



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

October 2005

# PRESERVATION NEWS

## ALL MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE December 31<sup>st</sup>

(With the exception of lifetime memberships. See list on last page.)

Please detach the membership form, fill it out, and send with appropriate payment to:  
MCHPS P. O. Box 1377 Martinsville, IN 46151

## Eleventh Annual Historic Homes Tour

Tina Chafey (765) 342-6082 or (765) 349-1949  
[thummingbird@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thummingbird@sbcglobal.net)

It's hard to believe that the Historic Homes Tour is in its eleventh year! Join us for MCHPS's end-of-the-year celebration and fundraiser on Sunday, December 4, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Remember: All members receive complimentary tickets. **YOU MUST RESERVE** your ticket(s) by 5:00 p.m., Friday, December 1st by calling Joanne Stuttgen (765) 349-1537 or email [stuttgen@insightbb.com](mailto:stuttgen@insightbb.com). Members must pick up their tickets at the Old Jail during tour hours. Please plan to begin your tour there.

This year's featured houses include four in Martinsville and one in Paragon:

**289 North Main Street** ⚡ This c.1871 brick I-house has received several additions during its lifetime. The home of Tunia Humphreys from 1916-1960, its current owners are Sally and Harry Hubble.

**460 West Morgan Street** ⚡ Built c.1885 for Anson R. Shireman, a dealer of coal and household goods, this vernacular house is owned by Rodney and Alice Rowe.

**7455 Old State Road 67 North, Paragon** ⚡ This house may date to about 1875. It was built by Perry M. Blankenship, a brick mason and lumberman, and features more than a dozen kinds of wood in the interior woodwork. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in July. Mary Ellen Crone and her daughter, Jo Ellen Brown Smith, are its proud owners.

**1089 East Harrison Street** ⚡ This is the third time—each under three different owners--that this house has been featured on the Historic Homes Tour. Welcome Ginger Fitzpatrick to her new home!

**60 South Wayne Street** ⚡ MCHPS board members Rick and Hallie Durnal have been reworking the interior of this vernacular house built c.1900—or possibly earlier, or later. This house is reluctant to give up its history.

## Morgantown Historic District

Joe Mills (765) 342-0391  
[mills@reliable-net.net](mailto:mills@reliable-net.net)

Work on the National Register of Historic Places nomination for downtown Morgantown has begun. About 20 people attended a public informational meeting about the project held October 27. Frank Hurdis, chief of National Register with the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology (DHPA), gave a power point presentation and answered many questions about the significance and implications of listing. Joanne Stuttgen, who will prepare the nomination, talked briefly about how she will research and write the nomination, and what owners of properties should expect. Joanne will be assisted by Henrietta Hickman, MCHPS member and Morgantown historian.

The project is expected to take two to three months to complete. Funding is provided by a federal Historic Preservation Grant offered through the DHPA.

## CSC Continues with Plans for Martinsville Sanitarium

Joanne Stuttgen (765) 349-1537  
[stuttgen@insightbb.com](mailto:stuttgen@insightbb.com)

On October 19, the Indiana Historic Preservation Review Board approved the nomination of the Martinsville Sanitarium to the National Register of Historic Places. Listing is expected to occur in January. The nomination was funded by MCHPS and prepared by Joanne Stuttgen.

The property is owned by Community Service Center of Morgan County (CSC).

During the first week of November, CSC received notification from the Indiana Office of Rural Affairs that its application for a \$30,000 planning and feasibility study had been approved. The grant will fund the preparation of plans and the identification of actions to implement such plans for the rehabilitation of the Community Service Center. Such plans will include, but not be limited to, the analysis of the existing infrastructure, estimated annual maintenance costs, project funding options, and if necessary the need for an extended system. A contract with DLZ for architectural/engineering services is currently being finalized. Architect and Martinsville resident Eric Ratts will lead the DLZ team.

