

# Happy Birthday, Building!

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Age may be nothing but a number, but for buildings it can be a reminder of the good stewardship, preventative maintenance, and preservation efforts that have allowed them to continue standing today. We are highlighting eight buildings and one bridge around the state that are celebrating significant age milestones in 2024, each turning 100, 150, or 200 years old. Join us in wishing them a happy birthday!

## 200 years

### Thrall's Opera House (1824)

New Harmony (Posey County)

Located within the National Historic Landmark-designated New Harmony Historic District, Thrall's Opera House was constructed in 1824 and originally functioned as Harmonie Society Community House Number Four, then as a tenement building following the collapse of the utopian community in 1827. Between 1856-57, the building was renovated for use as a playhouse for New Harmony's Thespian Society. A Romanesque Revival façade was added in 1888, and the building was converted into an Opera House. In 1964, the building, then used as an automobile garage, was acquired by the State of Indiana, restored back to its 1888 appearance, and is now part of the New Harmony State Historic Site.



### Hay-Morrison House (1824)

Salem (Washington County)

The Hay-Morrison House is a Federal-style building constructed in 1824. Under the direction of locally notable educator John I. Morrison (1806-1882), the Salem Grammar School occupied the building from the time of its completion until 1828. It was converted into a home and became the birthplace and early childhood home of former U.S. Secretary of State John Hay (1838-1905). The original two-room configuration of the building remains along with a breezeway and summer kitchen added during the 1840s. The house was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1971 and is under the ownership of the Washington County Historical Society.



## **Granny White House (1824)**

Spring Mill State Park (Lawrence County)

The Granny White House is a two-story dogtrot log house built in 1824 in Leesville, Indiana. The home belonged to David (1774-1842) and Sallie (Cummins) Sutherland White (1785-1879). By 1931, the house had been dismantled, relocated, and reassembled at Spring Mill State Park's Pioneer Village where it remains today. Pioneer Village is material record of historic preservation practices in the early years of the 20th century.

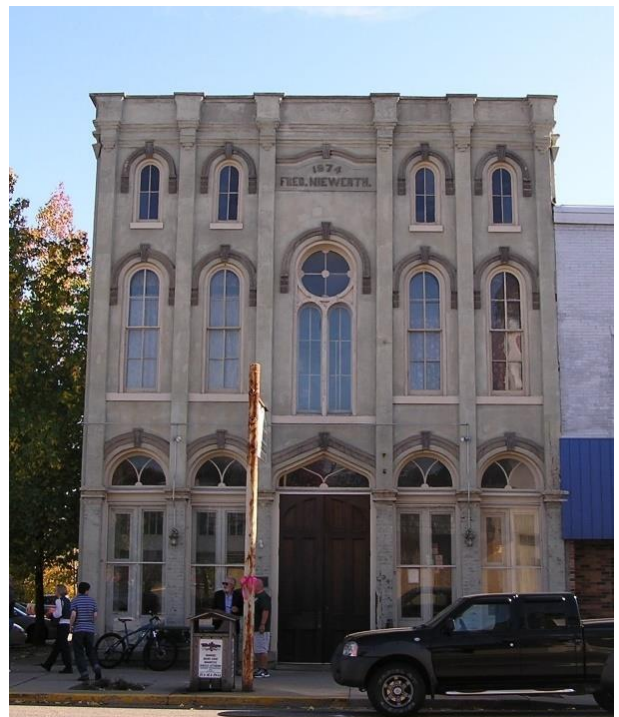


## **150 years**

### **Niewerth Building (1874)**

Delphi (Carroll County)

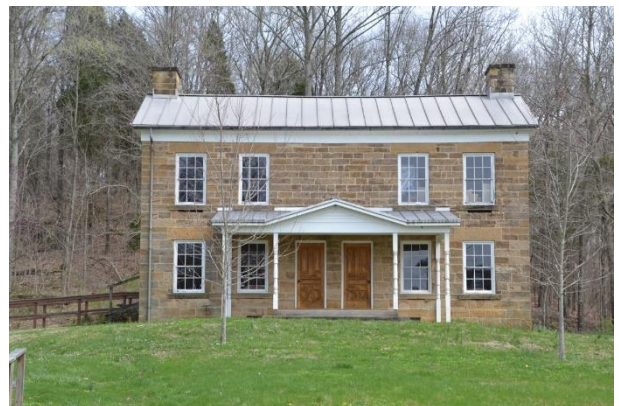
Located on Delphi's Main Street, the Niewerth Building is an Italianate commercial building constructed in 1874. The building, which originally served as a grocery store and residence and was later used as a tavern, features five bays containing oculus, round arch, segmental arch, and pointed arch windows with hood molds. A parge coating was added to the building during the 1930s, but otherwise the building's exterior envelope has remained. National Register of Historic Places in 1984 and is also located within the Delphi Courthouse Square Historic District, which was listed in 2010.



