

Welcome to *The Open Door Tour*

Behind The Scenes  *June 25, 2022*

333 Second Street

The Republic Building/IU Eskenazi School of Art, Architecture + Design

The Republic Building is the result of a unique collaboration between Robert N. Brown and Myron Goldsmith. Brown, an innovative publisher in Columbus, Indiana, was managing partner in a newspaper enterprise that had been in continuous operation under the leadership of his family from 1872 until it sold in 2017. Goldsmith was a leading American architect with the firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in the mid-20th century. When The Republic newspaper moved into its new home in 1971, Brown said, "The building is a panorama of your newspaper as it presents the chronicle of our times. It was built to provide enjoyment for all who look upon it or who work within its walls." The building was a linchpin in the redevelopment plan for downtown Columbus in the late 1960s. This plan altered much of the existing downtown area, combining contemporary design with the grandeur of 19th-century architecture. In 2017, the newspaper moved to a new location, and the building is now home to the Indiana University J. Irwin Miller Architecture Program and serves as a wonderful example of Columbus's adaptive re-use of its modernist buildings.

423 Third Street

The Crump Theatre

Be the first guests to witness the latest work being accomplished by The Crump Project to reinvent this historic 133-year-old theatre into a thriving downtown performing arts venue! See history unfold behind the iconic doors and hear how efforts have uncovered and solved some interesting mysteries along the way. During your visit, you'll explore the Main Lobby with its magical water fountains,

the Manager's Office with its curved blue glass windows overlooking the lobby, "The Loge" on the second floor with its intricate navy leather doors and walls and catch a balcony view of the theatre from the newly created plexiglass dome. You'll also be able to visit the exhibit in The Crump Project Museum designed by local high school seniors. Formerly known as "The Crying Room," this space is filled with restored pieces dating all the way back to 1889. Many pieces were found in the remnants of the tunnel which connected the theatre to The Belvedere Hotel across the street. It also contains the only original 1941 carpet left in the entire building.

445 Fifth Street

Coriden & Coriden, LLC and Ann Coriden Law (Historic City Hall)

Designed by Columbus architect Charles F. Sparrell, with renovations by Landmarks Design Associates in 1986, the Historic City Hall building has been repurposed for legal offices and loft-style apartments. Aside from formerly being the Columbus City Hall, the building is a prominent local landmark for a number of reasons. Charles Sparrell was the most influential architect in Columbus during the 1880s and 1890s, and heavily emphasized the Richardsonian Romanesque style that was popular at the time. Sparrell, who came to Columbus in 1881, is the architect for many notable local buildings, including the McKinley School, the Crump Theatre, 548 Washington Street (Viewpoint Books building), and First United Methodist Church. Perhaps most significant regarding the history of the building, aside from being the original City Hall, the second floor of the building was used by the local high school as a basketball venue, able to seat 200 spectators. One such basketball player whose high school games were played in

the building was Chuck Taylor. Taylor later got a job with Converse Rubber Shoe Co. as a salesman, where they adopted his ideas on how to change the shoe to appeal to basketball players. His ideas on how to revolutionize the Converse tennis shoe largely came from his personal experiences playing basketball in this building.

531 Fifth Street

First Christian Church Tower

First Christian Church was designed by architect Eliel Saarinen, father of Eero Saarinen. Completed in 1942, First Christian Church was not only the first contemporary building in Columbus, but also one of the first churches of contemporary architecture in all of the United States. The geometric simplicity of the building's design is exemplified in the rectangular box that houses the sanctuary and the 166-foot-high campanile, or free-standing bell tower, which became the iconic symbol of the city's modern architecture. The materials used both on the exterior and interior of the building are primarily buff brick and limestone. The tower is designed in a simple, geometric form with brick walls that open into a punctured design near the top of the tower. The punctured units surround the sounding chamber from which the organ chimes are programmed. It was Saarinen's thought process that the simple design of the tower would give it dignity and strength and that its separate placement in relation to the church provides balance to the building.

Corner of 6th and Union Streets

Cummins Heritage Center Engine Plant 1 - enter from California St.

