

From Forests to Farms and Towns:  
State Parks and Settlement of Indiana Photographs of artifacts/  
features at four historic structures in Indiana State Parks with  
item names and descriptions.



1.

# 1. Sausage Grinder

This item was used to grind meat and other foods to make sausage. The person making sausage puts meat in the opening on the top and cranks the handles. Sausage is pushed out of the end into a sausage casing.

2.



## 2. Widow's walk

This decorative piece of architecture was used as a viewing platform as well as a place from which to access the roof. The myth surrounding the name is that the platform was intended for mariners' wives to have a place to stand to watch and see whether their husbands would return safely from sea.

3.



### 3. Double crib barn

This type of barn has two cribs separated by a breeze-way and joined under the same roof. One side might have been used to store feed, and the other side might have been used to stable the livestock, for example.

4.



## 4. Reel mower

Also called a cylinder mower, this item has a fixed cutting blade that is rotated by the turning of the wheels. Invented in the 1830s, the lawn mower was used early on for preparing sports fields. This invention was a big improvement over the scythe, which was a simple hand tool that consisted of a long blade on the end of a wooden handle.



5.



## 5. Stereoscope

Through this item a person can view two separate versions of the same image, which makes the image appear as a single three-dimensional picture.

6.



## 6. Washboard

This tool was used for washing clothes by hand. The clothing is rubbed vigorously against the ridges, which helps the clothing to become clean. The clothes are soaked in hot soapy water and then rubbed on the washboard.



7.

## 7. Nanny's bench

This item was designed so a parent could sit and sew, spin or break beans while tending to the baby. The wooden barrier that held in the baby was removable, so when company visited or the baby grew up, it served as a regular bench.

8.



## 8. Cooling bench

This item was used when a family member died. The family did not take the deceased to a funeral home. Instead, the deceased was viewed at home, using this bench. The bench is wider than a normal bench to accommodate the body.



9.



## 9. Hair wreath

This item was a common sight in homes. It was a keepsake. Many women had hair receivers on their dressers. As they brushed their hair or their children's hair, they would save the hair that came out. When the receiver was full, they would crochet the hair into beautiful flowers to place in a frame. The wreath often represented many generations of a family.

10.



# 10. Cradle

Babies slept here. The rockers on the bottom comforted the child, helping him or her sleep. This is an example of a typical crib from the mid-1800s.

11.



# 11. Chamber pot

This was the only indoor toilet available to early settlers. An outhouse served daytime needs. The chamber pot was handy during the night, especially during winter. Plus, if you were a young lady who needed to go to the bathroom but were still in your nightgown, it was considered inappropriate to go outside. The bad smells that no doubt came from a used chamber pot were considered a normal part of daily life.

12.



## 12. Rope bed

A modern bed has box springs to support the mattress. In the 1800s many beds had a system of ropes stretched across and up and down the frame. The rope system stretched after being slept on a few times. It was tightened using a wooden device called a key.