1955), 1.
\textsuperscript{55} Ibid, 2.
authors of this 1955 report note another change in Indiana law relating to the county home, mirroring this change in welfare policy. In 1947, the 1935 legislation was changed, removing the mandate that all counties maintain a county asylum. Rather, the act now referred to “every county maintaining a county home.”56 The transition from “county asylum” to “county home” had occurred and with it, a changing feeling about the institution’s necessity.

States like Indiana were confused about the role longstanding county institutions were to play in the new world of welfare. This is obvious in the abovementioned 1935 and 1947 legislation which at first so adamantly demanded county homes and then, hardly a decade later, spoke of them as completely voluntary charitable institutions.

A beautifully voiced article by Raymond M. Hilliard of Illinois further expresses the confusion that states were feeling in the wake of the Social Security Act and offers a solution to it. Written in 1946, Hilliard’s article begins with this strong declaration: “Surely, if we were to select a symbol of all we sought to abolish in human misery...when we acted in 1935...to adopt what are now known as our “social security laws,” that symbol would be the traditional “almshouse,” “poorhouse,” or “county farm.”” In the next paragraph, however, Hilliard recognizes that eleven years after the passage of the Social Security Act, county homes are still present in Illinois.57 He concludes that this means that there is a necessity for county homes; that, though Americans hate to admit it, some people do need institutional care.58 Hilliard calls the people who still reside in the county homes the “chronically ill.” He goes on to chronicle the transformation of twelve Illinois county homes from county “poor farms” to “public infirmaries

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56 Health and Welfare Council of Indianapolis and Marion County, Social, Economic and Other Factors Affecting the Use of the Marion County Home at Julietta, 2.
58 Ibid, 480.
for the chronically ill” following the passage of state legislation officially allowing changes to the institution’s nature. These “reborn” county homes emphasize nursing care and are increasingly separated from farming. The article includes photos of various Illinois county homes, which closely resemble those found in Indiana.

While Hilliard identifies a clear transformation of Illinois county homes following state legislation, county homes in Indiana failed to so clearly follow such a path. Rather, county homes drifted toward the path identified by Hilliard, some more gracefully than others. A 1960 pamphlet published by the Indiana Commission on the Aging and Aged expresses a certain frustration with the county home system. Part one is titled “The Problems Posed by County Homes Today.” Part three provides suggestions. While much of the pamphlet is critical of the county home system, harsh claims are backed by numbers and statistics relating to the county home residents, staff, and operation.

**Preservation of the County Home**

There are very few sources that approach the county home as a cultural resource. Two articles, published within a year of each other in *Indiana Preservationist*, inform this author’s knowledge of present-day efforts to preserve the building that once served as the county home, as does a two-minute radio broadcast from 2011. Indiana Landmarks, a statewide preservation organization, is responsible for the production of all three sources. The radio broadcast and

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60 Ibid, 482.
the earlier of the two articles, from 1999, do little more than introduce the county home to those who are not aware of its existence or function. However, a compilation of articles from the March/April 2000 edition of *Indiana Preservationist*, titled “From Rags to Riches,” provides a much more thorough understanding of the county home, both as a historic provider of welfare and as an endangered building type. Following a main, introductory article, additional articles explain the reuse dilemmas and successes of four former Indiana county homes. It is unfortunate that more articles of this caliber do not exist. In a sense, this thesis is an extension of this article, as both have the same goal of preserving and reusing county homes.

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CHAPTER II
METHODOLOGY

Survey

This thesis revolves around a survey of Indiana’s forty-eight extant county homes. Only buildings constructed as county homes are included in the survey. The author surveyed each county home in person. This was the most reliable method of collecting information about a resource that is little known even to local county citizens. Completed survey forms are included in the Appendix. This survey does not tell the full story of each county home. Rather, it provides basic, factual information that informs readers in a general way and serves as a starting point for those who would like to learn more about any particular aspect of this topic.

In order to ensure that similar information was collected about each county home, the author developed a survey form based on those utilized in the Indiana Sites and Structures Inventories (see Figure 2.1). Beyond collecting basic information, like location and year built, the survey also collected facts regarding current use and building condition. The county home exterior and any related outbuildings were photographed. Interior photographs were not taken regularly, partially because the author did not have access to the interiors of many county homes. In other cases, respect for the privacy of residents prevented any interior photographs.
Figure 2.1 Form developed for this survey.
from being taken. Related buildings were identified as those used while the county home building functioned as a county home. Therefore, in the surveys of currently functioning county homes, modern structures, like pole barns, were documented. If an associated cemetery existed, its location was noted.

**Interviews**

If the building was still being used as a county home, the author interviewed an employee, usually the superintendent, to gain an understanding of the home’s position and security within the county and information regarding its current function. General questions were asked in regards to the residents, such as current population and age range. The author inquired about services and activities offered to residents. Questions regarding funding and budget were asked, as it is trouble in these areas that often results in county home closure.

Librarians and local historians were interviewed more informally and were of great help in the collection of historic information. Several private owners of former county homes were gracious enough to discuss their experiences and thoughts relating to county home reuse. Most owners were identified and interviewed when the author surveyed their property.

**Document Research**

The following literature review will reveal that sources relating directly to county homes in Indiana as a building type are very rare. The bulk of pertinent information was taken instead from a variety of local newspapers. Though every county in Indiana had a county home, these buildings are rarely spoken of as a group. Rather, they are commonly mentioned on a county-by-county basis as “the poor farm.” Many libraries and historical societies across the state have compiled relevant newspaper articles in a folder in their vertical files. Local newspapers
historically wrote of construction details, births and deaths at the poor farm, fires, and conditions. More recent articles chronicle the county home’s struggle to stay open and, sometimes, its demolition.
CHAPTER III
SURVEY OF COUNTY HOMES

Introduction

As described in the previous chapter, a survey of Indiana’s remaining county homes was deemed the most reliable way to gather information about this building type. However, it should be noted that a great deal of preliminary research was performed as well. The goal of preliminary research was to establish the location and status (extant or demolished) of each county’s county home. Various web searches and communications with local historians and librarians allowed the author to realize if a county home was extant and, if so, what its address might be.

Most county homes were surveyed in January and February of 2013. The author surveyed an average of four county homes in a day. Certain county homes were more difficult to survey than others. Vacant county homes, like the second Owen County Home, exhibited a generous number of signs deterring trespassers, which made photographs of that home’s various elements difficult to obtain. The Switzerland County Poor Farm is very isolated. The author had to obtain owner permission in order to get close enough to the building to photograph it. Time posed another considerable constraint to this survey. In order to complete
this survey in a timely manner, it was impossible to contact every county home’s owner and learn every detail of each county home’s history. However, researchers interested in a particular county home may use the owner contact information and the additional resources information included in the Appendix to learn more.
Historic Property Name: Adams County Home
Common Property Name: Golden Meadows Home

Location
Address: 3646 N 200 E, Decatur (Washington Township)
GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
  Latitude: 40.798497  Longitude: -84.898513

Historic Information
Year Built: 1942-43  Style: Art Deco
Architect: Charles H. Houck  Builder: Yost Brothers
Years Served as County Home: 71 (1942-present)

Current Information
Building Condition: Good  Present Use: County home
Owner: Adams County Infirmary
Owner Address: 3646 N 200 E, Decatur, Indiana
Owner Phone: (260)724-5375

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: Pump house or smokehouse
  Pole barn
Cemetery: No
Historic Property Name: Allen County Infirmary
Common Property Name: Byron Health Center

Location
Address: 12101 Lima Road (Perry Township)
GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
  Latitude: 41.193982  Longitude: -85.168973

Historic Information
Year Built: 1925/53  Style: Prairie/Contemporary
Architect: A.M. Strauss  Builder:
Years Served as County Home: 48 (1925-1973)

Current Information
Building Condition: Fair  Present Use: Nursing home
Owner: Allen County Board of Commissioners
Owner Address: 200 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana
Owner Phone: (260)637-3166 (facility)

Site
Environment: Suburban
Related Buildings: Single-family residence
Cemetery: No
Historic Property Name: Bartholomew County Home for the Aged
Common Property Name: Salvation Army Corps Community Center

Location
Address: 2525 Illinois Street, Columbus (Columbus Township)

GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
  Latitude: 39.195513  Longitude: -85.894985

Historic Information
Year Built: 1959  Style: Modern
Architect: Harry Weese  Builder: Taylor Brothers (Columbus)
Years Served as County Home: c. 43 (1959-c. 2002)

Current Information
Building Condition: Good  Present Use: Salvation Army Corps Community Center
Owner: Salvation Army, Inc.
Owner Address: 3100 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis
Owner Phone: (812)372-7118 (facility)

Site
Environment: Town
Related Buildings: None
Cemetery: No
Historic Property Name: Benton County Farm
Common Property Name: Benton County Retirement Village

Location
Address: 3639 E 200 S, Oxford (Center Township)
GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
   Latitude: 40.577528   Longitude: -87.252520

Historic Information
Year Built: 1879/1900    Style: Late Victorian
Architect: Beardsley and Shapley (Benton County)/M. Durlauf
Builder: Beardsley and Shapley (Benton County)/E. Clark
Years Served as County Home: 134 (1879-present)

Current Information
Building Condition: Excellent    Present Use: County home
Owner: Benton County Retirement Village
Owner Address: 706 East 5th Street, Fowler, Indiana
Owner Phone: (765)884-0589

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: Activity barn
   Garage
   Yard barn
Cemetery: Yes (1/2 mile northeast of home on S 400 E)
Historic Property Name: Boone County Infirmary
Common Property Name: Maple View Rest Home

Location
Address: 1925 South Indianapolis Road, Lebanon (Center Township)
GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
   Latitude: 40.031078 Longitude: -86.450082

Historic Information
Year Built: 1887/1895/1947 Style: Late Victorian
Architect: Builder:
Years Served as County Home: 118 (1887-present)

Current Information
Building Condition: Good Present Use: County home
Owner: Boone County Highway c/o Boone County Commissioners
Owner Address: 116 West Washington Street, Lebanon, Indiana
Owner Phone: (765)482-2556 (facility)

Site
Environment: Town
Related Buildings: Pole barn
   2 garages
Cemetery: Yes (200 yards north of home, behind bowling alley)
Historic Property Name: Brown County Poor Farm
Common Property Name: Brown County Schools Administrative Offices

Location
Address: 357 East Main Street, Nashville (Washington Township)

GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 39.205563 Longitude: -86.242769

Historic Information
Year Built: 1896 Style: Queen Anne
Architect: Builder:
Years Served as County Home: 67 (1896-1963)

Current Information
Building Condition: Excellent Present Use: Offices
Owner: Brown County School Corporation
Owner Address: P.O. Box 38, Nashville, Indiana
Owner Phone: (812)988-6601

Site
Environment: Town
Related Buildings: None
Cemetery: No
CARROLL COUNTY

Historic Property Name: Carroll County Home
Common Property Name: Carroll Manor

Location
Address: 6409 W 100 N, Delphi (Deer Creek Township)
GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
   Latitude: 40.562856 Longitude: -86.646369

Historic Information
Year Built: 1910 Style: Colonial Revival
Architect: Carl J. Horn Builder:
Years Served as County Home: 103 (1910-present)

Current Information
Building Condition: Good Present Use: County Home
Owner: Carroll County Commissioners
Owner Address: 101 West Main Street, Delphi, Indiana
Owner Phone: (765)564-4340 (facility)

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: Pole barn
Cemetery: Yes (1/3 mile north of home in woods)
Historic Property Name: Cass County Infirmary
Common Property Name: Family Opportunity Center and AIM

Location
Address: 2496 E County Road 125 N, Logansport (Clay Township)
GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
    Latitude: 40.782475 Longitude: -86.327614

Historic Information
Year Built: 1939 Style: Art Deco
Architect: Henry C. Wolf (Logansport)
Builder: Ed Medland and Sons (Logansport)
Years Served as County Home: 54 (1939-1993)

Current Information
Building Condition: Fair Present Use: Offices
Owner: Cass County Infirmary (Family Opportunity Center and AIM)
Owner Address: 200 Court Park, Logansport, Indiana
Owner Phone: (574)753-7834

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: Cell house
                Bank barn
Cemetery: No
CLAY COUNTY

Historic Property Name: Clay County Poor Asylum
Common Property Name: Poor Farm Markets

Location
Address: 3546 E 100 S (Washington Township)

GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 39.370722 Longitude: -87.043049

Historic Information
Year Built: 1911 Style: Beaux Arts
Architect: Builder:
Years Served as County Home: c. 64 (1911-c. 1975)

Current Information
Building Condition: Fair Present Use: Auction house/flea market
Owner: Raymond M. and Carol F. Gayhart
Owner Address: 3475 Mount Zion Road, Bowling Green, Indiana
Owner Phone: (812)835-2144

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: None
Cemetery: No
CLINTON COUNTY
Historic Property Name: Clinton County Home
Common Property Name: Clinton County Parkview Home

Location
Address: 1501 Burlington Avenue, Frankfort (Center Township)

GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 40.294718
Longitude: -86.499972

Historic Information
Year Built: 1918-22
Style: Italian Renaissance
Architect: Charles W. Nicol
Builder: John Paden
Years Served as County Home: 91 (1922-present)

Current Information
Building Condition: Excellent
Present Use: County home
Owner: Clinton County Board of Commissioners
Owner Address: 125 Courthouse Square, Frankfort, Indiana
Owner Phone: (765)659-6378

Site
Environment: Town
Related Buildings: Bank barn
Transverse frame barn
2 machine/tool sheds
Pole barn
2 corn cribs
Brick garage (former summer kitchen or cell house)
Pump house

Cemetery: Yes (across Burlington Avenue, part of golf course)
Historic Property Name: Crawford County Poor Farm
Common Property Name: Laswell Residence

Location
Address: 3240 Curby Road, English (Jennings Township)
GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
   Latitude: 38.273370   Longitude: -86.411144

Historic Information
Year Built: 1888   Style: Bungalow
Architect:   Builder:
Years Served as County Home: 58 (1888-1946)

Current Information
Building Condition: Good   Present Use: Single-family residence
Owner: Gerrell W. Laswell
Owner Address: 228 Ohio Vista Drive, Leavenworth, Indiana
Owner Phone:

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: Wash house
Midwest three-portal barn
Silo
Garage
Small brick outbuilding

Cemetery: Yes (1/3 mile southeast of home. East on Curby Road, turn right on lane where road turns North.)
DAVIESS COUNTY
Historic Property Name: Daviess County Poor Asylum
Common Property Name: Lighthouse Recovery Center, Inc. – Men’s Facility

Location
Address: 1276 E 250 N, Washington (Washington Township)
GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
   Latitude: 38.695772 Longitude: -87.138664

Historic Information
Year Built: 1864 Style: Italianate
Architect: Reason Cunningham
Years Served as County Home: c. 129 (1866-c. 1995)

Current Information
Building Condition: Good Present Use: Residential, drug rehabilitation
Owner: Lighthouse Recovery Center, Inc.
Owner Address: 1276 E 250 N, Washington, Indiana
Owner Phone: (812)257-0113

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: Transverse frame barn
   Smokehouse
   2 privies
   Wash house
Cemetery: Yes (75 yards east of house)
Historic Property Name: Dearborn County Asylum for the Poor
Common Property Name: Youth Encouragement Services, Inc. (YES) – James B. Wismann Youth Home

Location
Address: 11636 County Farm Road, Aurora (Manchester Township)
GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
   Latitude: 39.150423   Longitude: -85.034191

Historic Information
Year Built: 1882   Style: Italianate
Architect: Alex B. Pattison   Builder: Seth Platt
Years Served as County Home: 98 (1882-1980)

Current Information
Building Condition: Good   Present Use: Residential – Youth home
Owner: Youth Encouragement Services, Inc.
Owner Address: 11636 County Farm Road, Aurora, Indiana
Owner Phone: (812)926-0110

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: Smokehouse
                  Garage
Cemetery: No
Historic Property Name: DeKalb County Infirmary
Common Property Name: Sunny Meadows

Location
Address: 2315 County Road 40, Auburn (Richland Township)
GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
    Latitude: 41.381668    Longitude: -85.083104

Historic Information
Year Built: 1908    Style: Late Victorian
Architect: Griffith and Fair (Fort Wayne)    Builder: Fred J. Rump (Fort Wayne)
Years Served as County Home: 105 (1908-present)

Current Information
Building Condition: Good    Present Use: County home
Owner: DeKalb County Infirmary c/o DeKalb County Auditor
Owner Address: 100 South Main Street, Aurora, Indiana
Owner Phone: (260)925-3299 (facility)

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: Chapel
    2 pole barns
    Corn crib
    Basement barn
    Summer kitchen/garage
    Gazebo

Cemetery: No
Historic Property Name: Delaware County Nursing Home
Common Property Name: Willow Bend Living Center

Location
Address: 7524 East Jackson Street, Muncie (Liberty Township)

GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 40.194136 Longitude: -85.299532

Historic Information
Year Built: 1976/87 Style: Modern
Architect: George W. Cox Builder:
Years Served as County Home: 17 (1976-1993)

Current Information
Building Condition: Excellent Present Use: Nursing home
Owner: NHP Senior Indiana LLC
Owner Address: 2211 York Road, Suite 222, Oak Brook, Illinois
Owner Phone: (765)747-7820 (facility)

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: None
Cemetery: No
Historic Property Name: Floyd County Infirmary
Common Property Name: Floyd County North Annex/Youth Center

Location
Address: 3005 Grant Line Road, New Albany (New Albany Township)

GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 39.320379 Longitude: -85.821938

Historic Information
Year Built: 1916 Style: Mission
Years Served as County Home: 62 (1916-1978)

Current Information
Building Condition: Fair, ENDANGERED Present Use: Vacant
Owner: Floyd County Commissioners
Owner Address: 2524 Corydon Pike, Suite 204, New Albany, Indiana
Owner Phone: (812)948-5466

Site
Environment: Town
Related Buildings: None
Cemetery: No
Historic Property Name: Fountain County Farm
Common Property Name: Dowers Residence

Location
Address: 1515 North Portland Arch Road, Covington (Troy Township)
GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
   Latitude: 40.182097   Longitude: -87.390548

Historic Information
Year Built: 1904-05    Style: Late Victorian
Architect:    Builder:
Years Served as County Home: 77 (1905-1982)

Current Information
Building Condition: Good    Present Use: Single-family residence
Owner: Brian C. and Joelle Dowers
Owner Address: 1515 North Portland Arch Road, Covington, Indiana
Owner Phone:

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: Chicken coop
   Workshop
   2 corn cribs
   Shed
   Garage

Cemetery: No
Historic Property Name: Hendricks County Poor Asylum
Common Property Name: Cypress Manor

Location
Address: 865 East Main Street, Danville (Center Township)

GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 39.757772, Longitude: -86.505142

Historic Information
Year Built: 1868/77, Style: Italianate
Architect: Builder:
Years Served as County Home: 145 (1868-present)

Current Information
Building Condition: Good, Present Use: County home
Owner: Hendricks County Farm and Poor Asylum
Owner Address:
Owner Phone: (317)745-9252

Site
Environment: Town
Related Buildings: Cell house, Frame outbuilding, Heating plant
Cemetery: No
Historic Property Name:  Henry County Poor Farm
Common Property Name:  Henry County Youth Center

Location
Address:  103 W 100 N, New Castle (Henry Township)

GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
  Latitude:  39.944330  Longitude:  -85.387512

Historic Information
Year Built:  1855-60  Style:  Greek Revival
Architect:  Builder:
Years Served as County Home:  128 (1860-1988)

Current Information
Building Condition:  Deteriorated, ENDANGERED  Present Use:  Vacant
Owner:  Henry County
Owner Address:  101 South Main Street, New Castle, Indiana
Owner Phone:

Site
Environment:  Town
Related Buildings:  None
Cemetery:  No
HOWARD COUNTY
Historic Property Name: Howard County Home
Common Property Name: Howard Haven Residential Center

Location
Address: 3600 West Boulevard Street, Kokomo (Center Township)

GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 40.461989 Longitude: -86.183119

Historic Information
Year Built: 1957 Style: Contemporary
Architect: Kenneth Williams (Kokomo)
Builder: Mayfield Construction Company (Kokomo)
Years Served as County Home: 56 (1957-present)

Current Information
Building Condition: Excellent Present Use: County home
Owner: Howard County Board of Commissioners
Owner Address: 220 North Main Street, Room 222, Kokomo, Indiana
Owner Phone: (765)452-4552 (facility)

Site
Environment: Town
Related Buildings: Garage
Cemetery: No
Historic Property Name: Jay County Infirmary
Common Property Name: Jay County Retirement Center

Location
Address: 1194 E 200 N, Portland (Wayne Township)

GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 40.472589 Longitude: -84.956926

Historic Information
Year Built: 1895 Style: Neo-Jacobean
Architect: Builder:
Years Served as County Home: 118 (1895-present)

Current Information
Building Condition: Excellent Present Use: County home
Owner: Jay County Commissioners
Owner Address: 120 North Court Street, Portland, Indiana
Owner Phone: (260)726-8702 (facility)

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: Basement barn
                     Barn
                     Hay feeder
                     Hay barn
                     Garage
                     Tool shed
                     Blacksmith shop
                     Slaughterhouse
                     Chicken coop
                     Windmill
Cemetery: Yes (90 yards northwest of house)
JEFFERSON COUNTY
Historic Property Name: Jefferson County Home
Common Property Name: Ferguson Residence

Location
Address: 7815 North State Road 7, Dupont (Lancaster Township)
GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
   Latitude: 38.849219  Longitude: -85.514710

Historic Information
Year Built: 1953  Style: Minimal Traditional
Architect:  Builder:
Years Served as County Home: 26 (1954-1980)

Current Information
Building Condition: Excellent  Present Use: Single-family residence
Owner: Jerry B. and Rose Ferguson
Owner Address: 7815 North State Road 7, Dupont, Indiana
Owner Phone: 

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: Garage
   Transverse frame barn
   2 pole barns
Cemetery: No
KNOX COUNTY
Historic Property Name: Knox County Poor Farm
Common Property Name: Knox County Poor Farm

Location
Address: 2008 South Hart Street Road, Vincennes (Vincennes Township)

GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 38.646762 Longitude: -87.487236

Historic Information
Year Built: 1881 Style: Italianate
Architect: Joseph K. Frick (Evansville) Builder: John H. Piel
Years Served as County Home: c. 83 (1881-1924, 1935-c. 1975)

Current Information
Building Condition: Fair Present Use: Vacant
Owner: Knox County Commissioners
Owner Address: 111 North 7th Street, Vincennes, Indiana
Owner Phone:

Site
Environment: Town
Related Buildings: Summer kitchen
Pole barn
Cemetery: No
Historic Property Name: Kosciusko County Poor Farm
Common Property Name: Miller’s Merry Manor – Corporate Offices

Location
Address: 1690 South County Farm Road, Warsaw (Wayne Township)
GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
   Latitude: 41.209686   Longitude: -85.849956

Historic Information
Year Built: 1895/97   Style: Romanesque Revival
Architect: Wing and Mahurin (Fort Wayne)   Builder: Frobenius and Howdler
Years Served as County Home: 58 (1895-1953)

Current Information
Building Condition: Good   Present Use: Offices
Owner: MMM Invest Inc.
Owner Address: P.O. Box 4377, Warsaw, Indiana
Owner Phone: (574)267-7211

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: 2 garages
   Cell house
   Heating plant
   Basement barn
   2 corn cribs
Cemetery: No
LAGRANGE COUNTY
Historic Property Name: LaGrange County Infirmary
Common Property Name: Historic Apartments at Fairway View

Location
Address: 465 W 50 N, LaGrange (Clay Township)
GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
  Latitude: 41.648058  Longitude: -85.433895

Historic Information
Year Built: 1883  Style: Italianate
Architect:  Builder: P.N. Stroup and Company (LaGrange)
Years Served as County Home: c. 76 (1883-c. 1959)

Current Information
Building Condition: Fair  Present Use: Residential – Apartments (14)
Owner: D. Duane and Gloria F. Billman
Owner Address: P.O. Box 5, LaGrange, Indiana
Owner Phone:

Site
Environment: Suburban
Related Buildings: Men’s quarters
  2 garages
  Workshop
  Small brick house
Cemetery: Yes (1/4 mile west, northwest of country club building.)
Historic Property Name: LaPorte County Asylum
Common Property Name: LaPorte County Home

Location
Address: 2852 West State Road 2, LaPorte (Scipio Township)

GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 41.590266 Longitude: -86.752429

Historic Information
Year Built: 1886 Style: Italianate
Architect: Builder: William J. Bower (Greencastle)

Years Served as County Home: 127 (1886-present)

Current Information
Building Condition: Good Present Use: County home
Owner: LaPorte County
Owner Address: 813 Lincolnway, LaPorte, Indiana
Owner Phone: (219)362-2525 (facility)

Site
Environment: Suburban
Related Buildings: Hog house
2 basement barns (horse and cattle barns)
Bull pen
Garage (former corn crib)
Slaughter house
Chicken coop
Duck/rabbit house

Cemetery: No
MARSHALL COUNTY
Historic Property Name: Marshall County Infirmary
Common Property Name: Shady Rest Home

Location
Address: 10924 Lincoln Highway, Plymouth (Center Township)
GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 41.332648 Longitude: -86.268962

Historic Information
Year Built: 1893 Style: Romanesque Revival
Architect: Wing and Mahurin (Fort Wayne) Builder: J.D. Wilson and Son
Years Served as County Home: 108 (1893-2001)

Current Information
Building Condition: Good Present Use: Residential – Mental health facility
Owner: Owen R. Bowen Center for Human Services – Shady Rest Home
Owner Address: 850 North Harrison Street, Warsaw, Indiana
Owner Phone: (574)936-2635 (facility)

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: Basement barn
Cemetery: Yes (Now part of field behind house. Memorial near front entrance lists names of those buried in cemetery.)
**Historic Property Name:** Miami County Poor Farm  
**Common Property Name:** Vintage Campers/Piper Residence

### Location
- **Address:** 2574 South Strawtown Pike, Peru (Washington Township)
- **GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):**
  - Latitude: 40.727483
  - Longitude: -86.063627

### Historic Information
- **Year Built:** 1918
- **Style:** Colonial Revival
- **Architect:**
- **Builder:** Charles Clifton
- **Years Served as County Home:** c. 57 (1918-c. 1975)

### Current Information
- **Building Condition:** Fair
- **Present Use:** Residential – 2 apartments  
  Business - Automotive
- **Owner:** Danny A. and JoAnn Piper
- **Owner Address:** 2574 South Strawtown Pike, Peru, Indiana
- **Owner Phone:** (765)473-8088

### Site
- **Environment:** Rural
- **Related Buildings:** 2 brick garages
- **Cemetery:** Yes (1/2 mile west on south side of E 250 S)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Property Name:</th>
<th>Montgomery County Poor Farm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common Property Name:</td>
<td>Trinity Mission</td>
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**Location**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>1101 North Whitlock Avenue (Union Township)</th>
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**GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40.057960</td>
<td>-86.994884</td>
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**Historic Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Built</th>
<th>c. 1890</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Style</td>
<td>Colonial Revival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Builder</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years Served as County Home</td>
<td>c. 103 (c. 1890-1993)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Current Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Condition</th>
<th>Good</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Present Use</td>
<td>Residential – Drug rehabilitation center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner</td>
<td>Board of Commissioners of Montgomery County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner Address</td>
<td>Attn. Auditor’s Office, 100 East Main Street, Room 102, Crawfordsville, Indiana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner Phone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Site**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Related Buildings</td>
<td>Brick ruins (cell house)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Granary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dairy barn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heating plant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemetery</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOBLE COUNTY
Historic Property Name: Noble County Asylum
Common Property Name: 2nd Noble County Infirmary and Farm, Perry/Runkle Residence

Location
Address: 4327 N 100 W, Albion (York Township)

GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 41.414539 Longitude: -85.443623

Historic Information
Year Built: 1871 Style: Italianate
Architect: Builder: George Harvey
Years Served as County Home: 86 (1871-1957)

Current Information
Building Condition: Fair Present Use: Residential - Apartments
Owner: Harold A. Perry and Renee L. Runkle
Owner Address: 4327 N 100 W, Albion, Indiana
Owner Phone:

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: Hog house
Basement barn
Corn crib
Workshop
2 small frame outbuildings

Cemetery: Yes (Part of Wright’s Cemetery, at intersection of 500 N and 150 W.)
Historic Property Name: Orange County Farm
Common Property Name: White Residence

Location
Address: 1307 E 200 N (County Farm Road), Paoli (Paoli Township)

GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 38.585613 Longitude: -86.433098

Historic Information
Year Built: c. 1909 Style: Italian Renaissance
Architect: Builder:

Years Served as County Home: c. 54 (c. 1913-1967)

Current Information
Building Condition: Deteriorated Present Use: Single-family residence
Owner: William W. and Jocelyn S. White
Owner Address: P.O. Box 424, Paoli, Indiana
Owner Phone:

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: None
Cemetery: Yes (Across road)
Historic Property Name: Owen County Poor Farm
Common Property Name: Truax Residence

Location
Address: 1555 South U.S. 231, Spencer (Washington Township)
GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
  Latitude: 39.267398   Longitude: -86.782862

Historic Information
Year Built: c. 1860   Style:
Architect:    Builder:
Years Served as County Home: c. 18 (c. 1860-1878)

Current Information
Building Condition: Excellent   Present Use: Single-family residence
Owner: Jane E. Truax
Owner Address: 1555 South U.S. 231, Spencer, Indiana
Owner Phone:

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings:
Cemetery: No
Historic Property Name: Owen County Asylum
Common Property Name: Owen County Home

Location
Address: 3795 State Road 43 (Clay Township)
GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 39.234643 Longitude: -86.729371

Historic Information
Year Built: 1878 Style: Late Victorian
Architect: Builder: William F. Megenhardt
Years Served as County Home: 124 (1878-2002)

Current Information
Building Condition: Fair Present Use: Vacant
Owner: Owen County Commissioners (as late as February 2011)
Owner Address: 60 South Main Street, Spencer, Indiana
Owner Phone:

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: Cell house
Pole barn
Pump house
Workshop
Wash house
Cemetery: Yes (In woods behind home.)
PARKE COUNTY
Historic Property Name: Parke County Poor Asylum
Common Property Name: Parke County Residential Care Center

Location
Address: 1689 North Bloomingdale Road, Rockville (Adams Township)
GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
   Latitude: 39.790706   Longitude: -87.243739

Historic Information
Year Built: 1930   Style: Neoclassical
Architect: Carroll O. Beeson   Builder: Maynard B. Welch
Years Served as County Home: 80 (1930-2010)

Current Information
Building Condition: Deteriorated   Present Use: Vacant
Owner: Sapramco II, LLC
Owner Address: 230 Crosskeys Office Park, Fairport, New York
Owner Phone:

