



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

October

PRESERVATION NEWS

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Unless otherwise noted, your membership expires on December 31, 2004.
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

Tenth Annual Historic Homes Tour Set for December 12

Tina Chafey (765) 342-6082
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The tenth annual Historic Homes Tour is scheduled for Sunday, December 12th, from 3-6 p.m. Five Martinsville homes ranging in age from circa 1865-1920 will be featured. The sixth property is the Old Jail, which serves as a reception center. The five homes are listed below.

- **Major-Miles House** at 689 E. Washington Street
Dutch Colonial Revival, circa 1895/1920
- **Jenkins House** at 610 South Main Street
American Foursquare, circa 1920
- **Kennedy House** at 490 South Jefferson Street
Dutch Colonial Revival, circa 1915
- **Crone House** at 40 East Walnut Street
Gothic Revival, circa 1865
- **Zike House** at 810 East Washington Street
Vernacular/gable front, circa 1900

All members receive complimentary ticket(s). Please reserve your ticket(s) by calling Joanne Stuttgen at (765) 349-1537 or email stuttgen@insightbb.com. The deadline for reservations is 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 9. All reserved tickets will be available for pick up at the Old Jail at the beginning of the tour. Tickets not picked up by 4:00 will be sold.

Log onto our website at
www.mchps.org

MCHPS Acquires Local Cat's Meow7 Franchise; Vandalia Depot is 2004 Custom Piece

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When Roberta Mikesell closed Basket Boutique this summer, she contacted MCHPS about purchasing her remaining stock of custom Cat's Meow7 Village pieces. Since 1997, she has been producing a yearly piece featuring a historic Martinsville building. The Board felt that the production and sale of these items is consistent with its mission and purchased the local franchise. In keeping with Cat's Meow7 Village company policy, MCHPS is the only local franchise.

When the Vandalia Depot in Martinsville was voted the topmost endangered property in the county by fairgoers (see story below), Board members decided that this year's piece would depict the train station.

The Vandalia Depot, shown below, is now available at the Old Jail and the Martinsville Candy Kitchen at a cost of \$21.95. MCHPS members received a 20% discount.



Vandalia Depot, 2004 custom Cat's Meow7 Village piece

There are still a few pieces remaining from previous years, so if you have not yet started your Cat's Meow collection, or if you have gaps to fill, please drop by the Old Jail or the Candy Kitchen. The available pieces include:

| | | |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1997 | Morgan County Courthouse | \$21.95 (2 remaining) |
| 1998 | Glenn Curtis Gymnasium | \$21.95 |
| 1999 | Carnegie Public Library | <i>SOLD OUT</i> |
| 2000 | First Presbyterian Church | \$14.95 |
| 2001 | Martinsville Candy Kitchen | <i>SOLD OUT</i> |
| 2002 | Martinsville City Hall | \$21.95 |
| 2003 | Cross Schoolhouse | \$20.00 |
| 2004 | Vandalia Depot | \$21.95 |

There are plans to reorder the sold out pieces after the cost of the 2004 piece is recovered. In addition, the Board plans to enlarge the local collection by producing pieces that depict historic buildings in all parts of the

county.

Cat's Meow⁷ Village was established in 1982. Each wooden custom keepsake piece is artist designed from photographs and goes through a rigorous cutting, silk screening and finishing process. Casper, the infamous black cat trademark, can be found on every. For more information, or to suggest a piece for 2005, contact Tina Chafey.

Wooden Books Still Selling Very Well

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

Sales of *Inch and Miles* received a big boost in September when the Martinsville Rotary Club and Primetime of Morgan County agreed to purchase 500 copies through MCHPS to distribute to all Martinsville second graders. The Character Counts program is now being expanded to include all other second graders in the county, and Primetime has requested another 500 copies. In all, we have sold over 1150 copies of *Inch and Miles* to date.

Meanwhile, Coach's pictorial biography, *My Personal Best*, also continues to sell. We have a good supply on hand to get us through the Christmas gift-giving season. Nearly 350 copies have been sold.

On Saturday, November 20, from 1:30-3:00 p.m., the Morgan County Public Library will sponsor "Reading John Wooden" as part of the Polis Center's Spirit and Place Festival. A special video message from Coach Wooden will be presented, followed by a participant discussion of important themes and truths in *Inch and Miles* and *My Personal Best*.

The other two books we have sold as fundraisers didn't fare quite so well as Wooden's. We sold six copies of *Somewhere in America* by Mark Singer, which includes an essay about Carol Jenkins and Martinsville's image as a racist community. We also sold six copies of *Chig and the Second Spread*, a children's novel by Nashville native Gwyneth Swain. All of the unsold copies of each were returned for a full refund.

