

Morgan County Historic Preservation Society
2004
P. O. Box 1377
Martinsville, IN 46151
<http://www.mchps.org>

January

Preservation News

Breaking News! \$11,250 in Grant 2nd Annual Antiques Spree & Flea Market

**Saturday, February 21 Doors open 8:00 a.m.
4-H Building, Fairgrounds, Martinsville**

The Board of Directors is now pulling together the second annual rummage sale to be held at the 4-H Building at the county fairgrounds in Martinsville on Saturday, February 21. We have changed the emphasis from the typical rummage sale to one featuring flea market goods and antiques and collectibles. Area antique dealers are being invited to set up a booth featuring higher end goods and also to donate "stale" merchandise for the flea market. This makes a great sale for us—and a good tax deduction for them. Members are asked to participate by donating clean used goods—please, no clothing, tires, appliances or mattresses. Call a board member if you have something you'd like to get rid of. Come on down to shop. Better yet, help out and get first dibs on some really great stuff. You just might find the perfect piece to complete your own preservation project!

Funds Awarded to MCHPS

The Board has just learned that MCHPS will receive a federal preservation grant totaling \$11,250 for the much-needed repair of the box gutters on the Old Jail. This is very great news! The gutters have been leaking for years, causing a noticeable stain on the exterior east wall of the building as well as deterioration of interior plaster walls. MCHPS has the cash on hand to match this amount. More money will need to be raised to repair the plaster walls.

Ninth Annual Historic Homes Tour

Tina Chafey (765) 342-6082 or (765) 349-1949
thummingbird@core.com

The 2003 Historic Homes Tour was held Sunday, December 7, from 3 to 6 p.m. The turnout was the smallest we have ever enjoyed, but with the increase in ticket price from \$6.00 to \$8.00, our proceeds of \$1324.00 was just under that of previous years.

The five featured houses represented a variety of middle-class architectural styles dating from 1890 to 1927. Perhaps many of our regular tour goers were not impressed with our selection and stayed home. Too bad. They missed surprises in each house, including an entire room devoted to Martinsville history and fire fighting in the Strader home on Catherine Street; an eclectic mixture of antiques and cherished family pieces in the Maxwell home, which was rebuilt after nearly being destroyed by the tornado of 2002; and an impressive collection of Victorianiana and Americana in Pam Holland's house on West Morgan Street.

If you would like a copy of this year's ticket, which features histories and photos of each home, please call or stop by Hummingbird Heaven to pick one up. We have quite a few surplus tickets and would be happy to share them.

William M. Macy Farm vs. INDOT

Joe Mills (765) 342-0391 mills@rnetinc.net

The National Register nomination for this historic farm property located west of Mooresville on SR 42 has been completed and soon will be submitted to the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology.

As you may recall, DHPA staff takes the position that that due to alterations, the Italianate house, built by Macy about 1860, is ineligible for the National Register on the basis of architecture. The property owners, Don and Joyce Robinson, and the MCHPS Board feel differently and have opted to submit the nomination and rely on the state review board to make this determination. We are also making claims of significance on the basis of agriculture.

The use of the land has not dramatically changed since at least 1931, despite the fact that the property has been repeatedly threatened by modern transportation systems. In the 1870s, the Monrovia-Mooresville Road (now SR 42), bisected Macy's 343-acre farm and ultimately forced him to immigrate to Oregon. In 1901, the interurban line bisected the land east of the highway; the raised bed, rails and electric lines were removed in the 1940s and agricultural use of the land was restored. Today, the property is once again threatened, this time by the expansion of SR 42.

With the Macy Farm nomination completed, research will begin on the related Hadley-Truax property at the intersection of Bethel Road and SR 42. This is the site of the invention and development of the Roast-A-Tron, one of the very first machines used to convert soybeans into feed through roasting.

Hastings Schoolhouse

Joanne Stuttgart (765) 349-1437 stuttgart@insightbb.com

MCHPS has transferred its claim to this property to the Maxwell family, whose farm surrounds the old schoolhouse lot. We will continue to seek permission to salvage materials from the pile of rubble left by the windstorm of April 2001 and the tornado of 2002.

Wind and the Hastings Schoolhouse seem to be old adversaries. While doing research on the Hall School (see below), Joanne Stuttgart stumbled upon this article in the *Martinsville Republican* of September 2, 1907:

Hall School

Randy Marsh (317) 996-3980

Joanne Stuttgart has begun work on the National Register nomination for the Hall School, which will close in 2005. A plaque in the building dated 1902 seemed to indicate the school was built that year, but a search of the township trustee records and the newspaper from that period did not confirm this. The mysterious history of Hall School involves the reshuffling of the Gregg Township rural school districts, several earlier Hall school buildings destroyed by fire, and a very short-lived Hall High School.