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: Cell house
                  Brick barn
                  2 pole barns
Cemetery: No
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Historic Property Name:</strong></th>
<th>Pulaski County Home</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Common Property Name:</strong></td>
<td>Pleasant View Rest Home</td>
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<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Address:</strong></td>
<td>700 W 60 S, Winamac (Monroe Township)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Style:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Architect:</strong></td>
<td>J.E. Crain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Builder:</strong></td>
<td>H.O. Hathaway</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Years Served as County Home:</strong></td>
<td>132 (1881-present)</td>
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<td><strong>Current Information</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Building Condition:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Present Use:</strong></td>
<td>County home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Owner:</strong></td>
<td>Pulaski County Commissioners</td>
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<td><strong>Owner Address:</strong></td>
<td>112 East Main Street, Winamac, Indiana</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Owner Phone:</strong></td>
<td>(574)946-3310 (facility)</td>
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<td><strong>Site</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Environment:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Related Buildings:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pump house</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English barn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cemetery:</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
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</table>
RANDOLPH COUNTY
Historic Property Name: Randolph County Infirmary
Common Property Name: Randolph County Home – Countryside Care

Location
Address: 1882 South U.S. 27, Winchester (White River Township)

GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 40.137523 Longitude: -84.966095

Historic Information
Year Built: 1899 Style: Romanesque Revival
Architect: W. Kaufman (Richmond)
Builder: Joseph Shetterly (Randolph County)
Years Served as County Home: 106 (1899-2005)

Current Information
Building Condition: Fair, ENDANGERED Present Use: Vacant
Owner: Randolph County Home Countryside Care
Owner Address: Auditor’s Office, Courthouse, Winchester, Indiana
Owner Phone:

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: Pump house
               Barn
               Hay barn
               Machine shed
               Garage/cell house
               2 garages
               Chicken house
Cemetery: Yes (230 yards northwest of county home)
Historic Property Name: Saint Joseph County Infirmary
Common Property Name: Portage Manor

Location
Address: 3016 Portage Avenue, South Bend (Portage Township)

GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 401.718494  Longitude: -86.282549

Historic Information
Year Built: 1906  Style: Classical Revival
Architect: Freyermuth and Maurer (South Bend)  Builder:
Years Served as County Home: 106 (1907-present)

Current Information
Building Condition: Good  Present Use: County home
Owner: Saint Joseph County
Owner Address: 227 West Jefferson Boulevard, South Bend, Indiana
Owner Phone: (574)272-9100 (facility)

Site
Environment: Suburban
Related Buildings: Pole barn
                 Pump house
Cemetery: Yes (1/2 mile east of county home)
Historic Property Name: Scott County Home
Common Property Name: Scott County Heritage Center and Museum

Location
Address: 1050 South Main Street, Scottsburg (Vienna Township)

GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 38.673650 Longitude: -85.770728

Historic Information
Year Built: 1892 Style: Late Victorian
Architect: Johan J. Wiley Builder: Johan J. Wiley
Years Served as County Home: 81 (1892-1973)

Current Information
Building Condition: Excellent Present Use: Museum
Owner: Preservation Alliance Inc.
Owner Address: P.O. Box 122, Scottsburg, Indiana
Owner Phone: (812)752-1050 (facility)

Site
Environment: Town
Related Buildings: Hay barn
Shed
Cemetery: No
STEUBEN COUNTY
Historic Property Name: Steuben County Asylum
Common Property Name: Steuben County Rest Home

Location
Address: 1600 N 200 W, Angola (Pleasant Township)

GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 41.666243  Longitude: -85.027845

Historic Information
Year Built: 1885  Style: Italianate
Architect:  Builder:
Years Served as County Home: 115 (1885-2000)

Current Information
Building Condition: Good  Present Use: Vacant
Owner: Steuben County Board of Commissioners
Owner Address: 317 South Wayne Street, Suite 2J, Angola, Indiana
Owner Phone: (260)668-1000 Ext. 4000

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: Workshop
                Pump house
Cemetery: No
Historic Property Name: Sullivan County Poor Home
Common Property Name: The Victorian on the Green

Location
Address: 1447 E 75 N, Sullivan (Hamilton Township)
GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
  Latitude: 39.097388  Longitude: -87.382703

Historic Information
Year Built: 1896    Style: Romanesque Revival
Architect: Wing and Mahurin (Fort Wayne)
Builder: M.W. Simeon and P. Gillett
Years Served as County Home: 102 (1896-1998)

Current Information
Building Condition: Good    Present Use: Residential - Apartments
Owner: Danny K. Leigh
Owner Address: 8754 Highway 54 East, Dugger, Indiana
Owner Phone: (812)887-6727 (for apartment leasing information)

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: Frame duplex dwelling
Cemetery: No
SWITZERLAND COUNTY
Historic Property Name: Switzerland County Poor Farm
Common Property Name: Donnellan Farm

Location
Address: 4598 Glen Roberts Road, Vevay (Craig Township)

GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 38.753714  Longitude: -85.133036

Historic Information
Year Built: 1832  Style: Federal
Architect:  Builder:

Years Served as County Home: c. 108 (1832-c. 1940)

Current Information
Building Condition:  Present Use: Vacant
Owner: Irma Donnellan
Owner Address: 5593 Boomer Road, Cincinnati, Ohio
Owner Phone:

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings:
Cemetery: No
Historic Property Name: Tippecanoe County Home
Common Property Name: Tippecanoe Villa

Location
Address: 5307 N 50 W, West Lafayette (Tippecanoe Township)

GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 40.494050  Longitude: -86.914497

Historic Information
Year Built: 1969/73  Style: Contemporary
Architect:  Builder:
Years Served as County Home: 44 (1969-present)

Current Information
Building Condition: Excellent  Present Use: County home
Owner: Tippecanoe County
Owner Address: 20 North 3rd Street, Lafayette, Indiana
Owner Phone: (765)463-3662

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: Gazebo
  2 garages
  Corn crib
  Basement barn
  Barn
Cemetery: Yes (Across road in woods, unsure of exact location)
UNION COUNTY
Historic Property Name: Union County Home

Location
Address: 1711 Kitchel Road, Liberty (Harrison Township)

GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 39.660973  Longitude: -84.906078

Historic Information
Year Built: 1889  Style: Italian Renaissance
Architect: G.W. Bunting and Son
Builder: William McKay
Years Served as County Home: 86 (1889-1975)

Current Information
Building Condition: Fair  Present Use: Vacant or Storage
Owner: Robert O. and Joyce R. Waters
Owner Address: 2747 Wambo Road, Richmond, Indiana
Owner Phone:

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: Small brick building (significantly altered)
Cemetery: No
WARREN COUNTY
Historic Property Name: Warren County Poor Farm
Common Property Name: Warren County Home

Location
Address: 744 W 300 N, Williamsport (Liberty Township)
GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 40.361894 Longitude: -87.333872

Historic Information
Year Built: 1869 Style: Italianate
Architect: Builder: James R. Shatell
Years Served as County Home: 144 (1869-2013)

Current Information
Building Condition: Fair Present Use: County home
Owner: Warren County Commissioners
Owner Address: 125 North Monroe Street, Williamsport, Indiana
Owner Phone:

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: Granary
Machine shed
English barn
Grain bin
Shed
Workshop

Cemetery: Yes (at intersection of 300 N and 50 W, east of county home)
Historic Property Name: Wayne County Infirmary

Common Property Name: Rueth Residence

Location
Address: 8020 National Road West, Centerville (Center Township)

GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 39.818181 Longitude: -85.028281

Historic Information
Year Built: 1847 Style: Federal
Architect: Emsley Ham Builder: Emsley Ham

Years Served as County Home: 111 (1848-1959)

Current Information
Building Condition: Good Present Use: Single-family residence
Owner: Kenneth M. and Patricia L. Rueth
Owner Address: 8020 U.S. 40 W, Centerville, Indiana
Owner Phone:

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: Privy
Heating plant (ruins)
Machine shed
Corn crib
Basement barn
Silo

Cemetery: No
WELLS COUNTY
Historic Property Name: Wells County Home/Maplewood Home
Common Property Name: Maplewood Estates

Location
Address: 3700 South County Home Road, Bluffton (Harrison Township)

GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
  Latitude: 40.689433  Longitude: -85.138678

Historic Information
Year Built: 1939  Style: Neoclassical
Architect: A.M. Strauss  Builder: Works Progress Administration
Years Served as County Home: 70 (1939-2009)

Current Information
Building Condition: Good  Present Use: Residential - Apartments
Owner: Maplewood Estates LLC c/o Dennis Fry
Owner Address: 1137 S 450 E, Bluffton, Indiana
Owner Phone: (260)824-3055 (for leasing information)

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: Machine shed
  Workshop (now apartment)
  Wash house
Cemetery: No
WHITE COUNTY

Historic Property Name: White County Poor Asylum
Common Property Name: Lakeview Home

Location
Address: 5271 Norway Road, Monticello (Union Township)
GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
  Latitude: 40.783103  Longitude: -86.769960

Historic Information
Year Built: 1907-08  Style: Queen Anne
Architect: Samuel Young  Builder: Strate and Jones
Years Served as County Home: 101 (1908-2009)

Current Information
Building Condition: Fair  Present Use: Vacant
Owner: Lakeview Home LLC
Owner Address: 2638 North Peterson Drive, Monticello, Indiana
Owner Phone:

Site
Environment: Lake community
Related Buildings: Barn
  Garage
Cemetery: No
Historic Property Name: Whitley County Farm
Common Property Name: Meadowbrook Manor

Location
Address: 1011 West Old Trail Road, Columbia City (Columbia Township)
GPS Location (Decimal Degrees):
  Latitude: 41.149816
  Longitude: -85.510889

Historic Information
Year Built: 1936
Style: Neoclassical
Architect: Albert Heeter (Fort Wayne)
Builder: W. Carey and Sons (South Whitley)
Years Served as County Home: 65 (1936-2001)

Current Information
Building Condition: Good
Present Use: Residential - Apartments
Owner: Bruce and Cari Sweetheimer
Owner Address: 1011 West Old Trail Road, Columbia City, Indiana
Owner Phone:

Site
Environment: Rural
Related Buildings: Barn (ruins)
  Pole barn
Cemetery: Yes (across road from county home)
Following the 1831 legislation, “An Act for the relief of the poor,” county commissioners began to establish poor farms in each of Indiana’s ninety-two counties. The more settled counties did so first. Oftentimes, this first poor farm was nothing more than a pre-existing farm purchased by the county for use as such. In other cases, it was a building quickly erected. However, counties prided themselves in having poor farms and included whole sections regarding their establishment in the county histories published around the turn of the twentieth century. The county home was recognized as a sign of civilization.

Early poorhouses were necessarily residential in form and style. As above mentioned, these first homes for the poor were often pre-existing farms purchased by the county. If not, they were structures built quickly and locally. When one must build a place for people to inhabit, one naturally builds a house. Some of these early houses, like those found in Wayne and Switzerland Counties (see Figures 4.1 and 4.2), were common double-pile forms and featured Federal or Greek Revival stylistic touches.

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64 Shaffer, Keefer, and Breckinridge, *The Indiana Poor Law*, 34.
Figure 4.1 Wayne County Infirmary, built in 1847.

Figure 4.2 Switzerland County Poor Farm, built circa 1832.
Figure 4.3 This building, which was located near Tyner, Indiana, served as the Marshall County poor farm between 1862 and 1890. *Source:* “Old County Infirmary,” Marshall County Historical Society, Plymouth, IN.

Figure 4.4 The Marshall County Infirmary was constructed in 1893 as a replacement for the frame building pictured above. *Source:* Marshall County Historical Society, Plymouth, IN.
However, these first poorhouses were soon outgrown. Their replacements were always brick, and wore the style of their day. This second generation of more substantial poorhouses was constructed between 1870 and 1915, approximately. Those built in the 1870s, like the Noble County Asylum (see Figure 4.5), were outfitted with the brackets and hooded windows of Italianate style. Warren County Poor Farm (see Figure 4.6) even features a central section that climbs to three stories, closely resembling a high-style Italianate tower. From 1880 to 1910, Romanesque Revival was prevalent (see Figure 4.4).  

Around 1890, there was a marked shift in poor house design. The residential form of earlier poor houses was abandoned in favor of the institutional plan. Beginning in 1889, the Board of State Charities and Correction reviewed plans for new county infirmary buildings. The board sought to standardize infirmary design and suggested that each infirmary have four distinct parts in its floor plan. Preferred plans contained an administrative area toward the front and center of the building, with domestic areas to the rear, and wings on each side for men and women. Some county homes, like Randolph County’s (see Figure 4.7), retained a residential feel by pushing the men’s and women’s wings toward the rear of the long structure and by keeping them short. Thus, when one approaches the home, the primary façade is very residential in scale.

These later county homes were designed by architects of regional prominence. Some, like Wing and Mahurin of Fort Wayne, even sought commissions by advertising in the Indiana

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66 The Development of Public Charities and Correction in the State of Indiana, 40-41.
67 Ibid, 119.
The firm designed at least four county infirmaries, three of which are still extant in Marshall, Kosciusko, and Sullivan Counties (see Figures 4.4, 4.8, and 4.9). Their designs were of the Romanesque Revival style, with entrances beneath heavy, round-topped arches. Stone and brick of a secondary color often band the façade or create window hoods. Grouped, arched windows are present in the upper stories. Rather than opting for the traditional round tower, Wing and Mahurin included towers of polygonal and square shape. Their designs retain some of that residential value that earlier infirmaries possessed. The wings that make some infirmaries look so institutional are here pushed to the back and broken by projecting bays and porches. They are pleasing structures to behold.

Architects who designed county homes oftentimes designed other public buildings as well. George W. Bunting designed the 1889 Union County Infirmary (see Figure 4.10). He was also responsible for the designs of several Indiana courthouses, four of which are now individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Freyermuth and Maurer, who designed the large Saint Joseph County Infirmary (see Figure 4.11), constructed in 1906, also were responsible for the designs of three other National Register-listed buildings in Saint Joseph County; a bank, a school, and a pumping station.

Though most county homes were built in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, there are a few examples from the more recent past. Infirmaries inspired by the styles of the mid-twentieth century appeared across the state, though in small numbers. For

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example, three neoclassical county homes were built during the 1930s in Parke, Wells, and Whitley Counties (see Figures 4.12, 4.13, and 4.14). Cass County Infirmary’s window pattern and Adams County Home’s smooth, concrete walls are inspired by art deco style (see Figures 4.15 and 4.16). The latter two homes are both one-story, mirroring the increasing age of county home residents and ideas about how to best care for them.

The most recent county homes, built between 1953 and 1987, display the contemporary styles popular at the time of their construction. The move away from farm activity, necessitated by an aging county home population, increasingly aligned the county home with the new private nursing homes that were being constructed in all communities. It became unnecessary for the superintendent to live in the building in which he or she worked. Thus, the superintendent’s quarters, which had been central to the designs of county homes prior to 1950, are absent from most of those built in the mid to late twentieth century.

Bartholomew County Home for the Aged (see Figure 4.17) was designed by notable architect Harry Weese, who designed other Modern buildings in Columbus during the 1950s and ‘60s. Its zigzag roofline, interior courtyard, and “U” configuration illustrated a different translation of what a county home could look like. Though it surely did not resemble anything that the nineteenth-century Board of State Charities could have imagined, it still provided separate wings for men and women, joined by domestic and community areas in the center.
Figure 4.5 Noble County Asylum, built in 1871.

Figure 4.6 Warren County Poor Farm, built in 1869.

Figure 4.7 Randolph County Infirmary, built in 1899.
Figure 4.8 Kosciusko County Infirmary

Figure 4.9 Sullivan County Infirmary

Figure 4.10 Union County Home
Figure 4.11 Saint Joseph County Infirmary

Figure 4.12 Parke County Poor Asylum

Figure 4.13 Wells County Home
Figure 4.14 Whitley County Farm

Figure 4.15 Cass County Infirmary
Figure 4.16 Adams County Home

Figure 4.17 Bartholomew County Home for the Aged
The Farm

While the residential infirmary usually holds the most architectural significance and is often the only remaining building on its lot, it must be remembered that the “home” was usually just one part of what was a working farm. Especially in Indiana, where agriculture’s presence has been constantly felt throughout history, the farming aspect of the county infirmary was of great importance. It coincided with the idea that the able-bodied poor should work.\textsuperscript{71} It also provided food and clothing for the farm’s inhabitants. Some farms profited from their produce, but self-sufficiency was the goal. This was very clearly stated by the Board of State Charities and Correction:

\begin{quote}
Much or all of the clothing could be made in the asylum. It ought not be necessary to buy any meat, fruit or vegetables. In fact about the only purchases which should be necessary are material for clothing and occasional farming implements.\textsuperscript{72}
\end{quote}

In a later report, it is noted, somewhat critically, that the Institute for the Blind “has no farm...nor has it even a garden spot.”\textsuperscript{73} However, despite the farm’s importance, most county farm outbuildings have been demolished.

The best preserved county farms are those that are still being used for their original purpose. While only one remaining county home is in any way involved in the farming activities that go on around it, the land surrounding several county homes is leased by the county to a local farmer. If there is still county-owned farm ground around a county home, it is more likely

\textsuperscript{71} Walter I. Trattner, \textit{From Poor Law to Welfare State} (New York: Free Press, 1999), 57.
\textsuperscript{72} \textit{Indiana Bulletin}, (Indianapolis: Board of State Charities, December 1895), 6.
\textsuperscript{73} \textit{Indiana Bulletin} (Indianapolis: Board of State Charities, June 1896), 3.
that outbuildings have survived. Continued use of a building generally translates to its continued maintenance.

Jay County Retirement Center exhibits the most complete inventory of county farm outbuildings. Continued use has led to the upkeep of most outbuildings, like the two large barns and the hay barn (see Figure 4.18). Other buildings, like the blacksmith shop, slaughterhouse, and chicken coop (see Figures 4.19, 4.20, and 4.21), have fallen out of use and are not as well maintained, though they are by no means ruins. Continued farming operations have meant the addition of modern farm buildings as well. A low, steel-clad building shelters the hogs, and a yard barn was recently added to house the generator.
Figure 4.18 Barns, Jay County Retirement Center

Figure 4.19 Blacksmith shop, Jay County Retirement Center
Figure 4.20 Slaughterhouse, Jay County Retirement Center

Figure 4.21 Chicken house, Jay County Retirement Center
CHAPTER V

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

This survey examined a total of forty-eight county homes in forty-seven counties, built between 1832 and 1987 (see Figure 5.1). Apart from one, all are fifty years or older and therefore historic. Indiana’s county homes were built in a variety of styles by architects well known across the state and by local carpenters who designed several as well as building them. Locally, these buildings are often curiosities, surrounded by myth. They are seen as isolated, one-of-a-kind buildings. While a total count of forty-eight does not make the county home a commonplace building type, it does mean that there are grounds for comparison. Such comparisons reveal new information, which adds significance to the rapidly disappearing old county poor farm.

Upon looking at a map of Indiana counties with extant county homes (see Figure 5.2), a remarkable correlation is noticed. It is as if the glacier that once covered the northern two-thirds of the state receded and left county homes along with the small, glacial lakes that dot the landscape. Of course this survey includes several county homes in the southern part of the state, but two distinct clusters of county homes are easily discernible on a map. One such grouping exists northwest of Indianapolis. The other large cluster hugs the Ohio border. It is
within these two groupings that the remaining fourteen functioning county homes exist (see
Figure 5.3).

1. (Sub)urban Growth and the County Home

Statewide patterns of demolition are visible as well. For example, there are few
remaining county homes in counties that have large areas considered either urban or suburban.
There are no county homes remaining in the counties of Lake and Porter, modern-day bedroom
communities of Chicago. A similar pattern is visible around Indianapolis. Boone and Hendricks
County are the only suburban counties to preserve county homes. Counties that have
experienced great population growth are much less likely to have an extant county home.

2. Shifts in Funding – Local to Federal

However, county homes have been demolished in all parts of the state. The demolition
of most of Indiana’s county homes has followed a similar storyline. County homes began to
close at a steady rate in the second half of the twentieth century, after it became apparent that
the federal government was not going to withdraw from the realm of welfare, which it had
entered during the Great Depression. It was perceived that Social Security, Medicare, and
Medicaid, along with the many new private nursing homes, were replacing the county home as
social safety nets. In fact, these new methods of care for the poor, sick, and elderly were
perceived as better than the old county poorhouse, and they were not drawing from the county
budget. It was this reasoning that led to the closure of most of Indiana’s county homes and
continues to do so today. Nevertheless, closing the county home did not totally relieve the
county commissioners of their responsibility to it. The county home, its outbuildings, and
farmland were still county-owned property.
Figure 5.1 The above chart illustrates years in which new county homes were constructed or in which major additions occurred.
Figure 5.2 County homes remain standing in forty-seven of Indiana’s ninety-two counties.
Figure 5.3 County homes still function in fourteen counties.
3. The County Farm – A Development Opportunity

Farmland has rarely, if ever, been considered a burden in Indiana. The fields around county homes, both operating and closed, have always been productively used. Many counties still maintain cash-rent agreements with local farmers who cultivate vacant, county-owned ground. However, what is even more appealing about the land that once was part of the county poor farm is its development potential.

Historically located a couple of miles from downtown, many county homes are today right on the edge of town. Most of the extant county homes included in this survey were located near to another, much newer county development. Such developments include 4-H fairgrounds, county jails, animal humane societies, and highway departments, among others. Counties have utilized the land that was once part of the county farm to meet their own modern-day building needs. Counties also dangle this land as a carrot for private investment to come to the community. For example, Indiana Packers Corporation has a large facility beside Carroll Manor, a functioning county home, on land that was once part of the county farm.74

4. The Vacant County Home – An Asset or Liability?

While the land associated with the county home has been easily managed or disposed of, the county home building itself has become a sort of “white elephant” in many communities following its closure. Ten vacant county homes are a testament to this fact (see Figure 5.4). Even if the county does decide to sell the county home, there are many rules that must be followed for such a sale to occur. Newspaper articles from across the state record the gaffes of several counties in their attempts to rid themselves of their county home buildings. A 2009

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article from Bloomington’s Herald Times notifies readers that the auction of the Owen County Home has been postponed one month due to improper filing of legal notices.\footnote{Sale of county home is postponed until January,} Apparently, the auction did not take place as planned, because another article was published about the Owen County Home in the same paper two years later. In this very brief article, the Owen County Board of Commissioners seeks suggestions from area residents regarding the fate of the county home.\footnote{Citizen input sought on Owen County Home’s fate,} That home is still vacant.

In Knox County, a similar situation has existed for the past several years. However, commissioners there have worked with a person very interested in using the county home for housing women recently released from prison. The problem has been how to legally transfer home ownership. A number of articles from the Vincennes Sun-Commercial, a newspaper, document the slow progress of county commissioners between 2011 and 2013.\footnote{Kleckner says poor farm worth saving,}\footnote{Knox County being careful with poor farm project,}\footnote{Ivers still hopes for old poor farm property,} Commissioners have had to study the terms of a former lease as well as laws that dictate how county property can be disposed of. Happily, it seems that the efforts of all involved in Knox County will soon come to fruition, according to a newspaper article titled, “Hope eternal that

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new center will open by spring.” It is unfortunate that the future of more vacant county homes in Indiana is not so optimistic.

Vacancy and deferred maintenance plague county homes following their closure. In many cases, when budget shortfall is one of the reasons for closure, maintenance has already been deferred for quite some time. In fact, it is sometimes one costly repair that causes the closure of a county home. The need for a new well and septic system nearly closed Marshall County’s Shady Rest in 1977. The septic system again became a problem in 1998. This repair, along with others, was estimated to cost the county just over one million dollars. Such costly repairs eventually led to Shady Rest’s closure in 2001. However, vacancy was avoided. Shady Rest transitioned gracefully to a private mental health facility.

Parke County Residential Care Center failed to find such a solution following its closure in 2010. Located off the road, on the edge of the Parke County Golf Course, the former county home is in deteriorated condition. Vandals have caused significant damage. Exterior doors remain open and windows are broken (see Figures 5.5 and 5.6). Three years of vacancy have quickly taken a toll on this once stately building. No effort has been made to board windows and doors or “mothball” the building. This means that costs to repair the building in the future will be significantly higher, due to the vandal activity and weather exposure that has been allowed to occur.

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Figure 5.4 Four of the ten vacant county homes are currently in danger of demolition.
Figure 5.5 The lock has been pried from the door of the Parke County Residential Care Center.

Figure 5.6 Wind blows through the broken windows and open doors of the Parke County Residential Care Center.
5. The Trends and Conditions of Adaptive Reuse

However, not all of Indiana’s former county homes sit vacant and vandalized. In fact, fifty percent are being adaptively re-used (see Table 5.1). The most common re-use is residential. Several county homes have been converted into single-family homes and apartments, while a few have undergone little renovation and now serve as not-for-profit group housing. Two county homes have transitioned to nursing homes, while two others fall under the broad heading of “community use.” Bartholomew County Home for the Aged now serves as a Salvation Army Corps building, while Scott County Home is now the county museum.

Reuse does not always translate to the former county home’s preservation or maintenance (see Figure 5.8). However, it does lessen a building’s chances of becoming deteriorated. Of the forty-eight county homes surveyed, ten were in excellent condition, meaning there was nothing visible that needed to be repaired. The majority, twenty-one, were in good condition, meaning that a small repair was needed. A fair condition rating meant that maintenance had been deferred or had not been performed with the building’s historic nature in mind. Fourteen county homes fell into this category. Only three buildings were considered in deteriorated condition. Most abandoned buildings, those with broken windows and doors, and those with major structural damage all fell into this category. No county home fell into the category of “ruins,” which was included on the survey form. All of Indiana’s extant county homes, with the exception of the first Owen County Home, were built of masonry. They were also built well. It would take considerable force on the part of mankind or nature to place any of the surveyed county homes in the category of “ruins.”
While use does not correlate directly to condition, certain trends do exist (see Figure 5.7). It is unfortunate that the sample size used for this study is not larger, as it might then reveal more accurate trends, but that would require more extant county homes. Of the ten buildings in excellent condition, half were functioning county homes. Eight of the twenty-one buildings in good condition were also functioning county homes. What this illustrates is that the best use for a county home building is use as a county home. The four county home buildings that now serve as not-for-profit housing, like mental health centers, drug rehabilitation centers, halfway houses, and youth homes, are also in good condition. What this reveals is that a good use for a county home fits well into the existing form of the building. Very little has to be changed for a county home to serve well as dormitory-style housing for any group of people. The fact that so little must be changed allows for greater resources to be channeled toward building maintenance.

Nearly half of the county homes listed as being in fair condition were vacant. All but one of the buildings listed as “deteriorated” were vacant as well. Here, an obvious fact must be stated. Vacancy is not a good use for any building and it certainly is not for a building that was built to house many people.

Conditions observed in county homes serving other purposes than those above stated varied greatly. The numbers of county homes serving other purposes is so small that it is difficult to make any definitive statement about the idealness of their use. It must be assumed that a certain percentage of any building’s condition is reliant upon the efforts of its owner to maintain it, rather than on the use chosen for it. Greater detail will be given on these less common re-use options in the following chapter.
### CURRENT USE OF COUNTY HOME BUILDINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County Home</th>
<th>Vacant</th>
<th>Residence, single-family</th>
<th>Residential Apartments</th>
<th>Business/Offices</th>
<th>NFP Group Housing</th>
<th>Nursing Home</th>
<th>Community Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adams</td>
<td>Floyd</td>
<td>Crawford</td>
<td>LaGrange</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>Daviess</td>
<td>Allen</td>
<td>Bartholomew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benton</td>
<td>Henry</td>
<td>Fountain</td>
<td>Miami*</td>
<td>Cass</td>
<td>Dearborn</td>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boone</td>
<td>Knox</td>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>Noble</td>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>Marshall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carroll</td>
<td>Owen</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Sullivan</td>
<td>Kosciusko</td>
<td>Montgomery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinton</td>
<td>Parke</td>
<td>Owen</td>
<td>Wells</td>
<td>Miami*</td>
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<tr>
<td>DeKalb</td>
<td>Randolph</td>
<td>Wayne</td>
<td>Whitley</td>
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<td>Howard</td>
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<td>White</td>
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<td>Saint</td>
<td>Joseph</td>
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<td>Tippecanoe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warren</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Miami County contains residential apartments and a business. Therefore, it is listed twice in this table and counted in both use categories in calculations regarding the correlations between use and condition.

**Table 5.1.**

![Condition by Use](image)

**Figure 5.7** This table illustrates the physical conditions of county home buildings in seven use categories.
Figure 5.8 Physical condition of county home buildings varies across the state.
CHAPTER VI

CASE STUDIES

Survey of Indiana’s county homes revealed a wide variety of uses and conditions. Though grouped together under broad use categories, each county home was unique. While the scope of this thesis is broad, stretching geographically across the state, it is in this chapter that the author will more fully examine the background and current situation of some county home buildings on a case-by-case basis. Case studies are roughly organized by the use categories shown in Table 5.1 (page 149).

Functioning County Homes

(Adams, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Clinton, DeKalb, Hendricks, Howard, Jay, LaPorte, Pulaski, Saint Joseph, Tippecanoe, and Warren Counties)

It is surprising to learn that fourteen Indiana county homes still serve their original purpose. Though this number continues to dwindle, most Hoosiers believe that the system was abandoned entirely long ago. Truly, the more surprising fact is that more county home buildings still function as county homes than as any other use. The second most common use is no use at all. Ten county homes are vacant. These two use categories account for half of Indiana’s county homes. This testifies to the fact that successful reuse of these buildings is difficult to accomplish.
In some facets, Indiana’s functioning county homes have changed little since the nineteenth century, while in other ways they have changed greatly. Changing policies at the state and federal level have been the primary cause of change at county homes. Policies were altered to better reflect the current feelings of governments and experts in the fields of social welfare and public health, which were in turn popularized among local constituencies. Local administration has remained much the same for the last one hundred years.

Resident demographics began to change notably in the last decade of the nineteenth century. Institutionalization was no longer seen as the answer to poverty. Preservation of the family became a goal of welfare reformers. Families could not remain together on the county farm after 1897, when a state law had made it illegal to keep children over the age of three years at a county poor asylum. Outdoor relief returned as the favored form of welfare for families with “worthy parents or deserving mothers.” However, many residents remained at the county poor asylum because of the underlying physical and mental illnesses that had led to their poverty.

The distribution of outdoor relief to “deserving” poor families only continued in the twentieth century. Following its passage in 1935, Social Security benefits were initially allowed only to those who were not housed in public institutions. This encouraged anyone who was able to leave the county farm. Those who remained were elderly or ill. This mass exodus of the able-bodied poor essentially ended resident participation in farming operations at county

85 Board of State Charities of Indiana, The Development of Public Charities and Correction in The State of Indiana (Jeffersonville, IN: Indiana Reformatory Printing Trade School), 44.
86 Katz, In the Shadow of the Poorhouse, 124.
87 Snider, Local Government in Rural America, 418-19.
infirmaries. It was at this time that the “county poor farm” began its transformation to the “county home.”

Table 6.1 illustrates some of the changes that Indiana’s county homes have felt in regards to residents. Only a handful of county homes remain in the state, and the number of people living in county homes has dropped to one-sixth of what it was in 1957. Looking only at the population of the fourteen county homes still operating, the population has actually risen since 1957. However, this slightly higher number may be attributed to new residents who arrive due to their original county home’s closure. Today, there are county home residents who have resided in two or three county homes over the past several years, due to the frequency with which they are being closed.

Resident age is another interesting way to compare today’s county homes to those of the past. Today, county homes may accommodate anyone who is at least eighteen years of age. While residents do tend to be senior citizens, there is hardly a county home in Indiana that does not have at least one resident under fifty. A few even have residents who are in their twenties. Most residents suffer from mental retardation or mental illness. All are ambulatory, or able to walk.

