

Transformative Legacy

LAST AUGUST, AS THEY HAVE

for generations, descendants of the original residents of Beech Settlement—a farming community created outside Carthage by free African Americans in the 1830s gathered for a homecoming at Mount Pleasant Beech Church. The gathering held special significance in 2019, as attendees celebrated restoration of



Indiana Landmarks member, Stan Cox (below) supported saving the state's significant African American places, contributing \$100,000 for repairs at Mount Pleasant Beech Church (above) in Rush County. The newly established Cox Fund for African American Heritage Sites carries on his preservation impact, providing planning and restoration grants. PHOTOS BY EVAN HALE; SUBMITTED

A longtime

the c.1865 white frame church, one of the last tangible links to the Rush County settlement. The building's transformation was fueled by significant support from the late Stan Cox, an Indiana Landmarks member who contributed \$100,000 to the project through his Standiford H. Cox Fund at the Central Indiana Community Foundation (CICF).

A native of Brazil, Indiana, Cox worked at Eli Lilly and Company for over 32 years, beginning as the company's first Black chemist. In retirement, he advocated for significant African American historic sites including Beech Church and Vigo County's Lost Creek Settlement, an early rural community of free African Americans. Now, a newly established grant fund will help carry on Cox's preservation legacy.

Honoring his interests, the Cox Fund for African American Heritage Sites at CICF will provide planning and restoration grants to help ensure the future of significant African American landmarks. Indiana Landmarks will serve as preservation advisor to the fund, drawing on the expertise of members of our African American Landmarks Committee to identify significant places and evaluate projects that the program could assist. The group will make its initial recommendations to the Central Indiana Community Foundation in late March.

Do you know of a local African American landmark you're concerned about? Contact the Indiana Landmarks regional office nearest you (see p. 2) to discuss places that might qualify for funding from the program.



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Telling Our Story

SIXTY YEARS AGO, A GROUP of Indiana business leaders gathered to incorporate a new organization dedicated to preserving historic places for future generations. Anniversaries marking decades often provide reason to reflect and celebrate. Such is the purpose of a new book: *Indiana Landmarks Rescued & Restored*.

This project was inspired and driven by the indominable Sallie Rowland, a great preservation champion and civic leader who serves on Indiana Landmarks' board of directors. Sallie, a keen observer of the positive impact of historic preservation, encouraged us to tell the story of Indiana Landmarks through a book featuring some of the places we had a meaningful role in saving. And nothing tells that story better than "before and after" photographs, aided by a lively text.

The 56 places depicted in Rescued & Restored represent the three points of Indiana Landmarks' mission: Revitalize, Reconnect, Save. They also attest to the challenges we face and partnerships we enjoy in fulfilling the intent of our founders.

Indiana Landmarks Rescued & Restored will be available for purchase starting May 1. But you can be among the very first to obtain a copy of the book when it is unveiled at Rescue Party on April 25. I encourage all to attend Rescue Party—not only to buy our hot-off-the-press book (or several)—but because it supports our core mission of saving and revitalizing historic places. It's also a blast.

Please join us.

Marsh Davis, President



earned Indiana Landmarks' 2020 Cook Cup for Outstanding

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