

Acknowledgements

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Historic Preservation Strategy Advisory Committee

Members of the Advisory Committee represented a wide range of expertise; the following public and private organizations participated:

Fort Wayne Historic Preservation Commission
ARCH, Inc.
Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society
IPFW Archaeological Survey
Allen County Historian
West Central Neighborhood Association
Williams Woodland Park Neighborhood Association
Fort Wayne Area Association of REALTORS®
Allen County Commissioners Office
Fort Wayne Mayor's Office
Allen County Council
Fort Wayne City Council
New Haven City Council
City of Woodburn
Town of Grabill
Huntertown Town Council
Leo-Cedarville Town Council
Monroeville Town Council

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Preserve-it Allen!

A strategy to enhance our community
by preserving and celebrating
Fort Wayne and Allen County's heritage
and historic resources



The City of Fort Wayne

In Collaboration with,
Allen County
ARCH, Inc.
Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society
and other public and private partners

Historic Preservation and Heritage Development *Preserving our Past for Tomorrow*

Historic preservation is the practice of protecting and preserving buildings, sites, structures, objects, or districts that reflect elements of local, state, or national history.

Historic Preservation safeguards and celebrates a community's unique identity, making it available to future generations.

Preservation and heritage development stabilizes and enhances property values and strengthens local economies through jobs and heritage tourism.

What is Preserve-it Allen?

Preserve-it Allen is a comprehensive approach to enhance the preservation of historic structures and develop heritage resources in Allen County. This strategy will look at the following:

🌀 Education and Promotion

Government and preservation organizations should partner to communicate the economic and community benefits of preservation and heritage development.

🌀 Protection of Community Heritage

Both public and private sectors should better protect irreplaceable historic and heritage resources in Fort Wayne and Allen County.

🌀 Build Partnerships

Coordination and cooperation within Fort Wayne city government departments, and between Allen County government, cities, towns, and private heritage organizations should be improved.

Overview of the Process

An Advisory Committee reviewed current issues and practices in the field of Historic Preservation and discussed its relevance to the heritage and historic resources of Fort Wayne and Allen County, including other towns and rural areas.

The committee represented a wide range of professional expertise, including: Fort Wayne Historic Preservation Commission members, history and historic preservation groups, a realtor, an architect, an archaeologist, and representatives of Fort Wayne, Allen County, and other municipal governing bodies.



Rehabilitation of a house that was once-threatened by demolition in Fort Wayne's West Central Historic District.

Implementation of Preserve-it Allen!

The outcome of this process is a set of policy recommendations for government and preservation organizations to use which will promote and preserve Allen County's past.

Implementation of these recommendations will require the cooperation and participation of a variety of public and private partners.

Full implementation of the strategy will build our community and its economy through protection of historic resources and promotion of heritage development.

For More Information

To learn more about **Preserve-it Allen!** contact the **City of Fort Wayne Historic Preservation Commission**
Phone: 260-427-1127
Web: www.CityofFortWayne.org/preservation

To learn more about architecture, our community heritage and how you can help contact **ARCH, Inc.**
Phone: 260-426-5117
Web: www.archfw.org.

To learn more about the history of Fort Wayne and Allen County contact the **History Center**
Phone: 260-426-2882
Web: www.fwhistorycenter.com.

To learn more about Indiana's pre-history contact the **IPFW Archaeological Survey**
Phone: 260-481-6892
Web: www.ipfw.edu/archsurv/home.html.

To learn about preservation in Indiana contact: **Indiana DNR, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology**
Phone: 317-232-1646
Web: www.in.gov/dnr/historic.

To learn about historic preservation programs and funding contact: **Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana**
Phone: 800-450-4534
Web: www.historiclandmarks.org.



Cindy's Diner (1954) is a Fort Wayne Local Historic District. It is located at 830 S. Harrison St., on the historic Lincoln Highway.

Recommendations

Historic Preservation Commissions

Historic Preservation Commissions allow communities to protect, provide financial and technical assistance, and promote their historic buildings, sites and neighborhoods. Allen County and the City of Fort Wayne should investigate the value of establishing a joint county-wide preservation commission (possibly similar to South Bend and St. Joseph County). Other cities and towns in the county could also decide to join, or form their own commissions.

⊗ Investigate establishing a County-wide Historic Preservation Commission or formal partnership between Fort Wayne, Allen County, cities, and/or towns.

⊗ OR, investigate establishing Historic Preservation ordinances for Allen County and/or other Allen County communities that are uniform, or compatible with, the Fort Wayne ordinance.

Rural Heritage and Historic Resources

Allen County has a rich heritage and a diverse collection of rural historic resources. These resources include farmsteads, cemeteries, and archaeological sites. The following recommendations discuss ways to protect Allen County's rural heritage and historic resources.

⊗ Protect and preserve the rural character of strategic areas of unincorporated Allen County.

⊗ Promote land development controls and site development standards that preserve existing rural areas by focusing development in existing population centers.

