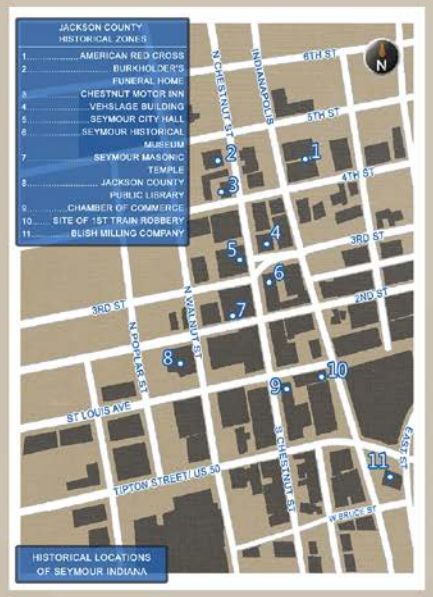
LJC

Leadership Jackson County



LEADERSHIP JACKSON COUNTY

IS AN ORGANIZATION WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO BUILD A FOUNDATION OF INFORMED, CONNECTED AND ACTION ORIENTED CITIZENS. THIS PURPOSE IS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY ALUMNI IN COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROBLEMS. THE CORE ELEMENT OF OUR PROGRAM IS A NINE-MONTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM DESIGNED TO DEVELOP AND ENHANCE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP BY PROVIDING MEANS FOR MEN AND WOMEN FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS TO ASSUME A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS.

SPECIAL THANKS TO: BEN ECKERT, DICKSONS, DREW MARKEL, SHELLEY HANSOME AND SEYMOUR MAIN STREET

GUIDED WALKING TOUR

SEYMOUR MAIN STREET

1.) 410 INDIANAPOLIS AVENUE

JACKSON COUNTY CHAPTER, AMERICAN RED CROSS, IS SEYMOUR'S OLDEST BUILDING STILL STANDING. THE RESIDENCE WAS BUILT IN 1853 BY TRAVIS CARTER. CARTER WAS SEYMOUR'S FIRST POSTMASTER, OPERATING THE POST OFFICE IN AN UPSTAIRS BEDROOM FROM 1853-1854.

2.) 419 NORTH CHESTNUT STREET

BURKHOLDER'S FUNERAL HOME WAS BUILT IN THE LATE 1890S. THIS HOUSE WAS THE FIRST IN SEYMOUR TO HAVE ELECTRICITY. THIS HOUSE WAS ORIGINALLY BUILT AS THE RESIDENCE OF MEEDY S. BLISH, WHO WITH HIS BROTHER, TIPTON, OWNED THE BLISH MILLING COMPANY. THE RESIDENCE WAS PURCHASED AND RESTORED BY VICTOR BURKHOLDER IN 1963, AND TRANSFORMED INTO A FUNERAL HOME.

3.) 401 NORTH CHESTNUT STREET

THE CHESTNUT MOTOR INN WAS ORIGINALLY BUILT AS THE HOME OF TIPTON S. BLISH , CO-FOUNDER OF THE BLISH MILLING COMPANY. IN THE 1940S, THE BUILDING BECAME THE SEYMOUR HOTEL, AND IN THE 1960S, IT BECAME THE CHESTNUT MOTOR INN.

4.) 300 NORTH CHESTNUT STREET

VEHSLAGE BUILDING, FORMERLY, ODD FELLOWS HALL, WAS BUILT IN 1882 FOR A COST OF $8,000. THE LETTERS I.O.O.F (INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS) ARE STILL FAINTLY VISIBLE ON THE BRICKS OF THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE BUILDING. HENRY VEHSLAGE PURCHASED THE FIRST TWO FLOORS IN 1889. RENOVATIONS IN 1924 INCLUDED RAISING THE ENTIRE BUILDING 3 FEET WITH JACKS TO ALLOW THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW HEATING BOILER. THIS BUILDING IS NOW RETAIL SPACE.

5.) 309 N. CHESTNUT STREET

SEYMOUR CITY HALL, FORMERLY THE SOUTHERN INDIANA TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH (SIT&T) BUILDING, WAS BUILT BY W.J. ABRAHAM & SONS IN 1929. IT WAS RUMORED THAT THE COST OF PURCHASING THE EXTERIOR TERRA COTTA TILES NEARLY LED TO THE SIT&T COMPANY GOING BANKRUPT.

