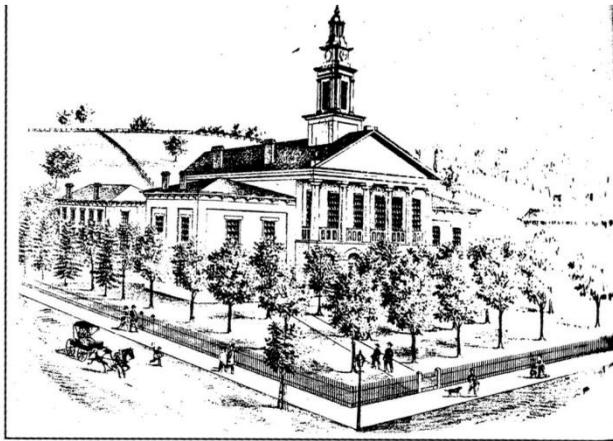


Built in 1849 as the county's second courthouse, the structure underwent a major facelift in 1890 that totally changed the style of architecture. As originally constructed the brick building resembled the fashionable classic revival architecture with a high base of arches supporting six columns on a second floor portico. A tall clock tower was centered on the winged edifice. When overhauled in 1890 the appearance became Romanesque, featuring a new stone exterior and the addition of the common cone-crowned tower. The columns and the clock tower were removed. In time the cones were also removed.



Today's courthouse contains in its framework one of the oldest extant courthouses in the state.

CONNERSVILLE WAS PLATTED IN 1813
BY JOHN CONNER

INDIANA BECAME A STATE IN 1816

FAYETTE COUNTY WAS FORMED IN 1819

Connersville was once known as "Little Detroit" due to thirteen brands of automobiles having been manufactured in the city.

John B. McFarlan organized the first industrial park in the nation here in order to entice the makers of components needed in the manufacturing industry to locate in Connersville.

SELF GUIDED TOUR OF
**HISTORIC HOMES
AND
SITES OF INTEREST**
In and Near the Downtown of
CONNERSVILLE
INDIANA

*Compiled by
Historic Connersville, Incorporated
Donna Schroeder, Fayette County Historian
And
John and Mardee Blommel
Printed Courtesy of Fayette County Tourism Bureau*

We honor our rich heritage in many ways and many places!



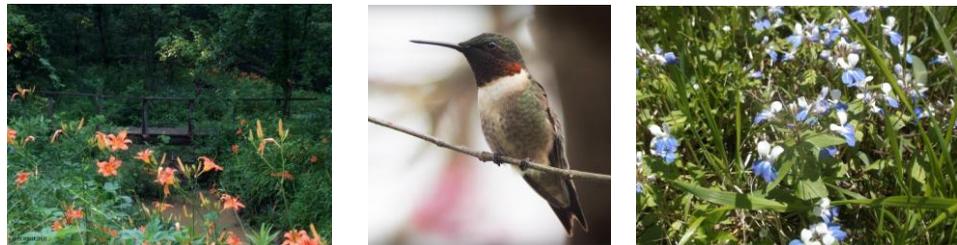
City Cemetery is located just north of 12th Street, between Grand and Western Avenues is a local historic district. Restoration is ongoing. It contains the graves of many of our earliest citizens, community leaders of the past, and honored members of the military.

Guided tours are available at select times during the year.



Roberts Park at 30th Street and Park Road is a beautiful area set aside for the enjoyment of all by Colonel James Roberts in 1902. It boasts the only remaining covered bridge in the county, as well as the recently restored Roberts Building which was built by the WPA during the Great Depression. The park offers an aquatic center and recreational and event facilities.

It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2014.



The Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary in the southern part of the county and Shrader Weaver Nature Preserve in the northern part are well worth the drive. The Sanctuary was gifted to the Indiana Audubon Society by Finly and Alice Gray in memory of their daughter. The Preserve is a primitive homestead family homestead with old growth forest left by descendants for the enjoyment of all, free of charge, for hiking and enjoying the beauty of nature. The Sanctuary also offers classes and bird banding.