⊗ Support the identification and protection of all archaeological sites.



The Fisher West Farm, built c.1860 near Hometown, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

Administration of Historic Preservation Programs

The City of Fort Wayne currently has historic preservation staff to administer the historic preservation ordinance and offer a wide range of technical assistance to help property owners maintain or recapture the historic integrity of their properties. The following recommendations discuss ways to improve the role of staff.

⊗ Expand Historic Preservation programs – identifying and protecting historic resources.

⊗ Acknowledge individuals, organizations, and local governments who have participated in historic preservation efforts.

⊗ Provide information to the community at large about all aspects and implications of state and national preservation programs and funding opportunities.

⊗ Require annual training and educational sessions for Historic Preservation Commission members.

⊗ Determine appropriate department staff for the enforcement of the Historic Preservation Ordinance and associated building and zoning codes.



A neglected log house located on US 24 east of New Haven; it is adjacent to the former Wabash & Erie Canal, and within the potential Maumee River Heritage Corridor.

Heritage Development

Development and promotion of heritage resources not only guarantees future generations will enjoy them, but also contributes to strengthening Allen County's economy through Heritage Tourism. A heritage area is a region in which residents, businesses, and governments join together to preserve, promote and celebrate their common heritage, culture, and natural resources. Whether it is our natural or man made waterways, aeronautical past, connection to the Lincoln Highway, or rural and Amish community, Allen County has a rich and diverse heritage.

⊗ Identify potential Heritage Areas.

⊗ Promote the benefits of Heritage Areas.

⊗ Investigate and pursue National Heritage Area Designation where eligible.

⊗ Build and strengthen partnerships to promote and preserve historic corridors and heritage areas.

⊗ Develop a comprehensive Heritage Tourism program that enhances and accurately represents Allen County's history and Native culture.

⊗ Integrate preservation programs with heritage education and tourism to encourage investment in historic properties.

Government and Community Leaders— Fostering a Community-wide Preservation Ethic

It is important for government and community leaders to work toward preserving and instilling pride in the community's heritage. In addition, departments and agencies working under the direction of government leaders should also understand this ethic, and work toward a common goal of preservation.

- ⊗ Promote the preservation of buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts which have historic significance for the community through a combination of incentives, regulations, and informational activities.
- ⊗ Develop internal policies that emphasize the value of historic publicly owned facilities: such as park facilities, utility facilities, and other infrastructure.
- ⊗ Educate city and county employees about their city, town, and county history and heritage.
- ⊗ Pursue National Register and when applicable Local Historic District designation for eligible historic sites and structures owned by governmental agencies.



Van Zile Road Bridge(1883) crosses the St. Joseph River, north of Leo-Cedarville. A Whipple through truss iron bridge by the Massillon Bridge Co.; it is the only example in Indiana.

Improving Coordination and Cooperation Between Governmental Agencies

Building partnerships among various municipal departments and among the county, cities and towns will help to further preservation efforts and effectively provide services and financial assistance to residents and property owners throughout Allen County.

- ⊗ Ensure that historic preservation and heritage development is taken into consideration with City and County planning processes.
- ⊗ Ensure historic preservation data is available in a usable form to all City and County departments, other public agencies, developers, property owners, and the public.
- ⊗ Develop and implement formalized procedures to coordinate preservation efforts among city and county departments and agencies.
- ⊗ Investigate, develop, implement and promote financial incentives to encourage property owners to maintain, preserve, and rehabilitate historic properties.
- ⊗ Encourage the linkage and use of existing financial incentives and programs.
- ⊗ Identify, mitigate, or eliminate factors that serve as conflicts or disincentives to preservation and heritage development efforts.
- ⊗ Coordinate efforts between city and county departments to ensure review of the demolition of historic sites, structures, and objects.
- ⊗ Encourage exploration of alternatives to the demolition of historically significant buildings and objects deemed to be eligible for the local, state, or national registers.
- ⊗ Ensure that adequate time is allowed prior to any demolition approval to pursue alternatives.

Promoting Preservation and Heritage

Preserving and promoting historic places and heritage resources can yield tremendous results for the community. To increase appreciation for our community's historic places, education and outreach are necessary.

- ⊗ Develop a Media Plan to provide a coordinated approach to promoting and advocating for historic preservation and heritage development.
- ⊗ Through a public and private partnership, develop a comprehensive strategy to identify and secure state, federal, local, and foundation funds for preservation and heritage programming.
- ⊗ Build stronger relationships with state and regional preservation, history, and heritage organizations.
- ⊗ Educate local architects, realtors, homeowners, and developers about historic preservation programs and funding opportunities.
- ⊗ Provide information to property owners, residents and the community at large about all aspects of historic district designation and historic preservation.
- ⊗ Promote awareness of the prehistoric cultural resources of Allen County.
- ⊗ Partnering with the Allen County School Districts, develop a strategy to expand opportunities to learn about local and regional history.



An historic brick sidewalk in Fort Wayne's West Central Historic District.