The existing drawings of the Martinsville Sanitarium made by DLZ in August were a valuable and necessary part of the National Register nomination.

Future tenant possibilities are very open. However, CSC has indicated that it hopes to consolidate the various service agencies currently scattered throughout the county, thus remedying a major problem for those needing assistance. Another possible tenant could be the newly organized Boys & Girls Club.

## **Historic Martinsville House Gives Way to Parking Lot**

Joe Mills (765) 342-0391  
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Earlier this year, the Morgan County Commissioners decided that additional parking space was needed for the courthouse annex building on South Main Street. They sought to purchase the historic house at 95 W. Columbus Street but were rebuffed by its owners. They then entered into negotiations to purchase and demolish the c.1915 Dickens House at 89 W. Jackson Street. The County Council appropriated \$135,000 to cover the cost of appraisals and purchase, despite being uninformed about the details of the acquisition.

When members of MCHPS learned of the County's purchase and plans to demolish the house, Joe Mills approached the Commissioners with a proposal to move the house so that another family could care for it. The Commissioners agreed to allow Joe to pursue this course of action. Within a week, however, MCHPS discovered that all of the architectural elements would be sold at public auction on October 9. Members attended the auction and tried to persuade potential bidders to refrain from bidding. Despite their efforts, the floors, windows, kitchen cabinets, and other items were sold.

Undaunted, Joe called in MCF Movers of Newburgh, IN, to give an estimate on moving the house. Sadly, the cost of site acquisition, relocation, and site preparation exceeded MCHPS's capacity, and Joe informed the County that we could not proceed.

The Dickens House was demolished on November 2—just days after the transfer of county offices from the Annex basement back to the courthouse. Since the courthouse is now back in use, the need for parking at the South Main Street has abated. Tragically, this historic property was sacrificed for what is now a highly questionable need for parking. On three different occasions during the week of October 31 through November 4, Joe reviewed the use of the existing parking lot and each time found four or more spaces vacant in the on-site parking lot alone. Street spaces were also available on all adjacent streets within one block of the Annex.

The sacrifice of the Dickens House for what MCHPS considers unneeded parking has raised serious questions concerning the commitment of Morgan County officials to the preservation of our historic treasures. MCHPS will be monitoring more closely County plans for property and land acquisitions.

## **Possible Green Township Lake Threatens Historic Properties**

Joe Mills (765) 342-0391  
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Over the past several months, rumors have been circulating about a possible 2,000 acre reservoir to be built in Green and/or Jackson Townships. It is theorized that the reservoir would be created by damming and flooding the Stotts Creek and Clear Creek lowlands, from approximately State Road 37 on the north to the northeastern corner of Jackson Township on the south.

In October, a public meeting was organized by Dan Rogers, a Green Township resident, civil engineer, and Green Township fire chief. Dan had been in conversation with a person initially involved with the possible lake project and felt it was time to share what he had discovered. Eight hundred people showed up for the meeting in the gymnasium of the Green Township School, far surpassing its capacity.

At this time, the reservoir is still a rumor. No zoning changes have been requested nor have any permits been filed. Nevertheless, local residents are concerned with the possibility that eminent domain could be used to seize their properties. People are looking for ways to seek protection, and many are calling MCHPS with an interest in National Register listing. Unfortunately, listing a property in the National Register will not prevent seizure

and condemnation. It does, however, guarantee that some form of mitigation, such as relocation, be investigated and undertaken.

The rumored lake development has generated a sincere concern for historic resources in Green and Jackson Townships. Green Township is the second oldest township in Morgan County, with the first pioneers settling along Stotts Creek, and many historic farms and homesteads have been in the same families for generations. Other historic sites include churches and cemeteries, public schools (including Green Township Elementary School), Native American burial and other archeological sites, and possible underground railroad locations.