Founded in 1919 as Cummins Engine Company, named for its namesake Clessie L. Cummins, the fledgling corporation was among the first to see the commercial potential of unproven engine technology invented two decades earlier by Rudolph Diesel. Now, for the first time ever, you have an opportunity to soak in Cummins Inc. company history at the Cummins Heritage Center! Presently a work in progress, the Heritage Center was formed

during 2020 by the merging of two formerly separate bodies of artifacts and documentation: the Cummins Archive and the Heritage Restoration Center. Together, the two bodies represent the entire history of Cummins Inc., from its beginnings in 1919 through today. The collections are rich in historic company documentation and product examples. They are presently located in the northwest corner of the CEP – the Cummins Engine Plant. It is an interesting setting for the many records and artifacts they hold. Their location in the plant is historic too, as this is the original production location of one of their most important and enduring engine lines – Cummins' family of "H" engines. The "H" family of engines is still in production today in specific parts of the world.

301 Washington Street

J. Irwin Miller's Office

Joseph Ireland Irwin (1824-1920) began work as a clerk in a dry goods store in 1848. By 1850 he owned the store, and eight years later, with his business partner Francis P. Smith, he bought the building at 301 Washington Street. A decade after establishing his bank in 1871, J. I. Irwin constructed a new building at 301 Washington emblazoned with "Irwin's Bank 1881" on its cornice. In 1919, Indianapolis architecture firm D. A. Bohlen & Son redesigned the interior of the bank and added elaborate metalwork at the entrance. In 1928, Irwin's Bank & Union Trust merged to become Irwin-Union Trust Company. The banking operations moved to another building, allowing Union Starch & Refining to move downstairs. J. Irwin Miller used his office at 301 Washington for his many business roles, and in 1958 he started Irwin Management Company as the family's wealth management firm. Architect Alexander Girard (1907-1993) deftly brought modern design to this nineteenth century structure. In the mid-1960s, Girard oversaw a facelift of numerous Washington Street façades. He had two interior projects at 301 Washington Street: J. Irwin Miller's office and the reception area in 1962 and the remainder of the offices in 1972.

329 Washington Street

Zaharakos Upstairs

The Zaharakos family were natives of Sparta, Greece, where they gave up a successful general store and tailor shop to relocate to New York City. Arriving at Ellis Island in 1898, the family's stay in New York was brief. One of the daughter's, Ellen Zaharakos, moved to Richmond, Indiana, where her husband operated a confectionary. Describing the Midwest in letters to her family, Ellen's three brothers soon followed a similar business venture, moving to Columbus. The brothers, James, Lewis, and Pete, opened Zaharakos, on October 20, 1900, and their entire family lived on the second floor above the soda fountain shop. It was occupied until 1914, and later became storage. At the completion of the 2009 restoration of the soda bar, dining area, and the museum areas downstairs, the upstairs living quarters were restored. The space known as The Crystal Parlor is not open to the public except by appointment or invitation. Enjoy this chance to see the high-end Victorian era parlor, dining space, kitchen, bedroom, plus their mechanical music machines and soda fountain library. You will be transported back in time with Renaissance-Revival style furniture and elegant living quarters!

410 Washington Street

Savory Swine, 2nd Floor

The second floor of 410 Washington, above Savory Swine, has been vacant since the 1940s. Used for storage for the better part of 80 years, the spot has been left to the elements. However, the space has a very eclectic history. Used primarily as housing for numerous individuals during the first 60 years of its life, there were also office units which were occupied by distinguished Columbus residents of varying occupations. One such person was Dr. J.F. Wright, who was believed to have practiced medicine and surgery on the second floor, including secured medical consultation and surgical practice for Bartholomew County and surrounding areas. He was noted for having a compassionate spirit and giving medical

attention to Civil War veterans and their families free of charge in the decades following the war, during the 1880s and 1890s. Other important individuals to have used the upstairs space for their trade were the Hilger brothers, who were local tailors. They would eventually open Hilger Bros. on the 500 block of Washington and the well-known Whitehouse department store. Additionally, there is documentation proving that during the early 1900s both an optometrist and a photography studio were also in the space.

