

# HISTORIC CENTENNIAL NEIGHBORHOOD

Spring  
2002



What is this? ↑

## Namesake remembered

By Todd Helfter

The Historic Centennial Neighborhood of Lafayette, Indiana takes its name from the Centennial School which was located at Sixth and Brown before being torn down in 1971. The school was located on the half-block currently the site of Centennial Park and a parking lot for the YWCA. The building was completed in 1876, the year of the United States Centennial. Thus, the neighborhood's name is firmly rooted in the history of the area and the nation. The contract to build the school was awarded to Elias Max on April 28, 1876 and constructed for the cost of \$26,425.00. It was completed on Nov 1, 1876. I guess they built schools faster back then. The school was erected on the site of the old Central school building. In the fall of 1875, the old Central school was pronounced unfit for use. It was removed in May of 1876 to make way for Centennial. We respectfully remember our once beautiful school on our web site and in our newsletters and proudly bear its name for our organization.

## HCNA Welcomes New Residents

Don and Cris Wilkinson joined the neighborhood in October by moving into the Brownstone at 514 North 5th Street. Don is retired from Ameritech and Cris is retired from Wabash College. Before coming to Lafayette, the couple had lived in Crawfordsville for 32 years. According to Cris, "We moved to Lafayette because of the excellent sports, cultural, entertainment, and dining facilities that are available and we love our new home and the Historic Centennial Neighborhood. The downtown area is obviously on the upswing and offers most anything you need except for a grocery store and I read in the paper that we may have one in the near future." "We want to especially thank Michael and Phyllis Hunt for their warm and friendly welcome to Centennial," said Don. "We hope to meet more of our neighbors as the weather warms and more people are outside." The Wilkinsons have five children, living in New York, Florida, Indianapolis and Crawfordsville, and five grandchildren.

## Historic properties for sale

Three historic properties are currently for sale in the neighborhood. A very old home, probably from the 1840s, is available at 424 N 5th Street. The two story frame house is in the vernacular style with Federal features. It has two two-bedroom units, each 1348 sq. ft. New mechanical and electrical utilities were added nine years ago. The asking price is \$159,000, and agent is AIM Realty, 490-2587

A two-story brick Italianate house, built in the 1870s, is for sale at 524 N. 5th Street. It has a spacious back yard. The home currently is divided into four apartments, but could be reconfigured into two units or one unit. It is

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owned by Paradigm Development, Inc. (463-7770). Contact: Jim Morog 479-0767.

A house at 628-630 North 5th Street is under renovation and will soon be ready for sale. It's a simple, 2-story, gable end, vernacular frame house with some stick-built ornamentation constructed in the late 1890s. Lafayette Neighborhood Housing Services is doing extensive renovation inside and out. The house has been converted from a two-story duplex to a four-bedroom main house with a one-bedroom apartment for rental income. It is for sale as an owner-occupied home. The one-bedroom rental could be used as an office, studio, etc. It has a back yard and room for a garage. This house was part of the inspiration for the design of the six new North 5th Street Rowhouses to the south, with their repeating rhythm of gable-ends. LNHS asked the neighbors to specify the paint scheme for this house; interested buyers who act immediately can still specify their own colors. LNHS will also work with a buyer in designing/completing the interior. Contact: Pat Stephenson, Lafayette Neighborhood Housing Services, 423-1284.

**510 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street** is the last house in the North 5<sup>th</sup> Street Brownstones project available for sale. This attractive, new construction was designed to fit with and complement the surrounding historic architecture of the neighborhood. The Brownstone is a vertical duplex. The upper unit has 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, 2-car garage and 1500 square feet. The lower unit has 750 square feet with one bedroom and 1 bath. The owner must live in one unit and can rent the other unit to help retire the mortgage debt. Contact Lafayette Neighborhood Housing Services at 765-424-1284 or 420-7370.

### **Worship in the Streets**

Trinity Methodist will join with First Christian Church and First Baptist for a Worship in the Street celebration this June 30 at 10:00 a.m.

