

West Central Neighborhood Association Meeting

July 20, 2026



Our Vision

To preserve and promote a unique, historic neighborhood defined by its connected community, rich architecture, and outstanding livability for all.

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
 - New members
- Yesterday in West Central
 - Elly Hoffman House (Dodd Kattman)
- Q2 Financial Update
 - Chris Todd, Treasurer
- Home Beautification Program
- Home & Garden Tour Update
- Annoucements + Upcoming Events
- July Gift Direction



New Member Welcome

We're so glad you're
here!



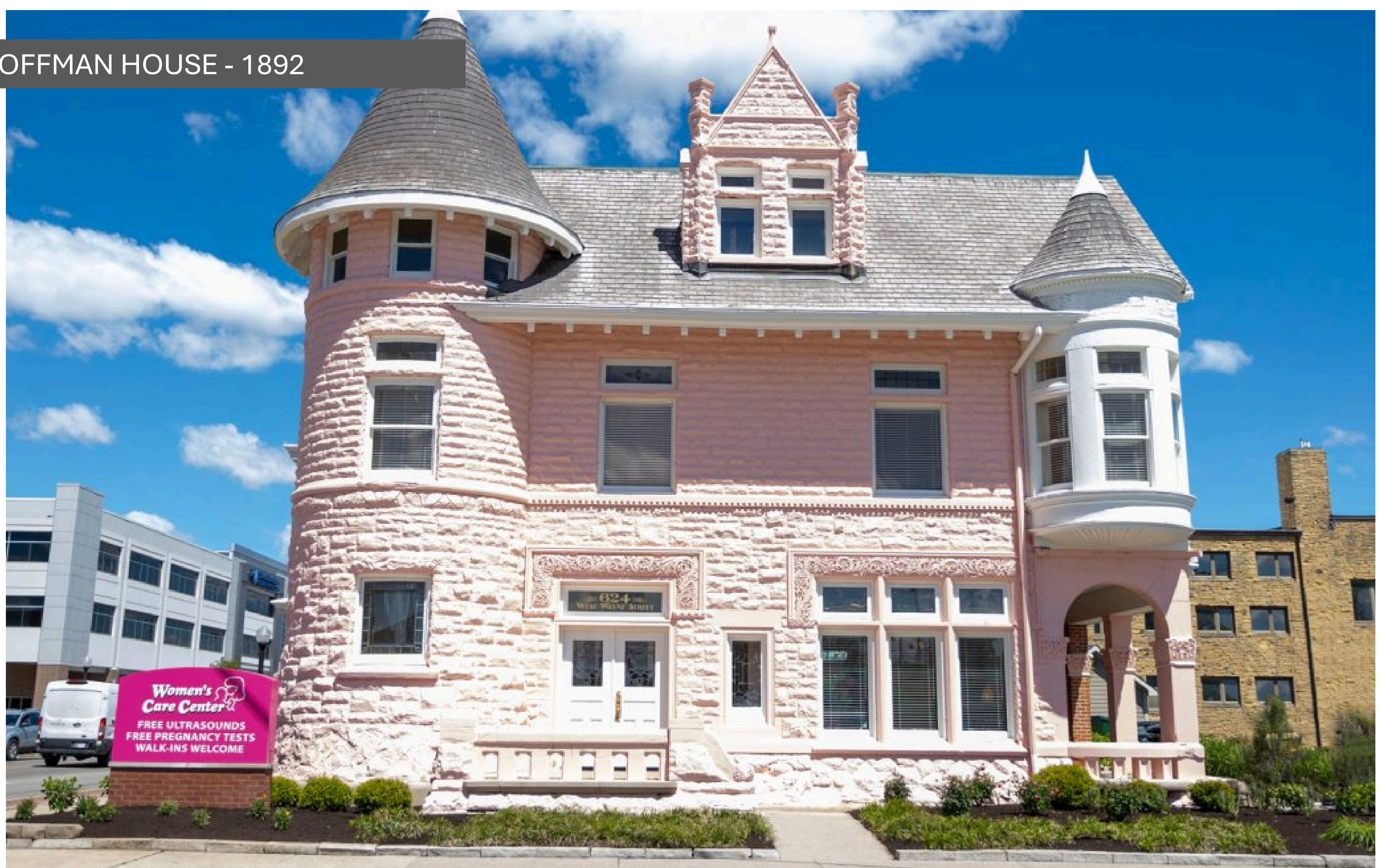
Yesterday in West Central