432 Washington Street

Marr St. Denis Building

After finishing their work on the courthouse in 1874, P.H. McCormack & P.H. Sweeney decided to build the Pallas Theatre at Washington & 5th Streets. Crump's Opera House had recently burned down, and the city was in need of a large, luxurious theatre. Unfortunately, the Pallas Theatre burned down in 1879, and McCormack and Sweeney, like F.J. Crump, claimed they would never rebuild a theatre. After years of working with insurance companies and continually denying a local outcry for a theatre, in 1880 McCormack and Sweeney finally announced their plans for the former site of the Pallas. They would build a three story, first-class, 45 room hotel. The St. Denis Hotel opened on April 29th, 1881. The hotel accepted daily guests but catered more to weekly and yearly guests – being a hotspot of downtown living, culture, and business. Over the years, the St. Denis Hotel would house many influential businesses, from almost every early photography studio to Union Trust/Irwin Union Bank and Trust. The hotel had two major renovations; one after a fire in 1894 and another in 1923 to modernize the hotel. The St. Denis remained one of Columbus' most elegant hotels for almost 85 years, closing in 1964. Today, the former hotel houses numerous offices for local businesses and firms.

548 Washington Street

Viewpoint Books Basement & Tunnels

Known as the old Post Office, and as the current home of Viewpoint Books, 548 Washington Street was constructed in 1897 as the third Post Office to have been in Columbus. Romanesque in architectural style, the building is seen from afar by the oriel tower above the entryway. The Post Office was in service until 1910, and afterward various businesses moved in during the years following. With a basement venue known as the Brick Cellar, and featuring original brick walls and massive wood foundation supports, there are many stories waiting to be told underneath 548 Washington Street. Before the downtown businesses could be heated using gas or oil, coal was used to keep buildings warm during the winter. As a way to easily transport coal from building to building, a system of tunnels and doors were constructed in downtown cellars. Remnants of the tunnels can be seen today under Viewpoint Books. Although the system of using coal to heat downtown businesses is no longer in use, it appears that there may be activity of a different kind still going on in the basement. Recently, local paranormal investigators have been researching possible spiritual commotion after sightings of ghosts have been reported wandering the passageways.

611 Washington Street

Hoosier Sporting Goods / The Hitting Lodge

The upstairs at 611 Washington Street, above what is now Hoosier Sporting Goods, is today used as a space for young athletes to better their skills. However, before that, the upstairs was used by the local Columbus Knights of Pythias fraternal order. The local lodge was established in 1871 and moved from their former location on 5th Street which became the Rio Theatre. When the Knights of Pythias moved around the turn of the twentieth century to the upstairs of 611 Washington Street, they practiced their rituals for many decades in the space. Following the Knights of Pythias' time in the space, the second floor became primarily used for storage for the downstairs businesses, such as when Hoosier Sporting Goods began using the building in 1971. Since then, the business has become a thriving part of downtown Columbus. Upstairs, there are unique wooden ceiling beams as well as exposed brick from the buildings' inception. The exposed building fabric of the property is unique to understand the process used in construction of older downtown buildings. Most downtown buildings, just like 611 Washington Street, have flat roofs where the underside can be seen from the interior of the second floor.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

GOLD SPONSORS

Victoria Griffin

Eric Robbins, CFP Edward Jones[®]

SILVER SPONSORS

Ann Coriden Law

P4 Automotive Group

The Republic

Columbus Area Visitors Center

BRONZE SPONSORS

Agresta, Storms & O'Leary PC

American Family Insurance

Beck, Rocker & Habig, LLC

Jean Donica/REMAX

Elwood Staffing

Dr. Doug & Monica Federle

First Financial Bank

Drs. Chris & Tami Iorio

JCBank

Old National Bank

Overhead Door

Mike & Diane Robbins

Don R. Scheidt

Hutch & Kevina Schumaker

Zeller Insurance

SIHO