

**Program:** Hidden Gems of Indiana

**Speaker:** Suzanne Rollins Stanis, Director of Heritage Education and Information, Indiana Landmarks

**Introduced by:** Jeff Rasley **Attendance:**

110

**Guests:** Richard Cohn, Mary Lunsford, Doug Rose, Cathy Roy, Dan and Laura Saffen, Jim Stabler

**Scribe:** Hank Wofla **Editor:**

Jim Willson

Today's talk was given by Suzanne Stanis – Director of Heritage Education and Information for Indiana Landmarks ([www.indianalandmarks.org](http://www.indianalandmarks.org)). This Indiana Landmarks Center in Indianapolis saves buildings in Indiana that stir us. These buildings are examples of Hoosier art and spirit, ingenuity and craft, buildings which heighten our sense of place and connect us through generations

Indiana landmarks was started in 1960 and presently has 35 full and part time employees and is the largest statewide preservation organization in the U.S. Indiana Landmarks is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that is supported by members and led by a volunteer board with the primary office located in Indianapolis and other regional and field offices throughout Indiana. The primary programs include field services, historical sites, education, endangered property rescues and rehab, protective easements on significant buildings, special projects and signature restorations, formal alliances with local preservation groups, and grants and loans and publishing *Indiana Preservation* magazine.

Suzanne provided a presentation on what she called some of the “gems” of the many Indiana landmarks within the State. It would be wonderful if we could include pictures of these sites in this newsletter, but below finds a list of a few of the Indiana Landmarks that we mentioned. As you might imagine, all of them have a special story behind them. Over the years, our club has visited many of these sites like the Indiana Medical History Museum and the rotary jail in Crawfordsville.

Greencastle – WWII V-1 Buzz Bomb, notable because the only other exists in the Smithsonian Museum, Kokomo – Big Ben – World's largest bull who lived in 1902 and weighted over 4000 lbs. Crawfordsville – A rotary jail cell that is still operates.

She also mentioned some of their special projects including the House of Tomorrow that was first shown at the Chicago's World fair in 1933-34. In 2016, the National Trust for Historical Preservation designated it as a national treasure. This will be the only National Trust structure in the state of Indiana. They presently have 80 “treasures”. The house is now located on the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in Beverly Shores, Indiana and is under rehabilitation.

The author would like to acknowledge that part of this summary was taken from the Indiana Landmarks Center website.



**Suzanne Rollins Stanis**