

Indiana



Through the Keyhole



August 23, 2025
Historical and Genealogical Society
of Indiana County



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Step through the doors of history and into the heart of Indiana Borough. This exclusive tour offers a rare opportunity to explore six remarkable homes that reflect the rich architectural and cultural heritage of our community.

From elegant Victorian details to mid-century charm, each home tells its own unique story - shaped by the generations who have lived within its walls and the careful stewardship of today's homeowners. As you journey from house to house, you'll encounter thoughtfully preserved interiors, cherished collections, and design elements that span decades of Indiana's development.

This guidebook serves as your companion along the way, offering background on each home's history, architecture, and significance. Whether you are a longtime resident, a history enthusiast, or simply curious, we invite you to enjoy this special glimpse into the lives and legacies that make Indiana's homes so extraordinary.

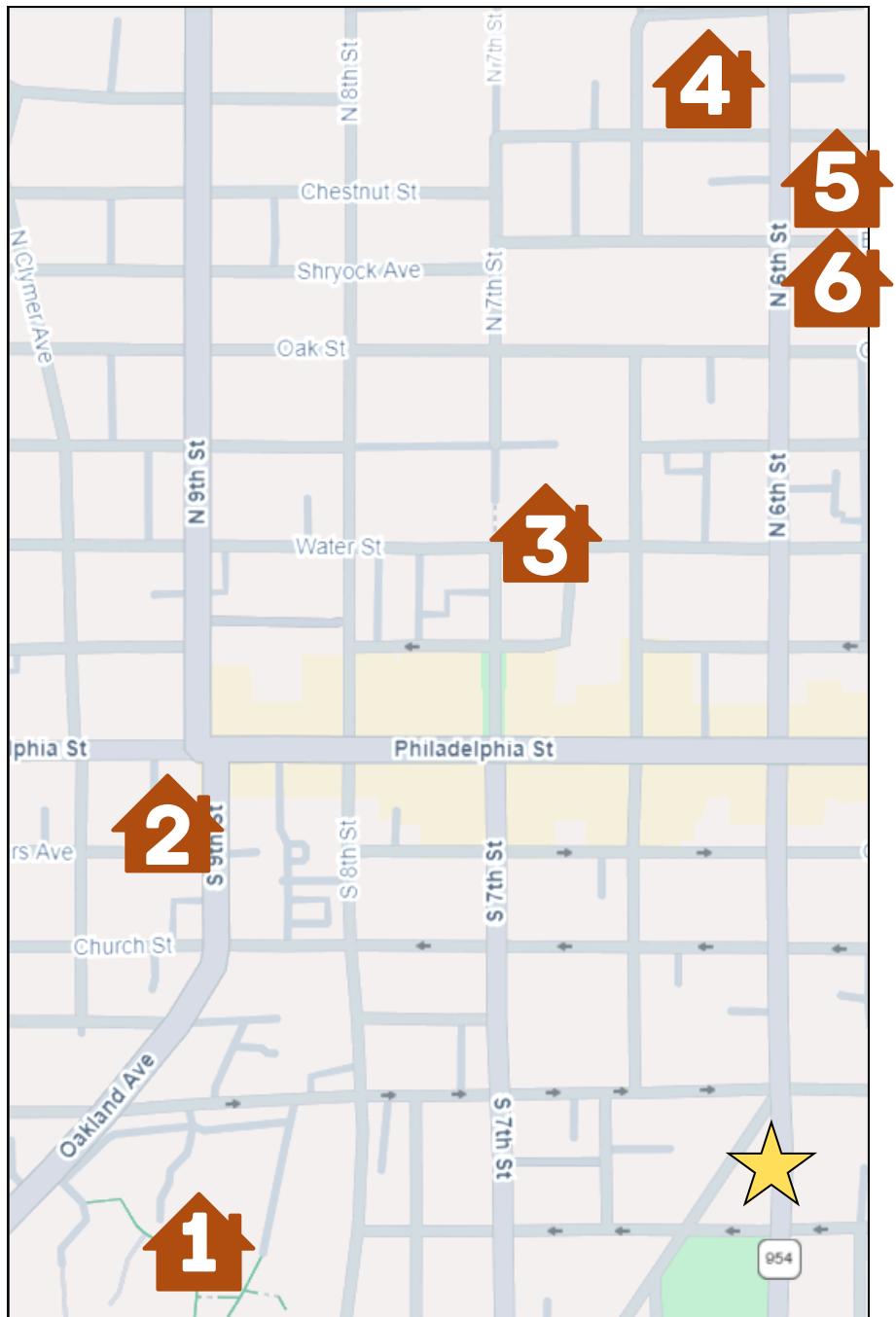
House Rules

To ensure an interesting, enjoyable, and safe experience please follow these guidelines:

- Admission to each house is by this brochure only. Please keep brochure with you at all times.
- Please start your tour at the house that corresponds to the number on your brochure. (Houses are numbered in brochure.)
- Shoe covers are provided and must be worn over shoes or socks.
- No opening doors, drawers, or cabinets.
- Please refrain from touching walls or furnishings.
- No smoking, eating or drinking, while in private property.
- No photography, videos, or phone use inside houses.
- No children under the age of 12.
- Do not use the bathrooms in the house.
- No pets.

Each house is staffed with a Society volunteer, who will be happy to help you if you need assistance. Volunteers will be clearly identifiable.

House Tour Map



Registration at the Historical Society



880 School Street

Owner:
Indiana University
of Pennsylvania

Breezedale is one of the most distinguished buildings on the Indiana University of Pennsylvania campus. It has a rich history that predates the university itself. Constructed in the late 1860s by businessman James Sutton and his wife Sara, the stately Victorian-Italianate mansion served as a private residence for two prominent Indiana families. The Suttons resided there until Sarah's death in 1899, at which point it was sold to John Pratt Elkin, an alumnus of the Indiana Normal School and future Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice. The Elkins named the estate "Breezedale" and extensively renovated its interior.

