Jennings County Historical Society,
Our Heritage Inc., 134 E Brown St., Vernon
812-346-8989 www.jenningscounty.org
jenninghistoricalsociety@gmail.com

November 2026

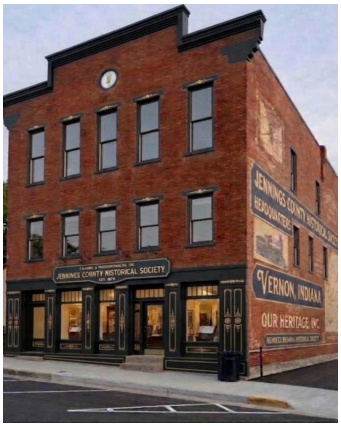
The Historical Society in Action!!

"Two Corners; Two Landmarks" – The North American House Museum and #73 Odd Fellows Lodge

A threatened landmark has become the historical society's next community asset!



The Lodge as of October 2026



A Vison for the future

- Located in Vernon, Indiana at 5 Pike Street
- Was listed among Indiana's 10 Most Endangered Landmarks in 2023; at risk of demolition
- Indiana Landmarks purchased and stabilized the building at a cost of $225,000

The Historical Society in Action (cont'd)

- The Lodge was subsequently placed on the real estate market.
- In January 2026 the historical society explored options to purchase the building through Indiana Landmarks.
- Recently a Jennings County native, Tony Jordan donated $75,000 to the historical society as a challenge gift toward the $150,000 purchase.
- And now ..... the challenge .....The historical society must raise $75,000 over the next 12 months for matching dollars as well as funds to complete Phase 1 of the extensive restoration plan (which includes exterior work). Make a donation by check or through our web site and be a partner in continuing Jennings County's heritage for generations to come!

Purpose of owning The Lodge

1. Increased capacity for accepting, displaying and preserving future donations from the community including artifacts, records, documents, textiles, historic photographs, specific collections and renovating space for a Railroad Museum.
2. Expand access to local history.

3. Preserve the stories, artifacts and records that define Jennings County's heritage.
4. Create space for collaborative gatherings, community events, programs, group tours, training of traditional arts, space for musical performances, cultural amenities and a welcome stop for visitors in the county seat.
5. Create income generating space(s) such as a coffee shop/gift shop or other retail space. Continue to maintain existing historical society properties (North American House Museum, working blacksmith shop and 1880's Eldo Hicks Railroad office).

The historical society is a 501©3 not-for-profit organization with the mission to present, preserve, document and maintain the rich heritage of Jennings County by encouraging preservation of landmarks, sites, records, articles, artifacts and promoting civic pride. The society has been serving Jennings Countians for 65 years with volunteers and one part-time staff. All donations are tax deductible.

Be part of our Capital Campaign for restoration of The Lodge! Double the impact of your donation with the dollar-for-dollar matching $75,000 challenge gift! For example, a $5,000 donation becomes $10,000 with the match. Click on the link below.

Go To: https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/lodge-capital-campaign to make a donation.

All donations are appreciated!

Or send your check to: Jennings County Historical Society, PO Box 335, Vernon, IN 47282

Thank you!