46. C.E.H. McFarlan Residence, 825 W. 8th St., (South Side of 8th St. & Lincoln Ave. at the top of the hill). Free Classic style home built around 1900. John B. McFarlan's son, Charles was associated with the Peoples Service Company and the McFarlan Realty Company.



47. Connersville Furniture Company, (Mount & Illinois Streets). Functional style 6 story industrial building built in 1882. The Connersville Furniture Company occupied this building and its five story counterpart across Illinois street from 1882 to 1928. Before electricity and steam power, canal water from a hydraulic reservoir to the North ran water wheels that powered the plant's wood cutting saws, lathes and drills. The building has been converted to house Pattern Mill Apartments.



48. Elmhurst, 779 S. SR 121 (West side of State Road 121 1 Mile South of Connersville). Combination Federal and Greek revival style mansion first built in 1831. Originally part of "The Old Elm Farm" that ran along the banks of the Whitewater Canal. Elmhurst played an important part in the early development of Connersville and eastern Indiana. It was once the residence of Caleb Blood Smith, Lincoln's Secretary of the Interior. It served as a private residence, sanitarium, and a school for girls. The property is now owned by Warren Lodge #15 F. & A.M. and is used as their temple.

Available for tours and special events.



1. Canal House, 111 E. 4th St. (South side of 4th St. between Central & Eastern Avenues). Greek revival structure built in 1842. The Canal House is one of the best examples of classic Greek revival architecture in the state of Indiana. Included in the National Register of Historic Places. it was headquarters of the Whitewater Canal Company from 1842 to 1854 and the Savings Bank of Indiana in 1855. It then became the residence of Dr. S.W. Vance and, later, Congressman Finley Gray. It is currently owned by Historic Connersville, Incorporated.



2. Located on south side of East 4th between Eastern and Water Streets. Church built in 1840 as the home of the Methodist congregation, sold in 1872 to the German Presbyterian congregation. The first church on this site was erected in 1825.



3. J.H. Fearis Residence, 224 Eastern Ave., (Southeast corner of Eastern Ave. & 4th St.). This is a combination Federal and Queen Anne style home. Originally constructed around 1852 by George Fearis and extensively remodeled and expanded by his son, J.H. Fearis in 1887. J.H. Fearis was involved in real estate, insurance and also served as post master.



40. S.W. Beck Residence, 429 W. 7th St., (South side of 7th St. West of Western Ave.), Greek revival style home built around 1890. Samuel W. Beck was one of the sons of W.H. Beck who was the first clothier of Connersville. The W.H. Beck and sons clothing store was located at Court street and the west side of Central Ave.



41. Julius C. Turkenkoph Residence, 514 Western Ave. (East side of Western Ave. between 5th and 6th Streets), Eastlake style home built around 1890. Turkenkoph was a cigar maker and was famous locally for his "Big Chief" cigar.



No Vintage Photo Available

42. Sherman Scofield Residence, 509 Western Ave. (West side of Western Ave. between 5th and 6th Streets), Combination Greek Revival-Italianate style home built by Sherman Scofield in 1847. Scofield also built the City Building which stood behind the Court House for many years. During 1940s and 1950s this home was used as a guest house by American Central and their successor American Kitchens.



7. Odd Fellows Building, 406 N. Central Ave, (East side of Central Ave. across from Court House). Neo-Classical style building built in 1901. This was originally the home of the Odd Fellows Lodge and long time home of the Connersville News Examiner and later WCNB radio.



8. Farmers & Merchants Trust Company Building, (424 N. Central Ave. just north of the alley). This is a Federal style building dating back to the 1870s. It was originally the home of the Citizens Bank. From 1902 to 1918 it was the home of the Farmers & Merchants Trust Company. This firm merged with the Fayette National Bank in 1918, became the Fayette Bank and Trust Company, and moved to their new home at 6th Street and Central Avenue.