While residents are no longer required to work, that does not mean that they are without occupation. Vegetable gardens were visible at several county homes, as were an abundance of cats, to which residents have taken a special liking. Some residents hold jobs. County transportation services take some residents to their places of employment, while other residents are employed within the county home.
## COUNTY HOME POPULATION OVER TIME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>1899&lt;sup&gt;68&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>1954/1957&lt;sup&gt;89&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total # County Homes</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># People in County Homes Statewide</td>
<td>3,133</td>
<td>2,790</td>
<td>427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># People in 14 County Homes still operating</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupancy</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6.1

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**Figure 6.1** This chart records the decline of county homes from the mid-twentieth century to present day.

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<sup>68</sup> Tenth Annual Report of the Board of State Charities of Indiana, For One Year – from November 1, 1898, to October 31, 1899 (Indianapolis: William B. Burford, 1900), 51-53.

<sup>89</sup> Indiana Commission on the Aging and the Aged, *The County Home in Indiana* (1960), 1, 29-30.
All county homes are managed by a superintendent, sometimes also called a director or administrator. In this facet of county home history, it is remarkable how little has changed. Historically, a county home superintendent and his wife, the matron, lived in the infirmary building. Then, as now, they were chosen by the county commissioners. Three current county home superintendents were hired with their spouses. These superintendents all live at the county home, as does the administrator of one other county home.

Beneath the superintendent, staff varies greatly depending on the county home. Most have a staff of about ten, some of whom work part-time. The staff usually consists of housekeepers and cooks, along with the occasional qualified medication aide (QMA). While only three county homes have nurses on staff, most have relationships with “visiting nurses” who check on residents’ health regularly.

The county home is governed by the county commissioners, who manage all county-owned property. Most counties have three commissioners who are elected to that position for four years. Annual budgets and large expenditures of any sort are approved by the commissioners, along with the county council. The commissioners must approve those who wish to reside in the county home. Most importantly, the commissioners may decide if the county home remains open or closes. However, the commissioners’ feelings toward the county home are greatly influenced by the sentiments of the community. If a community feels that it is its responsibility to care for its poor or disabled population, and if the commissioners are aware of this sentiment, then it is unlikely that a county home will close.

90 Tenth Annual Report of the Board of State Charities of Indiana, For One Year – from November 1, 1898, to October 31, 1899 (Indianapolis: William B. Burford, 1900), 48.
Besides the county commissioners, there is one other wholly separate entity to whom the county home superintendent must report. The Residential Care Assistance Program (RCAP) is a program administered by Indiana’s Division of Aging, which is part of the Family and Social Services Administration. The program pays for the room and board of people who are at least sixty-five years of age, blind, or disabled and who have few monetary resources, so long as they reside in a county home or licensed residential care facility. The majority of residents at most Indiana county homes are enrolled in RCAP.

RCAP’s history, though short, is confusing to a person not acquainted with social welfare programs. It would not be included here were it not so pertinent to the current situation of county homes across the state. Upon interviewing superintendents, the first question the author was asked was often, “Have you heard about RCAP?” The program’s history dates back to 1975, when it was called Assistance to Residents in County Homes (ARCH). In 2000, ARCH and Room and Board Assistance (RBA) were grouped together to form the newly formed RCAP. ARCH, and later RCAP, lifted the burden of providing charity from the county and transferred it to the state. Caring for county home residents no longer took money directly from the county budget. Rather, taxpayers across the state supported all residents of county homes, or at least those enrolled in RCAP. RCAP money began to make up a high percentage of each county home’s incoming funds.

However, a moratorium was placed on RCAP in November 2009. It was lifted a short time later, only to be put in place again. That moratorium is still in place today. What this freeze

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on the program entails is that no new people can be enrolled in RCAP. Therefore, as people leave a facility, their position may not be filled by a new RCAP recipient. 94 This has greatly impacted county homes’ budgets. The responsibility of welfare, at least at the level of the county home, is being returned to the counties.

Certain counties are handling the RCAP freeze better than others. Of course, all county home superintendents are displeased by this funding cut. One superintendent referred to the moratorium as “death by attrition” for the remaining county homes. County homes are responding to the cut in different ways. Some closed shortly after the moratorium went into effect. Others have put more effort into marketing to attract new residents with the funds to privately pay for services. A few counties have developed strong “Friends of” groups, which operate to raise funds, organize activities, and provide for residents’ basic needs. Some county homes have become reacquainted with their charitable roots and have started accepting residents at lower, negotiated rates or even those who have no income at all. The average rate to reside in an Indiana county home is $37.50 per day.

While this thesis refers to fourteen functioning county homes, it should be noted that the number will decrease to thirteen by April 2013, with the closure of the Warren County Home. Figure 1 depicts the number of county homes in Indiana since they began to close in 1939. The trend toward total extinction is difficult to ignore. However, the trend is slowing. While four county homes were closed between 2002 and 2003, only five have closed over the course of the past decade. It is difficult to say why closures are not continuing at a faster pace.

Perhaps it has something to do with the upheaval of the national economy in 2008, but more information would need to be gathered to confirm this.

**Adams County**

Golden Meadows Home is located three miles southeast of Decatur, the county seat. Surrounded by fields, the sprawling, one-story building is the only example in this survey of a county home built in the 1940s. This Charles H. Houck design is also the only concrete county home. Most county homes were constructed of brick. This strange choice of construction material allowed for a unique, though modest, expression of art deco details. Horizontal and vertical grooves in the concrete adorn the building in a very minimalistic manner, especially at its main entrance.

The home is located on a 5.15-acre lot owned by the Adams County Infirmary, the county home’s historic name. Adams County Infirmary also owns 140 acres of farmland around the home. Adams County Solid Waste Management, which neighbors Golden Meadows to the north, was likely built on land originally owned by the infirmary as well.95

Today Golden Meadows is home to twenty-three individuals, with the capacity to house thirty-two. All residents are from Adams County, and most are there due to mental health issues or because of their advanced age. This is the only county home of its size to employ a full nursing staff, including two Registered Nurses and eight Certified Nursing Assistants. Tom Magnan, the administrator, has held his position for twelve years. Prior to working at Golden Meadows, Magnan received a degree in psychology and worked in nursing homes in Boston, Massachusetts. He and his staff keep residents active with such events as the occasional

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camping trip and bowling. Golden Meadows collaborates with Jay County Retirement Center, a neighboring county home, for some resident activities.

When asked about Golden Meadows’ future, Magnan stated that the Adams County commissioners are very supportive of their county home. They see it as a community necessity. While the RCAP freeze is limiting, Golden Meadows has taken in county residents despite their inability to pay for services. Magnan and his staff then assist residents in discovering the benefits they are eligible for following their admission.96

Benton County

The Benton County Retirement Village stands dwarfed among a forest of windmills that rise up from vast fields. It is located approximately five miles southeast of Fowler, the county seat, and is part of a 160-acre parcel owned by the Benton County Retirement Village.97 Most of the land is under cultivation, but the county highway department stores gravel on a small part of the land just west of the county home. The former poor farm cemetery is located in the northeast corner of the parcel and is marked by three large, wooden crosses.

The county home is a large, plain brick structure, the result of two separate phases of construction. The oldest part is the one-story wing that stretches from the rear of the building. Built in 1879, it contains the historic cell block and the kitchen. The main part of the building was constructed in 1900 and contains the quarters of the superintendent, the men, and the women, along with living and dining areas. It is in excellent condition. $10,000 is set aside for maintenance each year.

96 Tom Magnan, interview by author, Decatur, IN, January 29, 2013.
There are thirteen residents currently, and three more are expected to arrive following the closure of the Warren County Home. The building has the capacity to house twenty-five. Residents range in age from forty-six to eighty-six. Benton County residents are admitted with no regard to their ability to pay. Residents from other counties who can pay privately are admitted as well. The Benton County Retirement Village also offers adult daycare services.

Superintendent Linda Butler has worked at this county home since 1975, when she was employed as a cook. She and her husband were chosen as superintendents in 1985. Butler now resides in the second-story portion of the historic superintendent’s quarters. The first-floor living areas have been turned into resident community rooms. Her staff includes one full-time and three part-time employees.

Butler states that the commissioners are very supportive of the county home, as is the community. The home receives plentiful donations around Christmastime. The county home has also formed a relationship with a local church, which welcomes residents at its services and celebrates residents’ birthdays.98

Boone County

Maple View Rest Home is located on a busy stretch of Indianapolis Road just south of downtown Lebanon, near an Interstate-65 interchange. It is part of a 173-acre parcel owned by the county highway department that also contains the 4-H fairgrounds and highway department

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buildings. A new jail was built directly north of the county home, just east of the county home cemetery.

The building has undergone many changes over the years. The oldest portion of the building is the central, hipped-roof part. It is believed to have been built in 1887. The southernmost part of the home was built in 1895. It originally featured a third, attic-story with dormers protruding from a steeply pitched hipped roof. In 1947, the one-story north wing was added. The porches were enclosed prior to 1995. The white-painted brick building to the rear of the county home, now attached to it, was once freestanding. It was called “the infirmary” and housed sick patients. Today, it houses the home’s laundry facilities. A chair lift installed on one of the home’s staircases assists residents who have trouble with stairs. However, only one resident uses it regularly.

There are currently thirteen residents at Maple View, though the facility has the capacity for twenty-five. The average resident is sixty-five years old. Ages range from forty-two to ninety-two. Ten residents have mental disabilities. Residents are ambulatory, though some do require help with bathing and getting dressed. A few residents work at the local Goodwill store. One seventy-five year-old man, a dwarf, has lived at Maple View for forty years. Cats, indoors and out, keep residents entertained.

Full-time staff includes three cooks and two housekeepers. Four additional employees work at the facility part-time. No nursing staff is employed. The superintendent is Ada Hawkins. Hawkins has worked at Maple View for thirty-three years. Prior to being superintendent, she was a housekeeper at Maple View. She was first employed on a temporary basis, but was soon 

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hired full-time. She worked through the administrations of three superintendents before her own promotion, four years ago. Her husband, a retired police officer, accepted the position with her. Unfortunately, Mr. Hawkins passed away during the first year of their superintendence. Hawkins lives at the facility, occupying a small apartment on the first floor, near the kitchen, entrance, and living room.

Boone County has not included Maple View in its 2015 budget, which means that unless something changes, Maple View will soon close its doors. Hawkins, who is in her upper fifties, plans to retire then, or “go home,” as she says. What upsets her most about the closure is what will happen to the residents. Some will be put in nursing homes, others in group homes. The county home straddles a place somewhere between these two kinds of facilities, as do its residents. Hawkins is afraid that those residents who are put in nursing homes will quickly deteriorate, while those in group homes may be mistreated.100 It is easy to understand her concern.

Carroll County

Carroll Manor sits three miles southeast of Delphi. A cemetery that once served the county home is located to the north, in the woods. The home is at present part of a twenty-five-acre lot. In the 1990s, Indiana Packers constructed a large pork processing plant on sixty acres formerly part of the county home. Recently, the company purchased an additional thirty acres behind Carroll Manor, where it plans to expand its facility.101

100 Ada Hawkins, interview by author, Lebanon, IN, November 7, 2012.
The county home occupies a 113 year-old, two-story, brick building of approximately 8,116 square feet.\(^{102}\) It was designed by Logansport architect Carl J. Horn in the Colonial Revival style and features such stylistic details as balustrades, slender column porch supports, and keystones over windows.\(^{103}\) The building features a very tasteful modern addition to its rear. In 2006, Carroll Manor received a grant from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA), which allowed it to add an elevator and activity room to the rear of the building, as well as update the heating and air conditioning systems.\(^{104}\) The building is currently home to twenty-three individuals, with the capacity to house thirty-six. Ages range from forty-eight to ninety-nine years, though most residents are senior citizens.

The superintendent, Martha Lewis, is the daughter of the couple who were superintendents before her. Lewis’ parents took their position in 1971 and remained there until 1998, when their daughter accepted it. While her parents lived in the historic superintendent’s quarters, Lewis has chosen to reside in her own house. However, much of her parents’ antique furniture remains, lending to the home an added sense of hominess. Carroll Manor is known among the state’s county homes as the “bed and breakfast” county home.

Carroll Manor nearly closed in 2008 when the county commissioners attempted to cut its budget.\(^{105}\) However, the community came out in strong support of the home, as did Carroll Manor’s neighbor, Indiana Packers. Indiana Packers hosted a pork chop dinner fundraiser on

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\(^{105}\) Martha Lewis, interview by author, Delphi, IN, February 8, 2013.
Carroll Manor’s front lawn in an effort to raise funds for the county home. About 600 people attended. Thanks to such efforts, Carroll Manor has remained open.  

*Clinton County*

Clinton County Parkview Home stands on the northeast edge of Frankfort, Indiana. Its position on a slight rise and the mature trees that surround it create a very picturesque setting. The county home is part of a seventy-two-acre parcel that also contains buildings belonging to the street department. The remainder of the lot acreage, along with 143 acres in other county-owned parcels, is under cultivation or used as pasture. The better part of the golf course across the street is still owned by “Clinton County Farm.” It is there that the old county poor farm cemetery is located as well.

This county home was erected between 1918 and 1922 by architect Charles W. Nicol in the Italian Renaissance style. The tiled, hipped roof, the decorative brackets beneath the eaves, and the arched, garland detail over the central, second-story window of the façade are all indicators of this style. An elevator was added to the rear of the building with great sensitivity to the building’s historic design.

Twenty-seven residents between the ages of thirty-two and ninety-three make their homes at Parkview. The facility can house up to forty-four residents. This county home has the highest proportion of residents who pay their room and board out of their own pocket. Twenty-five of Parkview’s residents pay privately, while just two are enrolled in the RCAP program. However, not all residents pay the same amount. Negotiated rates are established for each

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resident, depending on his or her financial resources. Daily rates fall anywhere between $11
and $21 per day, which is lower than the statewide average of $37.50 per day. Residents from
outside Clinton County are accepted.

Tina Cottrell, the administrator, has worked at Parkview Home for twenty-six years, as
has Kent Spalding, who is in charge of grounds maintenance. They had both previously worked
either side of the home, but they are not county-owned as they were in the past.

The staff is large and well-rounded, though two positions were recently cut in an effort
to save money. Twelve full-time and two part-time employees serve residents, mostly as
housekeepers or cooks, though there is one Qualified Medication Aide (QMA) as well. Nurses
visit to check on residents regularly. Hospice services are also available at Parkview.

While the community is supportive, Cottrell has felt that Parkview Home has been in
jeopardy of closing for several years now. At one point, yard signs were distributed in support
of Parkview Home. Cottrell says she still sees the yard signs in windows from time to time. She
is confident that the community would strongly oppose any measure to close Parkview Home.

DeKalb County

Sunny Meadows is located two miles northwest of downtown Auburn, just west of
Interstate 69. The county home building is a substantial, two-story, brick building with few
stylistic touches. No alterations have occurred that would greatly alter the appearance of the
building. It looks very much like it did in 1908, when it was constructed, and remains in good condition. It was designed by Fort Wayne architects Griffith and Fair.\(^\text{108}\)

The county home is part of a 119-acre parcel on the north side of County Road 40. However, the DeKalb County Infirmary also owns 160 acres across the road, where the barns now stand.\(^\text{109}\) The T-plan bank barn is a massive structure. The stone foundation was salvaged from the DeKalb County Jail, which was demolished in 1918, the year of this barn’s construction.\(^\text{110}\) Farming operations directly related to the county home ceased in 2006. The land is now rented to a local farmer.

Twenty people currently reside at Sunny Meadows, which has the capacity to house thirty-one. Their ages range from twenty-nine to seventy-seven years. A few of the residents came here from Parke County when its county home closed. The residents are active. Three men were part of the Special Olympics basketball team. Four residents are starting jobs at Alliance Industries, which hires people with mental disabilities. When the weather is warm, residents sit in the gazebo or take walks down the county road.

The staff includes twelve housekeepers and cooks, an assistant administrator, and an administrator. The assistant administrator has a background in the medical field as a nursing assistant. The administrator resides in the historic superintendent’s quarters with her young family. She is the only superintendent currently raising children at a county home. All other superintendents are either past that phase of life or have a private residence. A first-floor door

was recently installed between the office and the superintendent’s private living room so that she might more easily check on her children while working.

Sunny Meadows is strongly supported by the DeKalb County commissioners. This support was tested last year when the home became infested with bed bugs. In some counties, such a crisis might have led to discussions about closing the county home, but here the situation was handled with no such thought in mind.\(^{111}\)

**Howard County**

Howard Haven Residential Center is located about four miles southwest of downtown Kokomo in a suburban residential area. The lot is twenty-two acres in size and feels like a park, given the surrounding homes and the mature trees. Baseball diamonds occupy the eastern half of the lot. The area was recently annexed by Kokomo.\(^{112}\) The administrator hopes that this might soon lead to bus service for the area, which residents would greatly appreciate.

Howard Haven occupies the most modern building of all functioning county homes. It was constructed in 1957 in contemporary style. This building’s plan is more linear than most county homes, which tend to be cross-axial. However, this shape merely rearranges the traditional parts of a county home, rather than deleting any part. Instead of thrusting the superintendent’s quarters forward, the architect stacked them on top of the building’s central section.\(^{113}\) These quarters are smaller than superintendent’s quarters of the previous era, more closely resembling an apartment more than a house. However, the size of the building is not

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\(^{111}\) Barb Boyd, interview by author, Auburn, IN, January 23, 2013.


significantly less than a typical county home, at just over 7,000 square feet.114 Men’s and women’s wings still stretch from each side of the dining and living areas, and the kitchen is still in the back of the building. The fifty-six year-old building is in excellent condition.

The facility currently houses nineteen residents, with the capacity to house twenty-three. Ages range from twenty-nine to eighty-nine years. Fourteen residents are funded through the RCAP program, while five pay from private funds. People from outside of Howard County are accepted, but preference is given to those who are county residents. There is currently a waiting list of ten people wishing to live in this residential community.

Howard Haven’s superintendent is Jennifer Vary. While most county home superintendents have backgrounds in healthcare or residential care, Vary comes from a business background. She has held her position at Howard Haven for eight years. The staff of eight includes housekeepers, cooks, and an assistant superintendent. Nursing is contracted out to a home healthcare provider and paid for through residents’ insurance, Medicare, or Medicaid.

Budget and cost are always areas of concern in the management of county homes. In 2012, Howard Haven had a budget of $214,000, while its incoming funds amounted to $240,000. Maintenance costs, which vary from year to year, are not included in these numbers. In 2012, the facility needed a new roof, which cost $166,000.115 In order to make the budget go further, Vary has instituted a number of cost-saving measures.

First of all, Friends of Howard Haven, a non-profit volunteer group, was formed in 2006. This group’s mission is to ensure a high quality of life for residents and also to promote Howard

115 Jennifer Vary, interview by author, Kokomo, IN, February 12, 2013.
Haven in the community. The group encourages local businesses and individuals to donate money or desired items. Friends of Howard Haven also takes donations of aluminum cans, which people can leave in a large container on the property (Figure 6.2). The group recently raised $34,000 in donations for the county home.

Simultaneously, Vary has looked for cost-efficient ways of procuring food and household items. She obtains some of the home’s food from Food Finder’s Food Bank in Lafayette. She also has encouraged buyers at the 4-H livestock auction to donate whole hogs and cattle to the county home. This works very well since many of the buyers are local businesses looking more for positive press than food. Only the fee to process the meat comes out of Howard Haven’s budget. Vary also distributes a monthly newsletter that outlines recent and upcoming events and includes a list of preferred donation items.

![Figure 6.2 Howard County residents donate aluminum cans to help support Howard Haven.](image)

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116 Membership Drive for Friends of Howard Haven (Kokomo, IN: Friends of Howard Haven).
Single-family Homes

(Crawford, Fountain, Jefferson, Orange, Owen, and Wayne Counties)

Six of Indiana’s county home buildings are now used as private, single-family residences. Condition varies greatly. Given the small number of county home buildings used as private dwellings, it is difficult to identify trends connected to condition. However, the survey of these six county homes did illustrate that smaller county homes tend to make better single-family homes. A 7,000 to 8,000 square-foot building is difficult for one family to maintain. Half of the homes in this category were partially demolished, thereby making them a more appropriate size for a family to live in and maintain. Use as a single-family home is not appropriate for most county home buildings because it leads to demolition by neglect or to more strategic demolition that often masks the building’s original function.

Crawford County

The former Crawford County Home was purchased by the Laswell family following its closure in 1946. The county farm was moved to its last location, six and one-half miles from the county seat of English, in 1888. It had been the farm of James G. Froman, who, interestingly enough, is an ancestor of the Laswell family. The county home is on an eighty-two-acre lot which is mostly used as farm ground, but the Laswells own several additional parcels in the area.

The building is in good condition. Today it could pass for a vernacular farmhouse with faint Craftsman details. It is now the size of a traditional single-family dwelling, at 2,940 square

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117 Richard Eastridge, Inmates of the Crawford County Poor Farm, the Forgotten People (English, IN: Crawford County Historical and Genealogical Soc., 2004), 4, 36.
118 Molly (Laswell) Whooley, interview by author, English, IN, February 21, 2013.
feet,\textsuperscript{119} though it was originally twice that size. The demolished section stretched out toward the road, forming an elongated version of the current structure. The Laswell family salvaged building materials from the demolished part to construct two new homes at other locations. A photograph of the original county home is available on a website called \textit{Find A Grave}, which also includes a list of known interments in the nearby poor farm cemetery.\textsuperscript{120}

\textit{Orange County}

The former Orange County Poor Asylum is located on a 3.53-acre wooded lot on County Farm Road, three miles northeast of Paoli.\textsuperscript{121} The building now serves as a single-family dwelling, and it is in deteriorated condition. Some windows are broken or boarded, metal wall cladding is rusted, and soffits are in poor repair. It appears that the family who resides there occupies the central section and perhaps the west wing. The east wing, however, appears to be abandoned. This large building was designed to house thirty-eight people when it was constructed, shortly before 1910. At that time, it was considered a model county home.\textsuperscript{122} See Figures 6.3 and 6.4 for plans.


\textsuperscript{121} “Orange County Indiana,” eGIS 39 north, \url{http://orangeinegis.39dn.com/#} (accessed March 23, 2013).

\textsuperscript{122} Board of State Charities of Indiana, \textit{The Development of Public Charities and Correction in The State of Indiana} (Jeffersonville, IN: Indiana Reformatory Printing Trade School, 1910), 119.
Figure 6.3 First floor plan, Orange County Poor Asylum. Source: Board of State Charities of Indiana, *The Development of Public Charities and Correction in The State of Indiana* (Jeffersonville, IN: Indiana Reformatory Printing Trade School), 120.
Figure 6.4 Second floor plan, Orange County Poor Asylum. Source: Board of State Charities of Indiana, The Development of Public Charities and Correction in The State of Indiana (Jeffersonville, IN: Indiana Reformatory Printing Trade School), 121.
Residential Apartments

*(LaGrange, Miami, Noble, Sullivan, Wells, and Whitley Counties)*

Five county home buildings have been divided into residential apartments. Four of the five buildings are located in the northeast corner of the state. Construction year and style vary. However, the large, institutional plans instituted after the 1889 establishment of the State Board of Charities and Correction appear to be better suited for use as apartments.\(^{123}\) The two county home apartment buildings built before 1889 are in fair condition, while those built later are in good condition. Their large size allows for a greater number of units while their symmetrical arrangement provides a practical floor plan. While this use can be disruptive to the original use of rooms, it generally allows for the preservation of the building’s exterior.

*LaGrange County*

The former LaGrange County Infirmary is now known as the Historic Apartments at Fairway Green. It is owned and managed by D. Duane Billman,\(^{124}\) a LaGrange County native.\(^{125}\) It sits on a small hilltop lot on the outskirts of LaGrange, surrounded by twentieth-century housing developments.

The complex, which consists of three buildings, has undergone significant alterations and additions over the years, even prior to its use as apartments. Even during its days as a county home, at least two separate buildings were used. The superintendent’s family and the


\(^{125}\) Rex Fisher, interview by author, LaGrange, IN, January 23, 2013.
female residents occupied the main, southernmost building, while male residents lived in the smaller brick structure to its rear. The east wing was added to the main building circa 1965, when the building was used as a nursing home. A vinyl-sided addition was added to the rear of that same structure. Porches throughout the complex have been enclosed.

Billman purchased the former county home about fifteen years ago. It had already been converted to apartments at that time. The main building contains ten apartments, while the former men’s quarters have been divided into three “townhouses,” each with its own exterior entrance. A small, historic brick dwelling, just southwest of the men’s quarters, is rented as a single-family home. The apartments are rented for between $475 and $600 per month. Utilities are included in the rent. At the time of this survey, just one apartment was vacant.

**Businesses and Offices**

*(Brown, Cass, Clay, Kosciusko, and Miami Counties)*

Four county homes across the state serve as businesses or offices. Two are still under public ownership. The small rooms designed as resident bedrooms, usually about eight feet by twelve feet in size, transform well into individual offices. Their arrangement off of common hallways and separation into two distinct wings may also be useful, allowing two different offices or departments to work out of the same building. Superintendent’s quarters usually include larger rooms, which may be useful as executive offices and conference rooms. See Figures 3 and 4 for a traditional county home plan with room dimensions.

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126 Tenth Report of the Board of State Charities of Indiana, For One Year – from November 1, 1898, to October 31, 1899 (Indianapolis: William B. Burford, 1900), 76-77.
127 D. Duane Billman, interview by author, LaGrange, IN, January 23, 2013.
There are challenges related to this use as well. County homes are often located on rural roads a few miles outside of town. Locations near downtown or on highways are generally better suited to bringing customers into businesses. Buildings may require some alterations as well in order to get adequate electrical and Internet service.

Brown County

The 1896 Brown County Poor Farm is a rare example of a frame county home. It is located on the eastern edge of Nashville, the county seat. Two years after the county home closed, the Brown County Schools Corporation purchased the building for use as its administrative offices. The building is in excellent condition. A high school and elementary school were built nearby on former county farm land.

Kosciusko County

The Kosciusko County Farm has a long and captivating history. Designed by well-known architects Wing and Mahurin of Fort Wayne, the infirmary building was constructed in 1895 only to burn two years later. Everything except for the superintendent’s quarters, which survived the fire, was rebuilt in 1897. At the time of its construction, Kosciusko County’s new infirmary was state-of-the-art. The Board of State Charities and Correction called it “one of the best, if not the best, institution buildings of the kind in the State.” In that same publication, a Kosciusko County commissioner gives a very detailed physical description of the new infirmary.

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130 Ibid, 92-94.
and Mahurin feature an illustration of the much-admired building in an advertisement for their firm as well.131

The building is as much deserving of praise now as then. Though a porte-cochere now partially blocks the dramatic grouping of round-topped arches at the entrance, the building’s façade is still an outstanding example of Romanesque revival architecture. Most aspects have been well-preserved. Porches have remained open and the original fire escape slides are still in place. All aspects of the main building appear to be in very good condition. A good number of outbuildings still stand, including a cell house, heating plant, and several barns and sheds. However, the outbuildings have not been maintained with the same level of care as the main building.

Wallace and Connie Miller purchased the former county home in the early 1960s and there established the first Miller’s Merry Manor, a nursing home. Today, Miller’s Merry Manor nursing facilities are present in thirty-two Indiana communities.132 The Warsaw location now occupies a contemporary building complex just north of the old county home. However, the county home is still in use, now as the company’s corporate offices.

Group Housing and Nursing Homes

*(Allen, Daviess, Dearborn, Delaware, Marshall, and Montgomery Counties)*

Six Indiana county homes now serve as group housing for different types of people. County homes in this category serve as drug rehabilitation centers, a youth home, a mental

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health residential center, and nursing homes. Historically, these are all housing needs that were met by the county home. County home buildings still serve the needs of these groups quite well.

Locations of the county homes used in these ways are spread across the state. However, the age of the building does seem to decide its use. For example, the two more recently constructed county homes in this category, built in the mid-twentieth century, are now used as nursing homes, likely because they were constructed on one level or originally included elevators in their design. During this time period, county homes were increasingly aligned with nursing homes, as they were losing much of their able-bodied population due to changes in social welfare policy.\textsuperscript{133} Therefore, this era’s designs tend to consider the needs of people with walkers and wheelchairs. Older county homes, all of which are two stories, today serve younger groups of people or groups whose members are not of any particular age. These structures better serve people who are comfortable climbing stairs.

\textit{Daviess County}

The former Daviess County Poor Asylum is located on the flat plains four miles northeast of Washington, the county seat. The county road leads directly to the building’s front door and then curves southward around it. The brick, center-gable house was built in 1864 and was first occupied two years later. It is one of Indiana’s older county homes and perhaps once expressed more Italianate detailing than it does now. As a county home, the building had the capacity to house about twenty-five people. It is in very good condition.

\textsuperscript{133} Indiana Commission on the Aging and the Aged, \textit{The County Home in Indiana} (1960), iv-v, 2-3.
This county home now serves as the men’s facility for the Lighthouse Recovery Center, a Christian drug and alcohol rehabilitation program. Men reside at the home for between six months and two years while they recover from their addictions.\(^{134}\) Several contributing outbuildings have been preserved, with the addition of a large one-story building for Lighthouse Recovery Center’s activities.

Marshall County

The 1893 Marshall County Infirmary is another exemplary Romanesque revival design by Wing and Mahurin of Fort Wayne. Part of the rear portion of the building was demolished in 1978, and two, one-story “pods” were added, one on each side of the building. While it is unfortunate that part of the building was demolished in the process of this addition, it is interesting to observe how the octagonal brick pods mimic the polygonal tower on the building’s façade. Polygonal towers, rather than round, seem to be a trademark of Wing and Mahurin’s Romanesque revival designs, at least among their existing county home commissions.

The closure of this county home and its transition to an alternative use is one of the smoothest observed in this survey. Closure occurred in 2001 after years of deliberation on the matter, fueled mainly by high cost repairs.\(^{135}\) However, Shady Rest, as the county home was known, avoided any period of vacancy. Marshall County commissioners transferred the former county home directly to the Otis R. Bowen Center, a local provider of services to the mentally ill. The county home’s staff and many of its residents remained at the facility under its new management, which pleased those in the community wary of the county home’s closure. Even


the name, Shady Rest, was kept. Should the Bowen Center close, ownership of the property reverts back to Marshall County.136 Today, Shady Rest is home to forty-two people of all ages, with the capacity to house forty-six.

Community Use

(*Bartholomew and Scott Counties*)

Two county homes currently fall into this category. Both are owned by non-profit groups and serve the citizens of their counties in different capacities. This use is facilitated by these county homes’ locations in town, where they are easily seen and utilized by the entire community.

*Scott County*

The Scott County Home serves as a model for many counties across the state who are pondering the reuse of their county homes.137 Today known as the Scott County Heritage Center and Museum, the old county home is located at the southern edge of town and houses both the county historical society and genealogical society. The county home was closed in 1973, but part of the building served as county offices as early as the 1960s until the completion of an addition to the courthouse in 1996. The property was then transferred to Preservation Alliance, Inc., who oversaw the former county home’s restoration and transition to its current use.138 The Scott County Home was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2000.

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Vacant

The ten county homes that sit vacant in Indiana serve as testimony that reuse is not easy. Many are still under county ownership and are a burden to county commissioners. More questions than answers usually arise from discussions about the vacant county home. What are the rules associated with selling county property? How much would it cost to rehabilitate the county home building? Is the building safe? What if the county home is sold, only to become further dilapidated or misused? These are just a few of the questions that are asked. Unfortunately, the easy answer is often demolition, or total erasure of the problem.