After being vacated following Mrs. Elkin's death, the Indiana State Teachers College (the precursor to IUP) acquired the property in 1947. Over the next several decades, the building served various purposes, including student housing and office space for academic departments. By the 1970s, however, Breezedale had fallen into disrepair and faced the threat of demolition. A dedicated campus effort to save the historic building led to its restoration in the 1980s, and it was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. Today, Breezedale stands as a campus architectural gem, serving as the home of the IUP Alumni Association and a gracious venue for university events and gatherings.



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52 South Ninth Street

Owner:

Kauffman & Billimoria



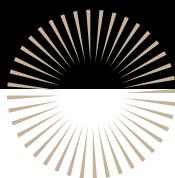
Built in 1896 by Harry McCreary, a local pioneer in the coal and rubber industry, this townhouse has a rich history of innovation and family. Harry and his wife, Zetta Moretta Work, raised their two sons, Ralph and Harry, in this home.

McCreary was a visionary entrepreneur, best known for developing a coal-washing process that allowed Indiana County to produce coke of the highest quality. At age 50, he invested \$50,000 to establish the McCreary Tire & Rubber Company, a business he intended to leave for his sons. He also wanted it to be a worthwhile venture that would produce a profit to benefit charity. The business exists today as Specialty Tire.

The McCreary Townhouse is now the home of Kauffman & Billimoria, PLLC, a leading law firm in Indiana County. Their experienced attorneys carry on the spirit of service by providing tailored legal solutions for their clients' needs in criminal defense, family law, personal injury, estate planning, real estate, business law, and more.

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I45 North Seventh Street

Owner:

John and Kim Dolan



The year 1906 marked the beginning of a magnificent vision in Indiana, inspired by a stately colonial Mrs. M.C. Watson toured in the South. She returned to Indiana with plans for her dream home. Named Bonnie Brae, Scottish for “pretty hill”, the house became the centerpiece of the land that was Mrs. Watson inherited from her mother, Mrs. Richard White.

