



Morgan County Historic Preservation Society  
2003  
P. O. Box 1377  
Martinsville, IN 46151  
<http://www.mchps.org>

October

## Preservation News

**MARTINSVILLE**  
**CITY OF**  
**MINERAL WATER**

Downtown Martinsville glows again! After who knows how many years of darkness, the neon sign on the roof of the historic Cunningham E was lit in a much-anticipated ceremony on October 4. Thank members Tina Chafey and Elmer Reynolds for overseeing this project. If you missed the moment, you can experience the event excitement in the photo essay accompanying this newsletter.

### William M. Macy Farm vs. INDOT

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

Property owners Don and Joyce Robinson followed up with INDOT after its surprise cancellation of the September 18<sup>th</sup> public meeting and received encouraging news from INDOT attorney Lauri Maudlin. She informed the Robinsons that INDOT was taking some cross sectional data to determine whether the highway could be shifted to the north and that the project "is now in the hands of the designer". Another public meeting will be scheduled after the redesign decisions have been made.

This is thrilling news, and INDOT is now investigating a course of action that the Robinsons, MCHPS, county commissioner Norman Voyles, and county historian Sam Cline have been strongly urging.

Meanwhile, Joanne Stuttgen, Sharon Mills and the Robinsons continue to research and prepare two National Register nominations for this historic farm property located along SR 42 west of Mooresville: one for the William M. Macy Farm itself, and the other for the Hadley-Truax Farm, a portion of the historic Macy farmstead on which the Roast-A-Tron was invented by Harry Truax.

This research has led to Dayton, OR, where William M. Macy emigrated in 1882, and the community of Greenleaf, ID, where he homesteaded in 1907. Descendants attribute to him the establishment of Pacific College, now George Fox University, in Newberg, OR, in 1891; the founding of the community of Greenleaf in 1907; and the establishment of the Greenleaf Friends Academy in 1908.

Thanks to the work of interested researchers in Oregon and Idaho who did not hesitate to become involved, we are now waiting for substantiation of these claims. At George Fox University, we found archivist Dick Votaw, a native of Plainfield—which goes to show just how small the world really is. Dick shared with us an archived collection of letters written by Macy's nephew, William Macy Hadley, to the *Mooresville Herald* between 1875-1880. They are filled with the excitement and optimism of a Morgan County pioneer in a promising new land.

Dick also tells us that the connection between the Quaker communities of Newberg, OR, and Mooresville-Plainfield area continues to be very strong.

From a Macy descendant we learned of a possible connection between William M. Macy and the opening of the Oregon Trail. This led us in another direction which proved to be a false lead. We did, however, discover another William M. Macy from Putnam County, IN, who was indeed responsible for establishing the Emigrant Free Road in Oregon. The two Macys—"ours" and "theirs"—are not related.

We anticipate that the National Register nomination for the William Macy Farm will be completed in late-November. The National Register nomination for the Hadley-Truax Farm will follow. This will require an entirely new course in research, taking us into the history of soybean production in the United States.

Stay with us on the William Macy Farm vs. INDOT battle. We plan fireworks.

Check out our website!  
<http://www.mchps.org>

### Hastings Schoolhouse

Joanne Stuttgen (765) 349-1437  
[stuttgen@insightbb.com](mailto:stuttgen@insightbb.com)

Attorney Dale Coffey has advised the board on how best to approach the resolution of ownership of this property located along SR 37 south of Martinsville. In 1994, MCHPS sought title to the c.1870 schoolhouse and half-acre lot and received two out of three of the necessary quit claim deeds. The third deed was never acquired, meaning that MCHPS owns two-thirds of the property. Since the Hastings Schoolhouse no longer exists—it was flattened by last year's tornado—Dale advises us to transfer our two deeds to the adjoining property owner, who has title to the remaining one-third of the property. We intend to do this as soon as possible. We will also negotiate for whatever materials can be salvaged from the site, particularly the brick, which can be used to repair the Old Jail and several other nineteenth century buildings in the county.

### Hall School

Randy Marsh (317) 996-3980

With the closing of Hall School scheduled for 2005, many Monrovia-area residents are hoping for a viable alternative use for the building. Randy Marsh is spearheading the formation of an ad hoc committee to explore future possibilities and a National Register listing for the property.

To this end, Jeremy Risen of Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana (HLFI) toured the building earlier this month to assess its National Register eligibility. He was impressed with the remarkable integrity of the oldest portion of the building, a four-room school built in 1902, and with the 1950s addition. The 1902 building retains its original arrangement of interior space as well as such surprising architectural elements as window glass and coat hooks—usually among the very first things to be replaced. The 1950s portion is a nearly unaltered example of mid-century elementary school architecture, complete with its original aluminum windows, colored floor tiles, wood veneers, storage lockers and porcelain drinking fountain.