Randolph County

The Randolph County Home closed in 2005. It has been vacant since that time. The building is a local landmark, located on U.S. Highway 27 two and one-half miles southeast of Winchester. The county extension office and fairgrounds are located across the street. The property consists of sixty acres with several outbuildings that are in fair condition. The infirmary building itself is a long, two-story brick structure with a full basement. It is approximately forty thousand square feet in size.

In 2010, RATIO Architects completed a feasibility study of the infirmary building for three local preservation groups. During the summer of 2012, the county home was discussed at several county commissioners’ meetings, but no plan of action was decided. All sorts of ideas have been pursued, but none very far. Everything from demolition to continued use under county ownership has been considered, but no party has pursued any path to completion.139

This is the sort of limbo in which vacant county homes are lost until they deteriorate to such a state that demolition is the only option.
CHAPTER VII
CONCLUSION

Indiana’s county homes are ever-changing. By the time this work is read, there will be one less functioning county home. It is difficult to predict if any functioning county homes will endure through the next decade or if they will become entirely part of history. It is impossible to know how many presently vacant homes will be put into use tomorrow or allowed to further deteriorate. Research of this topic is ongoing and will be so long as county home buildings remain extant. For this reason, it is difficult to conclude or provide finite answers to research questions, but it must be done. Below are the findings of this thesis as they answer the author’s original research questions.

Why have half of Indiana’s county homes been demolished? Why are so many county homes vacant?

Demolition and vacancy go hand-in-hand. So many county homes have been demolished because they are difficult to reuse. After a county’s commissioners have completed the difficult task of closing their county home, finding a new use for the building is exhausting. Selling county property can be challenging, as can finding an interested buyer. Many county homes sit vacant for many years, deteriorating, until the only feasible solution is demolition. In
other counties, demolition is a quick solution that erases the problem that a vacant county home poses, regardless of its condition. Luckily, demolition is also expensive, and many counties cannot justify this expense immediately after closing their county home on the basis of saving money.

How has the purpose of the county home changed over time?

The early nineteenth-century county home was known as an “indiscriminate gathering place of the wrecks and failures of humanity.” It provided a home for those who could not provide for themselves. Residents included the mentally and physically disabled, those with mental illnesses, outcasts of society, like unwed mothers, the aged, and orphaned children, along with whole families who were just poor. The county home was the original homeless shelter, foster home, mental institution, and rehabilitation facility.

The county home changed as more refined services were developed for certain classes of residents. It morphed from a catchall almshouse to what it is today: a home for adults with mental or physical disabilities that prevent them from living independently. Residents no longer work for their keep on the county farm. Rather, they lead comfortable, dignified lives devoid of that stigma that was once attached to residents of the “poorhouse.” However, the county home also does not occupy the same place in society that it once did. Today, residents usually pay for at least some portion of their services, either through welfare programs or private funds.

How many county homes are extant, or standing?

Forty-eight county homes are extant in forty-seven of Indiana’s ninety-two counties. Owen County is the only county to possess two county homes. There are more county homes

140 The Development of Public Charities and Correction in the State of Indiana (Jeffersonville, IN: Board of State Charities of Indiana, 1910), 118.
remaining in the north part of the state than in the south. The Switzerland Poor Farm, built circa 1832, is the oldest extant county home, while the Delaware County Nursing Home is the newest. It was completed in 1987.

**How are county home structures being used?**

County homes are being utilized in a variety of ways. Fourteen are still being used as county homes. Six county homes have been transformed to single-family dwellings, while another six serve as residential apartments. Five buildings now contain offices or businesses under both public and private ownership. Non-profit groups utilize four county homes for housing the groups they serve. Two county homes are now operated as nursing homes. Finally, two more county homes are being used to serve the community. The Scott County Home, for example, is a museum.

**Why are fourteen county homes still functioning?**

There are a few reasons that fourteen, soon to be thirteen, county homes are still operating and just one reason that the other seventy-eight have closed. The sole reason for closure is money. Finances, even historically, played a big part in the governance of the county home. This overriding quest for cost efficiency is summarized well by author Walter I. Trattner:

> The institution itself, rather than the inmates’...needs, is the crucial determinant of life within its walls: the administrators’ desire to maintain order...and to economize on costs is at odds with the therapeutic goals that supposedly justify operation of the facility, yet the former always takes precedence.**141**

Counties have come to look at the county home more as a business than a charity. A newspaper article from White County following the closure of its county home illustrates this well. The

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author of the article notes that “...despite collecting rent, the home was losing almost $140,000 a year.”

Those counties that retain and support their county homes realize that the county home does not lose money. It uses taxpayer dollars to provide the basic necessities of life to local residents who would otherwise go without. It is true that private facilities exist to serve a similar population as the county home, and they are funded by federal and state welfare programs. It might be said that the counties that still have county homes do not have complete faith that the private sector and welfare from the federal government will keep every person from falling through the “cracks of society.” County homes still exist in some Indiana counties because local government officials and county residents appreciate the county home as a direct and effective way to care for the local poor.

What is the current situation of functioning county homes?

Today, county homes operate quietly. The majority serve a population of around twenty adults. Most are underutilized and could house many more residents. However, marketing of any sort is nonexistent in almost all cases, which makes attracting new residents difficult. Funding, of course, is also a major concern. The current moratorium on the Residential Care Assistance Program (RCAP) is causing low populations and decreased income for the county home. At this point in time, it seems that county homes might soon cease to exist.

After visiting all of the functioning county homes, it is difficult not to be an advocate for them. Though many of these buildings were built in forms that are unmistakably institutional, they provide real homes for their residents. Rooms are painted bright colors and include a wide

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assortment of residents’ knick-knacks. In Benton County, one elderly gentleman proudly showed the author his collection of miniature John Deere tractors. He keeps the majority of his collection locked in a cell, formerly used to house insane residents, to which he holds the key. Staff members know residents well. In many cases, the superintendent, housekeepers, and cooks are the closest thing to family that residents have. Residents come to feel like family to the staff as well. While the county home may be criticized for a lack of trained professionals among its staff, no one can attack employees for a lack of compassion. Ultimately, that is what is most important.

*How does local government affect the county home?*

The county commissioners have authority over the county home. They oversee the operation of functioning county homes and manage the property so long as it is under county ownership. They are also responsible for the sale of county property. The county council is involved as well, so far as county money is concerned. Support from county government, especially the commissioners, is crucial to the county home’s fate. These are the people who most need to understand the importance of the county home as a local service and the significance of the building as a historic structure.

*How do local citizens influence the fate of the county home?*

Nothing is more important for the county home than local advocacy. This is true no matter what the current use of the county home is. LaPorte County offers a great example of this. In 2003, one of the county commissioners questioned the relevancy of the county home following the proposal of an expensive renovation. “He said he wasn’t sure the upgrade was the best move, considering the home serves only 28 residents and alternate locations could take
them in.” This one remark received a passionate reaction from the community. Newspaper articles followed the county home’s situation for the rest of the year. Funds for renovation were approved, and the LaPorte County Home still functions today. It could be supposed that county commissioners felt pressured to keep the county home open because of the great concern that local residents expressed towards it. Local support of the county home is priceless, especially while it remains under county ownership. County citizens can affect the choices made by their elected officials if only they make their voices heard.

How should county homes be adaptively reused? What uses are most/least appropriate?

A good use may be identified as one that uses all parts of the former county home while keeping the building in good repair and appreciating its history. If reused county homes are viewed in this light, certain uses are more desirable than others. Uses that utilize the building in a similar manner as the county home, like non-profit group housing, are best, because they make use of the building’s small, dormitory-like bedrooms and communal living areas. Upon survey, it also seems that former county homes can be successfully remodeled into residential apartments.

Single-family homes, however, are not such a good fit for county home buildings that are often several times larger than the needs of most families. As it has been stated already in this thesis, owners often find it necessary to demolish part of the structure in order to make it better serve as a single-family residence. There were too few examples of most other reuse options to come to any relevant conclusions about their appropriateness.

As research for this thesis continued, several potential research questions arose that
were not within its scope. Most of them strayed into the realm of public health and relate to
functioning county homes. For example, in this thesis, the complexities of the federal and state
welfare system are barely touched upon. A better understanding of the Residential Care
Assistance Program (RCAP) would be useful. It would be interesting to know how the county
home compares to other kinds of residential care facilities in economy and quality of care.
Finally, a further exploration of what is keeping Indiana’s remaining county homes from closing
could be very helpful and interesting. Is there some unique demographic trend that exists in
counties that still operate a county home? These are all topics that could fuel an excellent
paper focused more on present-day healthcare than historic preservation.

Indiana’s county home buildings are unique among historic resources. It is perceived
that their original use is totally abandoned, though fourteen functioning county homes still exist
in Indiana, all in their historic buildings. Not all former county homes are falling down in
desolate corners of Indiana counties. While vacancy is high, at twenty percent, reuse is the
majority, at fifty percent. Successful examples of reuse do exist, and that is the most important
finding of this thesis.


Correspondence regarding Indiana county homes. Collected by Beth Bjorklund, graduate assistant of Duncan Campbell. Ball State University. 2010-11.


Health and Welfare Council of Indianapolis and Marion County. *Social, Economic and Other Factors Affecting the Use of the Marion County Home at Julietta*. Indianapolis: 1955.


*Indiana Bulletin of Charities and Correction*. Indianapolis: Board of State Charities, December 1895.


*Tenth Annual Report of the Board of State Charities of Indiana, For One Year – from November 1, 1898, to October 31, 1899*. Indianapolis: William B. Burford, 1900.
APPENDIX

The following materials were compiled as this survey of Indiana’s county homes progressed. Items include completed survey forms, pamphlets, notes from interviews, business cards, and important newspaper articles, among other pertinent sources. This appendix is organized in alphabetical order by county name, with documents that pertain to multiple county homes placed at its beginning.
An Idea from the turn of the 20th Century
Serving Indiana Today, and into the 21st Century

Indiana leaders of the turn of the century decided to focus their poor relief programs on housing older and disabled citizens who could not afford decent homes. All over the state, beautiful, large, sturdy county homes were built. They have served War veterans and widows, Tuberculosis victims and orphans, retirees and the chronically ill. The homes were often in service before hospitals were built. Some became known as "asylums" because they served mentally ill people long before modern medication and treatment centers were available.

How do County Homes serve Indiana today? Whether they are modern licensed Residential Care facilities or small, family operated homes, Indiana’s County Homes offer a secure, affordable alternative to our older citizens and others whose abilities limit their independence.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Home Name</th>
<th>Built Year</th>
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<td>Hendricks County</td>
<td>Hendricks County Home</td>
<td>1868</td>
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<td>Howard County</td>
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<td>Rush County</td>
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ALLEN COUNTY - BYRON HEALTH CENTER
BUILT 1953

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY - BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY HOME
BUILT 1938

BENTON COUNTY - BENTON COUNTY RETIREMENT VILLAGE
BUILT 1879

BOONE COUNTY - MAPLEVIEW REST HOME
BUILT 1847
CARROLL COUNTY - CARROLL MANOR
BUILT c1874

CASS COUNTY - WOODLAND ACRES
BUILT 1939

CLINTON COUNTY - PARKVIEW HOME
BUILT 1918

DAVIS COUNTY - DAVIS COUNTY HOME
BUILT 1854
DEKALB COUNTY - SUNNY MEADOWS
RESIDENTIAL HOME - BUILT 1908

DELAWARE COUNTY - DELAWARE COUNTY
HEALTH CENTER - BUILT 1976

FLOYD COUNTY - FLOYD COUNTY HOME
BUILT 1885

GRANT COUNTY - WALNUT CREEK MANOR
BUILT 1973
MARSHALL COUNTY - SHADY REST HOME
BUILT 1892

RANDOLPH COUNTY - RANDOLPH COUNTY HOME
BUILT 1899

MONTGOMERY COUNTY - MONTGOMERY COUNTY HOME
BUILT c.1890

SHELBY COUNTY - SHELBY MANOR
BUILT 1919

MORGAN COUNTY - MORGAN COUNTY HOME
BUILT c.1890 and 1925

STUEBEN COUNTY - STUEBEN COUNTY REST HOME
BUILT 1884
SULLIVAN COUNTY - LAKEVIEW REST HOME
BUILT c. 1890

TIPPECANOE COUNTY - TIPPECANOE VILLA
BUILT 1973

TIPTON COUNTY - TIPTON COUNTY REST HOME
BUILT 1924

VIGO COUNTY - VIGO COUNTY HOME
BUILT 1936
WARREN COUNTY - WARREN COUNTY REST HOME
BUILT c1890

WELLS COUNTY - MAPLEWOOD HOME
BUILT 1939

WHITE COUNTY - LAKEVIEW HOME
BUILT 1907

WHITLEY COUNTY - MEADOWBROOK MANOR
BUILT 1937
ADAMS COUNTY
Golden Meadows Home
R.R. 6
Deacon, IN 48733
Fran Coates, Administrator
(319)974-7571

ALLEN COUNTY
Byron Health Center
12101 Lima Road
Pl. Wayne, In 46781
John Muehle, Administrator
(219)987-3106

ARTHUR COUNTY
Bartholomew County Home
2025 Illinois St.
Columbus, IN 47201
Diana Burrell, Administrator
(812)322-2130

BENTON COUNTY
Benton County Retirement Village
R.R. 1
Oxford, IN 47971
Linda Butler, Administrator
(812)366-9389

BOONE COUNTY
Mapleview Rest Home
P.O. Box 285
1925 Indianapolis Avenue
Lebanon, IN 46052
Bob & Marg Miller, Administrators
(317)492-2553

CARROLL COUNTY
Carroll Manor
401 E. 3rd St.
Delphi, IN 46923
Nola Buchman, Administrator
(317)894-0340

CLAY COUNTY
Woodland Acres
R.R. 1, Box 124
Logansport, IN 46947
Mary Ann, Administrator
(260)733-3734

CLINTON COUNTY
Parkview Home
R.R. # 2
Frankfort, IN 46041
Gerald Hayes & Wife Cotton, Administrators
(317)729-0378

DAVENPORT COUNTY
Davis County Home
R.R. 3, Box 104
Washington, IN 47501
Norma Hovey, Administrator
(812)324-8450

DEKALB COUNTY
Sunny Meadows Residential Home
2315 Co. Rd. 45
Auburn, IN 46706
Bob & Dona Dastock, Administrators
(219)675-3290

DELTA COUNTY
Delaware County Health Center
2924 S. Jackson
Muncie, IN 47302
Mrs. Diana Allen, Administrator
(765)772-5707

FLOYD COUNTY
Floyd County Home
2020 Orval Lee Road
New Albany, IN 47150
Roy V. Drake, Administrator
(812)329-5469
<table>
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<th>County</th>
<th>Facility Name</th>
<th>Beds</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City, IN</th>
<th>ZIP</th>
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<td>Grant County</td>
<td>Walnut Creek Manor</td>
<td></td>
<td>3923 S. Garthwaite Rd.</td>
<td>Gas City</td>
<td>46933</td>
<td>Mildred Coffey</td>
<td>(317)974-6552</td>
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<td>Hendricks County</td>
<td>Hendricks County Home</td>
<td></td>
<td>855 E. Main St.</td>
<td>Danville</td>
<td>46122</td>
<td>Michael, Administrator</td>
<td>(317)974-5952</td>
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<td>Howard County</td>
<td>Howard County Home</td>
<td></td>
<td>5000 West Boulevard</td>
<td>Kokomo</td>
<td>46901</td>
<td>Arthur &amp; Doris Kring, Administrators</td>
<td>(219)493-4552</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jay County</td>
<td>Jay County Retirement Center</td>
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<td>R &amp; R, 4, Box 110A</td>
<td>Fortville</td>
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<td>Lake County Convalescent</td>
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<td>2300 E. 115th St.</td>
<td>Crown Point</td>
<td>46307</td>
<td>Larry Purcell, Administrator</td>
<td>(219)726-3702</td>
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<td>5892 St. Rd. 2 West</td>
<td>LaPorta</td>
<td>46350</td>
<td>Vern &amp; Rita Winger, Administrators</td>
<td>(219)930-2553</td>
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<td>Marion County</td>
<td>Marion County Health Care Ctr</td>
<td></td>
<td>11850 Brookville Road</td>
<td>Indianapolis</td>
<td>46259</td>
<td>Nick Bruner, Administrator</td>
<td>(317)862-6631</td>
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<td>Marshall County</td>
<td>Sydly Rest-Home</td>
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<td>10924 Lincoln Highway</td>
<td>Plymouth</td>
<td>46563</td>
<td>Rebecca Fletcher, Administrator</td>
<td>(219)930-2633</td>
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<td>Montgomery County Home</td>
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<td>1001 N. Whittley Avenue</td>
<td>Greenwoodville</td>
<td>47043</td>
<td>Jerry Ward, Administrator</td>
<td>(317)864-6581</td>
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<td>Morgan County Home</td>
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<td>190 S. Main St.</td>
<td>Martinsville</td>
<td>46151</td>
<td>Ernie Fichter, Administrator</td>
<td>(317)848-8282</td>
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<td>Owen County</td>
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<td>E. R. 3, Box 124</td>
<td>Spencer</td>
<td>47460</td>
<td>Derek Young, Administrator</td>
<td>(815)969-8402</td>
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<td>Porter County</td>
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<td>700 E. Blake Road 2</td>
<td>Valparaiso</td>
<td>46383</td>
<td>Kathy Mraz, Administrator</td>
<td>(219)462-4258</td>
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<td>County</td>
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<td>Pulaski County</td>
<td>Pleasant View Rest Home</td>
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<td>R.R. 3, Winnemac, IN 46996</td>
<td>(219)346-3310</td>
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<td>Putnam County</td>
<td>Green Acres Residential Home</td>
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<td>R.R. 5, Box 265, Greenastle, IN 46135</td>
<td>(317)653-6058</td>
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<td>Randolph County</td>
<td>Randolph County Home</td>
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<td>R.R. 3, Winchester, IN 47394</td>
<td>(317)884-6075</td>
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<td>Rush County</td>
<td>Rushville Home</td>
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<td>R.R. 6, Rushville, IN 46171</td>
<td>(317)592-2757</td>
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<td>St. Joseph County</td>
<td>Portage Manor</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>3010 Portage Avenue, South Bend, IN 46538</td>
<td>(219)273-5100</td>
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<td>Shelby County</td>
<td>Shelby Manor</td>
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<td>R.R. 5, Box 89, Shelbyville, IN 46175</td>
<td>(317)938-7040</td>
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<td>Steuben County</td>
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<td>R.R. 5, Box 703, Angola, IN 47903</td>
<td>(219)853-2785</td>
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<td>Sullivan County</td>
<td>Lakeview Rest Home</td>
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<td>R.R. 3, Box 43, Sullivan, IN 47882</td>
<td>(812)268-4544</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tippecanoe County</td>
<td>Tippecanoe Villa</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5308 N. 50 W, West Lafayette, IN 47905</td>
<td>(317)453-3562</td>
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<td>Tipton County</td>
<td>Tipton County Rest Home</td>
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<td>R.R. 1, Tipton, IN 46072</td>
<td>(317)975-4678</td>
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<td>Vigo County</td>
<td>Vigo County Home</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3500 E. Maple Avenue, Terre Haute, IN 47882</td>
<td>(812)238-8575</td>
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<td>Warren County</td>
<td>Warren County Residential Home</td>
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<td>R.R. 1, Box 153, Williamsport, IN 47993</td>
<td>(317)962-2901</td>
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### ARCH PROGRAM

The Assistance to Resident's in County Homes (ARCH) Program was started by the State Department of Public Welfare in 1975. It supplements the income of Indiana's citizens who need assistance in paying room & board and medical costs in County Homes.

Some County Homes also provide intermediate care and skilled care, but these levels of care are not funded by the ARCH Program.

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**COUNTY HOME SURVEY**

**Date Surveyed:** 1/29/13

**Common Property Name:** Adams County Infirmary/Golden Meadows Home

**LOCATION**

- **Address:** 3446 N 300 E
- **Township:** Washington
- **City:** Decatur
- **County:** Adams
- **GPS Location in Decimal Degrees:** Lat: 40°39'41" N, Long: 83°36'51" W

**HISTORIC INFORMATION**

- **Year Built:** 1844
- **Style:** Art Deco
- **Architect:** Charles H. Moon
- **Builder:** Yeast Brothers
- **Years Served as County Home:** 71 (1942-2013)

**CURRENT INFORMATION**

- **Condition:** Good
- **Present Use:** County Home
- **Ownership:** Adams County
- **Owner Address:** 3446 N 300 E, Decatur IN 46733
- **Owner Phone:** (260) 799-5313 (facility)

**SITE**

- **Lot Acreage:** 144.9 acres
- **Environment:** Rural
- **Distance from Decatur:** 2.3 mi
- **Related Resources:** 0
- **Non-related Resources:** 0
- **List related resources:**

**Site Plan:**

- **Site Plan:**
  - **Arms:**
  - **Field:**
  - **Parking**
  - **Hillhead:**

**Literature:**

- [Adams County History, 1982](#)
Golden Meadows Home accepts adults who have mental or physical disabilities or people who are 65 years of age or older who meet our admission criteria.

Daily rates are determined by each individual's financial resources. Some financial assistance may be available.

Golden Meadows Home is owned and operated by Adams County.

Golden Meadows' experienced, caring staff believe that people want to maintain their independence. We believe that Golden Meadows is the resident's home, and their wellbeing is our mission.
GOLDEN MEADOWS HOME

Golden Meadows Home, Residential Care Facility was established in 1875 and is located on County Road 200 East, Southeast of Decatur. We are a 1/2 mile South of Highway 33, and two miles east of Highway 27. This spacious, two level home accommodates 32 residents comfortably in a warm, safe environment.

Golden Meadows Home residents are a diverse group of people who have ranged in age from 18 to 100 years. The opportunities and choices at Golden Meadows Home allow residents to live peaceful, fulfilling lives.

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Furnished rooms or option to bring your own furniture
- Homemade meals
- 24-hour care
- Medication supervision
- Assistance with bathing & dressing if needed
- Transportation to outings and medical appointments
- Activities & Special Events
- Chapel
- Wireless Internet
- Linens
- Laundry Services or option to do your own

- Housekeeping
- Beautician/Barber
- Access to phones with free long distance
- Assistance with medical appointments
- Assistance with money management
- Problem solving group
- Wii Gaming System
- Field Trips
- Active Resident Council
- Netflix available on large screen TV in two lounges
Tom Magnan, Adams, Co.

- How many residents?
- 1948 built. Orig. 1875. Formed till 1950s-70s.
- Stopped farming bc ppl less able. More disabled.
- Some ppl help around home, some work.
- Full nursing staff, 2 RNs, 8-9 CNA.
- Tom has background in nursing homes. From Boston. Has degree in psychology. Been in position 12 years.
- Mix of mental health/seniors.
- Camping, bowling, active. Work w/ Jay Co. Home.
- 9.8 res/cap. 89%
- Old one burnt.
- Where residents from? Just Adams Co. Depends on state.
- Commissioners relations?
- Co. home necessary. Supportive.

Golden Meadows Home
Residential Care Facility

Thomas H. Magnan, Administrator

3646 N. 200 E. P.O. Box 310
Decatur, Indiana 46733

Telephone: (260) 724-5375
Office Fax: (260) 724-5376
Nursing Fax: (260) 724-5377

gmhadmin@co.adams.in.us
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Historic Property Name: Allen County Infirmary
Common Property Name: Byron Health Center

LOCATION
Address: 2101 Lima Rd.
Township: Berry
GPS Location In Decimal Degrees: lat: 41.403841, lon: -85.148923

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1905-56
Style: Prairie / Contemporary
Architect: A.W. Strauss
Years Served as County Home: 1905-79

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Good
Surveys/Legal Protections:
Good
Fair
Present Use: Nursing Home
Deteriorated
Ownership: Allen County Commissioners
Ruins
Owner Address: 300 E Berry St., Ste 410, Ft Wayne, IN 46802
Endangered
Owner Phone:

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 48.23
Environment: Suburban
# Related Resources: 1
# Non-related Resources: 0
List related resources: Residence

Site Plan:

Literature:
* Calkins, Royal. "Poor Farm Her Home Since Christmas, 1913." Sarasota Herald-Tribune. Sarasota, FL 12/17/1917 p.8
- Poor farm moved to Byron site N of city in 1917
- Allen Co. Infirmary
- Brief history of facility written by Rev. Donald W. Kleinschmidt
- In 1949, woman scalded to death in bath, 29 die of malnutrition in 34 days.

* BSU Drawings + Documents Archive,
A.M. Strauss Architectural Records, 1918-23. DADA 032.
- Catalog no. 32-740 Storage code: d
  Proj. Title: Allen Co. Infirmary & Job 740
- Catalog no. 32-648 Storage code: d
  Proj. Title: Irene Byron Sanitorium Job 648
- Catalog no. 32-701 d
  Irene Byron Nurses Home Job 701
- 32-702 d+ Irene Byron-Hurty Bldg
  Job 702
- 32-786 d Irene Byron Sanitorium, admin. bldg, alterations to E wing 786

Byron Health Center
Carrie M. Boedeker
Director of Resident Services and Admissions
12101 Lima Road
Ft. Wayne, IN 46818-9563
260-637-3166 ext 271 Fax 260-637-6150
carrieboedeker@msn.com
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Nic Property Name: Bartholomew County Home for the Aged
Common Property Name: Salvation Army

LOCATION
Address: 2525 Illinois St
Township: Columbus
City: Columbus
County: Bartholomew
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: Lat 39.188612  Lon -86.149322

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1959
Style: Modern
Architect: Harry Weese
Builder: Taylor Brothers, Columbus
Years Served as County Home: 1959 - 2002 (43)

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Good
Present Use: Salvation Army Corps Building
Ownership: Salvation Army, Inc.
Owner Address: 8100 N. Meridian St, Indianapolis IN 46205
Owner Phone: (317) 572-7118 (Facility)

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 0.25
Environment: Town
# Related Resources: 0
# Non-related Resources: 1
List related resources:

Site Plan:

Literature:
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Historic Property Name: Benton County Farm
Common Property Name: Benton County Retirement Village

LOCATION
Address: 3409 E 200 S
Township: Center
County: Benton
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: lat 39.1217342 lon-87.490328
City: Oxford

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1839 / 1900 Style: Late Victorian
Years Served as County Home: 1944

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Excellent

Surveys/Legal Protections:

Present Use: County Home
Ownership: Benton County Retirement Village
Owner Address: 765 E 5th St, Ste 31, Fowler IN 47944
Owner Phone: (765) 764-1384

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 1.60
Environment: Rural

# Related Resources: 4
# Non-related Resources: 0
List related resources: Cemetery, Garage, Yard Barn

Activity areas: Cemetery, Garage, Yard Barn

Site Plan:

Website: http://bentoncounty.in.gov/retirementvillage.php
"Our Benefits"
Our residents benefit from good nutrition, regular hours, a degree of independence, a feeling of confidence and a consistent program along with interaction with others.

"Who Can Live at the Retirement Village"
To be eligible for admission, applicants must be ambulatory and capable of managing their personal hygiene and daily living activities with minimal assistance. Residence at the Retirement Village is not limited by income guidelines.

"Our Additional Services"
We also offer "day-care" services at a nominal rate and also offer temporary living for those who are in need.

Our caring staff is here for everyone and believes that people want to maintain their independence. Happiness and security in self-worth are the mission of the Benton County Retirement Village.

Sincerely,
Linda M. Butler
Superintendent

Benton County Retirement Village
Residential Care Facility
established 1879
3639 E. 200 S.
Oxford, IN 47971
(765)884-0589
"What We Provide"
Private room, meals, linen, laundry and housekeeping services.
Pleasant and convenient areas for visiting, socializing and enjoying planned group activities.
Opportunities for contributing to the good of the group by doing small chores, yard work or gardening. Church services and entertainment are provided weekly.

"Admission Information"
Admission to the Retirement Village is a simple process. Applications can be obtained from the Village’s Superintendent or from the Benton County Auditor.

Application and Admission Record forms are to be completed by the applicant and/or responsible person. All applicable blanks should be filled in and the signature of the potential resident must be notarized to validate the application.

Pre-Admission Examination forms must be completed by the family physician prior to admission. The health history must be completed to assure that the applicant is free from all communicable diseases, including tuberculosis.

These forms will become part of the resident’s permanent file. This information is vital so that proper care can be provided.

"Care Rates"
The care costs are to be met either through private pay resources or through the Assistance to Residents in County Homes Program (ARCH). Our private pay rate is $30 per diem. ARCH and other financial assistance programs are available if this rate cannot be met for those who qualify.

The rate includes the following services:
1. Private Room
2. Three Meals per Day
3. Linen
4. Weekly Laundry
5. Housekeeping

Rates are determined by the Benton County Board of Commissioners and are subject to change.
Linda Butler
1879
18 now, 3 more coming from Warren (closing on Dec. 31)
Cap. 25
1 private pay
Benton Co. residents taken even if can't pay.
Take ppl. from everywhere.
Also, adult daycare.
$18/day
No nursing staff
Currently getting new windows.
Old pt. in back
Cem in back
Ground rented - $6 to general
Co. gravel next door
No windmill, not allowed, dot. - dipping.
$10,000 for maintenance yr
46-96
Live-in, husband died a few days ago, they took position.
1 full-time, 3 pt.-time
Commissioners supportive, community support.
Church provides b-day parties.
X-mas donations.
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Date Surveyed: 11/7/12

Topic Property Name: Boone County Infirmary
Common Property Name: Maple View Guest Home

LOCATION
Address: 1905 S Indanapolis Ave Rd
Township: Center
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: lat 40.031073 lon -84.158013
City: Lebanon
County: Boone

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1895
Style: Late Victorian
Architect:
Builder:
Years Served as County Home: 119

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Good
Surveys/Legal Protections: Interim Report (011-244-249)
Present Use: County Home
Ownership: Boone County Highway 26 Boone County
Owner Address: 114 W Washington St, Lebanon, IN 46052
Owner Phone: (765) 913-2636 (facility)

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 116.71
Environment: Town
# Related Resources: 4
# Non-related Resources: 8
List related resources: Cemetery
Non-related resources: Pole barns, Garage

Site Plan:

Literature:
NOTES TAKEN DURING INTERVIEW

• Staff
  o 5 full-time (3 cooks, 2 housekeepers) One of the cooks is Ada’s daughter.
  o 4 part-time (2 maintenance)
  o Ada Hawkins
    ▪ 4 years as administrator (since 2008), 33 total at Maple View
    ▪ Lives in 3-room apartment in Maple View. Goes to her private home 2 nights/week, but rarely gets to stay away for a full 24 hours. (Benton and Jay Counties also have live-in superintendents)
    ▪ Does paperwork on Mondays especially.
    ▪ Transports residents to doctor appointments
    ▪ Official workday: 7:30-3:30, but usually works in evening on paperwork and medication set-up.
    ▪ Ada’s husband passed away four years ago. He was brought in as superintendent with her. Was a policeman.
    ▪ Before Ada worked at Maple View, she was a homemaker.
    ▪ Ada’s position is salaried, all other staff paid by hour.
    ▪ Phone number: 765-894-7513
  o Previous superintendents Ada knew:
    ▪ 1st Ray and Irene Burtner. Had been there at least 6 years before Ada arrived. The daughter of a former superintendent. Grew up at Maple View.
    ▪ 2nd Bob and Marge Miller. Stayed 13 years (1986-2000). Lady worked at state house formerly. Husband was a farmer.
    ▪ 3rd Stayed 8 years (2000-08). Husband worked at highway department. Wife was a hospital receptionist.

