ABSTRACT

THESIS: The 1933 Century of Progress Homes at Beverly Shores, Indiana

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This study presents the history and preservation issues of the five homes making up the Century of Progress Architectural District in Beverly Shores, Indiana. The Armco-Ferro, Cypress Log Cabin, Florida Tropical, House of Tomorrow, and the Wieboldt-Rostone Homes were constructed as model houses for the 1933 Century of Progress World’s Fair and moved to Beverly Shores soon after the fair ended. These five homes demonstrate the use of different construction materials and building technologies. They also demonstrated early American Modernism with European influences in residential design. By the 1960s, they were acquired by the National Park Service with the formation of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and fell into disrepair due to the lack of funding to maintain them. With the goals set by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the model homes were listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the National Park Service formed alliance with the Indiana Landmarks Foundation to ensure their preservation. With the partnership of the National Park Service and Indiana Landmarks, a leasing program was established to allow private individuals to lease the houses long-term with little or no rent. In return for the lease, the residents must maintain the homes and have spent their money and resources to bring the homes back to their former glory. In the process of repairing and
maintaining these historical homes, the residents have also secured the historical link of the 1933 World's Fair and the visions of what designers hoped the future would look like during the start of the Great Depression.