9. Hackman-Heeb Department Store Building, 526 N. Central Ave. (East side of Central Ave. between 5th & 6th Streets), Four story Chicago School style commercial building built in 1901. The Hackman-Heeb Company used all four upper floors plus the basement to sell home furnishings, clothing and dry goods. The Hackman-Heeb company operated as Connersville's largest department store from this location for 63 years



34. St. Gabriel's Catholic Church, 232 W. 9th Street., (North side of 9th St and Western Ave.), Gothic Revival style church built in 1883. This is one of the few remaining structures built by the firm of Downs & Ready. The Catholic congregation moved here from their original location at 11th Street and Eastern Ave.



35. J.H. Tatman Residence, 823 Grand Ave., (Southwest corner of Grand Ave. & 9th St.), A Gothic revival style home built in 1880. Tatman was President of the Times-News Company. The Tatman family was associated with the Connersville News Examiner throughout the 20th century.



36. C.C. Hull Residence, 821 Grand Ave. (West side of Grand Ave. between 8th & 9th Streets), Carpenter-Builder style home built around 1890. Charles C. Hull was the President of the Rex Buggy Company and the Rex Manufacturing Company from 1898 to 1946.



13. Blum & Crismer Buildings, 612 & 614 Central Avenue, built by Wm. Blum and James Crismer in 1902. The families lived on the second floors. Blum had a meat market on the first floor until 1929, and the building housed Luking Shoe Store for many years after. Wallflowers Wallcovering and Home Décor since 2001. Crismer's business started as a restaurant, later converted to the Lyric Theater, offering vaudeville shows and silent movies. He operated the European Hotel on the third floor. Later the Times Theater.



14. L. A. (Andie) Frazee Home 920 Central Ave. Mr. Frazee (1864 – 1949), local businessman and philanthropist, founded Connersville's first telephone company in 1895. The family's prior home stood where Frazee Elementary is now located and became the Frazee Children's Home from 1922 to 1954, housing children who were wards of the county. Later, that house became the first Frazee School. The home pictured above is now the site of Showalter – Blackwell – Long Funeral Home.



15. Lewis Ashworth Alligator Druggist Building, 605 Central Ave. (West side of Central Ave. between 6th & 7th Streets), Italianate style building constructed around 1880. Lewis Ashworth took over for the original alligator druggist, Ward Jemison just after the turn of the 20th century. The business used a live alligator as a promotional tool. After its death, the alligator was stuffed and continued its work. This location is now the north end of the Knecht's Interiors store.



28. J.W. Faulkner Residence, 1221 Central Ave. (West side of Central Ave. North of 12th St.), Carpenter-Builder style home built around 1900. J.W. Faulkner was the bookkeeper for the Connersville Furniture Company.



29. Joseph E. Huston Residence, 1224 Central Ave. (East side of Central Ave. North of 12th St.), Carpenter-Builder style home built around 1890. Joseph E. Huston was Secretary and treasurer of the Connersville Blower Company.



30. Thomas F. Downs Residence, 1237 Central Ave. (West side of Central Ave. North of 12th St.), Stick style home built around 1866. Thomas F. Downs was a Civil War veteran who, after returning to Connersville, became a carpenter and contractor. In 1884 he became senior partner in the firm of Downs, Ready & Company. This firm built some of the more famous buildings in Connersville including the McFarlan Building, St. Gabriel's Church, Fifth Street School and Eight Street School. Later in life his military carrier resumed as he became assistant quartermaster during the Spanish-American War and then a Special Indian Agent,



19. Connersville Post Office Building, 801 Central Ave. (Northwest corner of 8th St. & Central Ave.), Neo Classic style government building built in 1910. Earlier Post Offices were located at 408 Central Ave. and two locations near 5th St. and Eastern Ave.