• Administration
  o County run, taxpayers, county council and commissioners.
  o Maple View cut from 2015 budget
  o County council just sees dollars, not people.
  o Annual budget: $294,000
  o Residents pay rent ($1,126/mo) with Social Security, Residential Care Assistance Program (RCAP), state welfare (ARCH). Comes out to $37/day.
    ▪ ARCH has been frozen for past 4 years. New residents entirely private pay. Only residents already enrolled in ARCH before freeze still receive benefits
    ▪ Of the amount that they receive from welfare, each resident gets to keep $52.
  o Monthly census turned in to state.

Boone County Home Advisory Board. (Ombudsmen, complaints)

- Environment
  - “Mom & Pop,” laid-back
  - Maple View offers minimal assisted living (help bathing & dressing)
  - No nursing staff.
  - Cook arrives at 6 AM, works until 6:30 PM
  - Each resident has own bedroom. Staff checks on those who don’t attend breakfast.
  - 2 cats belong to Ada, sometimes interact with residents
  - 4 barn cats
  - After breakfast, sometimes there is a sheltered workshop for the mentally challenged, which teaches a skill and then has resident perform light work.
  - Nap time, chat time (women), watch TV, some residents help with housework.
  - Major supplies purchased once a month.
  - Farming operations stopped 1985. In 1979, when Ada arrived, there were pigs, cattle, chickens, turkeys, geese, and a garden. 2 male residents cared for these things. The farm did its own butchering until 1985. No animals after that. Stopped because residents getting too old to participate.
  - County graveyard to the north, behind bowling alley.

- Residents
  - 13 residents total, capacity for 25
  - 10 residents mentally disabled.
  - Average age: 65 Range: 42-92
  - 2 residents receive psychiatric care (Ada takes them)
  - Resident bedtime 9pm
  - Bobby, a 75 year-old dwarf, has been at Maple View for 40 years. Another resident, a female, has been there 34 years.
  - These residents don't fit in group homes or nursing homes.

- Building
  - Built 1895 “asylum”
  - 1940s name transitioned to “county home”
  - People don’t know what county home is. Older people attach a negative connotation to county home (poorhouse), while younger people don’t know it exists.
  - 54 rooms total.
  - Some dropped ceilings. Original ceilings 11’.
  - Used to be cages in basement. 1 piece still there. (Carroll Co. still has them)
  - Wash house used to be 9-bed infirmary.
• 1947 north addition.

- Other county homes
  - Tippecanoe – like nursing home, 1-level
  - Adams – like old schoolhouse, 2-story
  - Jay and Adams county homes interact
  - Boone and Hendricks county homes want to interact
  - Frankfort County had livestock until last year.
  - Carroll County added a banquet hall.
  - Indiana County Homes Association
    - Meets every 2 months at different county homes
    - Discuss RCAP, resident issues, and budgeting.

COUNTY HOME SURVEY

oric Property Name: Brown County Poor Farm
Common Property Name: Brown County Schools Administration Building Offices

LOCATION
Address: 357 E. Main St
Township: Washington
City: Nashville
County: Brown
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: lat 39.205268 Ion -84.412169

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1895
Style: Queen Anne
Architect: Builder: William Wattman
Years Served as County Home: 1887

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Excellent

Surveys/Legal Protections:

Present Use: Brown County Schools Administration Building
Ownership: Brown County School Corp
Owner Address: P.O. Box 38, Nashville, IN 47448
Owner Phone: (812) 898-1401

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 0.67
Environment: Town
# Related Resources: 0
# Non-related Resources: 0
List related resources:

Site Plan:


Martha Lewis
$5.6/day
Parents came in 1971, lived in, till '98
Martha took job 1978, does not live in
33 res., avg. 8h, Cap 36
Nearly independent of co.
Mostly geriatric, 48-99.
Community support, pork chop dinner, etc. exposure.
2004-05 Dept. of Rural Affairs
- Built activity room
- Elevator
- HVAC

Baby Boomers coming up
Medicare messed up. Won't pay for Co home.
St., Pvt. pay, negotiated rate
- Soc. sec.

Residential care 24-hr. supervision.
It's not healthcare.
Cam back in woods
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Date Surveyed: 8/9/12

Property Name: Cass County Infirmary
Common Property Name: Family Opportunity Center + AIM

LOCATION
Address: 2496 E CR 125 N       City: Logansport
Township: Clay       County: Cass
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: lat 40.313125 lon -86.322144

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1931-1933       Style: Art Deco
Years Served as County Home: 1931-1993 (54)

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Fair
Surveys/Legal Protections:

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 120
Environment: Rural
# Related Resources: 2
# Non-related Resources: 2
List related resources:
1. Brick building (cell house)? 2,700
2. Barn

Site Plan:

Literature:
“Woodland Acres.” Vertical file, Cass County Historical Society, Logansport, IN.

Woodland Acres last appears in city directory in 1993.
Phone number no longer in service as of March 2013.
Wilhite, Ava. “Concerns about cuts to Parkview home.” WLFI 18. 29 Aug 2010. 11 Jan 2013
Kent Spalding, Grounds Maintenance

Clinton Co. - Admin. Tina Cottrell 26 yrs
Not live-in. Husband works elsewhere.
Isaac Walton Cen. - Hole 9
27 residents, 92-93
Supporting community, but always in jeopardy.
25 part-time. $325.15 - $628. Community
matches, fills in.
Takes ppl. from outside co.
Used to raise cattle, Comm. stopped
308 acres. Comm. can't afford land. $ goes into general fund
Commissioners try to close for 7-8 yrs.
12 full-time staff, 2 part-time (2 positions cut recently)
1 QMA,
Visiting nurses.
Hospice here
State has labeled as "institution"
Self-care facility
State involvement
Ombudsman Andrea 765 404 6436
Handicap rights
Both worked at Handicapped Workshop
Gerald Howe, former admin., left job for home.

Parkview Home
Tina Cottrell
Administrator
1501 Burlington Avenue
Frankfort, IN 46041
765-659-6378
Fax: 765-659-6383
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Common Property Name: Crawford County Poor Farm

LOCATION
Address: 3240 E. Curby Rd
Township: Jennings
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: lat 37.937810 lon -84.41144

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1898
Style: Bungalow (possibly due to 20th c. alteration)

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Good

Surveys/Legal Protections:

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 81.95
Environment: Rural

Related Resources:
1. House
2. Stable
3. Barn
4. Shed
5. Garage
6. Cemetery

Literature:
CRAWFORD CO.


- Farm moves to James G. Froman Farm 1888.
- Poor house "rebuilt" on new site.
- Poor farm cem. located off Curley Rd at Centerville. Turn R on curve then R onto Ione thru cattle X to cem.
- Farm closed 3/5/1946.


- New poor farm (Froman Farm) NW corner Jennings Twp., 6 mi. from Leavenworth.

- Whealey, Molly (Laswell). Interview with Kayla Hasset. 3/3/13
  - Front part of house torn off when turned into pit. Res. 1½ new houses built of salvaged brick.
  - Laswells descended from James G. Froman.
  - Cem across road & E, off curve.
Newspaper article: "The New County Infirmary Building."
The Official Democratic Newspaper of Dekalb County.
Auburn, Thurs, Feb 18, 1908.
- Includes plan elevations

News - "Contracts Awarded," Auburn Courier, 2/13/1908
- Fred J. Rump

Auburn, IN.

Wayne, IN. 5/22/1996.
- All 98 cos. had homes til 1939.
- 31 remain in 1996.
- IN Family + Social Services Administration.
- Other co. homes close b/c l budget + "new attitudes toward medical care".
- Also, old building maintenance.
- Still farming in 1996.

- Who came to care home + why? 10 residents, capacity 31, 29-77.
  Mobile, no wheelchair.


- Administrator is live-in. Whole front pt., has 6 yr. old.
  Animals dumped.
  Farmland rented out. 2006 farming stopped.
  Barb has medical background, was nursing assistant.
  Admin. Kim.

- Steuben, L. Jones, frame, upon hill.

- 8 guys on Special Olympics basketball team.
  4 ppl. starting jobs in Garrett at Alliance Inc. (Simple jobs).

- 12-13, housekeepers, cooks.

- 1 resident entirely part pay.
**COUNTY HOME SURVEY**

**Historic Property Name:** Willow Bend Living Center

**Common Property Name:**

**Location**
- **Address:** 15241 E. Jackson St
- **City:** Muncie
- **Township:** Liberty
- **County:** Delaware
- **GPS Location in Decimal Degrees:** Lat: 40.19418, Long: -84.39552

**Historic Information**
- **Year Built:** 1971
- **Style:** Modern
- **Architect:** George W. Cox
- **Years Served as County Home:** 1974-1993

**Current Information**
- **Condition:** Excellent

**Site**
- **Lot Acreage:** 7.57
- **Environment:** Rural
- **Related Resources:** 0
- **Non-related Resources:** 0
- **Site Plan:**

---

Vertical File. Muncie Public Library, Delaware County, IN.
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Historic Property Name: Fountain County Farm
Common Property Name: Powers Residence

LOCATION
Address: 1515 N. Portland Arch Rd
Township: Troy
City: Covington
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: Lat 40.182692
County: Fountain
Lon -87.43312

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1904-05
Style: Late Victorian
Architect: 
Builder: 
Years Served as County Home: 1944-1982 (118)

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Excellent

Surveys/Legal Protections: 
Present Use: Private residence
Ownership: Brian C. & Joelle Powers
Owner Address: 1515 N. Portland Arch Rd, Covington, IN 47932
Owner Phone: 

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 2.37
Environment: Rural

# Related Resources: 6
# Non-related Resources: 0
List related resources: 
Several small sheds

Site Plan:

Literature:

C

242
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Historic Property Name: Hoodrick's County Farm / Poor Asylum
Common Property Name: Cypress Manor

Date Surveyed: 2/19/13

LOCATION
Address: 265 S. Main St
City: Dadeville
Township: Center
County: Hoodrick's
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: lat 31.45172 lon -85.42113

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1848-77
Style: Italianate
Architect: 
Builder: 
Years Served as County Home: 1868-2018 (145)

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Good

Surveys/Legal Protections:

Present Use: County home
Ownership: Hoodrick's County Farm and Poor Asylum
Owner Address: 
Owner Phone: (317) 745-9252 (facility)

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 8.17
Environment: Town
# Related Resources: 3
# Non-related Resources: 9
List related resources: 1. Heating plant
2. Frame building
3. Cell house

Literature:

Site Plan:
HENDRICKS CO.

- Jones McBryant - been here 10 yrs.
- 20 res. / 31 cap.
- MI
- Ppl. on hard times, short term (twp. trustee, pcc-relig.)
- 2 days to 30 yrs. stay
- Indiana Code
- Comm. term 2 yrs
- Not live-in.
- No nursing.
- Do have med. asst.
- Nurse comes in 1x/wk. & as needed
- Co. Hendricks in us > archives > ledger (1870s)
- 1 staff & Jones
- Core team coord.
- Res. assistants
- Jones was HR dir. at nursing home, career mission work s Amer.
- RCAP - death by attrition
- Cause of closures - lack of community support
- Co. Service
- Stays in touch w/ community through churches
twp. trustees, local groups, Brownburg, rotary.
RCAP - once attrib. 50% op budget. $400,000 budget. Getting 1/2 back from RCAP befor freeze. Abt. breaking even then. Now, ARCH = 20x.

Not many pvt. pay
#41/day
Negotiated rate
2010 (or '09) almost closed
Community support allowed continued op
Home budget < 1% of co. budget
(See source if quote)
Stigma of co. home helps to close it.
Renovation of cell bldg.
Civic org. + church = workers.
Room for meetings for mental health case workers. Not so much now b/c mental health changed, pressure now for comm. use.
23-73 age range.
Putman closed 2005.

Common Behavioral

Mostly Hendricks Co. residents
Co. home assoc. (support group)
Concern w/ closure of st. hospitals. (b/c of # + stigma)
Co. home as institution?
Group home / waiver
# Stigma of institution
Sydoware Services
3 grp. homes in Danville
Medicaid waiver
Erasing stigma
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Historic Property Name: Henry County Poor Farm
Common Property Name: Henry County Youth Center

LOCATION
 Address: 103 W 100 N
 Township: Henry
 City: New Castle
 County: Henry
 GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: lat 39.941110
 lon -85.81112

HISTORIC INFORMATION
 Year Built: 1855-60
 Style: Greek Revival
 Architect: Builder:
 Years Served as County Home: 187 (1916-1930)

CURRENT INFORMATION
 Condition: Excellent
 Surveys/Legal Protections: 
 Good
 Fair
 Deteriorated
 Ruins
 Endangered

Site Plan:

Lot Acreage: 1.50
Environment: Park
# Related Resources: 0
# Non-related Resources: 0
List related resources: 

Here is another copy of the image.

Literature:
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>Howard County</td>
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<td>Location</td>
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<td>Address</td>
<td>8000 W Boulevard St</td>
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<td>Howard County Board of Commissioners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Owner Address</td>
<td>320 N Main St, Kokomo, IN 46901</td>
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<td>Owner Phone</td>
<td>(765) 755-4552</td>
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<td>Site</td>
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<td>Site Plan</td>
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<td>kokomohaven.com</td>
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A Letter from the President Bob Croll...

Dear Friend:

Friends of Howard Haven (FOHH) organized in March 2006, to provide financial, emotional and spiritual help for the present and future residents of the Howard Haven County Home in Kokomo, Indiana. For many years our community has supported the Howard County Home with, food, clothing, Christmas presents, landscaping and just recently a completed remodeling of all of the residents' rooms. But FOHH has plans to do even more. FOHH became a non-profit organization last November and can now move forward with its goals, but needs your prayers, suggestions and financial help to achieve them.

FOHH is conducting its first annual membership drive beginning in the spring of 2007, to coincide with its first year anniversary. Our goal is to have at least 200 new members and raise fifteen thousand dollars. The money will be used to build a canopy over the walk-way leading into the facility, remodel and enclose the porches on each end of the building. Since FOHH is a non-profit organization and all positions on the board of directors are voluntary, every penny pledged to this organization will go directly to the Howard Haven County Home. So, I am asking you for your support by pledging to the FOHH membership drive and help us reach our goals.

FOHH meet on the third Tuesday of each month, at 6:00 PM, at the Howard Haven County Home, located at 3600 W. Boulevard, Kokomo, Indiana. We invite you to attend and become a member of this worthwhile organization. In addition, we hope we can count on your prayers and financial support.

Respectfully,

Robert Croll

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR
FRIDNDS OF
HOWARD HAVEN
3600 W. Boulevard
Kokomo, IN 46902
765-452-4552

Providing a quality life for all residents in a safe and secure home environment.
Thank you for your interest in Howard Haven (the Howard County Home).

Over one hundred and forty-five years ago, Howard County opened its first County Home. Like most County Homes in Indiana, it operated a farm as a source of income hence the term “poor farm.”

Today, Howard Haven continues the tradition of caring for people who are older, developmentally disabled and for various life circumstances cannot live on their own yet don’t require nursing care.

Howard Haven is truly a wonderful home for its residents. Everyday the caring staff at Howard Haven ensures that residents’ needs are met.

While the basic requirements of life are covered, it is through community support that ensures a positive quality of living for our residents. Friends of Howard Haven is a committed group of volunteers who seek to invite and coordinate greater community support for the betterment of our residents.

We encourage you to consider becoming a friend of Howard Haven member. Your membership ensures an optimistic future for Howard Haven and helps to maintain a positive quality of living for our current and future residents.

Friends of Howard Haven - Providing a quality life for all residents in a safe and secure home environment.

Wanting to donate and don’t know how... here are everyday needed items for Howard Haven.

**Perishable Items:**
- Bananas
- Milk
- Onions
- Tomatoes
- Potatoes
- Grapes
- Eggs
- Radishes
- Peppers
- Low Sugar Yogurt
- Oranges
- Lettuce
- Margarine
- Cucumbers
- Orange Juice

**Other Food Items:**
- Sugar free or low sugar
- Breakfast Cereals
- Pancake Syrup
- Jellies & Jams
- Decaffeinated coffee

**Non-Food Items:**
- Dryer sheets
- Masking tape
- Coffee filters
- Paper towels
- Liquid Hand soap
- Bath Towels
- Lysol Spray
- Toilet paper
- Assorted Greeting Cards
- Assorted Light Bulbs
- Facial tissue
- 1st Class Postage Stamps
- Hand Sanitizer

**Larger Items:**
- Park Benches
- New or Used Snow Thrower
- New or Used Shop Vac
- New or Used Push mower
- New or Used Dehumidifier
- Solar lights for walking pathways

You may drop off any of these items at our location at 3600 W. Boulevard St in Kokomo.
Director’s Message

I want to express my sincere appreciation for all of the individuals, organizations, and churches that made Christmas a wonderful place at Howard Haven. All the residents were adopted for Christmas and were very excited to open their gifts on Christmas morning.

We had many visitors, presents, and festivities throughout December. One of the highlights was a pizza party followed by a concert performed by the Eternals. They performed many gospel songs along with traditional Christmas songs. The residents showed off their talents by singing along with this wonderful Christian group. Then, the Local UAW 685 continued the gift of giving by surprising the residents with a 50-inch flat screen television with surround sound! Definitely, a holiday to remember!

Without the community support of Howard Haven our facility would not be the special place it is today. We would like to thank our Commissioners, County Council, Donors, and Volunteers for assisting us in providing the best quality care for our residents.

Many Blessings for 2013!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Vary

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Jeremiah - January 28
Robert V. - February 20

BOOKMOBILE
Tuesday, February 5
Tuesday, February 19

BINGO
Wednesday, February 13 - Bingo
Wednesday, February 27 - Bingo

SOCIAL CLUB
Monday, Feb. 11 - Valentine’s Party
Monday, Feb. 25 - February Birthday Party
Staff Corner

The staff at Howard Haven is working hard on their education and training. Thanks to PCAT, all of the staff were received 4 hours of CPR and AED training. We will be continuing with the employee education and training program throughout 2013.

NEEDS OF THE MONTH
FEBRUARY

- Paper towels
- Toilet Paper
- Laundry Soap

February Auction Needs

- Size 8 men's costume jewelry ring
- Men's Dollar Store wallet
- Women's costume jewelry
- AA batteries
- Men's sport caps
- Diet & regular Coke, Mountain Dew, Cherry Coke
- Sugar Free Soft Chocolate and regular candy & cookies
- Small bagged snacks such as Pringles, cheese crackers, etc.
- Jerky; cheese & jerky
- Shaving cream
- Any sugar free snacks (no hard candy)
- Pudding & Jell-O cups
- Single serve ice cream treats

Our new roof - thanks to the Commissioners!
Volunteer Headquarters

The Christmas 'Adopt a Resident' program that began in 2011 has been such a success that we will now be offering adoption opportunities for the entire year. Volunteers can adopt a resident and do special things for and with them throughout the year. For many of the residents the most special thing is a chance to get out occasionally for shopping, a snack, or to run an errand.

Other residents enjoy a visit from someone, and they all like being honored on their birthday in some way. The requirements to transport a resident are: (1) a driver's license, (2) auto insurance, and (3) a short orientation with a volunteer coordinator and the Director. Please call Jennifer at 452-4552 to have any questions answered or to express an interest in adopting a resident for 2013.

In early January, the Thursday Three volunteers met with the residents to discuss the activities calendar for the coming year. Some of the residents' favorite activities include picnics in the park, making homemade ice cream and pizzas, game and craft days, and auctions. Since eating out is a favorite activity, we are planning trips to several fast food restaurants, candy shops, frozen yogurt & ice cream parlors, and pretzel stands at the mall. A trip to a restaurant for a Valentine's lunch is being planned as well as other special event meals at restaurants during the year.

All of the Howard Haven family look forward to seeing the many faithful volunteers who visit during the year to play bingo or cards, have Bible Study, present musical programs, and the many other activities the residents enjoy. If you are interested in participating in any of the activities, being a volunteer, or donating to Howard Haven, please contact Director Jennifer. We are looking forward to seeing our regular visitors and many new volunteer friends in 2013. Thanks to you, we are anticipating another great year!

Linda Alexander
Volunteer Co-coordinator
# February 2013

*Enriching the lives and lifestyles of the Howard Haven family*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<td>4 Social</td>
<td>5 Book-</td>
<td>6 Game</td>
<td>7 Decorate</td>
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<td>2 Movie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Valentine</td>
<td>Pantry 3pm</td>
<td>Night 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>10am</td>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Cards</td>
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<td>13 Bingo</td>
<td>14 Valentines</td>
<td>8 Dollar</td>
<td>9 Wii</td>
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<td>Services</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>w/ Lora</td>
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<td>Party</td>
<td>Store 3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>10am</td>
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Dedication Ceremonies - August 25, 1957

PROGRAM

INVOCATION .... FATHER JAMES E. QUINN
ADDRESS .... REV. EDWIN G. HAMBRICK
MUSIC .... GROUPS FROM KOKOMO, EASTERN,
WESTERN AND NORTHWESTERN HIGH SCHOOLS

DECORATIONS & FLOWERS .... HOWARD COUNTY
HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUBS
HOSTS & HOSTESSES .... KOKOMO HIGH SCHOOL PALETTE CLUB
THE STORY OF THE NEW HOME

The Howard County Board of Commissioners was prompted by several factors in its January 1955 decision to build a new county home and sell the 12½-acre county farm that had been in use here for some 50 years. Primarily, it was because the old home on West Jefferson Road was, in the opinion of the Indiana Fire Marshal’s office, an old multiple story building which was a fire hazard. The building had been condemned by the state authority.

Also of great importance in the decision was the fact that the authorities here believed that selling the large tract west of Kokomo would help this city meet its growing residential needs. The commissioners felt that in that area development of home sites would bring in a large amount of tax revenue for the county.

While the board had decided to sell the property in January, it had little success until June when it reduced the price from $240,000 to $183,000. The latter figure is what the property brought when the R. D. Robbins Co., Inc., a Kokomo subdividing firm, completed its transaction with the county commissioners on Nov. 11, 1955. The building firm planned some 500 homes for the area and later named the development as “Forest Park Estates.” Work on streets in the new subdivision was begun in 1956, and homes were scheduled to go up on most sections of the addition after the old county building was razed in February.

The commissioners still were relatively unsuccessful in their attempts to get plans under way for a new structure. The board purchased a site in 1955 for the new structure, paying $15,000 for a wooded, 22-acre tract of land at the corner of the Maiffala Park and Tarrel Roads, about 4 miles southwest of Kokomo.

In September of 1955, the board employed a Fort Wayne architectural firm to proceed on drawings for a new home. The firm received $9,700 for the plans, which shortly afterward were turned down because the Howard County Council termed the building the architects had planned “too elaborate” and too expensive. The council felt that the new home should be built within the limits of the amount the commissioners had received for the old county farm.

The original plans for the new building were submitted twice to construction firms for bids, but on neither occasion did the prices quoted come within the figure councilmen were willing to spend for the new home.

The council, when it became apparent that the home plans could not be carried out without more money than was available from the sale of the home, was asked to appropriate more money for the structure. The council several times refused the request.

It was not until the summer of 1956 that the county home problem became a topic of much discussion, and the board of commissioners was approached with many suggestions about solving the situation, before a Kokomo architect, Kenneth Williams, assured the board that an adequate home could be built with the money still available.

On October 1, 1956, the commissioners contracted with Williams to draw plans for the new structure, and on October 29, they received bids on the building.

That day, the general contract for the structure was awarded to the Mayfield Construction Co., a local firm, for $111,500. The contract for electrical work went to another local firm, Huston Electric Co., and the J. M. Leach Corporation, also of Kokomo, received the contract for plumbing and heating in the proposed new building. The Leach firm bid was $26,573 and the bid of the Huston firm was $7,950, putting the total cost of the building at $146,023.

Plans for the new home called for a modern, ranch type building with room for at least 33 persons and additional quarters for the county home superintendent, Al Glassburn. It was decided to build a cement block, brick veneered structure.

When the old home was vacated at the first of February, 1957, the board sold much of the furnishings from the structure but applied that revenue toward the cost of new furniture purchased from Indiana State Industries. The board received a little over $8,000 for personal property at the old home, which then housed 21 persons.

The Board of Commissioners—Hurshel Jacobs, Glen Ritchey and Wayne Powell—then found homes for all the people in the home pending completion of the new structure, and work started on the new building. Al Glassburn was retained as superintendent during the “shutdown” of the old structure, to “look out” for the people who had been moved, but still were being supported by county funds.

This new building was started shortly after contracts for the work were awarded in October, and the Commissioners conducted a cornerstone laying ceremony at the site on June 9, 1957.
HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WAYNE POWELL  HURSHEL JACOBS  GLEN R. RITCHEY

COUNTY AUDITOR - WILLIS HOWELL
COUNTY ATTORNEY - LEROY LACEY, JR.

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL

Members of the Howard County Council (from left to right around the table) are Carl Bryant, Wayne Dailey, John Ortman, LaVaughn Hawkins, Montell Kelsey, Homer Middlesworth, Carroll Odom
**THESE ADVERTISERS SPONSORED THIS PROGRAM**

| BRICK, MORTAR AND OTHER HARD MATERIALS FOR COUNTY HOME FURNISHED BY US -- | PLUMBING AND HEATING FOR THE COUNTY HOME BY |
| "SERVING HOWARD COUNTY FOR OVER HALF A CENTURY" | J. M. LEACH CORPORATION |
| **COAL** | **PLASTER** |
| **METAL LATH** | **BRICK** |
| **STEEL PRODUCTS** | **SEWER PIPE** |
| **ALL BUILDERS SUPPLIES** | **HANSELL COAL AND SUPPLY CO.** |
| MULBERRY AT PHILLIPS STREET |

| THE HOWARD COUNTY HOME - BUILT BY | Congratulations - |
| **MAYFIELD CONSTRUCTION COMPANY** | **MAYS ROOFING COMPANY** |

| DRAPERIES BY | Gordon's House Of Charm |
| 304 FIRST FEDERAL BUILDING |
Van - 8 years

Built in 1957

Lots of volunteers
New roof $166,000
Preference to Howard Co. residents
$37.50/day
Monthly needs list sent out to Commun.
Adopt-a-Resident for X-Mas
Friends-of $34,000 in donations
- can drive
- Rx co-pays
PKAT - transportation
Sponsors of rooms
Chrysler: Paint donation
Marketing
Grants
- Comm. Found Howard Co.
- Paliation Care - Wireless Nurse Call Syst.
- $20,000

8 employees
Nursing contracted out
Home Healthcare
Paid thru res. insurance
ARCH
Medicaid/Medicare

Doesn't pay for room/board

Var. of res. 89-89

Can't be anyone's POA

Foodfinders, Lafayette 5013
Waiting list of 10 ppl.

Special account at Auditor for special needs

4-H Fair: Donations of beef/hogs from buyers. Processing fee taken out of budget.
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Historic Property Name: Jay County Infirmary
Common Property Name: Jay County Retirement Center

LOCATION
Address: 1194 E 200 N
Township: Wayne
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: lat 40.472539
City: Portland
County: Jay
lon -84.453124

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1895
Style: Neo-Jacobean
Architect: Builder:
Years Served as County Home: 119 (1895-2014)

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Excellent ✔
Surveys/Legal Protections:

Present Use: County home
Ownership: Jay County Commissioners
Owner Address: 120 N. Court St., Portland IN, 47371
Owner Phone: (260) 736-8708 (Facility)

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 160
Environment: Rural
# Related Resources: 11
# Non-related Resources: 10
List related resources: 1. Basement barn
2. Equipment barn
3. Hay shelter
4. Grasery
5. Garage
6. Shed
7. Blacksmith shop
8. Slaughter house
9. Cemetery

Site Plan:

Literature:
Center is a home for people with diverse needs, origins and ages. Management and staff support individual residents by promoting care, encouragement and a sense of belonging in a family-like atmosphere.

County Homes are the 1st progressive agency to help people restore their lives when possible.

Accommodations
Private room: $38 per day
Furnished or Unfurnished

Leisure Time and Activities
You are welcome to relax and enjoy your leisure time in any one of our comfortable parlors or TV lounges.

Church Services Are Available

* Laundry & Beautician Services Available
* Daily & Weekly Activities
  Crafts, gardening, individual hobbies, card & bingo games, parties, movies, shopping trips.
* Transportation available to and from doctor appointments.

For a tour or additional information about the Jay County Retirement Center, please stop in at 1194 E 200 N, Portland, Indiana or contact the business office at 260-726-2702. We will be happy to meet with you.
Feb. 7 Boone
Assoc. for Co. Homes

JAY CO.
ARCH - RCAP

no nurses (usually)
John Jeff. Williams buried
15 residents, 32 cap.
Admins came in 1998. (14 years)
At that time, stones were laid flat. Admins repaired.
Commissioners very supportive.
50/50 basis w/farmer who leases, except 1st cut
hay. Commis. pick farmer ~200 a. 3600 total.
Animals butchered for own use. Excess sold.
20 cattle = 16-17 calves. Eat 4/yr.
6 pigs
Used to have more animals, but residents don’t help
like they used to.

Generator in yard, barn
Granny Slaughterhouse
Hog barn
Blacksmith shop behind, block
1974 - State started supplementing co. homes ARCH
~4 years ago, ARCH goes into RCAP, which also includes
RBA.

RCAP

ARCH  RBA

- Teresa - Headstart - Conn. & Fam. Services
- Rob - Paint factory
Things have changed drastically since 1998.
Superintendents live here.
HP-minded commissioners, chimney refurbished.
Court-ordered community service: sometimes works in home's favor.

No nurses.
Waiver homes - Group homes, but just 2 or 3 ppl.
Group homes $1,200/day.
Meridian Services.
Ambulatory, other co-residents allowed.
Couples.
Want friends of...
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Historic Property Name: Knox County Poor Farm
Common Property Name: Knox County Poor Farm

LOCATION
Address: 800 S. 4th St. Rd
Township: Vincennes
City: Vincennes
County: Knox
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: lat 37.91421 lon -87.41392

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1991
Architect: Joseph K. Frick, Evolve
Style: Italianate
Builder: John H. Piel
Years Served as County Home: 1891-1924, 1935-1975

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Fair
Present Use: Vacant
Ownership: Knox County Commissioners
Owner Address: 111 N. 7th St., Vincennes, IN 47591
Owner Phone: 

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 1.99
Environment: Rural

# Related Resources: 
# Non-related Resources: 
List related resources: Summer kitchen

Site Plan:


Sobhani, Rama. “Old county poor farm deteriorating more day by day.” Vincennes Sun-Commercial. 23 January 2010.

COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Date Surveyed: 1/25/13

Circum Property Name: Kalieweke County Farm
Common Property Name: Miller's Mercy Minor - Warsaw Nursing Home - Rehabilitation Center

LOCATION
Address: 1590 E County Farm Rd
Township: Warsaw
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: lat 41.10626 lon -86.11511
City: Warsaw
County: Marshall

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Years Served as County Home: 1895-1953 (58)

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Excellent Surveys/Legal Protections:
Good
Fair
Deteriorated
Ruins
Endangered
Present Use: Miller's Mercy Minor Corporate Offices
Ownership: NNH Irrevocable Trust
Owner Address: P.O. Box 4577 Warsaw IN 46581
Owner Phone: (574) 265-1711

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 26.94
Environment: Rural
# Related Resources: 1
# Non-related Resources: 0
List related resources:
1. Cell block
2. Workshop
3. Hand
4. Corn crib
5. Corn crib
6. Corn crib
7. Garage

Site Plan:

Literature:
BOOKS LOCATED AT:

KOS CO JAIL MUSEUM,
121 N INDIANA ST,
PO BOX 1071
WARSAW, IN 46581-1071

COUNTY FARM RECORDS
Book 1 = Feb 1879 - Nov 1907
Book 2 = Mar 1907 - Dec 1926
Book 3 = Dec 1926 - Jan 1938
Book 4 = Dec 1948 - Mar 1953
Some listings have births, deaths & if buried on farm,
father & mother's maiden name

Other books: County Infirmary Receipt Book
Visitors to Infirmary
(no name of who they visited)
THE KOSCIUSKO COUNTY POOR FARM.
(J. W. Hover.) From The Indiana bulletin of charities and correction By Indiana. Board of
State Charities, Indiana. Dept. of Public Welfare (1896?)

Our farm of 245 acres is located about two miles east of Warsaw and consists of rolling
ground. The buildings are on a knoll or ridge about eight hundred feet back from the
highway, commanding a beautiful view of fine agricultural scenery and a glimpse of the
city of Warsaw. Our main building is in the form of a cross, 165 feet from front to rear
and 135 feet from extreme ends of wings. There are ample cellars, and where there are no
cellars excavations have been made to a sufficient depth for the placing of heating and
plumbing pipes. The foundations are on solid clay soil, and are built with our native field
stone. The superstructure is built of red brick, laid in colored mortar the same shade as
the brick, but the trimmings are of salmon colored brick. The outer walls are built hollow,
and all inner walls except those in Superintendent's building are built with hard-burned
brick, laid equally as straight and as of good a quality as the outer walls. These Inner
walls and inner face of outer walls are not plastered, but have been painted with three
coats of oil, giving a comparatively smooth and glossy surface, and, I might say, are
absolutely free from crevices where vermin of any sort could gather.

The building is liberally trimmed with cut stone. Stone ashlars and steps, slate roof,
projecting cornices, hanging gutters, so arranged that should they leak the water would
fall clear of the building. The valleys are made of twenty-ounce copper, and the roof is
surmounted with a bell turret provided with a good farm bell. Instead of the customary
woodwork above windows and doors, cast iron lintels have been substituted, and all
beams carrying loads are of steel instead of wood. The wood partitions, which are only
those enclosing the closets, are solid and will not allow the communication of fire, as is
common with wood partitions. The ceilings in all rooms, halls and corridors, except in
Superintendent's building, are of stamped steel, painted, and the color of the ceilings and
side walls has been selected to give the most pleasing results. Baseboards are low, made
of 3x3-inch timbers, hollowed out so as to form round corners, and all interstices around
windows rind doors, base, etc., in fact, all places where vermin might gather, are
thoroughly filled with oakum, cement and paint. The interior is as devoid of woodwork as
is possible, and all interior wood employed is thoroughly seasoned oak, all thoroughly
filled and varnished, and provided with a high grade of hardware. The Superintendent's
building only and hall back to large kitchen are plastered with a hard rock plaster. Floors
are of hard maple. Lavatories and bathrooms have tile floor. Cellar and engine room
floors are of brick. Cement floor in the laundry.

As you approach the Superintendent's building, which represents one point of the cross,
you will see the large arch entrance, with round towers at either side, which emphasize
the front of the building. On entering you find the main center hall, with the dining room
on the right, and kitchen and pantry in rear of dining room; and on the left of hall a large
sitting room and an office back of it. On the second floor are five large sleeping rooms,
with clothes closets and bathroom. This house is in front of the inmates' building, and is
connected with it by a hall fourteen feet long. This hall extends through the main
building, 6 feet wide, to the rear, and divides the wards. Doors from this hall lead to the
right and left, or to the male and female wards. Here you find halls 8 feet wide, with
either single or double, rooms on either side for our inmates, each room being 14 feet long,
and can be used for two beds if necessary. Off from these halls are lavatories, amply
provided with plumbing, clothes closets and chutes for soiled clothes, and at the end of
each hall is the large sitting room, provided with an old-fashioned brick fireplace. Off
from the sitting room are large and commodious porches, extending on two sides of the
room. Stairs from each hall lead to the second floor, and the second floor is divided same
as the first, with the exception of the space of sitting room, which above is divided into
sleeping rooms. Going back to the center or crossing the halls, we pass to the rear of the
house in a hall between two large dining rooms, one for each of the sexes, and enter the
large kitchen, which is provided with a steel range and separate baking oven. Back of the
kitchen, but connected, and to the left is the large laundry, with its kettle and tubs, and
above it is a seed room. To the right is a large store room, above which are the rooms for
the male help about the farm.

In the rear of the buildings we have built a cellhouse, oblong in form, with four cells for
each sex, and a dungeon in the center. The building is provided with heat, plumbing and
lighting, to correspond with main buildings. The cells opening into the corridor are
screened with iron gratings and doors. Each cell has a window and door to the back yard,
and each is provided with a hopper closet, bathroom and basin for each sex.

Ventilation has received its proper attention. Each room has its own ventilating register,
with suitable branch pipe to the primary pipe, which enlarges in proportion to the number
of secondary pipes attached, and in turn is connected to the large brick ventilating stack.
In order to make the system more successful, we have let fresh air into the halls over
heated steam coils. The fresh air traverses the halls to the sleeping apartments, enters the
bedrooms through the upper panels of the doors, which have been left partially open,
furnishing fresh air to the occupants, and in turn is taken out by the ventilating registers at
the floor to the primary pipe, thence to the stack. This secures a constant circulation of
fresh, warm air. The large sitting rooms and three of the rooms in the Superintendent’s
building have open grates, and these form ventilation for these rooms.

Our heating plant is a low pressure gravity steam plant, all direct, except that pail used for
ventilation. The boilers are located in the basement, fully bricked in, full iron front, and
connected to the large ventilating stack. The steam is distributed in the basement with a
large belt line pipe, and divided into several sections, controlled with valves. Connections
from this line are made to radiators, which are located in every room, and these are
provided with lock-up valves, opened and closed by attendants, and not by the inmates.
The plant works first-class without any noise, heats the building properly with five
pounds of steam or less. The condensed steam flows back to the boiler, and is used over
and over. The building is lighted by electricity. The wires are run in conduits or pipes for
insulation. We have about one hundred 16- candle-power lamps. All are operated from a
switchboard, and a 100- light dynamo driven by a 12-horse-power gasoline engine. This
engine also operates the pump for our water system, fire apparatus and deep well pump.
All of the machinery, heating apparatus and hot-water heater are in one room in the
basement and are operated by our engineer. The building is also piped for gas.
The water supply is taken principally from a 3-inch driven well, but we also have another 1 ½ inch well, with wind engine. The water is pumped into a large reservoir or cistern, and from there is taken up by an improved pump of the Neff system of water works, which supplies direct pressure to all pipes in our building as well as our fire lines. We have five stands of fire plugs, each provided with fifty feet of linen hose, and at all times have a pressure and can throw a stream of water sixty feet. This we deem sufficient in case of emergency. Our pump will also draw water from the soft-water cisterns and supplies the large iron tank over the laundry for laundry and kitchen purposes.

Our plumbing has received special attention, and, I believe, is as good as can be found in any institution in the State. The water supply is taken from the system before mentioned, and distributed to all parts of the building. There is a bathroom and sink in the Superintendent’s building, four lavatories in inmates' wards, sink in kitchen, laundry tubs and boiling kettle in laundry, bath tubs and two basins in insane wards and closet in each cell in insane ward. Each lavatory in inmates' wards has two basins, two closets and a tub. Closets are porcelain except those in insane wards. Basins and tubs are white porcelain-lined, and all trimmings are nickel-plated. All basins, tubs, sinks and laundry trays have hot water supply, taken from apparatus in basement, provided with circulating pipe, so that the water is hot the instant the valve is opened. All waste pipes are of iron. All fixtures are trapped, and traps are ventilated, with clean-out plugs in waste pipe. All pipes inside of building are cast-iron pipe, with lead ends, and those on the outside are socket-jointed, laid with cement. These are run to a large catch basin and from there across the fields one-fourth of a mile, where we have constructed a covered cesspool, there being no natural outlet to a river. Three large cisterns have been provided for all water collected from the roofs.

Altogether, we think we have an Infirmary that is complete in itself for the accommodation of our inmates, who fluctuate in number from thirty to fifty. We can accommodate seventy-five if necessary. Work was commenced about June, 1895, and buildings were complete in March, 1896, at a total cost of $35,000.
“State inspector scores infirmary in this county: Says men’s building is unfit for human habitation at present.” LaGrange Standard. August 1, 1940.


Synopsis of La Porte County Home Newspaper Articles

2002 March 17  “Home Sweet Home: Residents of Porter County Home may soon find a haven in LaPorte County.” Porter Co. Home closing in Spring 2002 due to freezing of state funding and county tax shortfalls, along with increased stinginess on part of managed care and insurance companies. Annual cost per resident: $5,000. For people who are disabled but not ready for nursing home care. Comm. Marlow Harmon speaks favorably about home.

2003 June 18  “Commissioners haggle over fate of LP County Home.” Motion to fund renovation tabled. High cost of renovation (estimate from Exelon) caused Comm. Marlow Harmon to question if was wise, as home only serves 28 people and “alternate locations could take them in.” Harmon cited Porter County Home closure as precedent and reason. Closing county homes has been a controversial issue in communities where it has occurred, said Comm. Clay Turner. Turner also talks about deferred maintenance at co. home. Comm. Bill Hager agrees with Turner.

June 19  “But where would they go? County home director frets over threat to residents’ security, safety.” Kay Felton – we need this place. Can’t think of another place for residents. Limited by RCAP freeze.

June 24  “County home challenge: Committee to decide fate of old building and residents.” Committee formed with three county councilmen, Comm. Turner, and Felton. No other place for residents to go. Would end up on streets. County Auditor Ken Layton: An emotional issue. Has problem with county council approving similar amount of money for new co. hist. soc.

“Committee to study county home issue.” Committee to look at cheaper repair options and alternative homes for residents. A tough issue committee is learning about. Harmon: Are there other places for these people to go? Cheaper repairs? Councilman Mark Yagelski: Maybe we should purchase a smaller, more energy-efficient building. Kay Felton: County home would be close to self-supporting if it were full. Turned in $200,000 to county last year. Annual operating cost of home about $500,000. All alternative locations either full or tight budgeted. County Auditor Ken Layton: “I know this is an emotional issue. The $1.5 million is only an estimate. We don’t know for sure how much this will cost. But the really emotional part for me is that this body, just tonight, approved $1.3 million for a building to house the county artifacts. We are talking about human beings here. We should take care of the people who took care of us.”

June 25  “Have a heart, Mr. Commissioners.” Co. home needed, a moral responsibility. “If we were talking about renovating a building for 28 cute orphaned children, not 28 handicapped adults, we wouldn’t be talking at all. It would be done.”
“Study possible alteration of county home, but do not close it.”
Editorial. Mentions explosive comments made by locals and local gov. officials. Things have changed since early poor farm days. There are now private care facilities, but they are very expensive. Also, residents at county home are “borderline.” Don’t need constant care, but can’t quite live on their own.

July 5 “Harmon says he supports keeping county home open.” Harmon not in favor of closing home. Has problem with cost, not home.

July 16 “Harmon says he never meant to close county home.” Local contractors give lower estimates for repairs.

July 17 “County home gets good reviews at open house.” So people can see what all the fuss is about. Local contractor estimates: $700,000 compared to Exelon’s $1.5 mil. Harmon appears to do damage control.

July 23 “Dialogue on county home produced positive results.” “Sometimes provocative comments produce meaningful results.” “It’s only when something is threatened that people pay attention.”

Sept. 17 “County home repair coming: Bids are in; work could begin in a month.” Bids at about $1 mil. Repairs include: boiler replacement, spot-cooling, electrical upgrades, tuck-pointing, window replacement, foundation repair, and drainage. Some grants and gifts to help fund.

Oct. 1 “County home decision on hold.” Committee waiting to review and accept bids.

“Two local contractors in the hunt for county revamp.”


Oct. 25 “State lifts freeze on county home residents.” 5 new residents.

“County home quandary: Renovate or move? Officials must decide.” Updated facility available in Michigan City for $250,000.

Nov. 4 “County home gets new lease on life: Commission decides to renovate in phases.” Tuck-pointing and new windows now.

Nov. 5 “County spending: Renovating County Home makes sense.” Versus building enclosed walkway connecting courthouse and annex.
Nov. 23  “County council: No plans? No money.” Concerns about excess costs cause council to delay approving funds for county home repairs. Council wants very detailed plan of proposed work.

Nov. 25  “County home repair money denied.” Same as above article.

Dec. 23  “Money to remodel County Home approved.” Project will take at least two years to complete.

“Go-ahead for county home: $543,006 for phase 1 gets county council OK.” After 6 months of deliberation. Renovation schedule. To be completed by Nov. 1, 2005.

2004 Feb. 18  “County Home improvements, advisory board move forward.” Creation of county home advisory board.

Feb. 22  “Renovation under way at LP County Home.”

2008 June 10  “Facility still provides a service.” Description of home. Upcoming fundraiser and open house.

2012 Sept. 20  “Former County Home maintenance director: Preserve the barns.”
THE COUNTY INFIRMARY.

A Description of Marshall County's Institution for Indigent and Homeless People.

"Over the hills to the poorhouse!" Call it an asylum for the poor, home for the homeless, refuge for the indigent, county infirmary, or any kindred name, no one forgets that the place designated is the poorhouse.

In the country more than in the large cities people are brought up with a righteous horror of going to the poorhouse, regarding it as a disgrace as well as a misfortune, and the prevailing impressions of the institution are of cold and cheerless quarters, insufficient clothing, meager and unpalatable food and cruel keepers. Sunday school stories of years ago were rich in poorhouse lore and assisted greatly in forming these impressions.

Poorhouse of Romance.

Such stories usually told of a quaint old lady who had seen better days and had, for some purpose mysteriously running through the book and disclosed toward the end, been brought into poverty and taken weeping "over the hills." To thicken the plot there was a wealthy relative, whose existence had been unsuspected by the old lady, and who conveniently died intestate in an early chapter, thus leaving his vast accumulations to descend to his next of kin, who, it turns out, was the quaint old lady herself, all ignorant of her riches, knitting patiently in her cheerless room and waiting with a silent longings for the vanguard to the great beyond.

The villain, who was next to her in the line of inheritance, had plotted to sequestre her within those walls so that she might not discover her good fortune or be discovered herself and be thereby be the better enabled to enjoy her rightful estate. But there was a poor homeless young orphan in the asylum to whom the old lady was good, and the orphan, being active and quick-witted, uncovered the villain's plot and the good old lady came into her own, amid the general rejoicing of a whole lot of people who didn't seem to care much when she became a change upon the county. She proceeded without delay to establish all the pampers in various lines of business of which their several misfortunes had deprived them, and to secure the instant removal of the cruel keeper, and when enough chapters had been written to make a book of the proper Sunday school size she had a "stroke"—old people in poorhouses always had "strokes"—and died, cutting off the villain by a will and leaving her property to the orphan, who then married well and in a few closing lines became an exemplary character in the community. The old lady's dying words were impressive and pointed out the moral of the book.

The poorhouse of fiction is usually far out on some lonely country road, hidden in a dreary grove of scraggly maple trees. The keeper is gruff, cruel and very economical in all matters pertaining to the comfort and welfare of his involuntary guests. But sometimes the noblest endows the keeper's wife with a tender heart, in which case she is led...
bon, in the center of a region of rich
farms belonging to progressive and suc-
cessful farmers, the sleek and well-fed
passengers of the Pennsylvania’s “mil-
lion dollar express” may observe with a
passing glance of curiosity the handsome
and spacious buildings of the Marshall
county infirmary, barely a stone’s throw
from the railway. Surrounded by green
lawns, beds of flowers and shady trees,
the main building presents an imposing
and attractive appearance. It is two
stories in height, with basement and attic,
and is constructed of red brick with
stone trimmings upon a heavy stone
foundation. The roof is of slate.

The interior.

Entering through the arched front
the visitor is conducted to the
office on the left of the wide hall, where
he registers and where he may telephone
his friends that he is all, right if
he wishes, and then he is shown the
parlor, dining room and kitchen of the
superintendent and the private bedrooms
upstairs, all handsome, well-lighted and
nicely furnished rooms of ample propor-
tions. On each floor there is a corridor
of ample width the full length of the
building, separating the men’s quarters
from the women’s, the men occupying
the east half. The rooms of the inmates
open upon cross-corridors and the floor
plans are such as to afford ample light
and ventilation at every point. The
sitting-room for the women is at the ex-
treme west of the cross-corridor and that
of the men at the east, both on the first
floor and both opening on large and
pleasant verandas. Bath rooms and
closets are conveniently disposed, and
the cages for refractory inmates—for
such persons are occasionally quartered
there—are inconspicuously placed up-
stairs.

The bedrooms of the inmates are of
good size, comfortably furnished and
pleasantly situated, each one having a
The two dining-rooms are on either sides of the main corridor and at the north, the sexes eating separately, and the large kitchen is in the rear, opening directly into both dining-rooms and having one convenient stairway to the store-rooms in the basement and another to the laundry. The attic is used for storage and for drying clothes in inclement weather, and the basement is used for storage, fuel, steam heating apparatus and a gas machine. The entire building is economically and perfectly heated by steam and lighted by gas.

The County’s Farm.

The large barn is one of the best and most commodious in the county and with the smaller buildings adjoining, affords plenty of room for all stock, implements, grain and feed that may be accumulated on the place.

The county’s farm upon which the infirmary buildings are situated, known as the poor farm, is one of the best farms in this part of the state, and in its present condition of cultivation it is perhaps the best in Marshall county. It comprises two hundred acres, purchased at a cost to the county of one hundred dollars an acre without improvements. Its cultivation is complete except the timber lot of about ten acres, and the fences, buildings and drains are all in perfect condition.

The Superintendent.

The present high degree of cultivation of this magnificent farm, and the husband-like condition of its buildings and appurtenances, are due to the constant supervision of a practical farmer, having a thoughtful regard to the bringing up of the land to the highest point of productivity instead of neglecting and ignorantly permitting things to run themselves and deteriorate. Prosper N. Mickey is the present superintendent. He was born and has lived all his life on a farm and was known as one of Marshall county’s successful farmers when he was appointed by the county commissioners to take this very responsible position. His successful efforts have won for him the commendation of all who have knowledge of what he has accomplished.

The farm, with its equipment of buildings, implements and stock, is a very valuable property and the responsibility of handling it to the best advantage of its owners—the taxpayers—is very great. The supervision of the infirmary building, the management of the inmates and the purchase of supplies are all matters of minor importance as compared with the farming operations, for improper methods in the latter will run rapidly and inevitably into waste, the cost of which must be borne by those who pay the taxes. Mr. Mickey’s predecessor was N. E. Bunch, a practical and experienced farmer, who was the first to assume the superintendency of the infirmary farm after the county acquired it. His management was excellent and his labors were worthy continued by the present incumbent. After April 1, 1896, the superintendent will be Peter J. Kruyer, who never lived on a farm and who now has any occupation outside of a printing office. In the interest of the public welfare it is hoped that he will be no less successful in his new occupation than were those who preceded him.
of the inmates are there because they are not able-bodied and cannot support themselves. Theirs heart goes out to them because of their unfortunate condition, and yet they are better housed and better cared for than are the very great majority of self-supporting working people. There are many of them who can do some work, and by them much of the ordinary labor about the place is performed, such as cleaning, laundry work, odd jobs on the farm and in the stables, gardening and keeping the lawn. There is but one man regularly employed upon the farm at wages and three women are employed in the house.

**Influence of the Matron.**

From attic to basement the great infirmary is scrupulously clean. From parlor to kitchen and laundry there is an air of marvelous neatness, and all of the inmates are clean and clad in neat garments. Everything is clean and cheerful and well cared for. This is contrary to romance and almost against nature, and will attract the notice of any visitor at once. Mrs. Mickey, the matron, is the busy little body who is responsible for that state of affairs. Aided by the three women employed in the house and by the inmates as are able, she wages a relentless war upon all unclean things and foul odors, and her battles are always successful though they must be interminably fought over and over again.

Wiping, dusting, sweeping, scrubbing, washing, disinfecting, bathing, cooking, sawing—an endless chain of the woman's
work that is never done—require the ever-present watchfulness of the matron.

Nor is this all. She is the "little mother" of her dependent, wards and it is to her they go with all their little affairs, their troubles and their pleasures, their frequent desires for cleanliness and for reading; all their confidences and requests are received with patient cheerfulness, and she maintains the discipline of the institution by the gentle rules of kindness. As she passes to and fro the visitor will not fail to note the eager eye and the pleasant smile of every inmate she meets. They feel her sympathy, poor things, and it is hard for them to imagine anyone else caring for them.

Their Recreation and Sunday School.

Mrs. Mickey gathers up papers and books for her poor people, she brings them together in one of the dining rooms and reads to them, or if one is sick that one is read to in the private room; she plays the piano or the mandolin for them and sings or leads them in singing; and every Saturday evening they have a singing school in which they all join according to their several accomplishments, and some of them are very good singers, too.

Every Sabbath day Sunday school is held in the women's dining room, in which all eagerly participate. They have their bibles, singing books, lesson leaves and picture cards, and there is no Sunday school in Plymouth whose pupils take a greater interest in their work or labor as hard to prepare their lessons during the week as do these pauper pupils at the infirmary. It is a subterfuge that they wear their bibles out by constant use, and they learn many passages of scripture. Mrs. Mickey leads in the Sunday school, but they all take part, whether it be in singing, reciting, reading or praying. The Methodist Sunday school in Plymouth has furnished the lesson leaves for a long time, and they are now in need of more singing books. They always need more bibles.

And so these people "over the hills at the poorhouse" live. They are happy and contented just according as they are made so by their surroundings. They are not there for punishment in any possible sense and their enjoyment should be neglected in no possible way. Sometimes one dies; and then the worn-out body, if not taken by friends for burial, is laid away in the little graveyard over on the east side of the farm and the problem of life for that one is solved. Every citizen should make it a point to visit the county infirmary.
Rules Governing Marshall County Poor Asylum

1. The poor asylum and inmates are under the control of the Superintendent. No inmate shall leave the premises without permission of the Superintendent. The east side of the building and yard shall be known as the male department, and the west side of the building and yard shall be known as the department for females, and no inmate shall leave the department assigned him or her without the consent of the Superintendent or assistant.

2. Inmates shall rise in the morning, at once make their beds and promptly respond to the call to meals. Anyone failing to respond promptly may be deprived of his or her meals. No conversation permitted in the dining rooms, except with the Superintendent or assistants.

3. After breakfast each inmate will go to work as directed by the Superintendent or his assistants.

4. No lights will be allowed, except in the sitting room and wash room, unless on permission of Superintendent.

5. Quarreling and the use of profane or obscene language is expressly forbidden.

6. No spitting or dishing of any kind will be allowed on the floors, or to be thrown out of the windows. Spittoons must be cleansed every day. Any inmate spitting on the floor, wall or behind the radiator will be denied tobaccos.

7. Every inmate must bathe when admitted and once a week, or oftener, thereafter, if required by the Superintendent.

8. Smoking in the sleeping apartments, or in other rooms except the sitting-room, is prohibited.

9. Inmates in good health will not be allowed to occupy the sleeping apartments during the day. The rooms may be closed when the inmates leave them in the morning and remain closed until bedtime.

10. Each person will be held responsible for the care of his room, seeing to it that the same is kept in good order.

11. The Superintendent may, at the expense of the County, mail one letter each week for each inmate. Letter writing by inmates to one another is positively forbidden. Any inmate writing anything obscene or vulgar shall be punished by imprisonment or discharge.

12. No person is allowed to drive any nail or nails, or otherwise deface any of the walls in or about said asylum.

13. Visitors to inmates and the institution will be admitted only on TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS of each week, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. No visitors will be admitted on legal holidays or Sundays.

14. It is the duty of the Superintendent to enforce these rules strictly and impartially. Inmates refusing to comply therewith are liable to be punished as the Superintendent may deem necessary. Any inmate showing violence, disobedience or disrespect to the Superintendent or his family, or to any assistant, shall be liable to be imprisoned or discharged.

George F. Ham

John L. Russell

\[ \text{\$} \text{ Board of Commissioners of Marshall Co.} \]
Rental Fees

Entire Day: 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
$125.00

Half-Day: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
or 3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
$75.00

Hourly Rate: $25.00 per hour

* $25.00 non-refundable reservation fee will be applied to rental fee amount

* Non-refundable reservation fee is due at time of reservation

* Full rental fee due no later than one week prior to event

To schedule your reservation;
For questions regarding the barn;
or
To make a donation to the Shady Rest Barn Preservation Fund
   call
1-800-686-6847
ext. 2954

SHADY REST BARN
10924 Lincoln Highway
Plymouth, Indiana 46563

Plan your next event around a historic theme and come enjoy the newly preserved Shady Rest Barn!

Honored by the Wythougan Valley Preservation Council 2003

Placed on the National Register of Historic Places 2000
The Shady Rest Barn was renovated and preserved during the summer of 2003 partially funded with a grant from the Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology.

Preservation work includes a new roof, new cupola, siding, barn doors, louvers, masonry, exterior paint, electrical service and interior lighting. The cupola, shown above, is an exact replica of the original cupola on the barn which was built in 1892.

Efforts were taken to preserve the nesting areas for the barn swallows during construction. Barn swallows are a protected species in Indiana and nest in the lower level of the barn during the spring and early summer.

Bowen Center has established the Shady Rest Barn Preservation Fund to provide for the continued protection and support of the Shady Rest Barn. All proceeds from the barn rentals will be placed in this preservation fund.

Dinner parties have been very successful at the barn. In July 2002 and July 2003 events were held with over 100 people in attendance. A local band provided entertainment and dinner was catered by a local restaurant.

The Shady Rest Barn is also available for tours and picnics for children and adults.

**Rental Information**

**Amenities Available:**
- Enclosed Historic Structure
- Electricity
- Portable Toilets
- Yard Space
- Trash Receptacles

**Renter must provide:**
- Potable Water
- Tables/Chairs
- Trash Bags

We look forward to sharing this majestic barn with the community. Surrounded by magnificent trees, spacious farm fields and ample grassy areas for outdoor party games. We're certain your group will enjoy this extraordinary setting for your next event.

Names and contacts for local rental agencies, caterers, party planners and entertainers are available upon request.
Newspaper articles (in chronological order)


“Board votes to connect sewer line at Shady Rest.” *South Bend Tribune*. February 3, 1998.


Synopsis of Marshall County Newspaper Articles

1893  May 4  Inmates of county infirmary moved from Tyner to new building east of Plymouth. (*Plymouth Republican*)

1898  Feb. 10 “The County Infirmary.” Good explanation of home as it was when it was first built.

1903  Feb. 26 “One of Best in the State: The Marshall County Poor Infirmary is So Recognized by All State Charity Associations.” Site plan shows where burial ground was located.

1972  Jan. 31 “Kruegers to begin Shady Rest duties.” Mrs. Krueger to be superintendent. Mr. to be assistant.

1975  Oct. 31 “They call it home.” Observances of life at Shady Rest. Says there are 126 county homes in Indiana. ?

1977  Mar. 8 Renovation chosen over new building because would cost less.

Mar. 29 “Petitions ask Shady Rest renovation.” Controversy over past two years. 50 petitions circulating regarding $650,000 bond for $775,000 renovation of home. Commissioners in favor. Consider building new home.

April 2 “Petitions back Shady Rest.”

April 23 “Council to act on Shady Rest.” Likely to go through since $125,000 already appropriated.

May 4 “No basement for Shady Rest.” Architects Robert Lieberenz and Mark Jones. Talk about additions.

May 12 “Shady Rest petitioners shift gears.” Plans for cheap new county home unveiled at secret meeting with just 16 days left in remonstrance period.

May 17 “Shady Rest plans take another step.” Specifications almost ready for bids.

July 15 “Shady Rest plans revised.” To include recommendations of fire marshal.

July 19 “Contract ok’d for Shady Rest.”

Aug. 4 “Shady Rest bonds sold.”

1978  July 3 “Commissioners ok Shady Rest rate.”

July 14 “Renovation.” Photo. Demolition of old wing.
1987  June 2 “Hearing conducted on Shady Rest issue.” Comm. Overmyer: “Anybody who can afford to keep a car shouldn’t be staying out there. She isn’t required to live in the home.”

June 23 “Leaving for game.” Photo. Anonymous person donated 33 tickets to Cubs game for Shady Rest residents.

Dec. 13 “Restructuring being planned for Shady Rest.” Co. commissioners considering turning home operation and management over to private company. In response to claims that current Shady Rest administrator is mismanaging.

1988  Sept. 22 “Home’s ex-chief asked to cover lost funds.” $4,313.03 missing from accounts. Roeing Corp. hired to manage home in 1988.

1997  Dec. 16 “County board rethinks future of Shady Rest Home.” No new residents being admitted. State Board of Health could close facility unless improvements made ASAP. Needs new sewer system, new water system, and new sprinkler system. In 1995, fate of county home pondered, but continued. County homes closing because of expenses and aging structures.

1998  Feb. 3 “Board votes to connect sewer line at Shady Rest.” Home will not close. Even if residents moved to new facility, commissioners want to keep old building nice so its attractive to prospective buyers.

Feb. 8 “Shady Rest still on the job: County eyes new assisted-living facility.”

May 12 “Shady Rest future remains uncertain.” Problems at Shady Rest. “The chosen path [for Shady Rest] sits in the laps of the three commissioners, who oversee policy decisions. But the ultimate say-so rests with the council members, who oversee the purse strings for the county.” Renovate current facility or slowly phase out county home altogether.

2001  May 2 “County to hand over Shady Rest May 11.” Facility to be turned over to Otis R. Bowen Center. Bowen Center offers care for “chronically mentally ill.” Property goes back to county if Bowen Center ever leaves. Employees and as many residents as possible to make transition to Bowen.