2004 List of Morgan County's Ten Most Endangered Properties

Joe Mills (765) 342-0391
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Thank you to all members who voted for the Ten Most Endangered Properties in the July newsletter. Your votes were tallied and a new list was prioritized according to these results. This list was presented to Morgan County Fair goers in August, who were invited to submit votes for their ten choices. The results of this poll are as follows:

1. Martinsville Vandalia Depot
2. Goethe Link Observatory
3. Martinsville City Hall
4. Martinsville Post Office
5. Grassyfork Fisheries Showroom and Office
6. Pioneer cemeteries
7. Kennedy Home
8. Wilbur Schoolhouse
9. Bradford double pen house
10. Cunningham-Buskirk Building

These properties will become the major work areas for 2004-2005. Joe Mills has discussed our concerns about the Depot's decaying roof with the Martinsville Arts Council, the building's owner. He also continues to monitor the status of the Grassyfork office building. Thanks to an alert from one of our members who learned of the city

administration's intent to enclose the eaves of City Hall in vinyl, Joanne Stuttgen had a hand in persuading engineer Ross Holloway to preserve the bracketed eaves and re-roof the building with historically appropriate shingles. And as president of the Wilbur Community Center, Randy Marsh has been instrumental in major restoration work on the Wilbur Schoolhouse. See story below. The other properties will be the focus of future attention.

News Briefs

Board of Directors

Old Jail Gutter Project \$ The contract for the repair of the boxed gutters was given to Dubeansky Roofing of Indianapolis with a bid of \$27,500. This is about \$5,000 higher than we estimated when we submitted the Historic Preservation Fund grant application a year ago. Our grant award is in the amount of \$11,250. This means MCHPS will contribute \$16,250 towards the gutter restoration, or 61% of the total project cost. This money is on hand. Dubeansky hopes to begin the project before the end of the year. For more information contact Joe Mills.

Grassyfork Fisheries \$ Coming in at number five on the Ten Most Endangered Properties list, the Grassyfork Fisheries Office and Showroom has been a concern for the past year. The owners would like to dispose of the building and three acres—either through demolition or sale to a developer. MCHPS and several Martinsville residents and business owners have attempted to negotiate the property's acquisition, but the firm \$350,000 asking price has been a major obstacle. In recent conversations with both Joe Mills and Jeremy Risen of Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana (HLFI), the owners indicated they were on no time schedule to get rid of the property. For more information, contact Joe Mills.

Wilbur Schoolhouse, Gregg Twp. \$ Randy Marsh reports that a new roof of cedar shingles has recently been completed, and new front steps of limestone slabs have been installed. A replica bell tower will soon be finished. The roof was put on the schoolhouse by a corps of volunteers, with the cost of materials provided by a South Central Indiana REMC Operation Round grant of \$9,742, plus over \$200 in donations by "Roof Angels" from the Wilbur community. HLFI has awarded the Wilbur Community Center \$2000 for a feasibility study by Tom Meredith to prioritize future restoration projects: removal of the corrugated metal ceiling, replacement of the front door, removal of the 1950s kitchen addition and restoration of the windows and exterior walls. For more information, contact Randy Marsh at (317) 996-3980 or mjackie8@aol.com.

Hall School, Gregg Twp. \$ Randy has also been active in the formation of the Hall Civic Association, which plans to take over the Hall School from the Monrovia School Corporation when it is officially closed in August 2005. The new not-for-profit association's first major fundraiser—a beef and boards mystery dinner theater—is being planned for April 9, 2005. The Hall School was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in September. For more information, contact Randy and Jackie Marsh.

"Designing Places" Art Education Grant \$ Two recent applications for additional funding from Morgan County Community Foundation have been denied. Art teacher Kathy Maxwell will begin the four-week course with her eighth grade honors student at West Middle School the week of Thanksgiving. Students will learn to identify the various historic styles of architecture through lecture and slide presentations, from guest presenters, and from field trips to downtown Martinsville and the East Washington and Northside Historic Districts. They will apply their new knowledge to drawing and other artwork, including designs for historic district signs that will be made by a local sign contractor. To date, \$3265 in grant funding has been received for the course and fabrication of the signs. For more information, contact Joanne Stuttgen at (765) 349-1537 or stuttgen@insightbb.com.

Morgantown Historic Commercial District \$ An application for federal preservation funds totaling \$2500 for a National Register nomination for downtown Morgantown has been submitted to the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (DHPA). If funded, the project would result in the listing of 37 properties. Grant awards will be announced in April. For more information contact Joanne Stuttgen.