The current Hall School was built in the summer of 1911 by O. J. Whitaker, a Morgantown brick mason. Designed by Indianapolis architect Henry H. DuPont, it appears to be the fourth school building erected on the site. The third building—a two-room brick schoolhouse also built by Whitaker—was completed in September 1910 and destroyed by fire two months later.

The third school building appears to have replaced a two-room frame structure located on the site of the current

playground. Built in 1888 by order of the county commissioners, this frame building stood alongside a one-room rectangular brick building built in 1877 as the first Hall School. In 1902, this brick building was designated Hall High School, which operated until the spring of 1907 or 1908 when the building was destroyed by fire. Thus, Hall had its own high school for a brief period, during which time—in 1906—it graduated its only student, Clyde Pearce.

Research continues, and this scenario might change as new information is discovered. If there is a lesson in this story, it might be to always dig deeper than the date on the plaque.

Wilbur Schoolhouse

Randy Marsh (317) 996-3980

Joanne Stuttgen (765) 349-1537 stuttgen@insightbb.com

Randy Marsh has accepted a position on the board of the Wilbur Community Center (WCC) and will help guide the new group through its second year. With a grant from the Morgan County Community Foundation, the WCC will replace the concrete sidewalks and stoop and replace the schoolhouse's front door. A second grant from Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana will fund a feasibility study that will set priorities and establish a course of action for the restoration of the building.

A major fundraising opportunity will come June 18-19 as the Gregg Township Volunteer Fire Department celebrates its 50th Anniversary. WCC will add to the festivities by sponsoring a rummage sale, flea market and a historical exhibit. Future fund raising plans include creating and selling a cookbook featuring recipes from local residents and photographs, memories and other historical snippets of the Wilbur community.

Sales of *Inch and Miles* Net \$2,000

Board of Directors

MCHPS's own efforts to raise funds got a significant boost from the Christmas sales of *Inch and Miles*, the new children's book by Morgan County native and legendary basketball coach, John Wooden. To date we have sold over 300 copies, netting nearly \$2000. Demand for the book continues, and we will keep a stock on hand at Hummingbird Heaven and Jailbird Antiques. The book is available for the retail price of \$15.95. MCHPS members receive a 20% discount.

John Wooden has graciously agreed to sign special MCHPS bookplates designed by MCHPS member Kari Price, which we will provide free of charge for each book already sold and for those to be sold in the future. We will let you know when the signed bookplates are available.

Board Seeks Grants for Education and Community Arts Projects

The Board of Directors is preparing plans to apply for two grants that will fund education and community arts projects. The Historic Preservation Education Grant offered by HLF and the Indiana Humanities Council will be used to develop an eight-week middle school art curriculum based on architecture. A Morgan County Community Foundation community arts grant will also be used for this project. In addition, student art created in the class will be used to make signs identifying each of Morgan County's designated historic districts. A traveling educational exhibit will also be created. More information will come as the grant deadlines near.

Old Jail/Hummingbird Heaven and Jailbird Antiques

Tina Chafey (765) 342-6082 or (765) 349-1949

thummingbird@core.com

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 20th! Hummingbird Heaven and Jailbird Antiques is hosting a “tea and crumpets” fundraiser for MCHPS. Enjoy English tea with cream and sugar—or any of the fine variety of Tetley herbal teas—scones, biscuits, bread and jam and other English treats while feasting your eyes on a scrumptious selection of antique and vintage hats, shoes and clothing in the style show. Register for a bidder’s number and participate in the auction. You might be the winner of a fine cloche, beret or sunbonnet!

Contact Tina at 349-1949 for more information, to participate in the style show or to donate hats, shoes or clothing.

MCHPS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM			
Name:			
Street Address:			
Mailing Address (if different):			
Phone:			E-mail:
Areas of special interest or expertise:			
Please check membership: new <input type="checkbox"/> renew <input type="checkbox"/>		For office use only	
Student	Free	date rec:	comp? n reason:
Individual	\$18.00	Thank you for your support. Memberships received after 1 October are extended through the following year. Completed form to: Morgan County Historic Preservation P. O. Box 1377 Martinsville, IN 46151 For more information call (765) 342-0391 or 349-1949 or see our website at http://www.mchps.org	
Joint	\$25.00		
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