

**Program:** 10 Most Endangered Landmarks

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

**Introduced by:** Jeff Rasley

**Attendance:** 124

**Guests:** Carol Miller, Julia Hosek, Duard Ballard, Haruka

**Scribe:** John Peer

**Editor:** Ed Nitka

Today's presenter was Suzanne Stanis, Director of Heritage Education for Indiana Landmarks. She is a BS graduate of Hanover College with an MS in Library Science from Indiana University. She also creates continuing education courses, workshops, and children's camps. During her thirty-year career with Indiana Landmarks she has researched and nominated over fifteen buildings and neighborhoods to the National Register of Historic Places.

Suzanne has been a multiple presenter at Sciencetech Club. She presented a long list of buildings saved and some lost, but first a little background on Indiana Landmarks.

Indiana Landmarks (renamed in 2010 from Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana) was founded in 1960 after the demolition of the English Opera House. The Indianapolis Courthouse demolition motivated J.K. Lilly to create Indiana Landmarks with a grant and Eli Lilly and Company stock. They bought the Morris-Butler House and renovated it to be the initial headquarters of Indiana Landmarks.

Indiana Landmarks is private with 6500 members and 35 full/part-time staff. They have nine regional offices across Indiana and work with a network of 65 affiliated preservation groups across the State. Nationally, they are the largest historic preservation entity and are funded by memberships and some grants.

They proactively identify notable historic sites in disrepair or decay and strive to find alternative uses and funding to preserve these sites. Indiana Landmarks promotes the most desperate sites by its

annual "10 Most Endangered" list which tends to generate interest and funding from the public. They have found through experience that listing a site, delisting it, and then relisting it, tends to generate more interest and donations, so that is their current practice.

Suzanne presented many sites that are endangered as well as many successes. The current list of "10 Most Endangered" are detailed at <https://www.indianalandmarks.org/10-most-endangered/>

To highlight their activities:

### **SAVED:**

Morris-Butler House, 1204 N. Park, Indianapolis - initial HQ of Indiana Landmarks

Holler House, Lockerbie Square, Indianapolis - rehabbed to residential housing

Gisamore House, Jeffersonville

Kunz-Hartman House, New Albany - now South Regional offices.

Central United Methodist Church, 1201 N. Central, Indianapolis - now Indiana Landmarks Center HQ

Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church, Richmond - priceless stained-glass windows and interior by Tiffany. Benefactor bought and donated the building under the condition that it continues to offer religious services. Indiana Landmarks is solving that issue.

First Baptist Church, West Baden Springs - originally built for black employees. Being rehabbed by preservation group from Bloomington.

Lyles Station School, Gibson County - rededicated as a museum and community center

Knightstown Academy - Indiana Landmarks bought and converted to residential housing. Some residents actually went to school there.

Cannelton Cotton Mill on Ohio River - largest building west of the Allegheny Mountains when built in 1837. Preserved and converted to senior housing.

Greyhound Bus station, Evansville - converted to BRU restaurant next to Medical School complex

Randolph County Courthouse - county commissioners voted to demolish, but Indiana Landmarks initiated a grass roots preservation effort to save the building which revived the county square.

Bush Stadium - first "Cash for Clunkers" car parking lot, converted to residential living while maintaining the original baseball diamond.

Quartermaster Depot, Jeffersonville - converted to commercial space

Newkirk Mansion, Connersville

Florida Tropical House, Beverly Shores, Indiana Dunes

Gerig (Round) Barn, Fulton County - moved and restored as Round Barn Golf Club in Rochester

Monon High Bridge in Delphi - funds raised and being restored as pedestrian bridge

Mineral Springs Hotel, Paoli

**GREATEST RESTORATION:** West Baden Springs Hotel courtesy of the generosity of the Cook family. Built in 1901 as an architectural wonder. Bought by Indiana Landmarks in 1996 for \$250,000 at the point of collapse. Restored totally by Cook family.

### **LOST:**

Church of the Holy Cross, Indianapolis

Walkerton Church, St. Joseph County

### **IN JEOPARDY:**

Attica downtown - now that manufacturing has closed

Pulaski County Courthouse, Winamac - options to restore underway

Cannelton Historic District

CRUMP Theatre, Columbus - seeking a developer

John Howe Mansion, Howe - widow converted 1875 building into a school for Episcopal priests, which later transitioned to a military academy, but Howe Military Academy announced its closing in March 2019.

Circus Hall of Fame, Peru - many buildings. Raised only \$37,000 of \$1 million needed to restore two barns.

Thanks to Suzanne Stanis for another very informative presentation.



Suzanne Stanis