### **Rickenbaugh House (1874)**

Hoosier National Forest (Perry County)

Constructed in 1874, the Rickenbaugh House is a late example of a Greek Revival-style house. The sandstone block T-plan house overlooks Lake Celina. The building served as the residence for the family of tanner Jacob Rickenbaugh and simultaneously acted as the post office for the community of Celina where members of the family served as postmaster. It was acquired by the U.S. Forest Service in 1968 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.



## **Benton County Courthouse (1874)**

Fowler (Benton County)

Constructed in 1874, the Benton County Courthouse was designed by the firm of Chicago master architect Gordon P. Randall in the Second Empire Style. Randall also designed the Marshall County Courthouse in Plymouth as well as many other significant buildings in and around Chicago. The Benton County Courthouse features sandstone accents, arched entryways, a dentillated cornice, pedimented dormers, and a mansard roof. The building's front tower, which once contained a bell tower and clock, was shortened in 1936, and the bell is now located on the courthouse lawn. The courthouse was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2008.



## **100 years (1924)**

### **Hoosier Theatre Building (1924)**

Whiting (Lake County)

Whiting's Hoosier Theatre was constructed in 1924, and consists of two connected buildings. The front façade of the Classical Revival commercial/residential building facing 119<sup>th</sup> Street hosts the theater's marquis and an ornate brick and terra cotta façade, while a second building houses the theater itself. The building was used as a vaudeville, play, and movie house. Despite having caught fire multiple times, the Hoosier Theatre remains in active use today and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.



### **Pike County Bridge No. 81 (1924)**

Logan Township (Pike County)

Spanning across Houchins Ditch, Pike County Bridge No. 81 is a steel camelback through-truss bridge constructed in 1924 to carry the Old State Road over Patoka Bottoms. This type of bridge is characterized by a polygonal upper chord with five slopes (camelback) and overhead bracing (through-truss). The bridge contributes to the Patoka Bridges Historic District, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2005 and is significant in the areas of transportation and engineering. The photo to the right was captured prior to a recent rehabilitation, which was completed using FHWA funding.



## Jefferson Elementary School (1924)

Washington, (Daviess County)

Although construction began earlier, Jefferson Elementary School opened in 1924 to consolidate four ungraded rural schoolhouses in Washington Township, Daviess County. The design of the school by architects Sutton and Routt occurred in 1917, however project planning was postponed during World War I and did not resume until 1922. Combining elements of the Colonial Revival and Craftsman styles, the building is designed symmetrically with a center bay topped by an octagonal domed cupola. It served as a school until 1976 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1997.



### Want to know more? We recommend visiting these resources:

New Harmony State Historic Site: <https://www.indianamuseum.org/historic-sites/new-harmony/>

Hay-Morrison House: <https://johnhaycenter.org/index.php/attractions/birthplace-of-john-hay>.

Spring Mill State Park, Pioneer Village: [https://www.in.gov/dnr/state-parks/parks-lakes/spring-mill-state-park/#Pioneer\\_Village](https://www.in.gov/dnr/state-parks/parks-lakes/spring-mill-state-park/#Pioneer_Village)

Niewerth Building: <https://www.visitfika.com/story>

Rickenbaugh House: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/hoosier/specialplaces/?cid=fsbdev3\\_017446](https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/hoosier/specialplaces/?cid=fsbdev3_017446)

Hoosier Theatre: <https://www.hoosiertheatre.com/theatre-history/>

Pike County Bridge No. 81:

<https://historicbridges.org/bridges/browser/?bridgebrowser=indiana/dongolasteelbridge/>

SHAARD: <https://secure.in.gov/apps/dnr/shaard/welcome.html>