20. Inland Motors Building, 815 Central Ave. (West side of Central Ave. between 8th & 9th Streets), Art Moderne style structure built in 1916. For ten years, the Inland Motors building was the place you bought your Connersville built Lexington car. The building has always been owned by the Tatman family, publishers of the Connersville News Examiner. It was also a Western Auto Store, a B.F Goodrich tire store and since 1975 is has been the home of Commercial Printing Services.



21. Theodore P. Heinemann Residence, 929 Central Ave. (West side of Central Ave. at 10th St.), Carpenter-Builder style home built around 1890. T.P. was a talented artist and painter. He was a member of an early barn advertising painting crew that included James Whitcomb Riley. He also papered rooms adding artistic borders and edges. In 1888 T.P. began manufacturing his “Triple Sign”. It was a sign that told three different messages depending of the vantage-point of the viewer.



22. John M. Higgs Residence, 1100 Central Ave. (Northeast corner of 11th St. & Central Ave.). Queen Anne style home built around 1900. John Milton Higgs was the publisher of the Connersville Examiner. The Examiner was first published in 1867 when Higgs was partnered with F.M. Pickett. Pickett left the paper in 1869 and Higgs then ran it alone until selling it to E.W. Ansted and others in 1903. The Examiner was later merged with the Times and News to form the Connersville News Examiner.



23. James M. McIntosh Residence, 1117 N. Central Ave., (West side of Central Ave. between 11th & 12th Streets), Queen Anne style home built around 1900. James McIntosh was an attorney and bank examiner. His daughter, Ida, was the third wife of William Newkirk and spent her entire married life at the Newkirk mansion.



24. Kensler-Wainwright Residence, 1127 Central Ave. (Southwest corner of Central Ave. & 12th St.), Neo-Jacobean style home built around 1895. Herman Munk of the Munk and Roberts Furniture Company was the first owner. He sold the house to Preston .H. Kensler who was a banker who worked for the Fayette National Bank. Kensler sold the home in 1923 to Harry Wainwright who owned the Wainwright Engineering Company.

This and That Here and There



Central Avenue between 5th and 6th Streets



Central Avenue between 6th and 7th Streets



Central Ave. between 5th and 6th Streets



900 block of Eastern Ave.



5th Street and Central Ave.

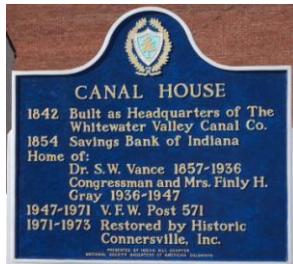
Welcome to beautiful, historic Connersville and Fayette County, Indiana

Connersville was platted in 1813 by John Conner. Conner was known as a guide for travelers and friend to the Native Americans in the area. He operated the first trading post in the area, as well as serving as an interpreter and liaison between the government and the Native American tribes. John Conner was also a legislator and part of the committee which chose Indianapolis as our state capitol.

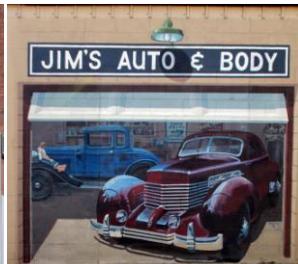


Fayette County was formed in 1819, and Connersville was chosen as the county seat. Conner was the first county sheriff.

Our downtown was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2017. We hope you enjoy your time in Connersville and Fabulous Fayette County A Great Place to Be!



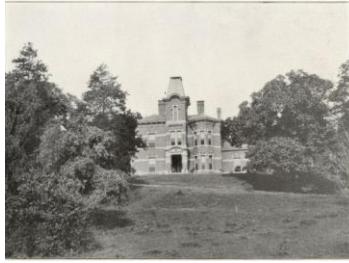
111 E. 4th Street



10th and Eastern



5th and Eastern



43. William Newkirk Residence, 319 Western Ave. (West side of Western Ave. at 4th Street). Second Empire Italianate design home built in 1880-82. William Newkirk was President of the Indiana Furniture Company. Newkirk had his employees install massive baseboards and crown moldings in the house as well as hand carved fireplace mantles. The home also includes a wooden spiral staircase from the second floor into the tower.