May 12 “County hands over Shady Rest.” Comm. Cliff Allen: “This may not be exactly what everybody wanted, but it comes close. The home is still there, the employees are taken care of and some of the people out there will get to stay.” Overmyer: Happy professionals are taking over care. Doesn’t think county should be in health care business.
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Common Property Name: Vintage Campers / Piper Residence

LOCATION
Address: 2574 S. Stratton Pkwy
City: Peru
Township: Washington
County: Miami
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: lat 40.871233 lon -86.633333

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1912
Style: Colonial Revival
Architect: Charles Gifford
Years Served as County Home: 1919-1975
Builder: Daniel Gifford

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Excellent
Good
Fair ✔
Deteriorated
Ruins
Endangered

Surveys/Legal Protections:

Present Use: Residence / Business
Ownership: Daniel A. and John Piper
Owner Address: 2574 S. Stratton Pkwy, Peru, IN 46970
Owner Phone: (765) 472-9258

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 0.62
Environment: Rural

# Related Resources: 2
# Non-related Resources: 0
List related resources: Gardens (perhaps once summer kitchen + shop or some sort)
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Historic Property Name: Montgomery County Poor Farm
Common Property Name: Trinity Mission

LOCATION
Address: 1101 N. Whitlack Ave
Township: Union
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: lat 39°23'52"N lon -84°43'27"W

City: Crawfordsville
County: Montgomery

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1890
Style: Colonial Revival
Architect: 
Builder: 
Years Served as County Home: 103 (1890-1993)

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Excellent
Good
Fair
Deteriorated
Ruins
Endangered

Surveys/Legal Protections:

Present Use: Christian men's drug rehabilitation facility
Ownership: Board of Commissioners of Montgomery County

Owner Address: 4th Auditor Office, 100 E Main St, 102 Crawfordsville IN 47933
Owner Phone:

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 199.68
Environment: Rural

# Related Resources: 3
# Non-related Resources: 1
List related resources: Brick ruins (cell house)
3. Dairy barn

Site Plan:

Literature:
MONTGOMERY CO.

- Union Twp. Still operating 1962-78. 
  Built bet. 1894 - 1993 (last year in directory)
  "In the County Asylums"

"Last yr. there were 4,351 persons in the 20 poor asylums of IN. Of these 438 were 
under sixteen years of age; 1,500 were over 60 
sby. The report of the State Board of 
Charities has the inmates classed as to 
disability & reports that in the Montgomery 
county asylum were 12 feeble-minded, 2 insane, 
4 epileptic, 6 feeble-minded, 2 blind, 2 
deaf & dumb, 11 crippled, 1 paralytic"
"Paupers’ Paradise." Crawfordsville Weekly Review. March 14, 1885.

THE REVIEW

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1885.

Paupers’ Paradise.

Who They Are—Their Nationality—Their Trouble—How Long There.

The Four Walls Which Hold More Misery and Votes Than Any Others in the Country.

The REVIEW is happy to inform its readers this week in the article which follows, a thorough description of the workings of that costly institution known as the "Poor House." The present "County Farm" was purchased by the commissioners March 11, 1841, of Wm. Burbridge, for the sum of two county orders of $800 each, and assuming the payment of a mortgage of $1,200 held by Mr. Bromer, of New York. A brick building was erected and Wm. Burbridge appointed superintendent. He was followed successively by James Wallace, James Hlush, Henry Brown, Thomas Campbell, W. R. Lawson, George Jones, Sr., George Jones, Jr., and T. J. Holt, the present incumbent.

It was found that the old building was not large enough to accommodate the paupers of the county, and on June 12, 1888, the commissioners contracted for the erection of the present building with Jas. L. Wallace for the brick work and Nathaniel Morgan for the wood work.仕是 the first superintendent of the new building. The present incumbent, Thomas J. Holt, took the reins of office in 1877, and on Monday was re-employed by the Board of Commissioners for another term.

The building is a large, square structure of red brick, two stories in height, divided in the center of both stories by a wide hallway, flanked on either sides by rows of rooms, each containing two beds and several of them as many as three. The walls were, we suppose, originally white, but at this date bear little resemblance to the driven snow. The walls do not look as if they had been introduced to soap and water for a long time, if ever. Great holes have been knocked in the plastering, laying bare the lathing and brick work. The beds' mattresses are all single and many of them would seem to be populated with things not human, which according to the theory of Evolution, may be a stage of human development. The population of the bedsteads may be much greater than our usual examination would indicate. It was a scratching subject to tackle, when the "blues" of the Superintendent were cast upon us in a most pleasing manner. The beds are supplied with two alpaca, two pillows and a cotton comforter, if our examination went, and the bedclothes did not appear to have been interviewed by the washerwoman for some time. Several of the beds were occupied by aged paupers, who still retained their clothing, worn dirty but not muddy boots. In the male department, which is upstairs, the dirt was more plentiful than belowstairs, as all the male paupers smoke, and many of them chew tobacco. The total absence of cups and saucers leaves the floors of the hall and all rooms free for the use of the paupers. From the indications the Review visited the institution, after a few days spending in the part of the house, the American Navy could float a battleship in the building. When the Review visited the institution, there were 60 inmates ranging in age from 14 to 100 years: consumptives, paralytics, epileptics, old people, destitute people, silly people, crazy people, and several whose only disease is pure and unadulterated disgust, mixed with hilarity and a warped and deformed mind which led them to believe, until disease, the natural result of a life of shame has left them physical, mental, and subjects of public charity. The yard surrounding the building is a barren of grass as the top of Mount Blanc, and the atmosphere which rises from the place is that of the smell of paupers, would seem to drive nature farther away, with its leaves, its birds and its flowers, to whirl the eyes of more fortunate humanity. These people live year in and year out in an atmosphere loaded with stench, which makes one unhinged to it, as though on a car wheel on his stomach would hardly suffice to keep that organ from turning a double summersault in his

The atmosphere in the county jail is the perfume of Amboy the best compare to the noxious fumes which hang around the building in which is confined the paupers of Montgomery County. Those who are acquainted with jails and their menagement, state that ours is in the only instance ever examined, which was destitute of that smell so peculiar to prisons. To air in the jail through grated windows and in some cases is pitch-black. Why the county tax

sum being so far removed from any other building, with the stream of Rock River running just behind it and the air so hot in west and sunning on the farm should give rise to this smell is a question for those who understand its workings to explain. Because a man is understood to no reason why he should live in an atmosphere which is death itself. A plentiful coat of whitewash, a few barrels of water would go a long way to ward the atmosphere purer, the inmates more presentable and the insects fewer. This is merely a suggestion.

Perhaps not one in every hundred of the Review’s readers ever visited an asylum of any kind, therefore they have no idea of the misery which can be found boxed up, as it were, in four brick walls. Aged people, who have seen better days, now thrown by invalid relatives on the cold earth of the world, heaped about, from pillow to post, until their forms are bent and decrepit, and grey hair falls in wild abandon about their old temples. Losing all in old age, unable to work, they shudder all hopes; yet, still clinging to life with a tenacity remarkable, they work the cold, damp, insanitary county asylum, where they wait patiently for the end. For such there is no heart but constant pity. Others again are not desirous of pity, they can give no valid excuse for their present condition in life; they cannot tell to what they owe their condition. They accept the situation, never thinking or caring about the outside world, supremely happy with three meals a day of corn bread, black coffee, boiled potatoes and sometimes beans, and their associations with idiots and silly paupers are equal in their minds to that of kings and queens. They sleep among the insects as soundly as though in a downy bed, fanned by the "spicy" breeze which blow softly over Caylee’s little.

With dirty clothes and unshaved hair, the gage with a supercilious stare on the intruder who seeks to explore the places where they live from year to year, making no effort to better their condition, their minds obscured by the mist of pauperism. The only news they hear of the outside world is brought to them by newsmen, and their only music the chatter of idiots and the wild laugh of maniacs; content to live off public charity and sleep the everlasting sleep at life’s dreary close, in the rough pine coffin of a pauper. God help such people, of no use to themselves or humanity in this world, to be something in the next.

There is still another class who are insane, not from choice, but sheer necessity. The wolf of starvation drove them to the door of the public asylum house. Too poor to beg, they take what is offered to them by public charity and go their way, only hiding their time to escape the torment
The sun had forgotten the days of "Auld Lang Syne." Though health comparatively is this world's goods, she had no corner in his hode for the mother, who bore him, and no crust of bread to give to keep life from which he was shorn.

Mother was in no corner now to her step was tinge her voice tremulous with age, her hair white with the snows of many years. "Three years have passed since this, and during that time not cool had the cruel hearted son seen the old mother, who is to the grave through the thorns, poisonous air of the county poor house, although she has repeatedly sent for him. What wonder would it be, did she send, comme, goblins, and devils dance about the cough of William Cook, hissing sleep, and ghosts more horrible than that of the murdered Banango confront him at every step. With his mother's presence in his dying spirit, she should have never comes his mother's tongue will stand for the forgiveness of his sins when time unites them." 

ROSA DOWNTON.

Rosa is 22 years of age, and is afflicted with St. Vitus dance. She has been an inmate of the asylum for 11 weeks. She is a rather comely looking lady and was dressed in a more becoming and neater style than any inmate of the institution. She was engaged in sewing.

MARY LAYNET.

This woman is 42 years of age and has been afflicted with epilepsy all her life. She has entirely lost the power of speech, being only able to utter unintelligible jargon. She was poorly clothed in an old calico gown, her face colored of a sunburned red, hair in a tangle. She was the picture of utter misery and has been an inmate of the asylum for 22 years.

MARTHA BARNES.

Martha is one of the women known to the world as "scarlet" and spectacle of human depravity. She is 27 years old, and has been an inmate 3 years. during that time she has occupied a bed for five years paralyzed from the waist down, and her arms and shoulders contorted into fear of the pain of the disease which from every limb and artery of her body. Lying on a small bed, her face the hue of saffron her breast asked except a miserable wretched rag drawn across, the complaint of pain in every muscle it was indeed a sight to cause one to shudder. Looking at this woman, one is impressed at her sin, suggested the propriety of more dilatory work at home and the expenditure; she was 40 years old, and had been an inmate for ten years. Her hair was clipped close, and she sits in a chair, writing an uninteresting letter. She is an object of curiosity, her face thinning off a new face.
POLLY PORTER.

Polly is one of the odd cases; she is a blemish of the worst description, and when out of her "spree" comes on the usual thing, tattle. She is what might be called a jobber, short-time enough, on some occasions, but when her anger is up, "look out." She was chained to the door, but wouldn’t allow the chain to the newspaper man, nor would she tell him why she was compelled to wear it. "Wont do, won’t do," she screamed with a wild shake of her head, and a laugh that would brighten a timid pervert. She is kept chained about all the time. Her age is 37 and she has been an inmate 9 years.

LUCINDA GREEN.

Lucinda is another whose heart passions have brought her low. Not unrepentant in appearance, her body is racked in every joint by pain, the result of her own folly. She is 47 years old, and has been an inmate since October last.

EILEEN BIRDKLEY.

Eileen’s case is one of destitution; she has two small children, and could not prepare food for them during the winter in the city, and moved to the Pauper’s Parsonage to await the arrival of "Belfast Aid." She and her children have been inmates for about five months. She will, says, go to work as soon as she can and find work to do and the cold can be borne with impunity.

SUSIE BICKARD.

Susie, as she is called by all about the farm, claims the house—such a thing can be so named. Susie Bickard of Montgomery County ever produced. She is a rather large woman, considerably deformed, and has a voice in pitch not unlike the sound produced by drawing a flat across the teeth of a brush. She is very strong and shrill, and not trembling. She informed the lawyer with much pride, that she “comes with her family to the house from the old asylum” and has been with everyone “home” who has resided there. Her “family” evidently didn’t see as she did as they are not to be found on the roster, and left Susie as their representative. The records of the institution show her age to be over 100. Last the reputation of the lawyer for truth and veracity should be called into question, we will state that Susie Bickard flow in our county poor house in one hundred days of the year, and has been an inmate for 41 years. It would have been more vigorous to state the horrors of 41 years in a prison cell.

JOSEPH PERTZ.

Joseph is a paralytic; he don’t seem to be very badly off, and probably was born lived along with the paralytic. He is 79 years old, of German descent and has been an inmate one year.

JACOB PAY.

This man has been an inmate 6 months, and is aged 64 years. Not much of his history is known or can be procured, as he is of a taciturn nature. He is badly ruptured, his nationality is German.

JIMMY MOORE.

Jimmy is of German lineage, and is now 59 years old. He has been an inmate of this institution since 1876. He is informed from old age. His general health is good, but he is a victim of "epilepsy," as epilepsy and other fits are known at the institution, and the dinapse and chains are used to strengthen him when attacked by these paroxysmal attacks.

HERMAN SICIAL.

Herman is the only colored person in the county house, which fact speaks well for the colored people of the county. This one is a mental. He has been confined in the insane asylum, pronounced incurable, and sent back to end his days at the county poor house. He is 43 years old, and has been an inmate for two years. He is very quiet as a general rule, but takes these spells, when it requires the combined strength of a half dozen men to control and bind him to the floor.

JOHN SMITH.

John is also a native of the "soul cord." His age is 65. When asked how long he had been an inmate, looked up from his paper, peered through his spectacles, and with a cynical grin, replied, "Blessed be Oi know; maybe the boss man tell as much as I can." Down went his head and he commenced reading again.

ANN CONNELL.

Ann is the only colored person anywheres as "a tone cold Irish gentleman," closely in his habits, her face smooth and grave and her hair combed slick. He in his room reading the news. He is worn out physically and broken down in health. He looks like a man to whom life is such a place to be tortured. His age is 74, and he has been an inmate for 15 years. Ann in his better days was an excellent gardener, was formerly gardener for Col. W. C. Wilson. He is a man of very high character and unquestioned integrity, and a devout Catholic.

PATRICK RAYMOND.

Patrick’s name would indicate his nationality. He is possessed of a kindly face and pleasant smile. He was sick the day the Review called on him, and was furnished a supply of double buck-stitched cathartic pills by the county physician, which pills he received with a hearty "Goodbye, ye etc." Though sick, Pat had been down to the bare last, and had his bowels covered with mud and had gotten into bed just so, making a very bad looking set of bed clothes. His age is 69 and he has been an inmate 10 years.

DEKKY HENDS.

Dekky, the man is 25 years of age and is in almost the last stages of consumption. He can sit up and talk about some, but the terrible cough tells his story. He has been an inmate eight years.
EDWARD BRANDKAMP.

This man is noted as the finest silversmith in the State, an expert at watch making and engraving. He is cursed with a terrible appetite for strong drink, which has completely wrecked him physically and mentally, both hand and brain having lost their cunning. He is 60 years old and has been an inmate 13 years. It is sad to see a man, once honored and respected among his fellows, blessed with an interesting talent and in a position to enjoy life, fall from that high position to the level of a brute and enter the county poor house, friendless at last and hopeless in the end.

"IT'S THE HANGOVER, UNWAKE, UNHARMED AND SOLEMN."  

Edward Brandkamp, with his wrecked faculties and palsied limbs, is a temperature lecture more powerful than the most virulent poison ever painted could utter.

D. F. PICKARD.

This man has chronic bronchitis, with a strong tendency to consumption. He is, by all odds, the fairest looking man at the asylum. His forehead is broad and high, while his face is covered by a magnificent beard, reaching almost to his waist. He is stretched upon a poor cot, gradually coughing his life away. He told the physician that he was utterly heart sick and discouraged, fretting under the forced seclusion of public charity. He is 67 years old and has been an inmate six months.

MICHAEL MARSHE.

Michael is an Irenhew, and has lived at the institution for 30 years. He came there in 1860 with a badly broken leg, and from that day to this has never walked. The leg was set, but the wound produced running sores which have spread from foot to thigh, making it a horrible sight to look at. He will not allow amputation and swears like a trooper when the operation is mentioned. He is now 80 years old and Father Time, with his scythe, will soon sweep him from the scene of his sufferings. Into, into, a more joyful plane.

JONH STEWARD.

John is a German and his conversation is not intelligible to all its parts to one not acquainted with the vernacular of Bavaria's government. He is 72 years old and has been an inmate five years. His only troubles are old age and physical weakness.

SAM HAMMOND.

Sam is 62 years of age and is a wild, screaming maniac. His yell can be heard for a long distance when a spell is on. He is not dangerous and is allowed to roam about at will. He has been an inmate nine years.

JOHN HANSON.

John is a 34 years of age and has been an inmate ten years. He is a sufferer from spinal disease, which has drawn his back into the shape of a letter S, and bitterly incapacitated him for work. He has no friends, his only hope was the poor house, where his days end. He is employed as a helper in the dining room.

CRYSTAL HINT.

Crystal is about 50 years old and is weak minded. She has been raised at the asylum from a child. She is not dangerous and is employed in the kitchen as a helper. Her shock of coal black hair standing on end like that of the side show freak Caravaggio, and skin the color of a well worn drum head, with a pair of coal black eyes, minus expression, give her a wild and uncanny appearance.

TOM CUNNINGHAM.

This man's case is one of the saddest. He is now 74 years old and for 20 years his eyes have been sealed. He is native of Ireland, and has not a friend in the New World. He is a man of considerable education and takes intelligently on any subject. He is clean in his habits and his face bears a pleasant smile. He spoke feelingly of the great calamity which had overtaken him and the sightless eyes filled with tears. The man was cast away and pitied in his heart for the poor creature whose eyes are gone, is indeed a hardened wretch.

PATRICK JEFFES.

Pat is a native of Ireland, 34 years of age, and an inmate of this institution for 15 years. His only trouble is old age, his surroundings which have incapacitated him from work, and homeless and friendless, a stranger in a strange land. He suffers from gout at the very open door.

CHAREL EDWARDS.

This man was well known over this city a few years ago as a silly boy. As a boy his mind was still on the blank until he was considered a lad. He has been at the asylum for 20 years and is 80 years old. He moves, however, shivering quaveringly at every object, and offering harm to nothing. He is an object of pity.

IV. LOUISE.

This man is a victim to epilepsy. He has periodic attacks of this malady and becomes furious in its intensity. It is said that the combined efforts of the force employed about the building to chain him down. He is not the appearance of one of low birth. His head is well shaped, and his intellect has been almost entirely shattered by the terrible disease, but it can still be seen what the man once was. He bears numbers and height, and the result of his severe falls on the floor and against objects. He informed the observers that he had eaten no breakfast this morning and was momentarily expecting an attack of his malady. He is 30 years old, has iron grey hair and has been an inmate for 3 years. He is the son of Co. B. Exit, one of the 1st settlers of Montgomery county, a man of wealth and influence. Alfred was considered the most promising of his youth. He had acquired a good education, was of above the average, had taught school very successfully, and been a student of medicine. This disease had preyed upon him and continued, from the time of his first affliction, and it was for the purpose of finding a cure that he studied medicine. He failed to find it. He was a man liked by everyone, his condition was so recondite that all knew him. His family was forced to take him to the asylum because of his violent paroxysms when attacked by the malady, which will only be cured by an eternal sleep of death.

JOHN BOYD.

John is of Irish descent and can talk a tobacco lad's death in five hours if exposed to the storm. He wears a hat, slat of very red hair extending from ear to ear under his chin, a mustache of a weather beaten color and a very rap face. He is an inebriate smoker and uses a pipe very powerful for perfume. He was very anxious to be interviewed on almost any subject except his past history, which would have doth been very interesting, but which all seemed a burden to him. He is afflicted with fits and his mind is trembling in the balance. He is 56 years old and has been an inmate for 15 years. During his worst attacks he was chained to the floor.

W. BUTLER.

Wm. Butler is of Irish extraction, and is crippled, having one foot off. He is very old and being crippled, too obligates him from work. He is jolly and ready to crack a joke at all times. He tries to be cleanly in his habits and succeeds as well as the circumstances will allow. His age is 78 and he has been an inmate 23 years. He can chew tobacco equal to the best on earth.

JIMMY BRAND.

Jimmy is insane, and a very bad man when angry. His age is 35 years and he has been an inmate of the asylum for 19 years. He is the most violent inmate of the house, and his condition compels him to be put in a dark dungeon about as safe as his spells come on.

JOHN HOPFMAN.

If the visitor gets close to this individual, he will send all the weight possible to hold his stomach in position, and will think of the horrible object with feelings.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2]
of disgust and looking for weeks. "Old Gubley," as he is called, is an idiot of the most horrible kind, of low stature, abject face, fearful eye, and everything else you'd like to make a terrible object, seemingly beakened by God and abandoned by his fellow men. Into the wrinkles on his face and neck his hair had run into all kinds of stuff and over his clothes until the sweat which oozes from him would have driven ten messy nuns out of sight into hard oak,—"metaphorically speaking," and this object being but little resemblance to the human family, with a duff and diet is allowed to circulate among the other inmates scattering his horrible smell all over the house. If he was placed somewhere where the nose could be turned up daily, he could be kept in a more presentable shape. Such people should be taken care of and they should be some day provided for keeping them clean or for keeping them from view. The suit of clothes worn by this man is the dirtiest I have seen, and it is said that he has been put in it two days before we started the establishment, and it then looked as though it had been draped underfoot by a herd of oxen in a stable for the same period old John had worn it. Reliability and pure water will hurt no one and a vast deal more of it would undoubtedly improve the affairs which rise as of fog from old John. John is 70 years old and has been a country charge for 20 years. In addition to being an idiot he is badly ruptured.

Pat. Pat is 65 years of age and did not seem to enjoy answering questions. He said he had been an inmate about six mouths. "What is the matter with you Pat?" "Paht." "And you, Pat?" "Paht," Pat said, with a smile. "Paht, Pat." "Pat, Pat!" "Paht." Pat said, "I hope so, Pat." "God bless ye, Pat, and so do I, Pat." 100, McAllister.

Joseph is 70 years of age and is too well known about town to need any explanation from me. He is a paralytic and can only hobble about by the aid of a cane; while one arm is held in place by a sling. He has been an inmate for about six years.

Larry Stringer.

Larry is of Irish blood, aged 56 and has been an inmate for 16 years. Larry claims that old age has broken him down and that he has weak eyes. A weak eye Larry is correct about but there seems to be something constitutional in his case. He looks tired. We would not for the world cast any reflections on Larry, but he has a tired look.

William is of Irish extraction, aged 65 years, and has been an inmate for 15 years. He has a crippled hand and is further afflicted with what he is pleased to call "a devil of a bad cold which."
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Historic Property Name: Noble County Asylum
Common Property Name: Perry / Runkle Residence

LOCATION
Address: 4927 N 100W
Township: York
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: lat 40.944289, lon -85.943632

City: Albion
County: Noble

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1871
Style: Italianate
Builder: George Harvey

Years Served as County Home: 1871-1957 (86)

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Excellent
Survey/Legal Protections: Interior Report

Good

Fair
Present Use: Private Residence / Apartments

Deteriorated
Ownership: Harold A. Perry + Zener L. Runkle

Ruins
Owner Address: 4327 N 100W Albion IN 46701

Endangered
Owner Phone:

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 10

Environment: Rural

Related Resources:
Non-related Resources:
List related resources:

Site Plan:

COUNTY HISTORICAL MARKER

Literature:
Noble Co.
Buchanan, Martha W. T. *Noble Co Historical Markers*.

106 = 2nd Noble Co. Infirmary / Poor Farm
   - Built 1976
   - Oldest co. home extant?

Interim Report
55 Site No. 118-006-30002
Built 1976

Counties of LaGrange + Noble, Indiana; Chicago
   - F.A. Baer, +28, 1992
   - Built 1971

Noble Co. Farm Records, DAR, Pendletonville, IN.
1933-34

321 Yo farm gen. 500 N + 140 W
Next to Wrights gen. 500 N + 150 W

Noble County Asylums, Albion, Ind.
Card dated 1968.
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Historic Property Name: Orange County Poor Asylum
Common Property Name: Bill White's Residence

LOCATION
Address: 1901 E 200 N (Co Farm Rd) City: Paoli
Township: Paoli County: Orange
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: lat 39.5334 lat lon 86.4158

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: c.1809 Style: Italian Renaissance
Architect: Builder:
Years Served as County Home: c.1809-c.1907

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Excellent Surveys/Legal Protections:
Good
Fair
Deteriorated
Ruins
Endangered

Present Use: Private residence
Ownership: William W. & Jocelyn S. White
Owner Address: P.O. Box 124, Paoli
Owner Phone:

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 3.53
Environment: Rural
# Related Resources:
# Non-related Resources: 0
List related resources: Cemetery

Site Plan: [Diagram]

Literature:
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Historic Property Name: Queen County Poor Farm (1st)
Common Property Name: Butte Farm, Resident: Truxx Residence

LOCATION
Address: 1555 S. U.S. 231
City: Spencer
Township: Washington
County: Queen
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: lat 39.363338 lon -84.12062

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 0 1960 Style: 
Architect: 
Builder: 
Years Served as County Home: 1960-78 (18)

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Excellent 
Good 
Fair 
Deteriorated 
Ruins 
Endangered 
Surveys/Legal Protections: Interior Report 119-4045-8506

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 0.69
Environment: Rural
# Related Resources: 
# Non-related Resources: 
List related resources: Farm

Site Plan:

Literature:
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Date Surveyed: 3/20/13

(orlic Property Name: Owen County Asylum (2nd)
Common Property Name: Owen County Home

LOCATION
Address: 379 E SR 43
Township: Clay
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: lat 39.434642 lon -86.269371
City: Spencer
County: Owen

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1878
Style: Late Victorian
Builder: William F. Megenhardt

Years Served as County Home: 1872 - 1922 (184)

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Fair
Surveys/Legal Protections: Interim Report 19-677-60000
Present Use: Vacant
Ownership: Owen County Commissioners

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 247.07
Environment: Rural

Related Resources: 5
Non-related Resources: 6
List related resources: Summer kitchen
Pump house
Workshop
Pole barn
Cemetery

Site Plan:

Site Plan:

Literature:
Newspaper articles (in chronological order)


Lane, Laura. “Preservation group still hoping to get county home: Commissioners want to get rid of building, but aren’t sure arts center would be viable.” HeraldTimesOnline.com. November 9, 2005.


COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Historic Property Name: Pulaski County Home
Common Property Name: Pleasant View Rest Home

LOCATION
Address: 700 W 60 S
Township: Monroe
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: lat 41.04657, lon -86.41311

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1861/62
Style: Italianate
Architect: J.E. Gran
Builder: H.C. Hathaway
Years Served as County Home: 1971-2013 (182)

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Excellent
Surveys/Legal Protections: Interim Report (31-674-900269)
Present Use: County Home
Ownership: Pulaski County Commissioners
Owner Address: 112 E Main St, Winamac, IN 46996
Owner Phone: (574) 946-3312 (Facility)

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 182.99
Environment: Pond
Related Resources: 0
Non-related Resources: 0
List related resources:
1. Chicken House
2. Hog House
3. Barn

Site Plan:

Literature:
Pulaski County
11 residents Chap 17
Friends of Pleasant View to supplement costs
3 pvt. pay

"When you let state get involved, you have to abide by their rules."

Shirley Kreller
sister of former supt.
Cook/housekeeper
6 p

Total
See county commissioners’ meeting minutes. Summer 2012. Available online.
Refer to this publication for details of physical condition:
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Date Surveyed: 1/25/13

Historic Property Name: St. Joseph County Infirmary
Common Property Name: Heritage Manor

LOCATION
Address: 3016 Portage Ave
Township: Portage
City: South Bend
County: St. Joseph
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: Lat 34.2194, Lon -80.2249

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1906
Style: Classical Revival
Architect: Freeborn & Maurer, S. Bend
Builder: 
Years Served as County Home: 1907-2013 (106)

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Excellent
Surveys/Legal Protections: National Register
Present Use: County Home
Ownership: St. Joseph County
Owner Address: 221 N. Jefferson Blvd, South Bend, IN 46601
Owner Phone: (574) 232-9180 (Facility)

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 113.94
Environment: Suburban
# Related Resources: 1
# Non-related Resources: 2
List related resources: Cemetery

Site Plan:

![Site Plan Image]

Literature:
The St. Joseph County Infirmary built in 1906 was the last of a series of care facilities established by the county for the elderly and incapacitated indigent. From the start St. Joseph county had set up a means of caring for the “poor and unfortunate who were unable to care for themselves,” initially by paying private citizens to provide accommodations - - a common practice in the first half of the nineteenth century. But as early as 1838 the county purchased a tract for a “poor-farm” - - 240 acres on Portage Prairie - - so that the facilities could be self-sufficient and also provide useful employment for the residents who were able. This initial effort fell through, but in 1846 the county established a permanent asylum (called White Hall) near the now defunct village of Nutwood. Ten years later, a 120-acre farm straddling Penn and Portage townships was purchased on the north side of the St. Joseph River, and the county constructed additional buildings on the site and later acquired more land.

By the turn of the century the St. Joseph County Asylum, or poor farm, as it was still commonly known, had long since ceased to serve the needs of its residents. Inspectors from the State Board of Charities sharply criticized the facility and its “antiquated and inadequate buildings.” Besides, as both South Bend and Mishawaka grew, this property located between the cities, had become much more valuable and might be better used for other purposes. (The tract was located northwest of present day River Park, north of Mishawaka Avenue. Some of the asylum property became Potawatome Park.)

The mission of these county institutions in general had begun to change in the 1890’s and while far from enlightened by today’s standards, poor farms and asylums (the terms are essentially
Interchangeable) were attempting to become something other than dumping places for society's unwanted. The degree to which they succeeded over the next several decades is questionable; admission records form the mid-nineteenth century through the first decades of the twentieth do not suggest a great deal of change as to whom the institution accepted. Initially poor farms provided minimal refuge for an astonishing variety of indigents, mentally ill, disabled, injured, unwed mothers, or simply homeless. Ages ranged from infants (when in the company of a needy parent; orphans went elsewhere) to people in their nineties. Those who could usually were expected to work, and there was little if any effort to distinguish among them to meet their needs. The common denominator was poverty. As, other public institutions geared toward specific needs were established by local and state governments, some previously likely inmates were either sent to these other types of facilities, or went there initially. In the early twentieth century, for example, many epileptics were sent to the state's Epileptic Village near New Castle. Nevertheless, many who might have been better served elsewhere still ended up in the county asylum, especially those diagnosed as insane. State facilities were too crowded to accommodate them all.

In 1905 the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners bought the farm of Rezeau Brown northwest of South Bend, just past the Riverview Cemetery on Portage Avenue. The property included several farm buildings, a wooded area, and land that was largely level and proven quite suitable for general farming. Little time, then, need be wasted in establishing the new poor farm's self-sufficiency. Over the next few decades old buildings were remodeled and additional farm structures were erected, such as the still-extant hay barn, large hogshed, and a small building nearby for butchering.

The St. Joseph County Infirmary - - its name reflecting the Progressive-Era changes in the theory, if not the fact of the facility's mission - - opened with great fanfare as "a model poor farm" in February 1907. The new asylum was to house "those who were so unfortunate as to be left alone in the world without money and without friends or who are afflicted with the ravages of disease and who are unable to procure the necessary hospital service without money. "Records indicate that indeed, among others, anyone from abandoned pregnant women to severely injured laborers to those of any age who were "Feebleminded," found temporary or permanent refuge within the county infirmary.

Certainly the new facility was vastly superior to the previous poor asylum, but life at the St. Joseph County Infirmary was no bed of roses. Apart from the fact that anyone who was capable was required to work (although the records imply this was not always the case), rules were extremely strict, and occasionally residents were "dismissed for disobedience." A few even ran away; many more may have wished to if they could. Men and women were segregated; those diagnosed as "insane" were locked in metal cages in the area termed the "insane ward" near the boiler house, part of the original accommodations offered at the new "model" facility. Conditions grew so crowded in the 1930's that beds were crowded nearly head to foot in the cells to house inmates who
were often, at worst, merely “feebleminded.” In the 1950’s patients diagnosed with severe mental illness were transferred to the new Beatty Hospital in Westville. The cells, however, remained in use through the 1970’s for inmates who tended to wander and sometimes for residents who broke the still-rigid rules. (For example talking was not allowed during meals.)

