

# A Stroll Along the Avenues

Indiana Avenue and Michigan Avenue  
La Porte, Indiana

With its beautiful maple trees marking the change of seasons, the Indiana and Michigan Avenue neighborhood charms visitors year round. This walking tour guides viewers on a journey through time, marked with highlights of the history and architecture of LaPorte's premier residential district. This brochure features a sampling of homes that act as an introduction for the entire neighborhood. While enjoying the beauty of this historic area, please respect the privacy of the homeowners.

- 1** La Porte County Public Library  
904 Indiana Avenue  
Neo-classical

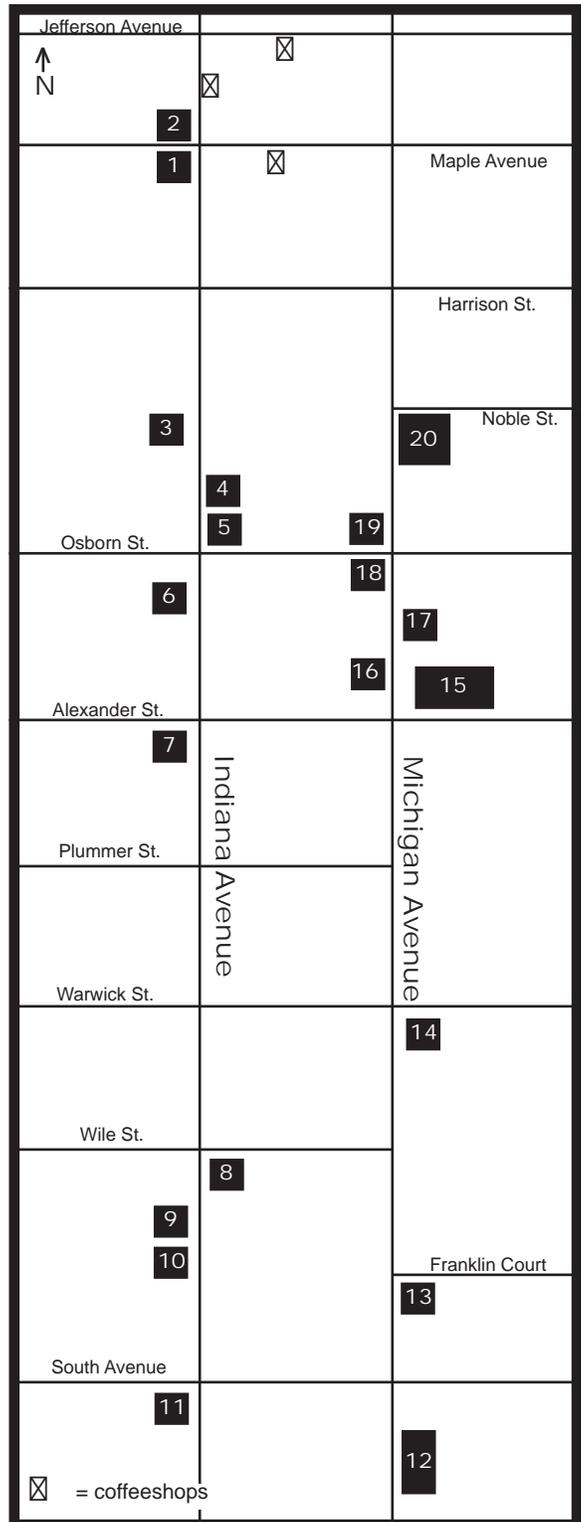


This original Carnegie building opened in 1920. The contractor for the building was Griewank Bros. and Wilson B. Parker was the architect. The building was to be 92'x46' in size, one story and basement type, customary in all Carnegie buildings. A design of colonial classic was adopted for the exterior, following closely the lines and detail of the New England collegiate work with dark red brick and white trimmings, the main portico of detached stone columns with much enrichment of the doorway. The original Carnegie building has been remodeled and expanded several times to accommodate the continually growing number of materials and library users.