The breathtaking three-story colonial, spanning 6,000 square feet, rose on its chosen site, the facade dominated by magnificent pillars. The pillars were obtained from the First Presbyterian Church, which interestingly was where the Watson children were baptized.

In 1996 John and Kim Dolan purchased the historic home, with its 11 fireplaces, each a unique work of art with its own distinctive tile and mantle. On the hall mantle is carved the name Bonnie Brae. The home has three hallways that run the length of the house.

Today a grand foyer continues to welcomes visitors, leading to rooms adorned with gleaming hardwood floors. Pocket doors whisper of hidden spaces and intimate gatherings, adding to the home's air of sophisticated charm. For decades the Dolans have painstakingly cared for every detail of this impressive home, which stands as a beautiful, storied piece of history.



304 North Sixth Street

Owner:

Kevin and Kim Dodds

Kim Dodds grew up in Indiana but when she met and married Kevin Dodds, she found herself moving 13 times because of Kevin's job with the Supreme Court and NCIS. A new job opportunity for Kevin brought Kim full circle back to her hometown.

They began hunting for a home in a friendly walkable neighborhood. Inventory was low and their hunt was proving futile. In a chance happening, Kevin met Michael Delaney and told him of their house search. In an act of pure serendipity, Delaney proposed that they purchase his house. The Dodds purchased the colonial on Sixth Street in 2016.

The house, which sits on land once owned by members of the Sutton family is an excellent example of a well-preserved Georgian Colonial-Style home. It embodies the formal elegance and balanced design that was popular since the early 18th century. The style is illustrated by its perfect balance with a centered front door and equal multi-paned windows on each side. The interior floor plan is also symmetrical with a central hallway and rooms on either side. The two-story rectangular shaped home has a finished attic and basement and measures approximately 3,646 square feet. The white brick home stands as a hallmark to colonial architecture.



257 North Sixth Street

Owner:

**Deborah Hazelet
and Robin Hohn**

Deborah Hazelet and Robin Hohn Arizonians by residence, found themselves drawn to Indiana, where they were renting a small apartment, while visiting relatives. But it wasn't just their relatives that captured their attention. During their walks they were captivated by a particular house sitting on the corner of North Sixth and Chestnut. The house's charm held a special allure for them, becoming a focal point for their walks.

In 2020 with Robin's retirement the couple decided to make Indiana their home and purchase the house with the undeniable charm and Spanish Revival style. While they loved the home's character, they knew the heart of the house needed a personal touch. They decided to remodel the kitchen, a project that would truly make the house their own.

To honor their Arizona roots and the home's style, they chose to infuse the space with Southwestern flair. They adorned the walls with vibrant, colorful tiles, each one a little piece of Mexico, and laid handmade tile that told the story of artistry and tradition. The final touch was installing a sleek coffee bar, a modern convenience that fit seamlessly into the historic setting. Their home now stands as a little piece of Arizona blooming in the heart of Indiana.

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231 North Sixth Street

Owner:

Dorothy and Allan
Campbell



Nestled at 231 North Sixth Street, this stunning English Tudor home, with its authentic stucco, stone facade, and slate-shingled roof, has a rich history that has been carefully preserved and enhanced over the years.

The house was originally built for James Mack, Esq. and his wife Mabel. the Macks' personal touch is still visible today, most notably in the recurring heart motif. This subtle but elegant detail can be found in the original leaded glass windows, the brass keyholes, and the custom back gate.

In 1983, Dorothy and Allan Campbell purchased the home, breathing new life into the historic property. The Campbells undertook a major renovation that honored the home's original character while adding modern comforts and amenities. They transformed the back porch into an inviting morning room and a grotto converted into a bar.

The outdoor spaces were meticulously redesigned. The Campbells added a beautiful formal flower garden with a fountain, creating a serene and elegant landscape. A swimming pool and a brick patio completed the perfect entertaining spot. A final touch was the renovation of the backyard playhouse, a delight for the grandchildren.

The Campbell home stands as a testament to its history, seamlessly blending the craftsmanship of the Macks with the thoughtful renovations of the Campbells.

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