

Historic Preservation Plan of 2017

Historic Greenville, Indiana

On September 12, 2016, the Greenville Town Council passed a resolution¹ which established the Greenville Preservation Commission (“The Commission”). The Commission’s first business priority was to establish a plan for historic preservation covering the corporate limits of historic Greenville and extending out into Greenville Township. The Commission believes there is a specific need to begin long-range planning for research, documentation, and preservation of historic structures. In addition, a major priority of the Commission is to work towards educating residents on the local history of historic Greenville.

The following document is intended to serve as the working plan for the Commission for the next five years. The plan will serve as a blueprint that guides the Commission in the years to come. This plan is advisory only. The scope and organization of the plan are as follows:

- Part I: Hoosier Homestead Farms
- Part II: The Station Building
- Part III: Historical Site Markers
- Part IV: Building Preservation
- Part V: Additional Objectives

I. Hoosier Homestead Farms

In an effort to support agriculture and local farming in the Town of Greenville, Greenville Township, and Floyd County, the Commission will conduct research to identify local farmers who qualify for the Hoosier Homestead recognition. Once residents are identified, the Commission will help residents file the appropriate paperwork to the Indiana State Department of Agriculture.



In honor of Indiana's rich agricultural heritage, the Hoosier Homestead Award Program recognizes families with farms that have been owned by the same family for 100 years or more. Indiana family farms may qualify for the following:

- Centennial Award - 100 years of ownership
- Sesquicentennial Award - 150 years of ownership
- Bicentennial Award - 200 years of ownership

The program was instituted in 1976 and recognizes the contributions these family farms have made to the economic, cultural and social advancements of Indiana. In the past 30 years, more than 5,000 farms have received the honor.

There are two Hoosier Homestead Ceremonies each year. One is at the State House in March and the other is during the State Fair in August.

¹ The resolution creating The Greenville Preservation Commission is codified as Ordinance #2016-TR-028.

II. The Station Building

The Station Building is an old stage coach stop located along Highway 150 in Greenville recorded as lot #46 on the 1816 Greenville Plat Map. The building is rumored to have been built in 1840 by the prominent Captain John Baptiste Ford, founder of Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company. There are multiple stories which have been uncovered by the Commission; however, not many of them match up regarding the direct lineage of ownership over lot #46. Initial research conducted in the Indiana Room at the New Albany Floyd County Library indicates that the building itself may have been sold between owners as two separate properties or even that lot #46 was divided at one point.



The Commission will continue to conduct research by building a timeline of ownership over lot #46, retaining each of the deeds, and translating the pin and quill deeds into a more legible form. Conducting research of The Station Building is a primary objective of the Commission. Once the research has been completed, the Commission will document the history of the building, its historical photographs, and documents, then complete and submit a Indiana Register of Historic Sites and Structures Nomination form (State Form 54587) to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Ultimately, the goal of the Commission is to have the building listed on the National Register of Historic Places with the National Park Services of the US Department of the Interior; however, the first step in that process is to apply with the Indiana Register of Historic Sites and Structures.

The only restriction tied to modifying, remodeling, or renovating a historic structure of a building listed on the National Register of Historic Places is if the funds for the project are tied to state or federal grant monies. If private funds are being used for the project, then the owner may do whatever they want with their property.

In addition to honorific recognition, listing in the National Register has the following results for historic properties:²

- Consideration in planning for Federal, Federally licensed, and Federally assisted projects: -- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires that Federal agencies allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on all projects affecting historic properties either listed in or determined eligible for listing in the National Register. The Advisory Council oversees and ensures the consideration of historic properties in the Federal Planning process.
- Eligibility for certain tax provisions -- Owners of properties listed in the National Register may be eligible for a 20% investment tax credit for the certified rehabilitation of income-producing certified historic structures such as commercial, industrial, or rental residential buildings. This credit can be combined with a straight-line depreciation period of 27.5 years for residential property and 31.5 years for nonresidential property for the depreciable basis of the rehabilitated building reduced by the amount

² US Department of the Interior, National Park Service. (November 2016). Frequently Asked Questions. Retrieved from <https://www.nps.gov/nr/faq.htm#benefits>

of the tax credit claimed. Federal tax deductions are also available for charitable contributions for conservation purposes of partial interests in historically important land areas or structures.

- Consideration of historic values in the decision to issue a surface mining permit where coal is located in accordance with the Surface Mining Control Act of 1977; and
- Qualification for Federal grants for historic preservation, when funds are available. Owners of private property listed in the National Register are free to maintain, manage, or dispose of their property as they choose provided that no Federal monies are involved.

Additionally, there are grant monies available from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for Historic Preservation and buildings listed on the State Historical Register. Information can be found at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/>

III. Historical Site Markers

The Indiana Historical Site Marker program was established in 1915 to celebrate Indiana's Centennial as a state and to start marking Indiana's history. The Commission intends to use the program to highlight and educate residents of Greenville and Greenville Township of historical events which have occurred in our area and which are significant to the local history. Historical site markers must be approved by the Indiana Library and Historical Board. There is a formal application process which requires the Commission to research events to ensure the historical accuracy of sites being marked. The application for a site marker cost \$2,200 per marker in 2016.

The Commission has identified a list of historical sites which will initially be researched and documented. Upon completion of research, the Commission may vote to raise funds for a site marker and draft a write up of the historical event or site being marked. The Commission compiled the list of sites set forth below which may contain historical significance to the town of Greenville. Prior to filing application to the state, research will be conducted by the Commission including documenting the local history of each event or site.

1. Joseph Smith stay in Greenville and his subsequent poisonings,
2. Morgan's Raid which passed through Greenville (Civil War),
3. Civil War Horse Rehab facility in Greenville⁴,
4. Fire of 1908,
5. Row of trees,
6. Underground Railroad contributions.