- 2** New Church (Swedenborgian)  
812 Indiana Avenue  
1859; Gothic Revival



The church was dedicated on September 11, 1859 in its present location. The original building was Gothic. It was also know as the Church of the New Jerusalem or Swedenborgian Church. During the pastorate of Rev. Frank A. Gustafson (1908-11), the church was razed; the original board and batten was stuccoed and modern heating and plumbing were installed along with other modifications. Memorial windows were installed later.





**3** Fred G. Swan-William J. Anderson House  
1020 Indiana Avenue / c. 1870; Italianate

This house features a heavily bracketed cornice, dentil window hoods, functioning shutters, and cut-out brackets and chamfered posts at the porch. The gable-front orientation is unusual for the Italianate style.



**4** Henry McGill House  
1033 Indiana Avenue / c. 1881; Queen Anne

Originally a simple farmhouse, this house was purchased by Henry McGill, a carpenter-contractor who extensively remodeled the structure in 1881, adding the alternating surface materials - wood clapboards with wood shingles in the gable and a flared ribbon of shingles that form a belt course.



**5** Frank E. Osborn House  
1037 Indiana Avenue / c. 1895; Queen Anne

This home sits on the former site of Mrs. Hailmann's school for kindergarten teachers. Towers dramatize the picturesque roofline, while a variety of windows (some with art-glass) enliven the brick wall surface.



**6** John A. Secor House  
1108 Indiana Avenue / c. 1890; Queen Anne

Asymmetry, a picturesque roofline and a variety of windows, makes this house typical of Queen Anne architecture. Interesting details include shingles in the gable, brackets and knee braces at the soffit, copper finials on the porch gables and the projecting bay in the front gable.



**7** Admiral Royal Rodney Ingersoll House  
1202 Indiana Avenue / 1909; Colonial Revival

Affectionately called "Seven Bells" by the Admiral. In the Navy, this was the time when the watch goes off duty for rest, the significance being that the Admiral had retired and the family had come to live and reside in the newly-erected home. Interior of Georgian Colonial period. Moulding of Early American Colonial type. George Wood Allen, Architect.



**8** Herbert W. Fox House  
1503 Indiana Avenue / c.1903; Prairie

The horizontality of this building with its clean lines and wide roof overhang is typical of the Prairie Style, while the porch supports and the copper downspouts are characteristic of the English Revival Style.



**9** Maurice Fox House  
1508 Indiana Avenue / c. 1923; Classical Revival

The brick house has corner quoins, a limestone beltcourse and keystones. The slate roof rests upon a heavily bracketed cornice. The semi-circular portico has limestone supports with papyrus capitals.



**10** Hervey Lightner House  
1510 Indiana Avenue / c. 1895; Neo-Jacobean

The treatment of the wall surface is particularly interesting on this brick structure, with its limestone highlights and diverse collection of arches and openings. The bay window is very intriguing with two small fluted columns and a flared copper roof. The picturesque roofline has a through-cornice dormer and parapet gables capped with limestone and finials.



**11** Hobart M. Cable House  
1600 Indiana Avenue / c. 1925; Colonial Revival

The elaborate entry of the Hobart Cable House has an arched opening flanked by fluted pilasters with Ionic capitals. The immense building is contained at its ends by massive brick chimneys that

split the gable and make way for the quarter-round windows.



**12**

### Ruth C. Sabin Home

1603 Michigan Avenue / 1888 and 1889; Queen Anne

As a widow, Ruth Sabin built this home so that she and other women like her could live together. Features of this structure include: heavy brick massing, vertical windows, jack arches and corbelling at the cornice. It was designed by John M. VanOsdel, Chicago's first architect who was the architect for La Porte County's second courthouse. Obadiah Evory was the contractor.



**13**

### Dr. David H. Reeder House

1537 Michigan Avenue / c. 1907; Tudor Revival

Most noteworthy of this house is the integrity maintained by the architect with his use of natural materials-the fieldstone base, the stucco and wood wall, and the tile roof. The half-timbering and the English window tracery show early Tudor Revival influence.



**14**

### Orren G. Fox House

1501 Michigan Avenue / 1894; Queen Anne/Free Classic

The Fox House's sweeping veranda has a spindle balustrade, Doric wood posts, and an elaborate bracketed frieze. This motif repeats on the second level with a cartouche above the entry and garlands above the windows, many of which are glazed with art-glass. Orren G. Fox was no relation to Herbert W. or Maurice Fox.



**15**

### First United Methodist Church

1225 Michigan Avenue / 1928; Gothic Revival

George Wood Allen designed this cut stone church trimmed in limestone. The buttresses, pointed arches, and vertical tracery typify Gothic architecture. Contractor: Larson-Danielson Construction



**16**

### William A. Martin House

1226 Michigan Avenue / c. 1885; Queen Anne / Eastlake

This residence displays how a simple wood frame can be made elaborate with applied ornament. Representative of the Eastlake style is the incised decoration in the gable and chamfered porch supports.



**17**

### Francis Morrison House

1217 Michigan Avenue / c. 1900; Queen Anne / Free Classic

The American Four-Square is a popular house type in La Porte. The Morrison House - with a Palladian dormer, stucco and half-timbering and rococo brackets - demonstrates how eclecticism can individualize these houses. The two-story sleeping porch with its elaborate wood tracery was added c. 1920.



**18**

### Pulaski King House

1200 Michigan Avenue / 1865/1903; Italianate/Colonial Revival

Built in 1865 on the southwest corner of Michigan Avenue and Osborn Street (also known as King's Alley). Remodeled in 1903 into a Colonial Revival type building by architect George Wood Allen. The original brick structure with evenly spaced vertical windows and limestone lintils and sills was modernized with a two-story porch and a continuous cornice with dentil work. The porch has a rusticated stone base and Ionic supports.



**19**

### Dr. William Nicholas Hailmann House

1118 Michigan Avenue / c. 1880; Shingle

One of several houses of this type in the area, this is covered in wood shingles; even the balustrade, above which are paired columns. An intriguing chimney rises from the steeply pitched roof, a roof reflective of Dr. Hailmann's Swiss origins. Henry McGill was the carpenter-contractor.



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### St. Peter Catholic Church

1101 Michigan Avenue / 1930; French Romanesque

First church built 1853/1854. Present church was dedicated November 27, 1930 on the southeast corner of Michigan Avenue and Noble Street. Outstanding feature of the exterior is the two 72' towers, topped by two golden crosses. Munich stained glass windows were gradually acquired. Ten windows above the sanctuary tell the story of the seven Sacraments. Other windows also depict various religious events.

#### Architectural Terms

chamfer 1. a flat surface made by cutting off the edge or corner of a block of wood or other material.  
 2. a furrow or groove, as in a column.  
 corbel any bracket, especially one of brick or stone, usually of slight extent.  
 dentil one of a series of closely spaced rectangular blocks that form a molding.  
 Doric noting a style of ancient Greek architecture characterized by massive, fluted shafts with simple capitals.  
 finial a small, ornamental, terminal feature at the top of a gable, piece of furniture, etc.

Ionic noting a style of ancient Greek architecture characterized by slender, scroll-shaped capitals.  
 massing overall volume occupied by a building or other construction  
 pediment a low, triangular gable on the front of an ancient Greek building or a building modeled on its style.  
 pilasters a shallow, rectangular feature projecting from a wall, usually imitating the form of a column.  
 portico a roof covered structure supported by rows of columns and attached to a building.  
 quoin 1. an external, solid angle of a wall. 2. one of the stones forming it. 3. a wedge shaped piece of wood or stone.

If you would like to enjoy a cup of coffee or a sandwich, there are three places you can visit in the neighborhood.