Ely Hoffman House
Dodd Kattman

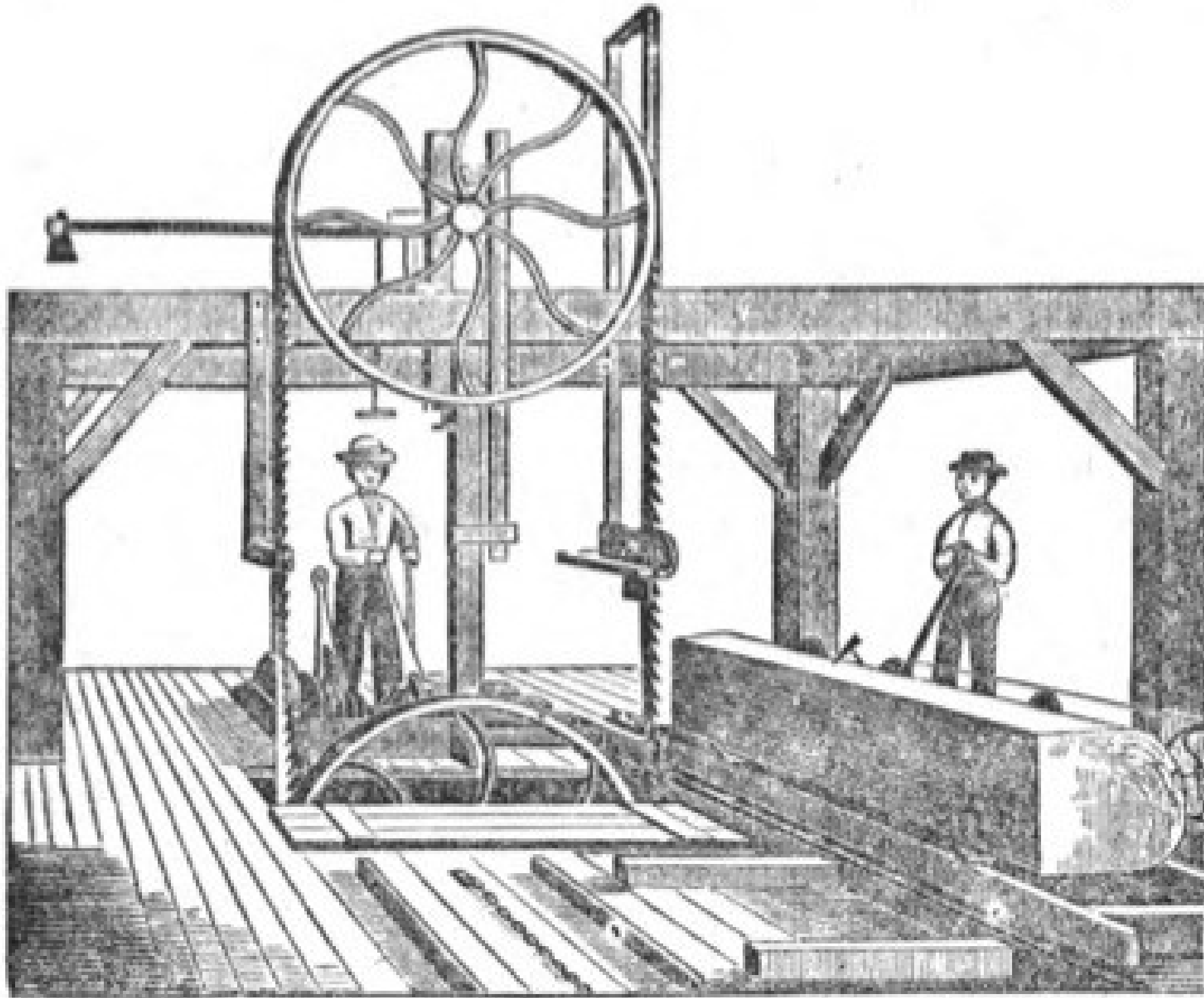
ELY HOFFMAN HOUSE - 1892



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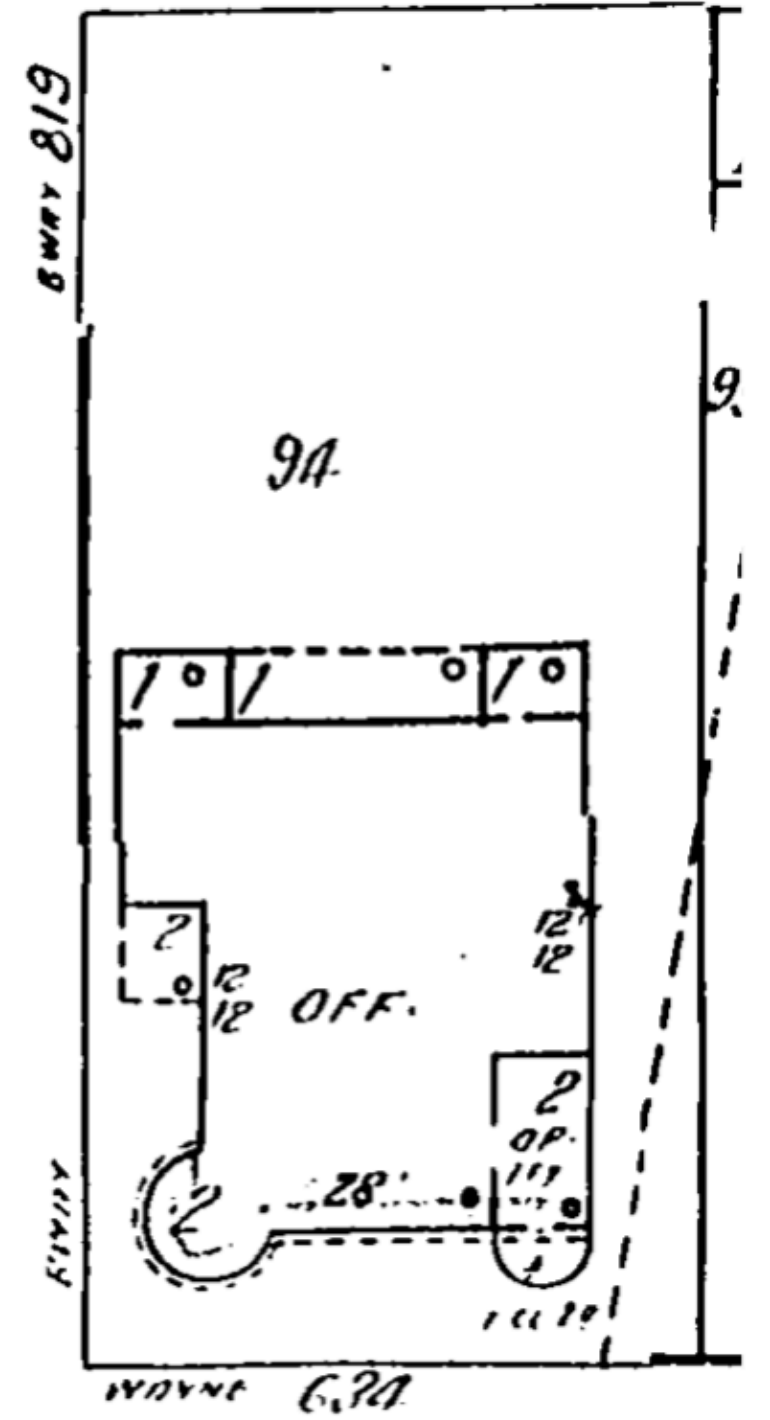
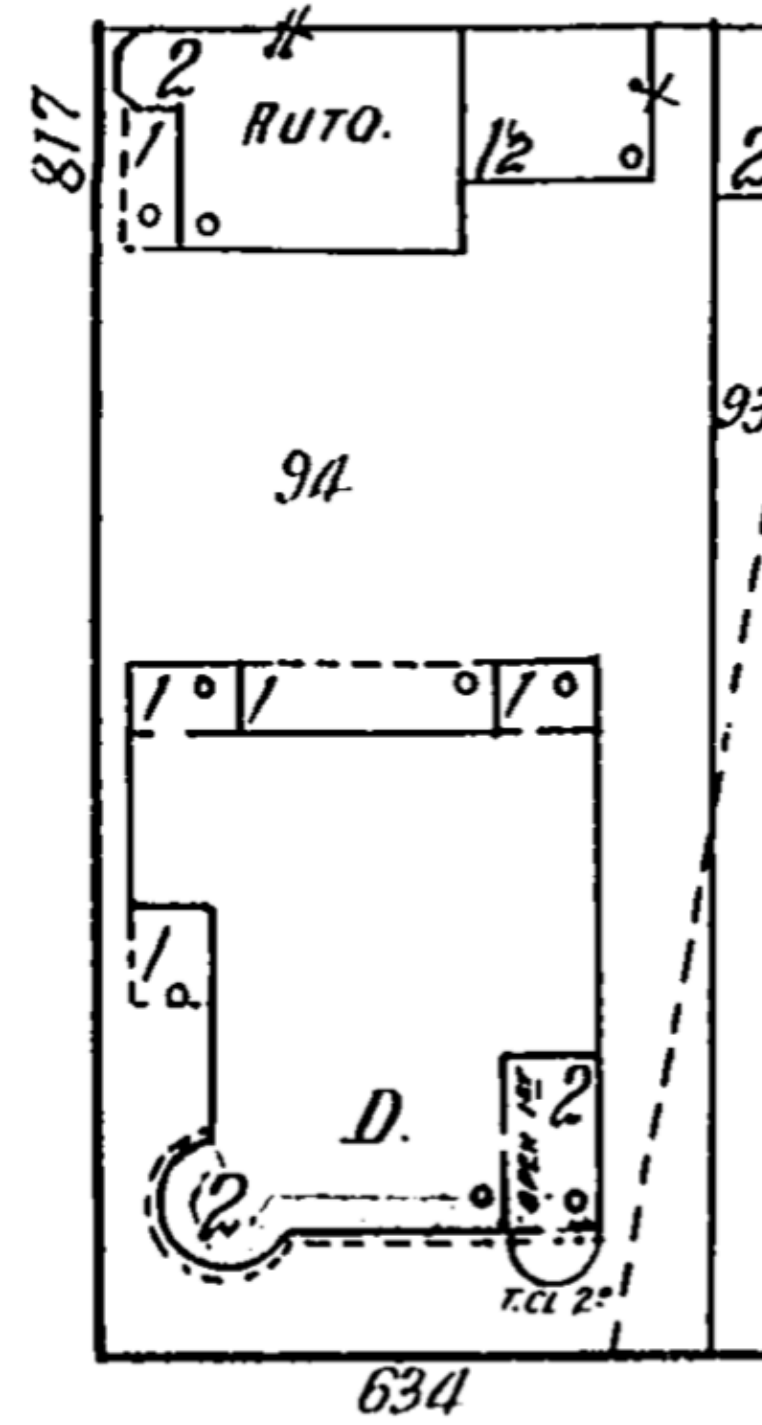
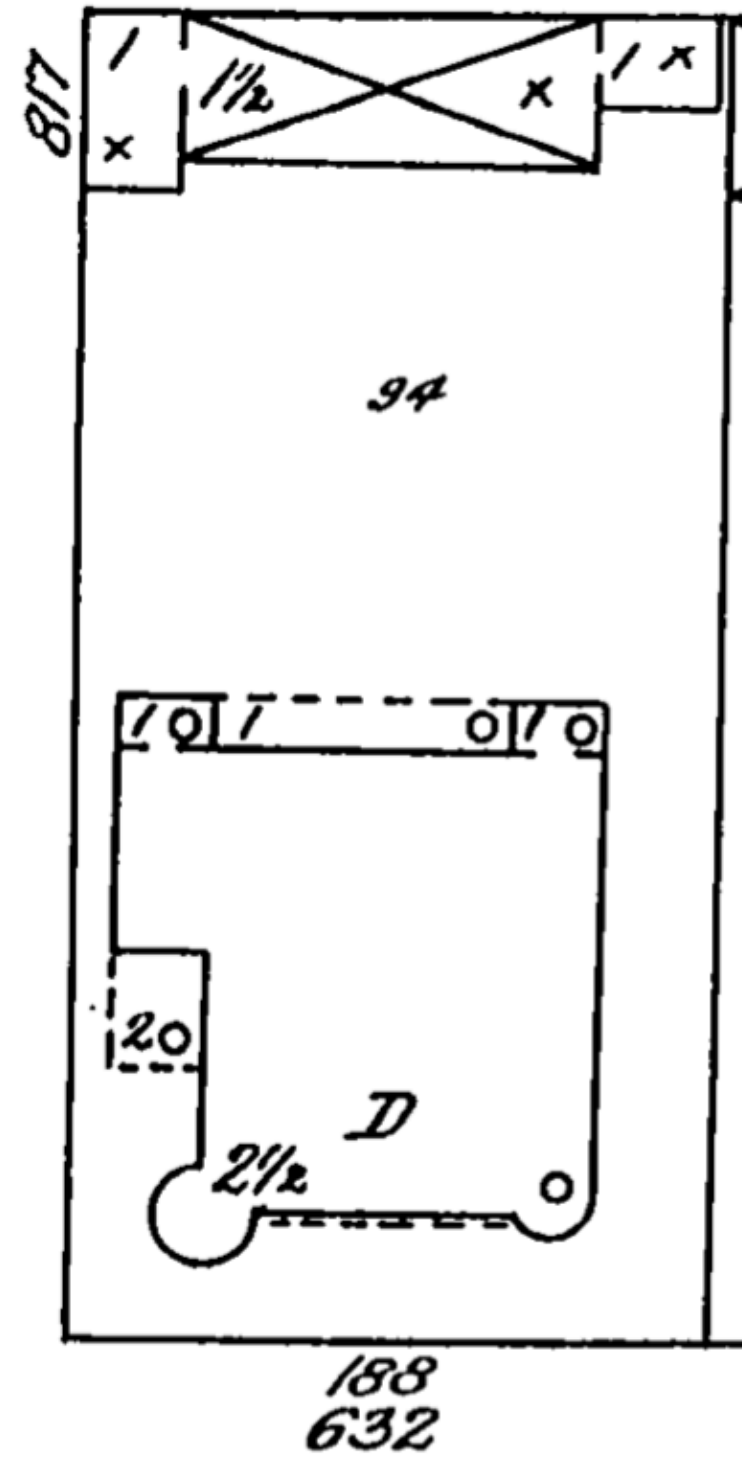
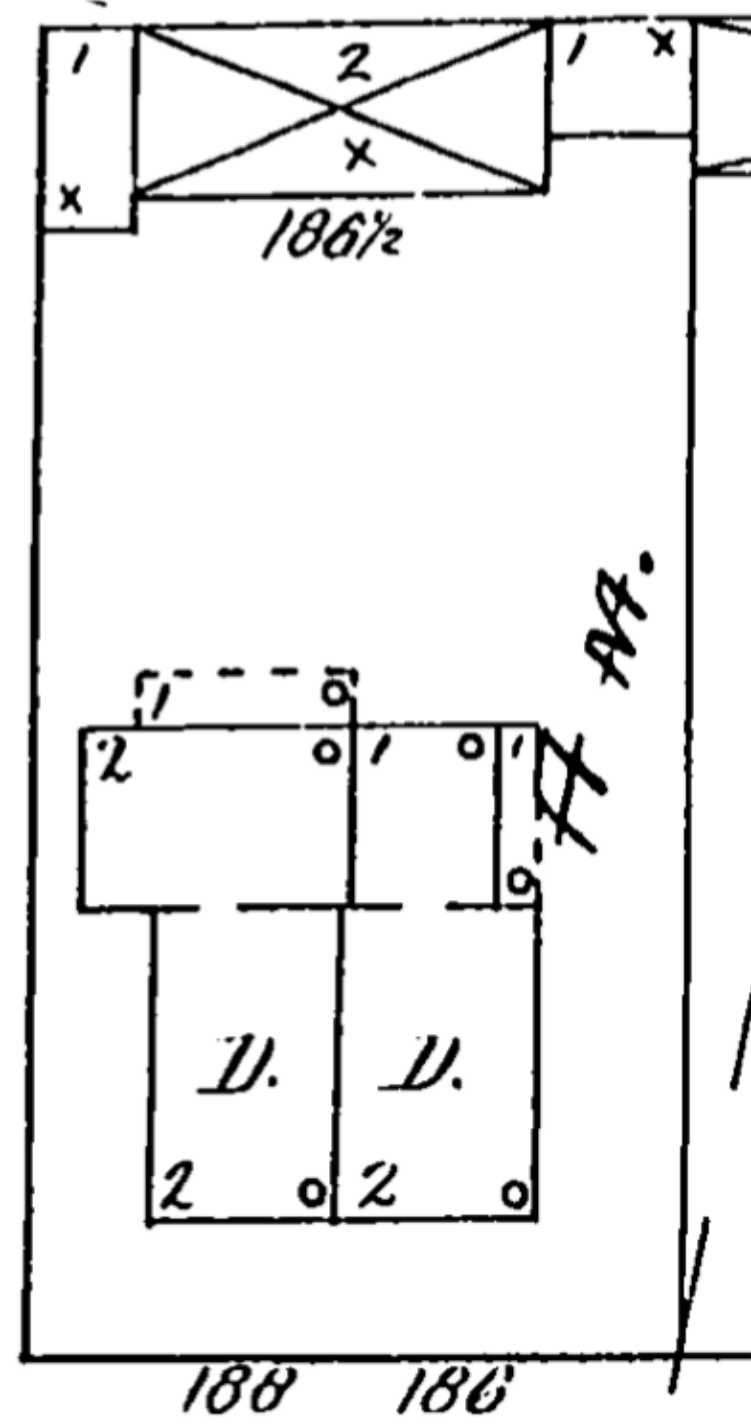