### **2nd Annual Neighbors helping Neighbors**

On June 8th, we will assemble at 626 N. 8<sup>th</sup> St. 9:30 am for our annual event designed to help our neighbors with projects bigger than they.

Our project this year is to help a very new resident, Doug Reed, with yard work on a lot that has had very little attention for many years. Our goals are to remove unwanted vegetation. Pry up, clean and stack the brick sidewalk so that digging for water/sewer can be done in that area.

Doug is planning to provide a hot dog lunch to volunteers. Lunch will be cooked/served at Todd Helfter's home, 659 N. 7th. 1/2 block up the alley.

Doug Reed joined the neighborhood last Friday the 17<sup>th</sup>. He has purchased the home at 626 N. 8<sup>th</sup> St. from St. James Lutheran Church and will begin renovations with intent to live there within two months. Doug is a computer repair technician with Purdue University. Doug hails from Charlotte, Michigan and visits his family there frequently.

### **Toast to Preservation, May 19, 2002**

HCNA awarded plaques to:

- *Bob Mertz* - Friend of Centennial For Loyalty, Dedication, Commitment and Ongoing Service to our neighborhood
- *Jones & Phillips Associates, Inc.*, Pride of Centennial - For Historically Appropriate Restroration of 301 North 5<sup>th</sup> St.

The Wabash Valley Trust presented the "Johanna Downie Award" to our own Phylis and Michael O. Hunt for a most outstanding

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contribution to historic preservation in the  
community.

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Appreciation is given to the following members for their financial support by joining the Historic Centennial Neighborhood Association. It is their believing in the

future of the neighborhood, and the efforts currently underway for neighborhood revitalization that makes this so wonderful.

Agnew, Chris  
Rev. Tim Alkire; St. Boniface Church  
Arriaga, Ximena  
Brown, Beth  
Brown, Jim  
Bundy McNear Insurance Agency  
Carson, Dennis; LUEA  
Carter, Will  
Dickman, Elmer  
Dixon, Barbara and Paul  
First Baptist Church  
First Christian Church  
Gerhart, Shirley and Jack  
Godby, Trudy

Helfter, Anne and Todd  
Hoffman, Erin  
Hovey, Dorothy  
Hunt, Phyllis and Michael  
Jane's Gourmet Deli & Catering  
K.J. Nutt & Friends Hair Salon  
McIlwain, Joan and Bob  
Mehring, Gretchen  
Mertz, Bob  
Micon, Joe; Lafayette Urban Ministries  
Midwest Party Rentals  
Mork, Elizabeth  
Nagel, Dick  
Phillips, Van and Linda

Raymer, Dave and Lynda  
Reason, Rob  
Reiss Johnson Properties  
St. Johns Episcopal Church  
Scharer, Mark; Paradigm Development  
Seiters, Gregory G.  
Thorpe, Leon  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
Wagoner, Ed and Nancy  
Wang, Thomas  
Weldon, Laurel  
Whiles, Nelva  
YWCA

If you paid membership dues and your name is not on this list, please contact Dick Nagel, HCNA Treasurer, at 420-7737.

**HISTORIC CENTENNIAL IS A GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD THAT IS ON THE MOVE.  
WE INVITE YOU TO BECOME A MEMBER AND BE A PART OF THE ACTION!**

Membership Dues paid now will be effective through December 31, 2002

Yearly Dues:        \$20                    Additional donations graciously accepted.

\_\_\_\_\_ Resident/Owner  
\_\_\_\_\_ Friends of Centennial Neighborhood  
\_\_\_\_\_ Business/Organization/Landlord

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10                    Additional donations graciously accepted.

\_\_\_\_\_ Tenant/Renter

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address(es) of property owned in Centennial:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Office) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in becoming involved as:

Block Captain \_\_\_\_\_ Officer in the Association \_\_\_\_\_ Helper \_\_\_\_\_

Other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail check and application form to HCNA, 602 N 5<sup>th</sup> St. 47901