In the event that one of the historical events and/or sites listed above are not accepted into the Indiana Historical Site Marker program, then the Commission will explore alternative routes to list the site such

³ Joseph Smith's stay in Greenville is documented in the Joseph Smith Papers viewable at www.josephsmithpapers.com where he wrote letters to his wife in June of 1832 while staying at Porter's Public House (Lot #67). Newel Whitney had sustained an injury while traveling with Joseph and they stayed in Greenville until Whitney was well enough to travel. During the stay, Joseph claimed to have been poisoned.

⁴ Reference to one of the Civil War Horse Rehab Centers being located in Greenville Indiana was made in the documentary "Unsung Hero: The Horse in the Civil War".

as establishing a local site marker program and purchasing a similar styled marker through a third party vendor.

IV. Building Preservation

The Commission will look to protect buildings which contain a historical or architectural significance to the history of the community. Preserving old buildings not only benefits a community's culture and identity but also supports businesses and the local economy. Preserving historical buildings is vital to understanding a community's heritage. In addition, preservation is an environmentally responsible practice which reduces waste and promotes the use of existing materials and infrastructure.

The Commission has identified a list of buildings which will initially be researched and documented. Upon completion of research, the Commission may seek to raise funds for a site marker, draft a submission to the Indiana Department of Historical Preservation & Archeology ("DHPA"), and even pursue listing on the National Historical Register. A list of buildings which contain historical or architectural significance to the town of Greenville and surrounding community are set forth below. The DHPA has conducted the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory as a continuing program since 1975. The DHPA will continually supplement and update existing data as the resources grow older and change and later structures acquire significance through time. In 2008, the DHPA updated the inventory in a publication specific to Floyd County. Information from the DHPA's 2008 publication was utilized by the Commission to help identify prominent historical and architecturally significant buildings in the community. The list of historical structures is separated into two categories, Greenville Proper and Greenville Township. The original plat map from 1816 can be referenced in **Appendix A** that lists the original lot numbers in Greenville as well as other significant structures from the past.

GREENVILLE PROPER

1. The Station Building aka the old Stagecoach Stop, The Lodge, 1840 (Lot 46)
2. Ruben Main House (Victorian Architecture)
3. Dr. Williams House, 1949 (Lot 48)
4. Beer Garden (Lot 50)
5. Noble Miller House, 1915 bungalow, Craftsman Architecture (9794 US Hwy 150)
6. Captain John Baptiste Ford House
7. Jesse Smith House, 1860 (9569 US Hwy 150)

GREENVILLE TOWNSHIP

1. Jersey Park Farm (Already on the National Historic Register. Current condition "ruins".)
2. Mordechai Collins Farm, 1827 (5855 Georgetown-Greenville Rd.)
3. The Tomkins-Swartz Mill, 1857 federal style (6838 US Hwy 150, Galena)
4. Greek Revival Farm House, 1859 (7268 US Hwy 150, Galena)
5. Gothic Revival House near the nursery, 1845 (6954 US Hwy 150, Galena)

V. Additional Objectives

The Commission has identified other goals and objectives for which it will attempt to achieve or work toward while facilitating the current plan. A list and brief description of each objective is set forth below:

1. **Historical People** – Identify prominent historical figures which had an impact on Greenville or provided a significant presence. Research of their historical contributions will be conducted and the Commission will decide on the best way to incorporate their contributions into local history whether it be a site marker or other method of recognition.
2. **Cemeteries** – There are multiple local cemeteries which could use research and documentation efforts such as cleaning headstones and mapping out plots. Several notable local figures are buried in local cemeteries which the documentation of birth dates, death dates, and identification of unidentified or unlabeled plots will contribute to the establishment of the early settlers of Greenville.

Local cemeteries include Greenlawn and Buttontown. However, information should be researched regarding Mundell Cemetery, notable for being the first plotted cemetery in Greenville, where there currently lies an empty lot. Research should be conducted into the movement and relocation of the original grave sites. Additionally, cemeteries such as the Smith Cemetery (FKA Girdner Cemetery) located in the Heritage Springs Subdivision should have research conducted as to the actual name (ie the Smith Family) and identification of the unknown buried as well as the second unidentified cemetery located in the subdivision.

3. **Use existing digital infrastructure** – The Commission will seek to utilize digital infrastructure which may be maintained by third parties. Examples of digital infrastructure readily available for the Commission to use are third party managed websites such as www.findagrave.com and databases like SHAARD which is managed by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The Commission will not only seek to use these databases but will engage the third parties to help maintain local historical resources which will be available for other researchers to use online.
4. **The Indiana Room** – The Indiana Room is located in the basement of the New Albany Floyd County public library and maintains somewhat of a few limited historical references for the town of Greenville. The Commission should seek to work in conjunction with staff from The Indiana Room to conduct and fulfill research projects pertaining to Greenville. Additionally, the Commission upon obtaining, documenting, or researching anything historically significant should work in conjunction with staff from The Indiana Room to supplement their current collection of Greenville history.

5. **Town Hall** – The Town Hall should be used to display historical photographs, maps, and significant documents. The Town Hall has several areas which the community may utilize on a regular basis such as the Water Department lobby and the Town Council meeting room for display of historical photographs and artifacts.
6. **Security & Preservation of Historical Documents** – The Town Hall basement may be utilized as a secure storage space for the Commission. The Commission should explore the option to acquire a fire and water proof cabinet to store historical artifacts, pictures, documents, and research.
7. **Building Ordinances** – The Commission may review the use of building ordinances to establish guidelines that encourage owners of historic structures to maintain their buildings and rehab them appropriately. Building ordinance proposals will be drafted by the Commission and their team, then presented to the Town Council for review and approval.

