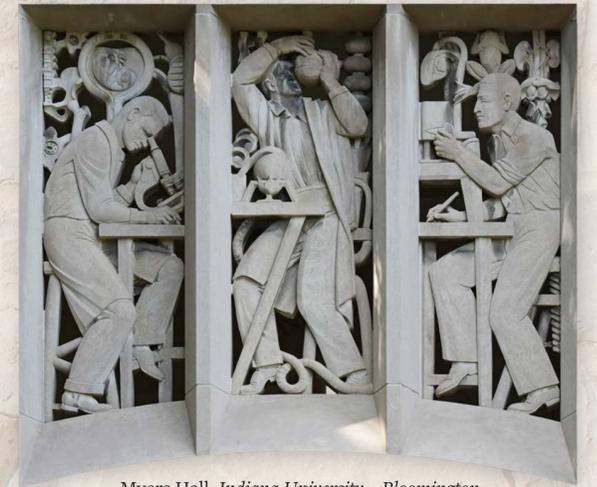




U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, Fort Wayne



Blacherne Apartments
Indianapolis



Myers Hall, Indiana University – Bloomington

the **FACES** of ARCHITECTURE



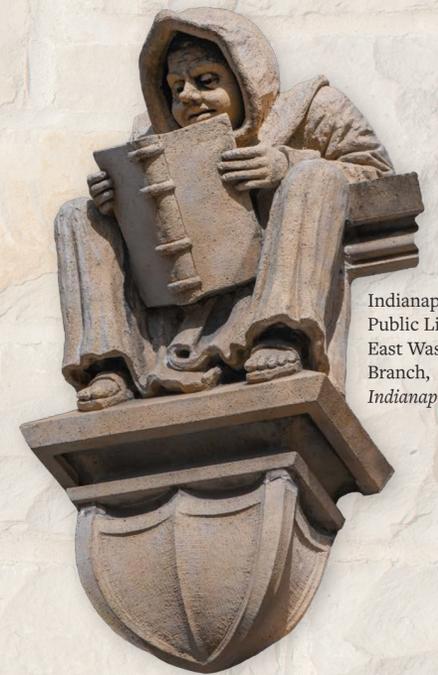
Jasper County Courthouse, Rensselaer

The next time you walk past a historic building, be sure to look up. In some cases, you'll find someone or something looking back at you. Some of these faces of animals, people, or mythical creatures are carved into stone pediments and keystones. Others extend from the buildings themselves. These features can be found on buildings large and small across Indiana. While some are simply decorative, others are symbolic as they were installed to serve as "building guardians."

You may be familiar with the term gargoyle; however, grotesques are more common. Gargoyles serve as waterspouts, pushing water away from exterior walls and foundations. They tend to project from the building more than grotesques, which are purely ornamental. Some grotesques also take on unusual, distorted, or comical features, and their designs were meant to ward off evil spirits, serving as guardians that protect the buildings.

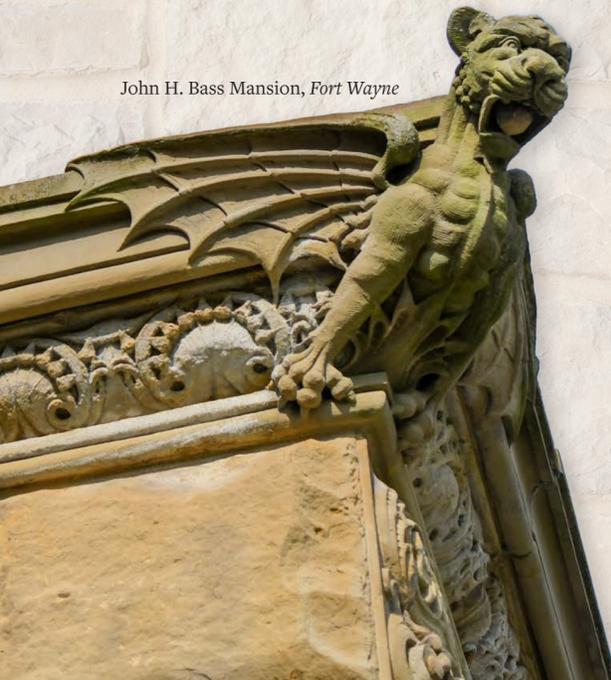
Other carvings found on buildings are one-dimensional and some depict well-known historical figures, while others hint at the buildings' original purposes.

A major preservation risk for these features is time. Exposure to the elements slowly works to soften their intricate features and can result in masonry issues such as spalling and crazing. Proper care and maintenance can slow deterioration and ensure that these building protectors are present for years to come.



Indianapolis
Public Library
East Washington
Branch,
Indianapolis

John H. Bass Mansion, Fort Wayne



Pulaski County Courthouse, Winamac



Rushville Public Library, Rushville



Tower Building,
South Bend

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Historic Preservation
& Archaeology



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