



Enjoying Monroe County's Historical Places



Monroe County, Indiana, Courthouse, built of locally quarried limestone in 1907, replaced a previous frame building. Both the exterior and interior of the Courthouse were restored in 1983-84. This building, along with the entire Courthouse Square, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In spring 2007, the county began replacement of the copper dome to conserve the exterior for another 100 years.
(Photo Courtesy of Monroe County Government)



The Ketcham barn was threatened with demolition. The County carefully dismantled and moved the timber posts and beams to save this pre-Civil War structure. It was built of hewn timbers of poplar and other trees cut from virgin forest. The timber framing is stored while the County plans for the barn's "raising" -- reconstruction. The barn will be rebuilt in a county park, to be used for day camps, family reunions, picnics, and shelter, as well as for interpretive historic displays. (Photo by Cheryl Ann Munson)



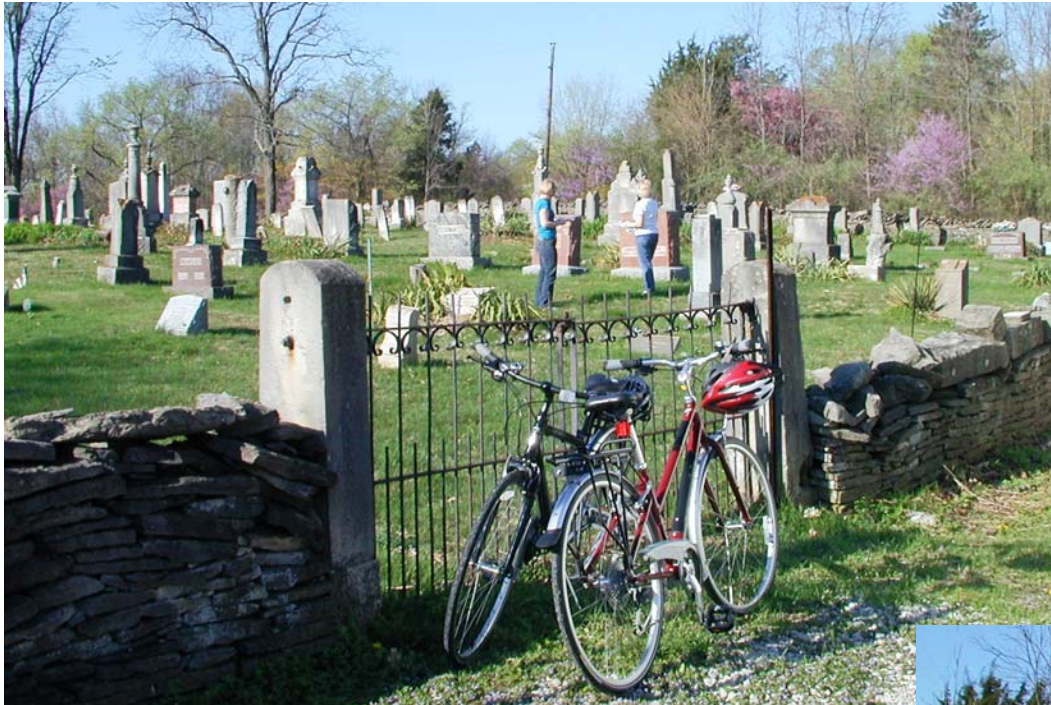
At a special event, Senior Citizens gathered to learn about the historic Ketcham barn and explored a scale model which will guide its reconstruction. (Photo by Karen Easterday)



Multiple history organizations have exhibits at the annual Monroe County Fair, to educate adults and children about their local cultural heritage. (Photo by Cheryl Ann Munson)



Dry stone masonry walls were built in the 1870s by expert craftsman along field boundaries and roads. Today, the preserved stone walls on numerous private lands provide scenic historic routes for modern travelers. One cluster of walls is in the Maple Grove Road National Register District. The County Historic Preservation Board developed its first historic driving tour for that locale. (Photo by Cheryl Ann Munson)



The highest levels of limestone carving craftsmanship can be found among grave markers in historic cemeteries throughout the county. Cemetery touring is the best way to appreciate the common patterns and unique examples of monumental art. (Photo by Cheryl Ann Munson)



Honey Creek School on Low Gap Road, built 1921, is a one-room school house that is still used today for special school programs with education units on history. The school is listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Sites and is maintained by the Monroe County Community School Corporation. (Photo from County files.)



The Daniel Stout house was built in 1828 on a land grant awarded to Stout in 1818. It is the oldest standing structure in the county. Although the house is included in a National Register District, which provides protection from destruction by federal projects, the owner is pursuing local historic designation under the County's ordinance. Local designation will forestall actions what would alter the house's historic integrity.
(Photo by Mary Pietsch Alexander)



The Hoadley House in the Stinesville Historic district, has been restored by Bloomington Restorations, Incorporated. This 1875 home was built using double-pen construction . (Photo from County files.)



Matthews Mansion is part of the Matthews Stone Company Historic District. It was built in Second Empire style in 1870, using local materials, for the owner of the Matthews limestone quarry operations. (Photo from County files.)



Mt. Ebal Church was built in 1872 in the Greek Revival style. It was restored by Bloomington Restorations, Inc.(BRI), and is rented for meetings, reunions, and weddings. (Photo by BRI.)



Friendship Road Bridge is an example of a Pratt-through Truss style. It was built in 1898 northwest of Bloomington, abandoned in 1947 when a new road was built, relocated to Friendship Road in 1948, and restored by the County in 2003. The County received a historic preservation award in 2004 from the Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission, for the restoration they accomplished. The County Historic Preservation Board, under its preservation ordinance, designated this structure for a historic zoning overlay to continue preservation for years to come. (Photo by Mary Pietsch Alexander)