In 1866 the firm of Hoffman Brothers, with partners Andrew E. "Ely" Hoffman and William H. Hoffman, was established to operate a sawmill. A third brother, Jacob R. Hoffman, took the lead in developing a new sawmill for their use; this sawmill used a band sawblade rather than the usual circular saw blade or multiple reciprocating saw blades—in later years they claimed that Jacob had developed a bandsaw machine as early as 1858, nearly a decade before the first commercially successful bandsaw appeared on the market. In any event, this novel band sawmill attracted considerable attention, and in 1869 a new business was established to manufacture this machine: J. R. Hoffman & Co., with the involvement of all three brothers.

Hoffman's new machine was the first band sawmill to achieve any commercial success. Nevertheless, the saw was not particularly successful at sawing lumber, the biggest problem being that it could not maintain a constant tension on the blade which led to wavy boards. The Hoffman brothers introduced some improvements over the years, but it was left to others to complete the development of a fully realized band sawmill.

In 1904 the sawmill business of Hoffman Brothers reorganized as **Hoffman Brothers & Co.**, and this seems to have marked the disappearance of J. R. Hoffman & Co. from the machinery market. The sawmill business survived until at least 1920, and perhaps for longer.

ELY HOFFMAN HOUSE - 1892



ELY HOFFMAN HOUSE - 1892



WING & MAHURIN, ARCHITECTS.

Residence of A. E. HOFFMAN, 188 West Wayne Street.

Art Souvenir of The Fort Wayne Gazette - 1894

ELY HOFFMAN HOUSE - 1892



Broadway to Wayne Looking North – circa 1897

ELY HOFFMAN HOUSE - 1892



Seven hurt when fire truck hits auto. Seven persons were injured, four of them seriously, when a fire truck from No. 5 Engine House struck an automobile at Wayne Street & Broadway while answering an alarm which later proved false.

The truck was driven by Clifford Butler of 1522 Lombard Street and the light sedan by Miss. Mildred Magers of 908 Third Street. The injured were all taken to St. Joseph's Hospital a block away. The heavy truck struck the sedan and then crashed over the curb and into a large pole.

House number is 821 Broadway, also has a number on Wayne Street (624). House is on the Northeast corner. Photograph appeared in the Journal Gazette on 1/1/1931

Broadway to Wayne Looking North – circa 1931

ELY HOFFMAN HOUSE - 1892



(Andrew) Ely Hoffman
1836-1913



1942



2026

ELY HOFFMAN HOUSE - 1892



Broadway to Wayne Looking North – circa 1960

624 W. Wayne Street



At a Glance

Style: Richardsonian
Romanesque

Year Built: 1887

First Residents: Ely and
Emma Hoffman



The Hoffman/Baltes house was designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style by the architectural firm of Wing & Mahurin in 1887 for Andrew Ely Hoffman, who went by his middle name.

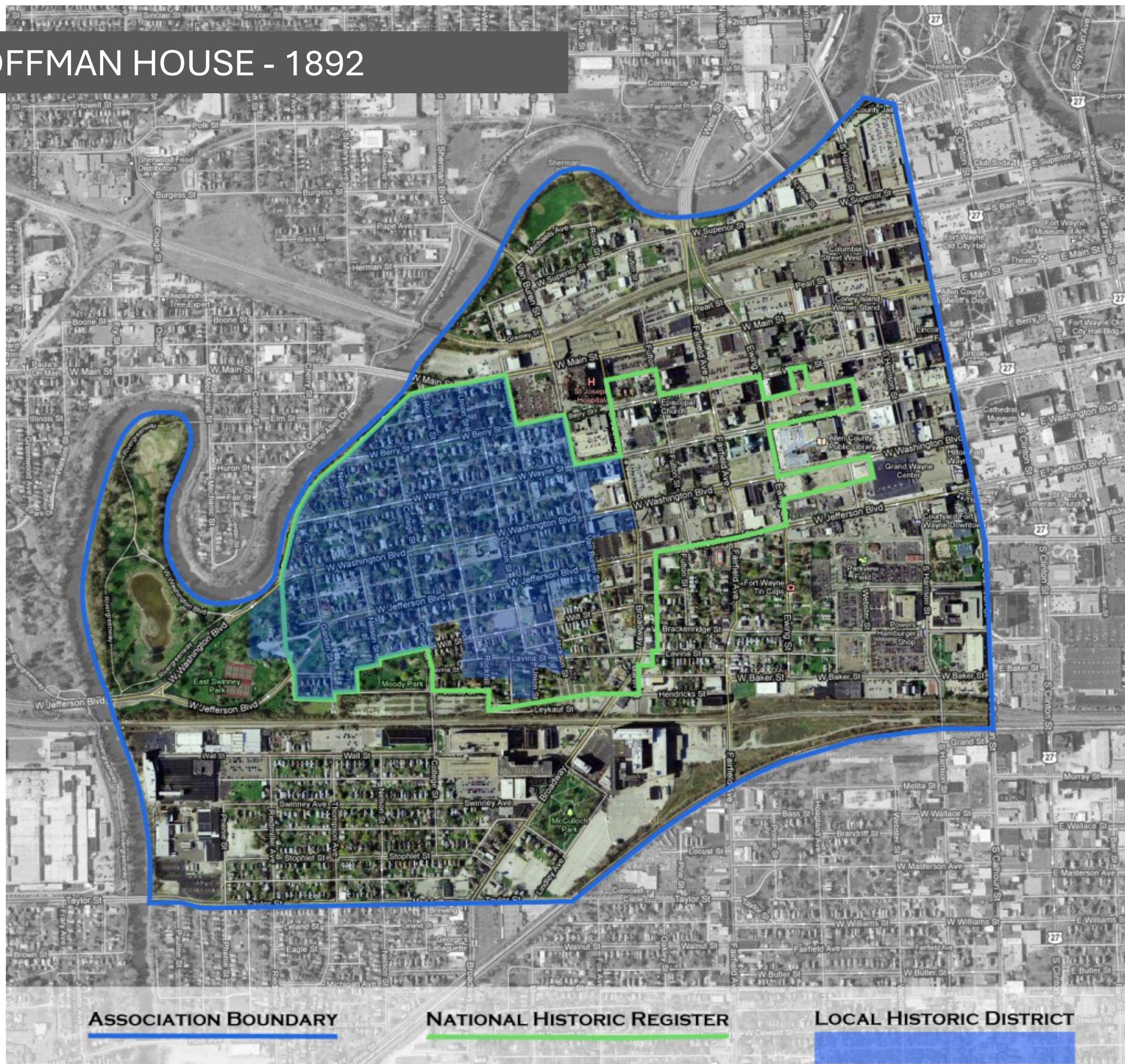
Typical of this style is its rough-cut stone exterior of red brick and sandstone as well as the arched porch openings and floral carvings surrounding the doors and windows. Other exterior details include a parapeted and gabled dormer.

The elegantly designed interior features quarter-sawn oak hardwood parquet floors inlaid with cherry, several ornate fireplace mantels and intricately carved woodwork throughout.

Ely Hoffman was born in New York in 1836. He lived in Virginia in the 1860s and fought for the South in the Civil War. After the war, he moved to Fort Wayne and started the Hoffman Brothers Lumber Company at the corner of Main and Van Buren Streets with his brother William. Ely died in 1913, but his wife Emma continued to live here until her death in 1930.

The house was then used as various residences and offices throughout the 1930s and 1940s. It was purchased by Dr. Joseph Baltes in 1950. He occupied the building for 34 years until renovating the house 1985. It was then occupied by his son, Dr. William E. Baltes, and his wife Marsha. The property has been in the Baltes family for over 60 years.

ELY HOFFMAN HOUSE - 1892



This is from SHAARD, the state's historic inventory.

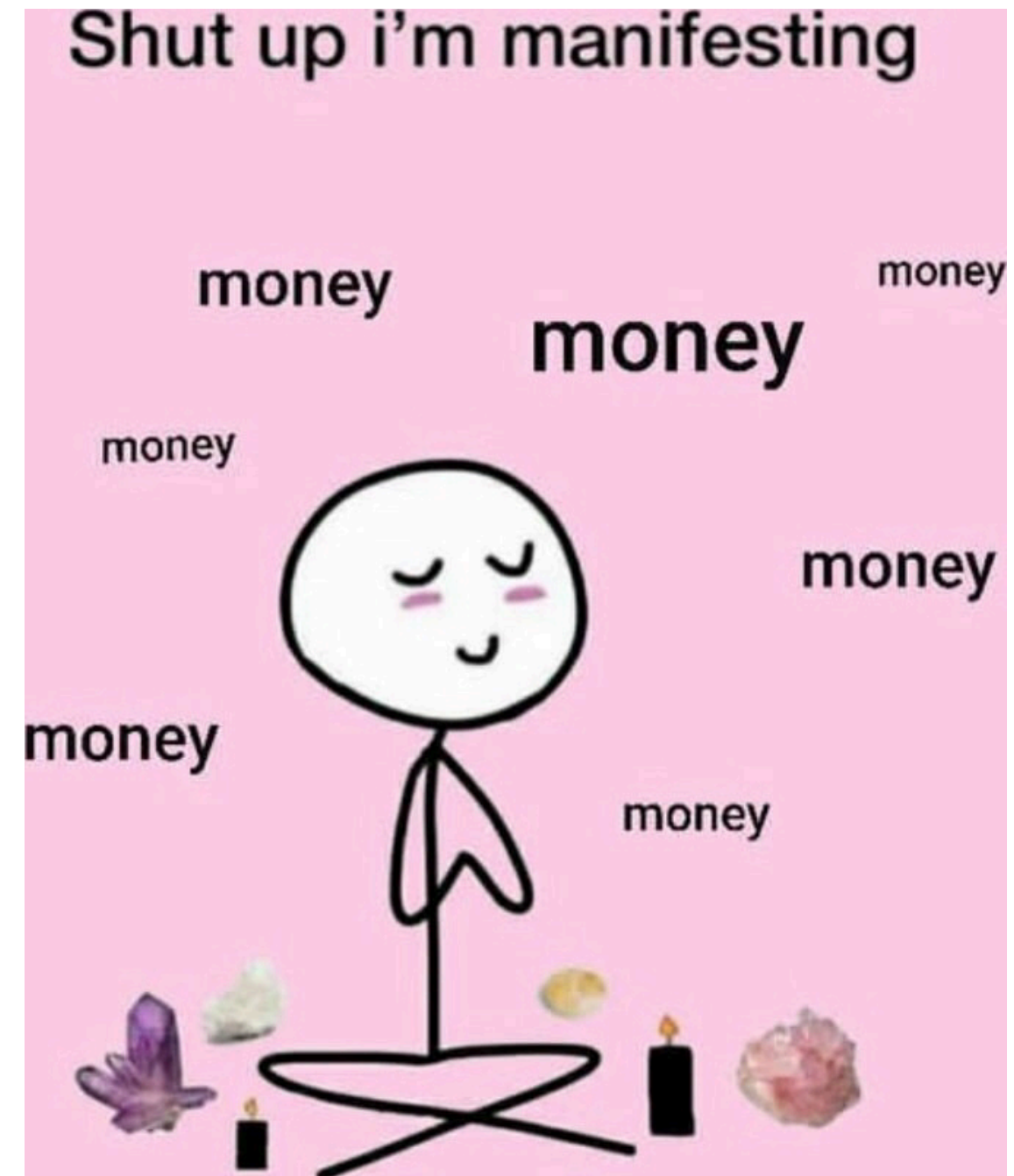
Survey Number: 003-215-32042
“Outstanding”

Ely Hoffman House: “This is a good example of a Richardsonian Romanesque style house. This house is deemed outstanding, because it retains many original features and because any alterations to this house are very early.”

The *Outstanding* rating means:
Outstanding (O): The property has enough historic or architectural significance that it is already listed, or may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. “Outstanding” resources can be of local, state, or national importance.

Q2 Financial Report

Chris Todd, Treasurer



Q2 Financial Report

- \$250,700 in cash and CDs (~\$28,000 set aside for Moody Park)
- Brought in ~\$9,500 and spent ~\$15,300 in the first half of 2026
- Most spending went to Home & Garden Tour, monthly gifts, local art, neighborhood events, and home beautification
- Collected ~\$4,000 in membership dues this year (~\$1,100 more than we had at this point last year + \$800 above our annual budget)
- Total income is about \$4,200 lower than it was at this point last year (main reason: Home & Garden Tour income is ~\$4,500 lower)
- West Central still has strong savings and remains in good financial shape as we head into the second half of the year!

Home Beautification Program

Kelly Benton, VP



Eligibility & Payout

- Soffit, gutter, or porch repair
- Exterior painting (visible from the street/sidewalk)
- Concrete steps and walkway replacement
- Landscaping (on the street/sidewalk side of your house)

Must be current on membership dues

Apply before or within 90 days of completion

We will reimburse 50% of the project, up to \$500.

- Includes supplies, materials, and labor costs (with documentation)

BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



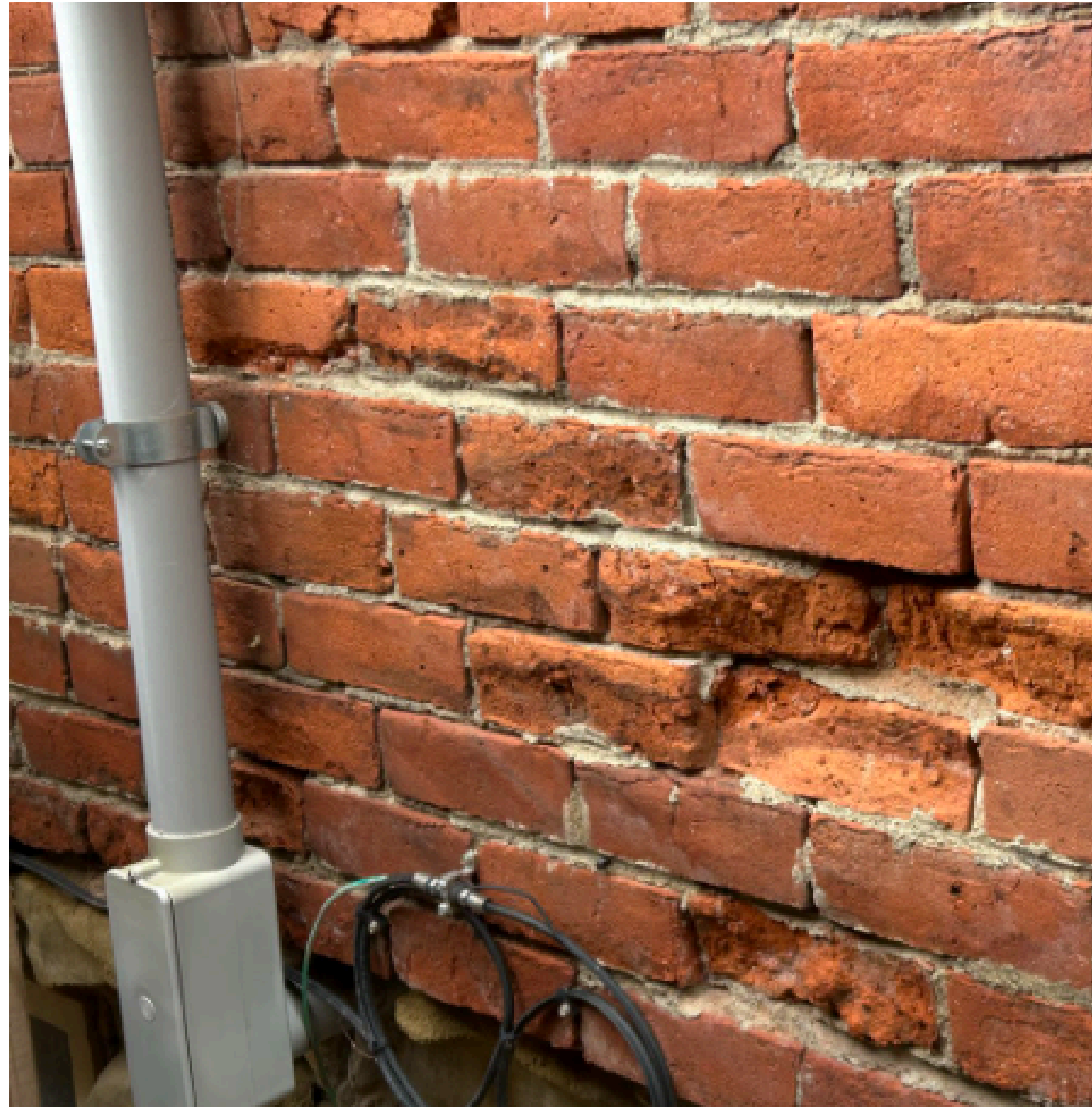
BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



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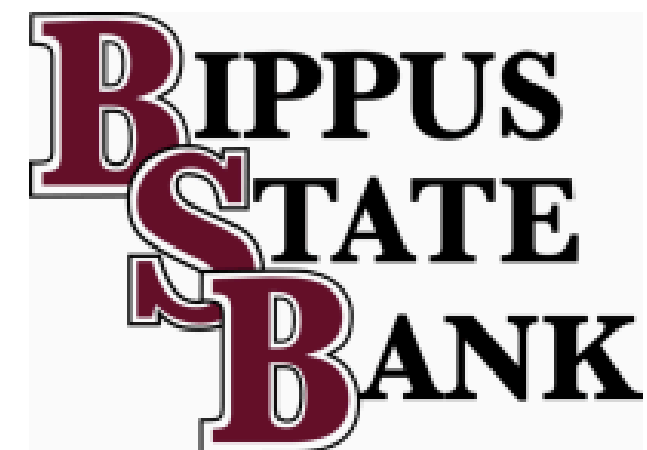


Home & Garden Tour Update

Ryan Benton,
Home Tour Chair



Home & Garden Tour



tour@westcentralneighborhood.org



Stop 1
1133 Garden
(Garden only)



Stop 2
911 Wilt



Stop 3
1020 Jackson



Stop 4
611 W Berry
Trinity Episcopal
Church



**HISTORIC
WEST
CENTRAL™**

Stop 5
835 Van Buren
St. Joseph
Apartments



Stop 6
816 Jackson



Stop 7
1024 W Wayne



Stop 8
1109 W Berry

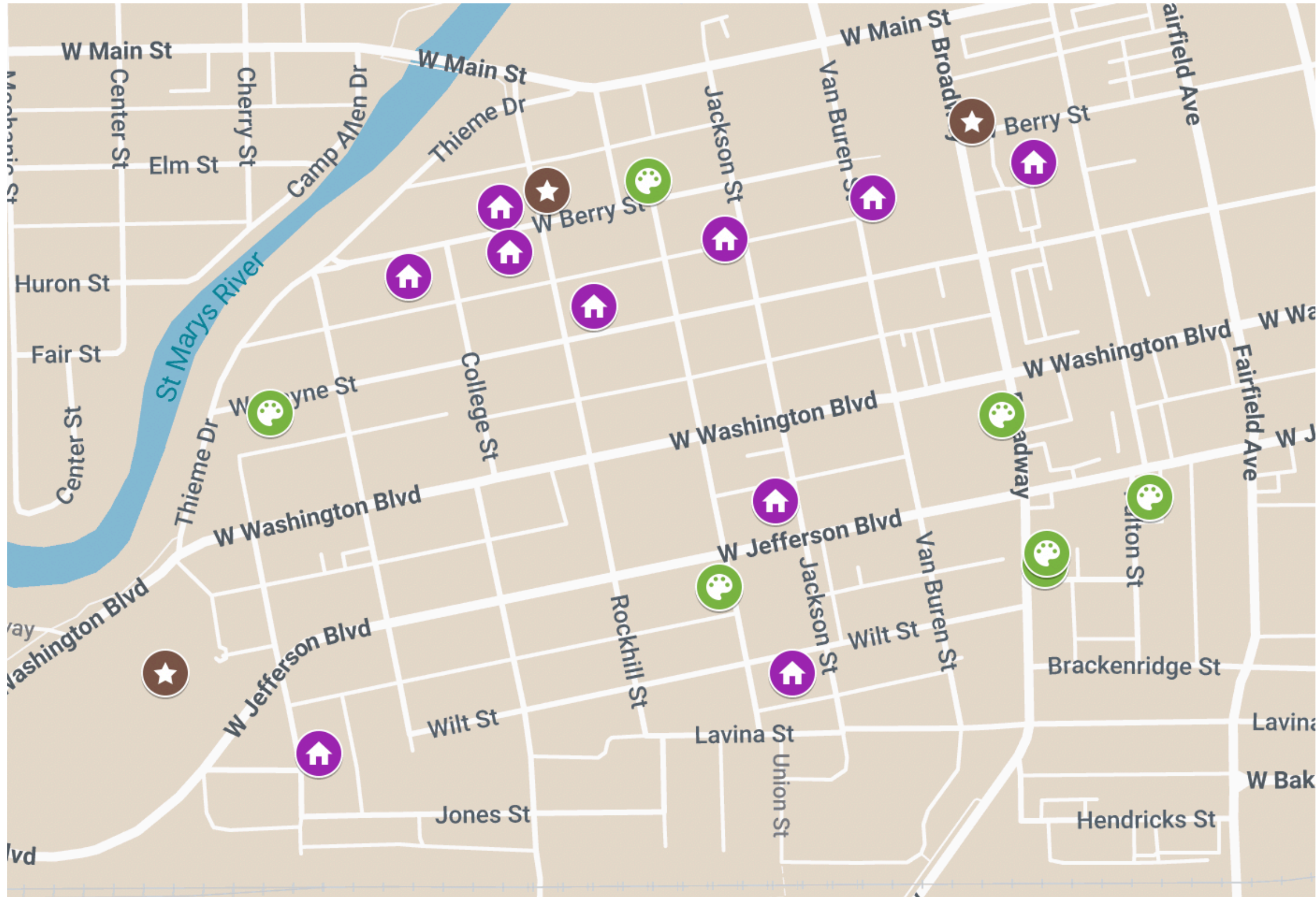


Stop 9
1112 W Wayne



Stop 10
1211 W Wayne





Home & Garden Tour Update

Ryan Benton,
Home Tour Chair

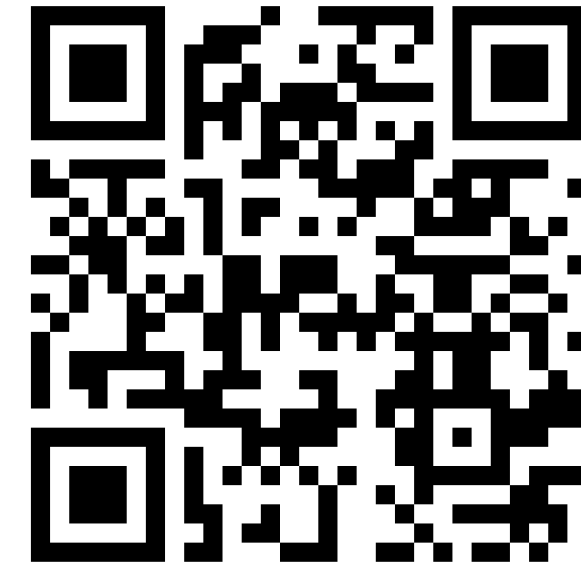


Announcements



Announcements

- Broadway Mural Survey - submit by 7/31 →



- Save the Date:



- Submit vacant homes (address is required, photos and status is welcomed) to vacant@westcentralneighborhood.org

Upcoming Events

Block Party

- THIS WEEKEND! July 25, 11 am - 2 pm at Moody Park
- Powers Hamburgers will serve hamburgers & hotdogs
- Raffle for kids and adults + bounce houses for kids

Home & Garden Tour and ArtsFest

- September 12 & 13

Movie Night

- October 10, 7:30pm at Moody Park
- Movie TBD

July Gift Direction

Monthly \$250 contribution



Monthly Giving

Past Gifts

- May: Wellspring Interfaith
- June: Emmanuel Lutheran food pantry
- July: PBS TV-39
- August: 13th Step House
- October: Arena Dinner Theater
- November: Toys for Tots
- January: Forgotten Stones
- February: Blue Jacket
- March: WBOI
- April: SWAP
- May: Art this Way
- June: PRC Greg Manifold food pantry

Previous suggestions:

- Friends of the Third World
- Humane Fort Wayne
- Community Harvest
- Miss Virginia's Food Pantry

Giving Guidelines

- Must be a charitable organization and/or a charitable activity
- Cannot support a specific ideology
- No political organizations
- Want to try and “spread the love”

Adjourn

Have a great week!