Fayette County Historical Museum 200 West 5th Street
Owned and Operated by Historic Connersville, Inc.
Native American artifacts, pioneer life, and Fayette County manufacturing history, featuring Connersville built horse drawn vehicles and automobiles. The museum is open to the public and supported through dues and donation. 765.825.0946



44. Helm House, 323 W. 3rd St. (South side of 3rd St. half way up 3rd St. Hill). Georgian Style Home built in the 1840s. It was originally the home of Merideth and Mary Helm. Mr. Helm was the first President of the Whitewater Canal Company. At the time it was the only home on 3rd street hill so Mr. Helm could observe the coming and going of the boats on the Whitewater Canal. The property, which extended down the hill to Tanner Street (now Western Avenue), included lush gardens and fruit trees.



Whitewater Valley Arts Association Northeast corner of 4th St. & Central Avenue
Gallery houses exhibitions of local artists and offers classes. Located in a refurbished downtown building, circa 1860. Open to the public.



45. J.B. McFarlan Residence, 817 Lincoln Ave., (West side of Lincoln Ave. & 8th Street at the top of the hill). Italianate style home built in 1864. J.B. McFarlan was the founder of the McFarlan Carriage Company and is credited with creating the first industrial park in the United States. The tower on the home was removed when a new roof was installed.



Whitewater Valley Railroad 5th & Market Streets
Ride the rails on Indiana's most scenic railway with excursions available throughout the year and special events in spring and fall. The railroad is built on the towpath of the historic Whitewater Canal. Your trip will allow you to see nature and historical places not seen from any other vantage point.



37. Andrew H. Rieman Residence, 813 Grand Ave. (West side of Grand Ave. between 8th & 9th Streets), Queen Anne style home built in 1900. Andrew H. Rieman was a cashier for the Central State Bank.



4. The Glass House Building, 135 E. 5th St. (Southwest corner of 5th St. & Eastern Ave.) It is a commercial log structure built by John Conner in 1815. It is the oldest surviving building in Connersville. The building was used as a store, trading post, post office, the George Heinemann grocery and a variety of other businesses.



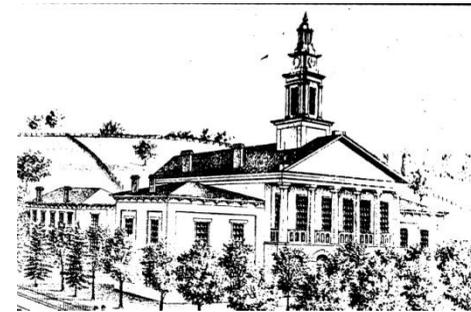
38. First Ward Hose House. (Intersection of Washington St. & 7th St.), Romanesque revival structure built in 1870. The last of a series of hose houses located in two “wards” in Connersville. In the era of horse drawn fire equipment, hose houses stored hoses and other fire equipment too heavy to be pulled to a neighborhood fire by horses. Motorized fire trucks later eliminated the need for hose houses. This site is maintained by Historic Connersville, Incorporated.



5. Trinity Episcopal Church located on SE corner of 6th and Eastern. This church dates to 1859. Funds for its construction were raised primarily through the efforts of Mary Ann Helm, wife of Meredith Helm. A teacher and author, she was perhaps Connersville’s most progressive and civic minded woman of her day..



39. A.E. Barrows Residence, 633 Western Ave. (Southwest corner of Western Ave. & 7th St.), Queen Anne style home built around 1900. A.E. Barrows was the Founder and President of the A.E. Barrows Insurance Agency.



6. Fayette County Courthouse, 401 Central Ave. (Northwest corner of Central Ave. & 4th Street). , This structure is the second (1892 & 2004) renovation of the Greek revival style court house built in 1849. A Richardsonian Romanesque style building, the court house features a new clock tower mechanism and restored courtroom ceiling murals. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places 2006.



