

Preservation News

MORGAN COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1377
MARTINSVILLE, IN 46151

April 2003

2003 List of Ten Most Endangered

Historic Properties

Prepared by Morgan County Historic Preservation Society

1. County Bridge No. 28 (Site # 109-430-65036)

Located on Mahalasville Road over Indian Creek, Bridge # 28 is an iron Pratt pony truss bridge erected c1917. It will be replaced. In order to circumvent federal regulations, the county has opted to use only local funds to replace it. The county is seeking an interested party who will remove and preserve the bridge.

2. Martinsville Sanitarium (Site #109-386-64026)

Community Foundation Center (CSC) is the current owner of the building, rated Outstanding in the *Morgan County Interim Report* (1993). MCHPS is working with CSC to preserve the oldest portion of the Martinsville Sanitarium, most recently part of the Kennedy Living Center.

3. County Bridge No. 146 (Site #109-386-40030)

This outstanding example of a Pratt through truss iron bridge, fabricated by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio, in 1893, is located on Old State Road 67 over Lambs Creek. This bridge has been reinforced and painted by the county. National Register 2000.

4. Norman T. Cunningham Building [Buskirk Building] (Site #109-386-61005)

Located on the northwest corner of the courthouse square in Martinsville, this 1866 Italianate building is vacant and very much neglected by its owner. It is an anchor of the Martinsville Commercial Historic District. National Register 1998.

5. Neon Sign (Buskirk Building) (Site #109-386-61004)

This sign located atop the Cunningham / Buskirk Building has been on the endangered list for several years. It was paid for by public donations, and has been seen by Martinsville residents since 1930. Inoperative for years, it still advertises the healing powers of Martinsville's mineral waters. Funds are being raised to restore the sign, but no work has yet been done. National Register 1998.

6. Hite Finney House (Site #109-386-64066)

Located in downtown Martinsville, this c1855 side hall plan house was bought by the McGuire family in 2002. They have secured financing and are in the process of restoring the house. National Register 1996.

7. I.O.O.F. No. 406/Knights of Pythias No. 431 (Site #109-497-510012)

Located in Paragon's historic downtown, this three-story building is the finest example of Romanesque Revival style architecture in Morgan County. Rated outstanding in the *Morgan County Interim Report*, this fraternal hall has been vacant and neglected for many years.

8. Goethe Link Observatory (Site #109-429-25007)

Located on Observatory Road, in Clay Township, this 1937 observatory and the surrounding 20 acres of Helen Link's daffodil gardens and breeding beds is owned by Indiana University. The Observatory itself is no longer used by Indiana University because of light pollution; it is leased to the Indiana Astronomical Society. With the death of Helen Link in November 2002, the future of the daffodil gardens is uncertain.

9. Greenlawn/South Park Cemetery (Site #109-386-64198)

10. Hilldale Cemetery, Martinsville (Site #109-386-64098)

Hastings School – Destroyed by the tornado of 09/20/02

Newby Gymnasium - Mooresville, Historical Society received grant monies in 1998 for restoration.

Mooresville Friends Academy Building - Restored with grant money received in 1998 by Historical Society.

Burton Lane Bridge– The bridge is still at the County Garage but they want us to find someone to take it as soon as possible. We will be in contact with HLF1 to see if anyone can utilize it. If you have any suggestions, please contact Tina or Del.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting will be held at the Tapestry Manor Bed and Breakfast May 6 at 7:00 PM at 490 S. Jefferson Street, Martinsville, Indiana. Desserts will be served and a private tour of the home will be given. We plan to have an informal forum for your thoughts and concerns and ideas of what we should be doing in addition to the annual election of board officers. Please RSVP with the attached card if you plan to attend so we will know how many sweets to have on hand. We look forward to seeing you there.

Being More Than A Member

Whether you are a student of history, a lover of architecture, a home-tour aficionado, or a local resident recalling times past, your support for preserving local history through membership in the Morgan County Historic Preservation Society is much valued. Our membership continues to grow at a modest rate, and we that hope that we can do even better this year. You can help by encouraging friends, neighbors, relatives and others who share with us an appreciation of Morgan County history to become members. Make a call today and recruit a new member.

As with many small volunteer not-for-profit organization, the arduous tasks of accomplishing the work of MCHPS is most apparent to the persons who are doing the work, a few heavily committed Board members. We willingly accept these challenges, but to be frank, we need help. As you give some thought to how you will be investing your time over the coming year, consider these MCHPS needs:

1. Expansion of the Board of Directors. We would like to add three or four board members this year. Fresh faces bring fresh thinking.
2. Volunteers to assist on projects. Some of the areas in which we need help are: fund-raising activities; liaison with other organizations who are potential preservation partners; research; grant-writing and funding

source monitoring.

If you would like to become more involved, we can help tailor your participation to fit your schedule and priorities. Call either Tina Chaffee at 349-1949 (w) or 342-6082 (h) or Joe Mills at 342-0391.

MINERAL WATER SIGN

We have had a great response from financial donators to this project and are thankful to all. The news media really helped us in getting the information and requests out to the public. The Reporter-Times and Mid-America Radio Group, Inc. each pledged \$1,500 to get things rolling. What a great way to start a project. A number of people are working closely to light up the sign now that the weather has changed. The local sign companies working together to get it repaired are Tom Tackett from AAA Signs owned by Jason Tackett and Ron Roe of Roe & Sons Signs. Bonnie Bray is repairing the neon. Gerry Gray of Gray's Electrical Maintenance is doing the electrical work. We are hoping the good weather holds and are shooting for a late May lighting date. Be watching and listening for more information.

CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tina Chafey, President (342-6082)
Joe Mills, Vice President (342-0391)
Mark Stuttgen, Treasurer (349-1537)

Terry Bell, Secretary (352-0551)
Del Chafey, Director (342-6082)
Randy Marsh, Director (317-996-3980)
Jacque Marsh, Director (317-996-3980)