6.) 220 NORTH CHESTNUT STREET

FUTURE HOME OF THE SEYMOUR HISTORICAL MUSEUM, FORMERLY, THE FEDERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, WAS BUILT IN 1918. THE POST OFFICE WAS CONNECTED BY A TUNNEL TO A LIVERY STABLE TO ITS EAST, TO ALLOW MAIL TO BE TAKEN TO THE BUGGIES IN WHICH IT WAS DELIVERED. THE BUILDING HAS ALSO SERVED AS SEYMOUR CITY HALL AND THE SEYMOUR POLICE STATION.

7.) 210 WEST SECOND STREET

SEYMOUR MASONIC TEMPLE (JACKSON LODGE NO. 146, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS) WAS BUILT BY THE TRAVIS CARTER COMPANY IN 1901. THE TEMPLE WAS DEDICATED ON DECEMBER 2, 1901. IN 1979, LODGE #146 MOVED TO A NEW BUILDING AT 1818 N. EWING STREET. THE BUILDING IS NOW RETAIL SPACE.

8.) 303 WEST SECOND STREET

JACKSON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY WAS BUILT IN 1904 FOR THE COST OF $10,000 OBTAINED VIA A CARNEGIE GRANT. SEYMOUR RECEIVED THE GRANT IN 1903 AND THE LIBRARY BUILDING WAS COMPLETED BY THE TRAVIS CARTER CO. IN 1905. THE BUILDING WAS RENOVATED AND EXPANDED IN 1928, 1992, AND 2005. THE ORIGINAL ENTRANCE, WHICH FACES 2ND ST., IS NOW A GARDEN FEATURE.

9.) 105 SOUTH CHESTNUT STREET

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING, FORMERLY, THE FARMER'S CLUB BUILDING, WAS BUILT IN 1914 FOR $40,000 BY MEEDY AND TIPTON SHIELDS (BLISH MILLING HEIRS) IN HONOR OF THEIR GRANDFATHER, MEEDY W. SHIELDS, SEYMOUR'S FOUNDER. THIS BUILDING WAS ORIGINALLY USED AS A PLACE FOR AREA FARMERS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO SOCIALIZE, ESPECIALLY DURING HARVEST SEASONS, WHEN THERE WERE LONG LINES AT THE MILL FOR GRAIN PROCESSING. PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY VISITED THE BUILDING ON APRIL 29, 1960 DURING HIS PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

10.) THE CORNER OF INDANAPOLIS AND ST. LOUIS STREETS

SEYMOUR TRAIN DEPOT-SITE OF THE FIRST TRAIN ROBBERY. AFTER A TWO-YEAR CRIME SPREE, ON THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 6, 1866, JOHN AND SIMEON RENO, ALONG WITH A MAN NAMED FRANK SPARKS, BOARDED THE EASTBOUND OHIO & MISSISSIPPI TRAIN AT THE SEYMOUR DEPOT. ONCE ON BOARD, THE THREE MASKED MEN MADE THEIR WAY TO THE EXPRESS CAR, HELD A GUN ON THE MESSENGER AND STOLE SOME $12,000. AFTERWARDS, THEY PULLED THE BELL ROPE TO SIGNAL THE ENGINEER TO STOP THE TRAIN AND JUMPED OFF INTO THE DARKNESS WHEN THE TRAIN SLOWED. OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, A NUMBER OF THE GANG MEMBERS WERE CAPTURED. VIGILANTES LYNCHED SIX GANG MEMBERS IN TWO SEPARATE INCIDENTS IN SEYMOUR, AT WHAT HAS BECOME KNOWN AS HANGMAN CROSSING. BECAUSE OF THE LYNCHINGS, OTHER GANG MEMBERS ARRESTED WERE SENT TO THE FLOYD COUNTY JAIL IN NEW ALBANY, INDIANA. ON DECEMBER 11, 1868, 65 MEN TRAVELLED TO NEW ALBANY BY TRAIN, SHOT THE SHERIFF IN THE ARM, AND FORCED THE SHERIFF'S WIFE TO GIVE THEM THE JAIL KEYS. THEY LYNCHED 4 ADDITIONAL GANG MEMBERS, INCLUDING FRANK RENO AND CHARLIE ANDERSON.

11.) EAST ST. BETWEEN U.S. HWY. 50 AND W. BRUCE ST.

FOUNDED BY MEEDY AND TIPTON BLISH IN 1858, THE MILLING COMPANY OPERATED AT THIS SITE UNTIL A FEW YEARS BEFORE ITS DEMOLITION IN 1976. THE MILL PRIDED ITSELF ON THE PRODUCTION OF "COLONIAL FLOUR – AMERICA'S FINEST FLOUR." THE GIANT CONCRETE BINS STAND AS A MONUMENT TO THIS PIONEER INDIANA INDUSTRY.