MCHPS members and other volunteers will be talking to Green and Jackson Township residents about their historic farmlands, houses, agricultural and other outbuildings, and other cultural resources over 50 years old. They will inventory these resources and collect historical information to determine eligibility for National Register designation. At this time, only two dwellings, both rated Outstanding in the *Morgan County Interim Report* (1993), are considered eligible for the National Register. A more intensive survey may well identify additional properties.

If you would like to participate in the survey work, please contact Joe Mills. If you would like more information about the possible lake project, see [stopthelake.com](http://stopthelake.com). Of special interest is an article from the November 4 *Daily Journal* out of Franklin that identifies the developer by name.

## **U.S. House Denounces Supreme Court's Eminent Domain Ruling**

Note: On June 23, the Supreme Court, in a 5 to 4 decision in *Kelo v. City of New London, Connecticut*, held that "economic development" can be a "public use" under the Fifth Amendment's Takings Clause. In doing so, the Supreme Court allowed the government to take private property. On November 3, the United States House of Representatives rejected that determination. Read on:

*by Jim Abrams, Associated Press*

WASHINGTON - Contending that the Supreme Court has undermined a pillar of American society, the sanctity of the home, the House overwhelmingly approved a bill Thursday to block the court-approved seizure of private property for use by developers.

The bill, passed 376-38, would withhold federal money from state and local governments that use powers of eminent domain to force businesses and homeowners to give up their property for commercial uses.

The Supreme Court, in a 5-4 ruling in June, recognized the power of local governments to seize property needed for private development projects that generate tax revenue. The decision drew criticism from private property, civil rights, farm and religious groups that said it was an abuse of the Fifth Amendment's "takings clause." That language provides for the taking of private property, with fair compensation, for public use.

The court's June decision, said House Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., changed established constitutional principles by holding that "any property may now be taken for the benefit of another private party."

The ruling in *Kelo v. City of New London* allowed the Connecticut city to exercise state eminent domain law to require several homeowners to cede their property for commercial use.

With this "infamous" decision, said Rep. Phil Gingrey, R-Ga., "homes and small businesses across the country have been placed in grave jeopardy and threatened by the government wrecking ball."

The bill, said Chip Mellor, president of the Institute for Justice, which represented the *Kelo* homeowners before the Supreme Court, "highlights the fact that this nation's eminent domain and urban renewal laws need serious and substantial changes."

But opponents argued that the federal government should not be interceding in what should be a local issue. "We should not change federal law every time members of Congress disagree with the judgment of a locality when it uses eminent domain for the purpose of economic development," said Rep. Bobby Scott, D-Va.

The legislation is the latest, and most far-reaching, of several congressional responses to the court ruling. The House previously passed a measure to bar federal transportation money from going for improvements on land seized for private development. The Senate approved an amendment to a transportation spending bill applying similar restrictions. The bill now moves to the Senate, where Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, has introduced companion legislation.

About half the states are also considering changes in their laws to prevent takings for private use.

The Bush administration, backing the House bill, said in a statement that "private property rights are the bedrock of the nation's economy and enjoy constitutionally protected status. They should also receive an appropriate level of protection by the federal government."

The House bill would cut off for two years all federal economic development funds to states and localities that use economic development as a rationale for property seizures. It also would bar the federal government from using eminent domain powers for economic development.

**Please contact your Senators today and ask them to support H.R. 4128 which is currently before the United States Senate!**

#### **Contact Information for Senator Richard Lugar**

Web Site: [lugar.senate.gov](http://lugar.senate.gov)

E-mail: [senator\\_lugar@lugar.senate.gov](mailto:senator_lugar@lugar.senate.gov)

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#### Main District Office:

1180 Market Tower, 10 West Market St.

Indianapolis, IN 46204

Phone: (317) 226-5555

Fax: (317) 226-5508

#### **Contact Information for Senator Evan Bayh**

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E-mail: Contact only via Web Site

#### Washington Office:

SR-463

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Phone: (202) 224-5623

Fax: (202) 228-1377

#### Main District Office:

1650 Market Tower, 10 West Market St.

Indianapolis, IN 46204

Phone: (317) 554-0750

Fax: (317) 554-0760

## **Mahalasville Bridge Gets New Life in Yorktown**

Del Chafey (765) 342-6082

[delbert.chafey@gm.com](mailto:delbert.chafey@gm.com)

The former Mahalasville Bridge that spanned Indian Creek in Jackson Township is now enjoying new life as a pedestrian bridge in the town of Yorktown. It spans Buck Creek and connects the downtown area with a nearby park.