31. Arthur E. Leiter Residence, 1302 Central Ave. (East side of Central Ave. North of 12th St.), Carpenter-Builder style home built around 1890. Arthur Leiter was president and owner of the A.E. Leiter dry goods store.



32. Robert T. Huston Residence, 1403 Central Ave. (West side of Central Ave. North of 13th St.), Prairie style home built around 1900. Robert T. Huston was the superintendent of the Connersville Blower Company.



33. John T. Wilkin Residence, 905 Grand Ave. (Northwest corner of Grand Ave. & 9th St.), Italianate style home built around 1880. John T. Wilkin developed an improvement to the Roots blower, patented it, and formed the Connersville Blower Company.



10. Fayette Bank & Trust Company Building, 530 N. Central Ave. Neo Classic Style Bank Building built in 1918. The Fayette Bank and Trust Company was created by the merger of the Fayette National Bank and the Farmers & Merchants Trust Company. The Fayette Bank & Trust Company operated at this location from 1919 until 1987 when it was sold to the Merchants National Bank of Indianapolis



11. Jemison Building-The Leo J. Kahn Company, 600 Central Ave. (Northeast corner of 6th St. & Central Ave.), Three Story Chicago School style commercial building built in 1900. Home of the Leo J. Kahn Company during most of the 20th century. Kahn's was Connersville's largest men and boys clothing store. Look for the Kahn's logo in the mosaic tile at the Central Avenue entrance to the building. The building has been extensively remodeled over the last few years.



12. Vaudette Theater Building, 604-606 Central Ave. (East side of Central Ave. between 6th & 7th Streets) Neo Classic style built around 1900. One of five theaters located in Connersville during the early 20th Century. The Vaudette begin showing motion pictures in 1910. After the theater closed, the building was converted into two retail stores.



25. Edward V. Hawkins Residence, 1132 Central Ave. (Southeast corner of 12th St. & Central Ave.), Queen Anne style home built in 1895. Edward V. Hawkins was President of the Connersville Furniture Company, the Connersville Commercial Club and the local school board. He also was the benefactor of Hawkins playground (18th St. & Eastern Ave.) which is now the location of Maplewood School.



26. E.W. Ansted Residence, 1205 Central Ave. (Northwest corner of Central Ave. & 12th St.), Romanesque Revival style home built in 1902. Edward W. Ansted was associated with the Ansted Spring & Axle Company, the Lexington-Howard Company, the Central Manufacturing Company, the Rex Buggy Company, the Indiana Lamp Company, and the Farmers & Merchants Bank. He was also the primary benefactor of the Fayette Memorial Hospital.



27. Sinks-Mancini Residence, 1204 Central Ave. (Northeast corner of 12th & Central Ave.) This home is an Italianate style structure built around 1875. The original owner was Augustus M. Sinks. In 1867 he bought the Connersville Times newspaper. He later he became the attorney for the Cincinnati, Hamilton, and Indianapolis Railroad. He was Connersville's city attorney for six years. In 1916 the Sinks family sold the home to the Mancini family who operated a fruit and vegetable store at 426 Central Avenue for 58 years.



16. First Presbyterian Church, 700 Central Ave. (Northeast Corner of 7th St. & Central Ave.), Lombard Romanesque style church first used in 1855. The bell tower was built in 1876 and the main sanctuary was built in 1891. A 2002 addition to the north side of the church includes a meeting hall and classrooms .



17. First Methodist Church, 729 Central Ave. (Southwest corner of 8th St. & Central Ave.), Romanesque revival style church built in 1889. A large addition to the church on the West side was constructed in 1956.



18. Central Christian Church, 800 Central Ave. (Northeast corner of 8th St. & Central Ave.), Late Gothic revival style church built in 1904. Built on land purchased from the Conwell family just after the turn of the 20th century.