*Their locations are marked on the map with the symbol of a coffee cup.*

**Indiana Deli / 805 Indiana Avenue**

**Karmel Coffee / 808 Maple Avenue**

**Temple News Agency / 816 Jefferson Avenue**

**You are invited to visit LaPorte's lovely downtown, where you will find several restaurants.**

## Visit the new La Porte County Historical Society Museum!



The LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, one of the finest in Indiana, is located south of town at 2405 Indiana Avenue. Items of interest are the W.A. Jones Collection of antique weapons, a display of folklore about the infamous murderess Belle Gunness, prehistoric artifacts, the automobile collection of Dr. Peter and Charlene Kesling, 15 period room exhibits, and thousands of unique antiques and photos. Visit [www.laportecountyhistory.org](http://www.laportecountyhistory.org) or call 219-324-6767.

Open Tuesday-Saturday from 10am to 4:30pm

Admission Charge:

- \$3 for LaPorte County Adult Residents, Children/Students 12-17, and commercial bus tour participants
- \$5 for out-of-county adults
- FREE for children under 12, La Porte County Historical Society, Inc. members, Time Traveler affiliates, and school tours

## Architecture

The development of the Indiana and Michigan Avenue area as a prominent neighborhood led to a collection of homes unequalled throughout the city of La Porte. The parallel streets make up one of the main arterial routes into the city and contain an exquisite collection of eclectic architecture ranging from the Italianate style popular in the 1860s and 1870s, to the various revival styles popular in the early 20th century.

The best way to experience the collection of architecture found in this historic homes district is to look at the detail of the individual structures. Taken as a whole, the housing stock creates a substantial, cohesive residential feel. Separately, these structures reveal the individuality of the owners.

As you walk the avenues, look for the paneled gable decoration, round arch columns, stained glass windows, projecting brackets and a variety of wrought iron grillwork. Notice how the style of the houses in the northern part of the area have elevations broken into sections with towers, bay windows and projecting porches. The revival styles in the southern section are more linear and flat, often with simple classical decoration.

## History of the Area

Attracted by the beauty of the countryside and by the opportunity to acquire inexpensive farm land, settlers began arriving as early as 1829. In 1832, the city of La Porte (French for “the door”) was established, so named because it marked the transition from forest to prairie. The community quickly grew into its position as the county seat.

As the stature of certain members of the community increased, and as colorful new citizens arrived, Indiana and Michigan Avenues developed as a prominent neighborhood. Today, the beautifully crafted homes stand as a glimpse into 19th century La Porte, and as a reminder of the residents’ social positions and intriguing lives.

John Secor, for instance, invented the revolutionary Rumely OilPull tractor. Dr. David Reeder, an early health practitioner, was first associated with the Interlaken Sanitarium, where patients were treated with mineral baths and opium cures. He used his home for the Home Health Club in 1899. In 1883, a learned Swiss immigrant, Dr. William Nicholas Hailmann, became the Superintendent of La Porte Schools. He established “public” kindergarten in La Porte in 1888.

Meanwhile, La Porte’s manufacturing industry was booming. Great Western Manufacturing Company (whose president E. Julius Lonn lived at 1303 Michigan Avenue) produced up to 20,000 bicycles annually at the turn of the century. The Cable Piano Manufacturing Company turned out 20 pianos a day from 1903 to 1933, and the Samuel Fox Woolen Mills kept La Porteans warm with knitted clothes. The John Hilt Lake Ice Company (William S. Martin, president) had storage houses on Pine and Fish Trap lakes, where ice could be preserved throughout the summer. Ice was shipped as far away as Georgia.

*Produced by*

La Porte County Public Library  
904 Indiana Avenue, La Porte, IN 46350 / 219-362-6156 / [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

La Porte Historic Preservation Commission  
801 Michigan Avenue, La Porte, IN 46350

People Engaged in Preservation  
Box 853, La Porte, IN 46350 / [www.peplaporte.org](http://www.peplaporte.org)

La Porte County Historical Society Museum  
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Photographs by Jan Baumer