In Jeremy's opinion, both of these portions of the school complex are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Joanne Stuttgen will prepare a nomination after the William Macy Farm and Hadley-Truax Farm nominations are completed.

Meanwhile, Randy and Jackie will be convening a public informational meeting to explore future avenues and

opportunities with Hall neighbors and others interested in a second life for Hall School.

## Wilbur Schoolhouse

Randy Marsh (317) 996-3980

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

The new Wilbur Community Center, with Margaret Cass serving as president, has recently received its papers of incorporation from the State of Indiana. In response to this, Gregg Township has donated the historic Wilbur Schoolhouse to the organization.

With MCHPS guidance, WCC recently applied for and received an \$800 grant from the Morgan County Community Foundation for restoration of the building's two entrances. WCC will construct a concrete handicap accessible entrance to the side kitchen addition and replace the crumbling concrete stoop and front door of the schoolhouse's main entrance. Margaret points out that without these repairs, the building would not be accessible to a significant portion of the township's residents.

The grant amount will go towards the cost of concrete, pea gravel and other materials. The labor is being donated by a local concrete professional, who will be assisted by WCC members.

The group is looking for an appropriate historic solid wood paneled door for the front of the schoolhouse. If you have a lead on one, please call WCC Secretary Joe Clymer at 349-9786 or E-mail [jclymer@scican.net](mailto:jclymer@scican.net).

WCC is an organizational member of MCHPS. As a partner in preservation, we will continue to support and assist with the restoration of the Wilbur Schoolhouse.

## Old Jail (Hummingbird Heaven and Tea Room and Jailbird Antiques)

Board of Directors

On October 1, the new Tea Room opened to an eager crowd. Serving hours are Tuesday-Friday 11:00-2:00. If you haven't paid a visit to the Old Jail lately, you'll want to check it out. Even those of us who have been associated with the jail since we received it in donation from the county nine years ago are shocked at its transformation. It is amazing.

But there is still a long way to go, with the top priority being the repair of the box gutters and the damaged interior plaster walls. We submitted an application for funding to the state preservation office earlier this month. The total project cost is estimated to be \$22,531. We are seeking \$11,265 in federal funding and are matching this with a local cost share of \$11,266. This local cost share is on hand, the product of our past fundraisers and rental income on the Old Jail.

We expect a decision on our application in March or April.

### REMI NDER

Unless otherwise noted, your membership expires on December 31.

### IT IS TIME TO RENEW

Before the end of the year, please fill out the attached membership form and send it with proper payment to

MCHPS

P. O. Box 1377

Martinsville. IN 46151



## Invite a Friend to be a Preservationist—Share this Form Ninth Annual Historic Homes Tour

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

Our largest regularly scheduled fundraiser of the year will be held in Martinsville on Sunday, December 7 from 3-6 p.m. As of now, the four houses selected for this year's tour are:

- 640 E. Washington Street  
Colonial Revival  
Dale and Theresa Stallard
- 675 W. Morgan Street  
Gable and wing  
Pam Holland
- 840 S. Mulberry Street  
Bungalow  
John and Pam Badger
- 2636 Liberty Church Road  
Free Classic/vernacular  
Merrill and Madalyn Maxwell

It is the goal of each year's tour to feature a variety of architectural styles and decorative interpretations, so Tina is currently seeking additional houses to replace two that have been recently withdrawn.

If you are interested in assisting with this year's tour, please contact Tina. Members are needed to staff each house. All tour volunteers will be given the opportunity to view each house two hours before the tour begins.

| <b>MCHPS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM</b>     |         |   |                     |
|---|---------|---|---------------------|
| Name:                                   |         |   |                     |
| Street Address:                         |         |   |                     |
| Mailing Address (if different):         |         |   |                     |
| Phone:                                  |         | E-mail:   |                     |
| Areas of special interest or expertise: |         |   |                     |
| Please check membership category:       |         | For office use only   |                     |
|   |         | date rec:   | comp?      y      n |
|   |         | exp:  | reason:             |
| Student                                 | Free    | <b>Thank you for your support.</b> Memberships expire 31 December. Memberships received after 1 October will be extended through the following year. Please |                     |
| Individual                              | \$18.00 |   |                     |
| Joint                                   | \$25.00 |   |                     |

|  |              |          |  |
|--|--------------|----------|--|
|  | Organization | \$35.00  | mail completed form to:<br>Morgan County Historic Preservation Society<br>P. O. Box 1377<br>Martinsville, IN 46151<br>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> |
|  | Supporting   | \$50.00  |  |
|  | Corporate    | \$200.00 |  |
|  | Donation     | \$ _____ |  |