After being removed from its Indian Creek location during road realignment last year, the bridge was given to J. A. Barker Engineering and put into a storage facility in Bloomington.

"The town had wanted a pedestrian bridge to tie the downtown to the park," says Yorktown Town Manager Tim Kely. "We were looking for a historic bridge, but they were all too expensive. We were ready to go with a pre-fab bridge when we got a call that a historic bridge from Martinsville was available, and it was the right length. It turned out to be cheaper than the pre-fab." The total cost of the bridge and installation was about \$148,000, plus the cost of building the approaches.



**The former Mahalasville Bridge is now painted a vivid John Deere green. White guard rails are being installed.**

Yorktown officials are dedicated to opening and maintaining walking, running and biking trails in the community. They see it as a "quality-of-life" feature - something that the town can offer to current residents and use to attract new ones. The town began a trail feasibility study two years ago.

## **Morgan County Sets Sights on First Recreational Trail**

Del Chafey (765) 342-6082

[delbert.chafey@gm.com](mailto:delbert.chafey@gm.com)

adapted from a story by Brian Culp

*Reporter Times*, Tuesday July 26, 2005

In July, Morgan County officials were informed that they will receive a \$1 million federal transportation enhancement grant that will go towards a recreational trail that will connect Mooresville with Madison and Decatur townships. The grant will pay 80 percent of the cost of the project, which also includes relocating and rehabilitating two historic iron bridges from Adams Township.

Morgan County Bridge No. 107 is a Pratt pony truss like the Mahalasville Bridge (see photo above) erected about 1920. It carries Measel Road over Lake Ditch. Morgan County Bridge No. 110, carrying McClure Road over Lake Ditch, is also a Pratt pony truss, erected about 1910. Identified as deficient in the county's latest bridge re-

inspection report and slated for replacement in 2006, both bridges are approximately 15 feet wide and 70 feet long. They will be used to carry the bike path over Goose Creek along Mann Road and across an unnamed swale along Landersdale Road.

In addition to the preservation of the two bridges, the county's project will include constructing a biking and walking route six miles in length along Mann Road and Landersdale Road, connecting Mooresville with a number of Madison Township subdivisions, including Heartland Crossing, as well as North Madison Elementary School, and providing a link to the Indy Parks Bike Route network.

## Joanne Stuttgen Wins Servaas Award

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

In recognition of her commitment to historic preservation in Morgan County over the past 14 years, Joanne Stuttgen has been awarded the 2005 Servaas Memorial Award by Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. She was nominated in the individual/corporate category by the Board of Directors. The award recognizes achievement in creating or broadening public awareness in historic preservation.



Joanne received the sculpture above, "No Doors to Lock Out the Past," by Indiana artist John McNaughton and a cash prize of \$500. She plans to donate the prize to establish a scholarship for Morgan County high school graduates pursuing a college degree in architecture or a related field.

The Board's nomination cited Joanne's service as Board member, grant writer, preparer of National Register nominations and HAER reports, fundraiser, and technical consultant to local projects. She successfully negotiated with the Morgan County Council for the donation of the Old Jail, and as a member of the Martinsville Plan Commission, has consistently campaigned for the preservation of historic districts and individual properties in Martinsville.

## News Briefs

Board of Directors

**Salvage Operations and Sale** (Joe Mills) ▪ MCHPS removed architectural elements from the houses at 210 S. Jefferson Street and 59 W. Jackson Street in Martinsville before they were torn down by the library for parking. Pieces include frosted and stained glass windows, woodwork, transom hardware, light fixtures, metal floor

grates, a cast iron footed bathtub, doors, and a pair of doors with Victorian fretwork. Profits totaled approximately \$650. Board members are pleased to report that two MCHPS members are recycling much of the woodwork in their own historic homes. It was the Board's goal to get the material into the hands of local property owners.

### Martinsville Historic District Signs (Joanne Stuttgen)

▪ The signs have been completed and delivered to Martinsville's highway department. They will be installed after the fall clean-up work is completed. The total cost



for the signs was \$7,784, of which MCHPS and the City each paid half. Of our half, \$678 was paid for by a grant. The remaining money was raised through our ongoing sales efforts. The completion and erection of the signs concludes "Designing Place," the 2004-2005 Historic Preservation Education Grant project funded by Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana and the Indiana Humanities Council.

**Hall School** (Randy Marsh) ▪ A new supply of special edition Cat's Meow® figures of Hall School has arrived at the Old Jail. Cost is \$21.95 plus tax. MCHPS members receive a 20% discount.

**Wilbur Schoolhouse** (Randy Marsh) ▪ The summer and early fall were a busy time at the Wilbur Schoolhouse. The wooden roof is completed (a job bigger than expected for a number of reasons), and a new dry-wall ceiling replaces the corrugated tin ceiling that was probably installed about 1950. The plaster has been removed from the interior walls because it was *very* loosely attached to the underlying brick walls and was in danger of falling down. The bare brick walls clearly show what had been suspected: the three windows in the east wall were removed and installed in the west wall when the kitchen was added in the early 1950s.

Next summer, the Wilbur Community Center Corporation (WCCC) plans to replace the plaster on the walls and put a skim coat of plaster on the drywall ceiling. The October rummage sale raised over \$800 to support the restoration work, but considerable fund-raising will be required for this big stage of the project.

The new ceiling is insulated and the heat is on! WCCC recently received a grant from the Community Foundation of Morgan County that will help pay for propane and will support replacement of the front door and transom with historically appropriate pieces.

Though the schoolhouse is far from being in the beautiful, final condition the WCC board is determined to achieve, it is now open and available for use by the community. The first group to rent the building is the Open Door Church led by Gary Bivens, who will be using the schoolhouse on Sundays for a while as he builds his congregation. Gary's volunteer help has been a tremendous help to Randy Marsh and others in completing the projects to date. For more information, contact Kathleen Hull at 317-996-4380, hullk@ccrtc.com

## New Items For Sale by MCHPS

Tina Chafey (765) 342-6082 or (765) 349-1949  
thummingbird@sbcglobal.net

Just in time for holiday gift-giving (and receiving)! MCHPS is proud to announce the availability of several new items. Members receive 20% discount. Available at Hummingbird Heaven and Jailbird Antiques and the Martinsville Candy Kitchen.

## GRASSYFORK FISHERIES NEW!

2005 Special Edition Cat's Meow® piece  
\$21.95 ea/\$18.36 members

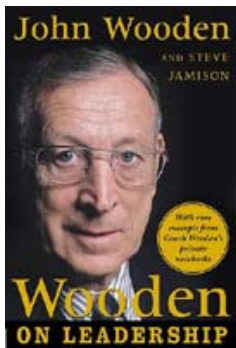


## MARTINSVILLE CANDY KITCHEN

Back by popular demand! Cat's Meow® 2000 reissue with updated text on reverse. \$14.95/\$11.96 members



## JOHN WOODEN BOOKS



Still in popular demand! *Inch and Miles, My Personal Best, and Wooden on Leadership*—all with special edition autographed bookplates. *Adventure Underground*, a new paperback chapter book about Inch and Miles, is due out in January. We'll have it as soon as it's available. \$15.95-\$22.95ea/\$12.76-\$18.36 members

## VANDALIA DEPOT

2004 Special Edition Cat's Meow® piece  
\$21.95 ea/\$18.36 members



## MORGAN COUNTY AFGHAN NEW!

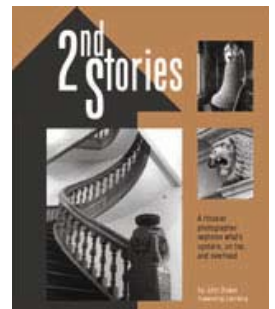
Hot off the loom! This 100% cotton throw measures 50" x 65". Colors are navy, cranberry red, and natural. Featured historic sites include the Glen Curtis Gym in Martinsville, Morgan County Public Library, Grassyfork Fisheries Office and Showroom, Mooresville—Home of the State Flag, Goethe Link Observatory, Rock House in Morgantown, Vandalia Depot in Martinsville, farming scene, Fall Foliage Festival logo, and the Morgan County Courthouse. Limited number available. \$50.00/\$40.00 members



The three-color Morgan County afghan will keep you warm and historically informed for years to come. Get yours now.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> STORIES by John Bower NEW!

A Hoosier photographer explores what's upstairs on top, and overhead in this 144-page soft cover book filled with black and white photographs of historic buildings throughout Indiana. The Morgan County Sheriff's Residence and Jail is included. \$22.00/no member discount



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 MCHPS P. O. Box 1377 Martinsville, IN 46151

**Lifetime Memberships—  
 Please DO NOT RENEW**

James and Marilyn Bickley  
 Doris Corey  
 Drs. Allen and Dianna Griggs  
 John E. Hurt  
 Gene and Sue Levell

**FOR SALE IN MORGANTOWN**  
 c.1895 Griffitt-Murphy House, Queen Anne style, in  
 Morgantown Historic district. See photo at left. Total  
 restoration nearing completion. House has been  
 adapted for use as a bed and breakfast. Also for sale,  
 five foot reproduction white porcelain slipper tub with  
 all hardware. Contact Gina Riggan at (812) 360-3030.

**Check out our updated website by logging  
 on to [www.mchps.org](http://www.mchps.org)**

**Current MCHPS Board Members**

**President:** Joe Mills, Martinsville (765) 342-0391  
**Vice President:** Tina Chafey, Martinsville (765) 342-6082  
**Secretary:** Cheryl Edwards, Mooresville (317) 831-3904  
**Treasurer:** Rick Durnal, Martinsville (765) 318-0742  
 Del Chafey, Martinsville (765) 342-6082  
 John W. Badger XIV, Martinsville (765) 342-0744  
 Pam Badger, Martinsville (765) 342-0744  
 Randy Marsh, Monrovia (317) 996-3980  
 Steve Edwards, Mooresville (317) 831- 3904  
 Cheryl Edwards, Mooresville (317) 831-3904  
 Terry Bunton, Mooresville (317) 831-9794  
 Deb Bunton, Mooresville (317) 831-9794  
 Joanne Stuttgen, Martinsville (765) 349-1537  
 Hallie Durnal, Martinsville (765) 318-0633



**FOR SALE c.1895 Griffitt-Murphy House, Morgantown**

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	
		date rec:	exp:
		comp?    y    n	
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Student	Free	<b>Thank you for your support.</b> Memberships expire December 31. Memberships received after October 1 will be extended through the following year. Please mail completed form to: Morgan County Historic Preservation Society P. O. Box 1377 Martinsville, IN 46151 For more information call (765) 342-0391 or (765) 349- 1949 or see our website at <a href="http://www.mchps.org">http://www.mchps.org</a>	
Individual	\$18.00		
Joint	\$25.00		
Organization	\$35.00		
Supporting	\$50.00		
Corporate	\$200.00		
Donation	\$		