In 1947, by act of the Indiana General Assembly, the name of the facility became the St. Joseph County Home, again reflecting changes in care and management philosophy. The average population of the county infirmaries had grown older and less able-bodied; this, along with the fact that mechanized farming was rapidly replacing earlier, more labor-intensive practices suggested that “productive employment of residents is futile” and should be performed only on a voluntary basis. As early as the mid-1930’s the idea of discontinuing farming at the county infirmary was considered, but still it remained in place for several more decades, until the late 1980’s (The land today is leased to a local farmer.)

The new idea of the county home was to be just what the name implies: “a congenial place of abode, a safe haven.”

Once again, the mission remained more theory than fact for some decades, although conditions overall had improved greatly since shortly after the turn of the century, when the facility first opened. By the early 1970’s the name had changed once again, to Portage Manor. In the late 1980’s Portage Manor became a state-licensed health care center and underwent a major renovation that preserved much of the building’s historic character while creating a cheery, home-like interior - - the mission fulfilled at last.

PORTAGE MANOR
Residential Health Care Facility
3018 Portage Avenue
South Bend, IN 46628

Lou Ann Becker-Prueitt
Administrator
Ph. #574-272-9100
Fax. #574-277-3486

318
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Historic Property Name: Scott County Heritage Center & Museum
Common Property Name: Scott County Home

LOCATION
Address: 1050 S. Main St
Township: Vicksburg
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: lat 37.472238 lon -88.54322

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1892
Style: Late Victorian
Architect: John J. Wiley
Builder: John J. Wiley
Years Served as County Home: 1892 - 1973 (91)

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Excellent
Surveys/Legal Protections: National Register

SITE
Lot Acreage: 4.52
Environment:
# Related Resources: 0
# Non-related Resources: 0
List related resources:

Literature:
Email from Jeannie Noe Carlisle, 1/6/13

The Scott County Poor Farm/Asylum/Infirmary/County Home
And now
The Scott County Heritage Center & Museum
1050 South Main Street
Scottsburg, Indiana

1816 The IN Constitution of 1816 states "to provide one or more farms to be an asylum for those persons who by reason of age, infirmity, or other misfortunes, may have a claim upon the aid and beneficence of society, on such persons may therein, find employment, and every reasonable comfort, by their usefulness, the degrading sense of dependence.

1820 Scott County formed.

1821 The establishment of an asylum for the poor was required by law.

1860 December 4th, Jacob Hollenbeck was to build an asylum for the paupers of Scott County 3 miles north of Lexington. It was 20 feet long, 10 feet wide and 10 feet high. The building had 2 rooms of equal size. A White Oak shingled roof and Mr. Hollenbeck would be paid $86.75 when completed.

This building was used from 1861 to 1879.

1877, August the Board of Commissioners bought the property at 1050 South Main Street, Scottsburg from Horace and Delphia G. Scott of Louisville, KY and Freeman and Jennie Scott of Jackson County. The total amount of acreage was 265.5 acres, bought in different amounts. The price paid was $6,637.50.

1892, April 5 commissioners report from the Grand Jury's inspection: The "poor asylum" was in bad condition but a new building is being erected at this time. The first building was wood frame and the brick building was being built.

1906 A map found shows 90 acres owned by the Scott County Infirmary.

1925, March to December 1926, the farm income was $2,250.12 from selling cattle, hogs, poultry, horses, wheat, cream and tomatoes.

1926, December 15th the report to the County Commissioners that the Scott County Poor Asylum contains 92 acres tillable. There is no timber. There are 9 farm buildings. A warm house is made of brick. The rest of the buildings are wood and all are in fair condition. The main building is made of brick.

Fences are fair and the buildings are good.

Stock inventory: 5 cows, 4 Heifers, 25 hogs, 2 calves, 4 horses and
96 poultry

One-half acre garden but there is no orchard or fruit.

Superintendent is paid $70.00 per month. The Matron’s salary is $30.00 per month. The Doctor is paid $50.00 a month and is the County Doctor. He comes when needed.

The wash house contains 1 bath tub.

There are 2 outside toilets.

Bedding: Straw beds, sheets, blankets and comforts. All clean.

The maximum number of people that can be housed is 25. 7 men and 5 women are residing there at this time. No children and no Soldiers’ widows.

Everyone received three meals a day.

Only 2 inmates can read.

The farm needs running water in the house.

1931 - 1935 and again 1939-1943, Laverne Harrod Hubbard lived at the Poor Farm with her family. Her parents were the caretakers.

Laverne stated that the men were assigned jobs of mowing the grass, working in the garden, feeding the horses, helping with the milking of the cows, gathering eggs, carrying in coal for the several pot-belly heating stoves and wood for the huge kitchen cook stove.

The women would sweep the floor and dust, carry in bowls of food from the kitchen to dining room, wash the dishes at a sing, hang wash on lines and fold clean laundered clothes.

At the time Laverne lived there, a red brick warm house to the south of the house stood and this is where potatoes, yams, squash, apples, etc. were stored. There were rows of shelves filed with canned fruit and vegetables from on the farm.

The one-story frame building just to the south of the main building was called the wash house. Two wringer-Maytag washers were here and the washing was done weekly. The clothes were hung on the many long outdoor clothes lines. During rainy times, the clothes were hung upstairs of the wash house and sometimes fans were turned on to help hasten the drying. There was a bath tub and shower that residents could use a couple of times a week.

1940’s late, the barn was located where the asphalt is today.

During the winter time, the laundry was hung in the attic. At that time they had running water but no electricity.
The last caretakers were Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Miller.

1975 Although the health department moved here, there were a few residents left in the building.


1990's the court house offices all moved to the Poor Farm/County Office Building while the courthouse was being built and remodeled.

1996 The last county offices moved out in 1996 to the new courthouse, that being the Extension Office.

2000's only 31 poor houses continue to stand in the state out of 92 counties.

When in the present day Orientation Room, this was two offices, mine and Tom Springstun's. The first window by the outside door was in my office, then the wall for Tom's office.

The Attic: I am so proud of the building and the attic is GRAND! But, I've been told that I am the only one impressed by the attic, since I saw it before. And, the stairway is wonderful. The stairway that was in the poor farm was a narrow stairway and steep. Rubbermaid tubs carried upstairs for storage were carried sideways.

I am very proud of the building, probably more than anyone else.

The Scott County Genealogical Society, Inc. will be having 2 rooms on the west side for a Research Room. The Society has a great number of books, over 300 in number that will be placed in the Research room for the public to use. Plans are for the rooms to be opening sometime in June.

At first, the room will only be open by appointment, but feel free to contact me and I'll do my best to find someone that can open the room for you to research.

The Museum Gift Shop will be in the room that everyone walks into at this time.

There will be an exhibit on loan for the month of May.

Exhibits are planned for the first floor beginning in June, thanks to John and Sarah Morgan. They donated a large amount of money to help get the building open.

The 2nd floor isn't completed, and at this time, donations are being accepted to help with finishing the upstairs.
There are possible ghost tours in the future.

Of course, I know, we were brought up to not to believe in ghosts. But, after working in the building for 13 years, there are strange things that occur. Nothing ever mean happened, but after hearing the doors open and people walking for so many years, I was so use to the noises, that I quit getting up and looking. Several people have heard these same noises and the construction workers heard the noises.

The new logo for the SCHC & Museum is a tree to describe the large Swamp Chestnut Oak tree in the back yard. Laverne stated there were plenty of chairs, benches and swings for the residents to use under these trees. Now, there is only one left.

Various churches would often send a group to sing and have a devotional program for the residents and each Sunday they would listen to religious programs on Sunday on the radio.

While the acreage surrounding the home was reduced greatly over the years, the building continued to function as a poor house until 1973. At this time offices for Scott County public services and government moved in and the few remaining residents were relocated. The building continued to function in this capacity until 1995 when an addition to the Scott County Courthouse fulfilled the need for extra office space.

Of the ninety-two county homes, only thirty-one remain standing. The Scott County Home remains unaltered in regard to architecture, location, and interior layout. Changes that have been made through the years are largely superficial and can be easily restored to the original.

When the county commissioners were approached by Preservation Alliance, Inc. to pursue the possibility of finding a viable use for the vacant building, a Department of Commerce funded feasibility study provided the necessary assurance that the building would be a good site for a cultural heritage museum. The commissioners donated the property to the local community foundation, which in turn agreed to a ninety-nine year lease with Preservation Alliance, Inc. A Community Focus Fund Grant was awarded in December 2000 and work will soon begin to create an adaptive reuse for this piece of Scott County history while telling the story to future generations the rich history of this community’s past. The Scott County Home was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 26, 2000.
Talk given by Mrs. Laverne Harrod Hubbard, Austin, Indiana
Her recollections
(contributed by Jeannie Noe Carlisle)

I was asked to tell you something about what it was like at the county home when I lived here. My father, Leland Harrod was superintendent of the home for 8 years starting in 1931. The superintendent was chosen by the county commissioners for a period of 4 years and the appointment was made on political lines, so my dad served from 1931-1935, out 4 years and again from 1939-1943. I was in the 5th grade when we came here and had completed two years of college when we left. So I remember a lot of experiences here.

There were, as best I can recall, from 12 to 30 some people who lived here, and a lot of the last names are names you would recognize as well known names of families who still live in Scott County.

This place provided a home for many people who came with various needs and backgrounds. You see, 1931 just followed the great depression of 1929 and it was before there was any kind of assistance for deprived. We had crippled people, blind people, deaf people, physically and mentally handicapped, and even mentally disturbed (thought not dangerous). Sometimes we even had children. Not for long, but one time we had 4 little boys, orphans. They were here several months while my dad and the county judge worked to get them placed in the veteran’s orphanage at Knightstown.

Then there were some here who had just encountered bad luck with their finances. One example, was a great old man – a banker her in Scottsburg. He had invested his money in land speculation in Florida and when the crash of 1929 came he lost everything. His wife had died and when his health failed he came here. He was a wonderful, well-educated Christian gentleman. He held no bitterness for what life had dealt him. He told my parents he was just grateful for the home and care he received here. And it was true he and the other residents were served three hot meals each day. They had a clean bed to sleep in, clean laundered clothes to wear and a doctor on call.

To keep the home operating efficiently the commissioners let bids for services and supplies. Merchants who participated that most often were granted bids were: for groceries – H. Everitt and Jesse Vest. Clothes – Shapinsky. Hardware – H. L. Hubbard and Tommy Gardner. Mortician – Jesse Vest and H. Littell. Doctor – Dr. Pat Wilson that good old country doctor that everybody loved.

Oh, while mentioning commissioners, I’d like to ask the commissioners where they get their dinner on the days they meet. Back in those days they met, I believe, on the first Monday of the month, and they always came here for dinner. I guess they thought if my mother cooked the meal for 20 to 30 three or four more wouldn’t make any difference. She really didn’t mind but she did appreciate the ones who thanked her. Two that I remember that always thanked her and said they appreciated the meal were Clarence Robbins from Lexington and Howard Craig from Vienna. There were others too but these stand out in my memory.
As for help from the residents of the home, some weren’t able to help in any way. Those who were able were assigned tasks that they liked and could do.

We always had more men than women so they were assigned more jobs. Those that were able made their beds. Other residents made the beds for those who couldn’t.

The men were assigned jobs of mowing the grass, working in the garden, feeding the horses, helping with the milking of cows, gathering eggs, carrying in coal for the several pot-belly heating stoves and wood for the huge kitchen cook stove.

One old man when he had completed his job of carrying in his share of coal or wood always said “me say, there it is you like it, there it is you don’t like it.” He always used the pronoun “me” instead of “I”. He always made that one statement emphatically to let you know his job was completed.

Now the women, they would sweep the floor and dust, carry in bowls of food from kitchen to dining room, wash the dishes at a sink, hang wash on lines and fold clean laundered clothes. Residents didn’t do any of the cooking.

Was there any help for running the home aside from the residents? Yes, some but not a whole lot. Sometimes there would be a man to help with the planting and harvesting of the crops or help with butchering of hogs and smoking or sugar curing the ham and bacon; or help butchering a beef. We had no freezers so the beef was canned in glass jars in a pressure cooker. My mother had a woman most of the time to help in the kitchen to prepare the food. (No resident worked in the kitchen). There was cream churned, and buttermilk made into cottage cheese and ice cream.

There was a red brick warm house to the south of the brick building where potatoes, yams, squash, apples, etc. were stored, and rows of shelves filled with canned fruit and vegetables from on the farm.

About the only other help I can remember was Elisha Bridgewater who lived a few blocks up on South Main Street. He came about every week or two to cut the men’s hair and shave those who couldn’t shave themselves. He wasn’t a licenses barber, but he did a pretty good job.

There was a big one-story frame building just to the south of this brick building called the wash house. There were two wringer-Maytag washers here where the weekly washing was done. The clothes were hung on the many long outdoor clotheslines. When it rained the clothes were hung on lines in the upstairs of the wash house and sometimes fans were turned on to help hasten the drying.

The wash house also had a bath tub and shower that residents could use a couple of times a week. Some needed help.

Behind this brick building was a beautiful big oak tree. (In fact there were 2 big oak trees, one blew down back in the late 1980’s or early 1990’s and the last one had to be cut down to its
death and a huge rotten center in 2006. We do have grandchildren of the tree and plans are to plant several across the entire back yard in the Spring of 2007.) Here there were plenty of chairs, benches, and even swings where men and women could sit on pretty warm days and watch the trains and interurban go up and down the tracks. They went quite often and were just over the fence. If a train went on the siding, many times we’d have a hobo at the kitchen door asking for food. They were never turned away without something --- maybe not much, but they were always given something to eat.

The women and the men had rooms they called sitting rooms. We’d probably call them “lounges” today. Each person had his or her own rocking chair. Chairs made at the state penitentiary. They spent many leisure hours in these rooms. A few enjoyed reading, some played cards or checkers, some opened the door of the pot-bellied stove and popped corn over the hot coals. Now some of the men liked tobacco and insisted on having cuspidors in their sitting room. Well, these were not very welcome items in the room to others. So you can be sure that those who used tobacco had to clean and keep those brass cuspidors always shining.

While relaxing in their sitting room some of the women cut blocks and pieced quilts, some sewed buttons on clothes, and mended articles of clothing and others just cut our pretty pictures from magazines and calendars and pasted them in scrapbooks.

Oh too, one blind man played a violin. Often he would entertain everyone with his playing violin and sharing his talent. He played very well. He really had a talent.

Sometimes a resident was willing and wanted to do a chore but he wasn’t capable of doing it. Here’s an example. I recall a man was hired to plow some ground using a horse and plow. A resident of the home wanted to help him and kept insisting he could do it. The hired man finally gave in and said “Let me show you just what I want you to do.” So he plowed one time around the field. Then said, “Now do just like that and I’ll go to the barn a few minutes and be back in just a little bit.” When he came back the man was so proud of his work. He had gone around the field exactly as he’d been instructed, but he had gone around over and over again in the same furrow. He hadn’t moved his plow over to turn another furrow in the sod. His intentions were good but his judgment poor.

Here’s another memorable event I recall --- back in those days we had no native wild deer in this part of the state and the conservation department had just begun to place a few deer in southern Indiana. A law made it illegal to hunt or kill a deer. Well, someone driving on US 31 hit and killed a deer, down by the forestry. A state policeman was called and he brought it here. He asked my dad if he’d dress it and serve it to the people here. He was permitted to give it to an institution but not an individual. Dad said he’d be glad to try and he called in a neighbor to come help, and he challenged my mother to look through her recipe books and find out how to marinate the meat to get rid of the wild taste, which she did. It turned out quite well. Not as good as beef steak but a much more memorable meal. The old people talked about this meal a long time. Whenever had they been first in anything before? They prided themselves on the fact that they were the first and only people in Scott County allowed to enjoy that special treat of venison.
As for religious services, various churches would often send a group to sing and have a devotional program for the residents and they had a radio in each of the sitting rooms where they could listen to religious programs on Sunday.

I’ve tried to tell you how the home was operated and now I’ll conclude by telling you about the two best known residents.

First was Barney. Everybody in Scottsburg knew Barney. He had lived here for many, many years. In age, he was a middle-aged man but mentally he was like that of a child. His mother had lived and died here at the home. She had taught him many old ballads and Irish songs, like “The Irish Washer Woman” and “Grandfather’s Clock.” He loved to sing for anyone that would listen. He knew every verse to every song. He wouldn’t sing just one verse. If the song had three verses he would sing them all and would thoroughly enjoy his listeners. He would run and skip like a child but if he because frustrated or agitated he’d beat on his head with his fist.

Often times he’d come during the spring or summer to the outside kitchen door holding a fishing pole and asking for bait of some kind. He wanted to go fishing at a little stream that ran at the back of the farm. I don’t remember that he caught anything but he had fun trying. He was deprived of normal mentality, but was usually happy which was a great blessing.

Kids from town would come out, have him sing for them and tease him…but he enjoyed them and looked forward to them coming and they really liked him as well.

The other well-known resident was Mary. She was mentally disturbed. She should have been at the state hospital at Madison. She had been tested there but they refused to admit her. Said they were over crowded and they couldn’t help her. They were confident that she wouldn’t hurt anyone.

I guess she was schizophrenic. She suffered form hallucinations and screamed and yelled a lot. She had her own separate room because when she screamed it disturbed the sleep of others. At night her door was hooked so she couldn’t wander through the building screaming. As a child, I was taught if there was a fire...the first thing to do was call the fire department and the second thing was to unlock Mary’s door.

She liked cats and it was her self-appointed job to feed them. Everyday when she went out with a pan of milk. In just a few seconds there would be 3 or 4 cats following her. One cold winter Mary contracted pneumonia and died. We thought it was probably due to her going out without a coat or sweater to feed those cats she loved so much. She was one of my favorites. I cried when Mary died.

Now some people have other stories about Mary. Jeannie Carlisle told me that Mary’s ghost has haunted this place. I’d never heard that claim, but rest assured there is no danger...for Mary would not harm anyone. She by nature had a very kind disposition. She simply struggled with a mental disorder. And if those people heard unexplained voices they’d yell too. I would, wouldn’t you?
As time progressed the number of residents grew less and less as individual’s needs had changed. Government old age assistance had come into existence and nursing homes were being established. The home was no longer needed and was closed.

For years people have questioned and debated over what should be done with the “Old County Home.” Many felt the sturdy old brick structure held possibilities for continued use. Others said, “Give it the wrecking ball.”

I am so thankful that concerned citizens with the help of the Preservation Alliance Inc. won out and today we see evidence that the restoration is well on its way. Upon completion, this old sturdy structure will once again serve the citizens of Scott County...not as a home, but as a much-needed museum. This museum will display antiques, heirlooms and historical documents for our citizens and future generations to treasure and enjoy.
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Historic Property Name: Stewben County Asylum
Common Property Name: Stewben County Rest Home

LOCATION
Address: W100 N 300 W
Township: Pleasant
City: Angola
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: lat 41.148210 lon -86.881245
County: Steuben

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1895
Style: Italianate
Architect:
Builder:
Years Served as County Home: 1895-2000 (105)

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Excellent
Survey/Legal Protections:
Good
Fair
Deteriorated
Ruins
Endangered
Present Use: Vacant
Ownership:
Stewben County Board of Commissioners
Owner Address: 305 S Navy St Suite 2, Angola, IN 46703
Owner Phone: (260)637-1900 (ext 4000)

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 27
Environment: Rural
# Related Resources: 2
# Non-related Resources: 1
List related resources: Workshop, Shed

Literature:

Site Plan:
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Historic Property Name: Sullivan County Poor Home
Common Property Name: The Victorian on the Green

LOCATION
Address: 1417 E. 75 N. City: Sullivan
Township: Hamilton County: Sullivan
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: lat 40°04'12" lon -87°31'12"

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1896 Style: Romanesque Revival
Years Served as County Home: 1896-1978 (102)

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Excellent Surveys/Legal Protections: National Register
Good
Fair Present Use: Apartments (LHIC) Mens
Deteriorated Ownership:
Ruins Owner Address: 7754 N. Hwy 57 E. Dugger IN 47848
Endangered Owner Phone: (765) 227-9377

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 2
Environment: Rural
# Related Resources: 1
# Non-related Resources: 1
List related resources: Frame duplex

Site Plan:

   $950-$850 + room includes utilities.
   2. empty. 12 total.
   HP tax credit 3.
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Historic Property Name: Switzerland County Poor Farm
Common Property Name: Booneslick Farm

LOCATION
Address: 4598 Glen Roberts Rd
Township: Champaign
City: Wittenberg
County: Switzerland
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: lat 39.031714 lon 88.626644

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1850
Style: Federal
Architect: John Donnellon
Builder: John Donnellon
Years Served as County Home: 1850-1860 (c. 10x)

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Fair
Present Use: Vacant
Ownership: John Donnellon
Owner Address: 5593 Roper Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45347
Owner Phone: (910) 547-0414 (Son, Mike Donnellon)

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 5.99
Environment: Rural
# Related Resources: 0
# Non-related Resources: 6
List related resources: 

Site Plan: 

Literature: 

Date Surveyed: 6/29/18
| 1. COMMON NAME | M. DARWELLON |
| 2. OWNERSHIP | Public | Private | Present | Past |
| 3. VISIBLE | Yes | No |
| 4. PROPERTY'S MAILING ADDRESS | Rt. 1, IN 47043 |
| 5. LOCATION NOTES | GLENNABERG ROAD OFF SR 129 ABOUT 1 MILE NORTH OF LONE RUN |
| 6. USE | Residence | Present | Past | Governmental |
| Commerce | Industrial |
| Agriculture | Transportation |
| Organization | Other |
| 7. ENDANGERED | Vacant | Present | Past | Neglected |
| | | | | Entrainment |
| | | | | Other |
| 8. CATEGORY | District |
| | Historic District |
| | Building(s) |
| | Structure |
| | Site |
| | Other |
| 9. LOCAL LEGAL PROTECTIONS | Landmark |
| | Others |
| 10. CONDITION | Excellent |
| | Good |
| | Fair |
| | Deteriorated |
| | Route |
| 11. BUILDING INTEGRITY | Unaltered |
| | Altered |
| | Moved |
| | Date 1920's |
| 11a. Specify Alterations | Removals Wood Addition Then About 1930's |
| | Structural |
| | Replacement |
| | Additions |
| | Date 1920's |
| 12. DATE | 1920-13. STYLE | FEDERAL |
| 14. ARCHITECT/BUILDER |
| 15. DESCRIPTION | 2 STORY STONE 5 BAYS WITH CENTER DOOR |
| | ONE STORY ON END FORMS AN EXTRA BAY |
| | Heavy Stone |
| | Lintels & Sills |
| 16. OUTBUILDINGS | Several Which Have Mostly Been Demolished |
| 17. SITE PLAN | SITE PLAN |
| 18. ENVIRONMENT | Rural |
19. AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

- Aboriginal
- Art
- Architecture
- Commerce
- Communications
- Other
- Community Planning
- Education
- Engineering
- Environment/Neighborhoods
- Exploration/Settlement
- Humanities
- Indian
- Landscape Architecture
- Military
- Politics/Government
- Religion
- Science/Technology
- Social/Ethnicity
- Transportation
- Vernacular/Construction

Specify the significance for each area checked:

**This place was for years the county poor farm for poor, mentally ill and criminals. The present owners are very concerned about the privacy of their property.**

There are several graveyards nearby.

20. INFORMATION SOURCES

- Jim Donnellon, Glen Roberts,
- Buzz and Ernie Konkel, LaNoo Whitten

21. SURVEYOR

- Hiram McGowan

22. DATE

- 1977

Michael & Jean Donnellon
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Historic Property Name: Tippecanoe County Home
Common Property Name: Tippecanoe Home

LOCATION
Address: 1307 N 50 W City: West Lafayette
Township: Tippecanoe County: Tippecanoe
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: lat: 40.412255 lon: -87.141440

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1919-1920 Style: Contemporary
Architect: Builder:
Years Served as County Home: 1919-2013 (94)

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Excellent Surveys/Legal Protections:
Good
Fair
Deteriorated
Ruin
Endangered

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 12.79
Environment: Rural
# Related Resources: 6
# Non-related Resources: 0
List related resources: County

Site Plan:

Literature:
Tippecanoe Villa
5307 North 50 West
West Lafayette, IN 47906

ADMISSION CRITERIA

- Be ambulatory or able to independently use a walker or wheelchair
- Be continent of bowel and bladder
- Be able to bathe and dress with minimal assistance
- Be able to provide a report of a recent chest x-ray when admitted
- Be able to come to the dining room for all meals unless ill
Tippecanoe Villa
A home in the country!

Located on the rolling prairie just north of West Lafayette, Tippecanoe Villa is not just another Assisted Living facility. The Villa is set on a beautiful sprawling property flanked by an orchard on one side and a charming white barn on the other. In the spring, witness a burst of flowers popping up after their winter slumber. In the summer you can pick flowers from our cutting garden or simply sit and relax under one of the many majestic trees on the property. In addition to the gorgeous outdoors the Villa is elegantly decorated inside, offers wonderful home cooked meals, a warm and caring staff, and a plethora of activities to keep you busy year-round. All of these qualities combine to make the Villa not a facility but a home.

ACCOMMODATIONS
The Villa offers three choices in living accommodations: semi-private rooms, private rooms or spacious studio units. You can furnish a studio or private room however you like, including bringing your own furniture, potted plants, wall hangings, and any other decorations that will help you feel at home. In addition you may pick out your own wall color and border. Semi-private rooms may also be decorated and furnished to your tastes as far as space permits. Each room is equipped with TV and telephone jacks.

DINING
All of our meals are reviewed by a registered dietician to ensure that our residents receive the finest in quality food and nutrition. Our chefs are talented at their craft, ensuring that the meals are delicious as well. In addition, if you need special dining accommodations we will happily make arrangements for you. You are also free to have guests join you at lunch or dinner.

LEISURE TIME AND ACTIVITIES
You are welcome to relax and enjoy your leisure time in any one of our comfortable parlors or TV lounges. At the Villa there are no set “visiting hours” so you may entertain guests at your convenience. We encourage you to participate in a variety of daily activities—arts and crafts, gardening, the Villa Choir, individual hobbies, card and bingo games, parties, movies, musical programs and special events. In addition, transportation is provided for shopping trips, lunches out, ice cream trips, and other outings. Special events are scheduled throughout the year to include residents’ family and friends. Visitors are always welcome to join the residents in any activity programs.

Spiritual needs are fulfilled with weekly Catholic Mass and Protestant services as well as visits from various outreach ministries. Arrangements for a personal visit from a priest, pastor, or rabbi can be made as well.

PRICES
Private rooms: $47 per day
Semi-private rooms: $67 per day
Studios: $74 per day
*Prices are all inclusive

For a tour or additional information about the Villa please stop in at 3307 N. 50 West, West Lafayette (just south of Harrison High School) or contact the business office at 765-463-3162. We will be happy to meet with you any day, evening, or weekend. Please feel free to telephone for an appointment.

WE WELCOME YOUR INQUIRY!
DeAnno
1969 / 73

941 cap., current 84, 4060 - 85
Mental health, case managers in-house
New res. must have some income, but negotiate
daily rate
$147 per day.

Tipp - residents preferred to private pay.

Discussed w/ commissioners: What is purpose of co. home? A service or business?
Outbuildings go w/ old co. home
Rent out farm ground, $1 goes to co. home
cem. across road
Pres. of IN Co Home Assoc.
co. homes active
Legislation efforts (not very effective)
RCAP: can't get answers
FSSA - Faith Laird

Co. Coord. Patty Bailey
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Historic Property Name: Union County Home

Common Property Name: 

LOCATION
Address: 1711 Kitchel Rd. City: Liberty
Township: Harrison County: Union
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: lat 39.660918 lon -84.920078

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1989 Style: Italian Renaissance
Architect: G.W. Furlong + Son Builder: William McKee
Years Served as County Home: 1989-1975 (36)

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Excellent
Good
Fair
Deteriorated
Ruins
Endangered

Surveys/Legal Protections: Interim Report 161-857-00056

Present Use: Storage

Ownership: Robert G. & Joyce R. Waters

Owner Address: 2747 Waboo Rd., Richmond, IN 47374

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 15.07
Environment: Rural

# Related Resources: 0
# Non-related Resources: 0
List related resources:

Site Plan:

Literature:
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Historic Property Name: Wayne County Orphans
Common Property Name: Ruther Residence

LOCATION
Address: 8020 National Road W
City: Centerville
Township: Center
County: Wayne
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: lat 39.213121 lon -84.032381

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1947
Style: Federal
Architect: Emsley Ham
Builder: Emsley Ham
Years Served as County Home: 1948-1969

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Excellent
Surveys/Legal Protections: Interim Report 17-01-60075

Site Plan:

Site Plan:

Site Plan:

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 20.265
Environment: Rural
# Related Resources: 14
# Non-related Resources: 8
List related resources:
1. Priory
2. Heating plant ruins
3. Machine shop
4. Barn
5. Silo

Literature:
Newspaper articles

“When was asylum established for the county’s poor?” Richmond Palladium and Sun-Telegram. May 19, 1919.


“County rehires most job holders; to move county home next week.” *Palladium Item and Sun-Telegram*. December 28, 1958.

Cassel, Ken. “County to sell 263-acre farm Thursday; will end 110-year stay west of Centerville.” *Palladium Item and Sun-Telegram*. February 22, 1959.

- Talks extensively about building of county home and early history.


Lord, Fred S. “County home closing renewed by 2-1 vote.” *Palladium-Item*. 


“Wells County Farm said to be in fine condition.” *Bluffton News-Banner*. July 2, 1948.
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Historic Property Name: White County Poor Asylum

Common Property Name: Lakeview Home

LOCATION
Address: 5371 Norway Rd
Township: Uninc
City: Muncie
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: Lat 40.21103

County: White
Ion -24.11162

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1907-08
Style: Queen Anne
Builder: Strate + Jones

Architect: Samuel Young

Years Served as County Home: 1908-2009 (101)

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Fair

Surveys/Legal Protections: Interim Report 181-405-23503
National Register

Present Use: Vacant

Ownership: Lakeview Home LLC

Owner Address: 2007 N Latina Dr, Muncie IN 47303

Owner Phone: 181-405-23503

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 14.203

Environment: Suburban

# Related Resources: 1

# Non-related Resources: 1

List related resources: none

Site Plan:

Norway Rd

Lake Shafter

NC...
WHITE CO.

Purchased by Chicago guy who plans to keep it on Nat'l Reg in 2010
- closed 2009

"Home approved for historic place listing." By
"... despite collecting rent, the home was losing almost $140,000 a year."

- William McLaughlin of Chicago purchased home for $570,000.
- Decreased tax revenue in recent years.
- Co. job cuts
- Losing money on it. Would have cost $500,000 to do necessary repairs/upgrade.
COUNTY HOME SURVEY

Historic Property Name: Whitley County Farm
Common Property Name: Meadowbrook Manor

LOCATION
Address: 1011 W. Old Trail Rd
Township: Columbia
City: Columbia City
County: Whitley
GPS Location in Decimal Degrees: N 32.139110, W 86.521224

HISTORIC INFORMATION
Year Built: 1926
Style: Neoclassical
Architect:
Years Served as County Home: 1926 - 1941 (45)
Builder:

CURRENT INFORMATION
Condition: Excellent
Fair
Deteriorated
Ruins
Endangered
Present Use: Apartments
Ownership:
Owner Address: 1011 W. Old Trail Rd Columbia City 46725
Owner Phone:

SITE:
Lot Acreage: 2
Environment: Rural

Related Resources: 0
Non-related Resources: 2
List related resources:

Site Plan:

Literature: