

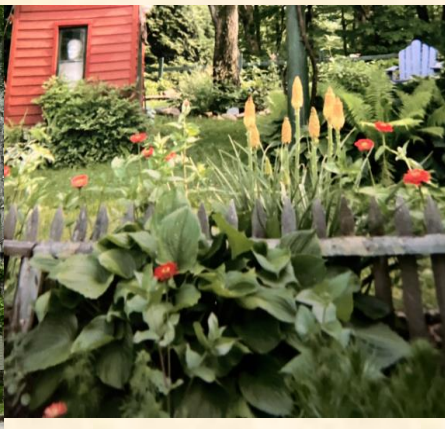
Town & Country

Tour of Historical Homes & Rambling Gardens



June 22 & 23, 2024

- ☞ **Tickets: \$30.00—includes complimentary lunch**
 - ☞ **Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**
 - ☞ **Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**
- 812-346-8989**



**Sponsored by the Jennings County Historical Society
Corporate Sponsor Max Hill Powder Coating, Inc. & in part by the Indiana Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts & Region 9 Partner, the Columbus Area Arts Council**



Dr. Wayne Zamora Bear Creek Historic Farm & 1820's Home

**9675 W CR 1000 North
Commiskey, IN 47227**

Complimentary Meal Served Here

Richard McCaslin was recorded as the first owner of this property on February 5th, 1818. A Presbyterian man from Kentucky, he and his wife Nancy (Sledd) built this home in 1822 and raised 14 children. The property remained in the McCaslin Family and inhabited by Harvey S. McCaslin until the 1880's.

In 1887, Dr. James F. Lewis acquired to home. James was from Dupont and the son of the prominent Dr. George Brown Lewis. On July 11, 1863, Morgan's Raiders imprisoned all of Dupont's men as they prepared to invade Vernon. James, only 8 years old at the time, was also detained with the others in the smokehouse. Later released, James is considered by many as the youngest POW of the Civil War. The home was occupied until the 1940's, but remained in the Lewis family until 1975. The families of Glenn Miller and Gordon Board farmed and enjoyed the property, but the house was all but abandoned until 2002 when Brad Weber began the restoration of the homestead. Brad resided here until 2014 when the property was purchased by current owner Dr. Wayne Zamora. Part of the house was hit by a tornado in 2016. The entire roof, kitchen and bathroom were replaced. However, the main structure was minimally harmed. Enjoy the peaceful setting near a babbling brook for a complimentary meal.

Ben & Vickie Girt-Gardens 212 South St., North Vernon 47265



Ben & Vickie Girt purchased their home in 1976. The landscaping consisted of shrubs in the front and a "gulley" in the back, which served as drainage ditch for the community, partially fed by a spring. The gulley separates the property into two sections. The small strip of land on the south side was mostly bare due to shade. From this Ben began his gardening projects including various flower gardens. In an attempt to include some features of Jennings County Ben calls the drainage ditch "winding waters." The waterfall feature is similar to those in Muscatatuck Park. Irises around the house are from Ben's Mom's garden, daylilies came from Creation Daylilies in Paris Crossing, lilies of the valley from the old school house in Nebraska, and peonies from Vickie's grandmother's garden. A crooked willow tree and other trees came from family members as a reminder of Ben's history in Jennings County. The retention pond reminds Ben of the "old railroad pond" near Nebraska where he fished as a youth. The cone flowers serve as pollinators for bees and butterflies. Ben and Vickie invite visitors to enjoy the waterfall feature, the fountains, the fragrances of the flowers and the peaceful sounds of Mother Nature.

**Rusty Hamilton & Elizabeth
Nguyen-1890's Queen Anne —
305 South Jennings Street
North Vernon, IN 47265**



The beautiful Queen Anne was built by Joseph Cone, a businessman and President of First National Bank of North Vernon between 1894 and 1896. The house was designed by Architect George F. Barber and named the D.Y. Grieb design #81. Barber described the design as “Romanesque”. It was estimated that Mr. Cone built the house at a cost of \$5,000. In 2018 the house had fallen into disrepair and was slated for demolition; in the last hour the Indiana Landmarks Organization stepped in and saved the home from demolition. Through an arrangement between Indiana Landmarks and Tony Jordan the house was to be partially restored, according to approved plan, and then offered for sale to be completed.



“Growing up I would walk past this house and admire it’s beauty on the way to the school bus stop. After moving away in 1999, I would drive by the house when returning to visit friends and family. Through some life changes I found myself moving back to North Vernon in 2020. After searching for my new home for some time, I reached out to a realtor and asked to see the house. After only a short time roaming inside the house, I knew it was going to be my new and forever home in North Vernon. I purchased the home in 2022 and began the work to complete outside restoration and interior design and renovation. While the restoration continues, it is the most wonderful place to live and I am so honored to own and live in such an important piece of North Vernon history”, states Rusty.

**Ben & Emily Cole-Thompson
1863 Historic Home
617 Hoosier St., North Vernon
47265**



Ben Thompson and Emily Cole-Thompson (and their children Sparrow and Mayme) have been the proud owners of their historic home since 2017. Fondly named “The Chipmunks Nest”, for its welcoming and cozy feel, Emily and Ben take much pride in preserving the history of their 1863 Restoration Era home. The home was originally built by the Adolph Gotwalles family, who also owned and operated Gotwalles Grocery, which can be found still standing just two blocks away. From the original flooring in the parlor and library to the original exposed brick, their home is truly one of many hidden gems in Jennings County and the quaint town of North Vernon. Parking is available along the street in front of the home.

Jeff and Anna Walker-Clinton House-1835

45 Brown St, Vernon, IN 47282

In 2021, Jeff and Anna purchased an 1834 historic home originally built by Methodist minister Jacob Clinton. Now named the Clinton-Bentz House as a nod to both the original owner and Bentz family, who resided and updated the house for several generations, the home has been renovated and re-stored in a number of ways. The house still maintains the original poplar flooring throughout the upstairs bedrooms and front entryway as well as original closets, built-ins and trimwork distinct to this federal-style architecture.

The main reconstruction and updates were done to the addition built in the 1950s by the Bentz family, including a total kitchen re-model and addition of an ensuite to the master bedroom. While mostly finished, the house is still undergoing some restoration, including the original staircase. The couple showcased this home for the first time in 2022 at the beginning stages of restoration so that visitors could experience the various stages of progress required for a project of this kind. "We are excited to share our journey with you and the labor of love that it requires," share Jeff & Anna. "Homes constructed almost 200 years ago have their own secrets and peculiarities that are unknown until you start exploring them."



Canvas painting of the home by
Indiana Artist, Trover.

Judy & Collene Malone-Gardens - 110 So. Poplar St. Vernon, IN 47282



Judy and Colleen Malone consider it a blessing to live in the beautiful, historic town of Vernon. Together with their late husband and father, Steve Malone, they restored and enjoyed their historic 1840 home and established extensive gardens. Along with the various beds, there are several features of note.

A fenced herb garden, wisteria pergola, fish pond, frog pond, an outhouse, working greenhouse and the B&O railroad watchman's shack that stood in downtown North Vernon for decades. It is furnished with railroad memorabilia collected by Steve, who was a B&O telegrapher in the 1960's.

Just steps away, at Vernon Gym location is the striking mural honoring the solar eclipse of 2024.

Noted local musician, Eric Jarboe will be in the garden on Saturday of the two-day tour with his hammered dulcimer. Come, grab a chair, sit in the shade, look at the hostas and other flowers and enjoy! At last count there are 446 hastas in the garden.

Perceptions Yoga, Mindfulness & Art – Across from the Courthouse on HWY 7 South, Vernon, IN 47282



Perceptions Yoga, Mindfulness & Art is a nonprofit organization founded in 2018 and governed by nine women from Jennings County. The building is part of the Vernon “Row Houses” that still stand west of the Jennings County Courthouse and is situated within the Vernon Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Constructed around 1839 by Samuel Reed, the landmark was reportedly used as part of the Underground Railroad for fugitive slaves looking for freedom from enslavement. In the late 19th century, the building was home to the undertaking business of funeral director Charles C. Jordan. Throughout out its 180 year history the building has housed law offices, artists studios, Muscatauck Pottery, a paint store, an antiques dealer and rental residences.

Perceptions began renovations on the downstairs property in 2019 to create yoga studio space, art galleries/classrooms, and an art maker space, an artist retreat residence, classrooms, kitchen, makerspace and meeting areas. Over 1000 people participated in classes and other offerings.



Driving directions will be available on the web site a few days prior to tour dates.