



## DNR Honors Historic Preservation and Archaeology Standouts

*The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (DHPA) presents awards annually to recognize outstanding efforts in historic preservation and archaeology. As the State Historic Preservation Office, the DNR DHPA oversees the federally funded Historic Preservation Fund grant program, the federal Reinvestment Historic Tax Credit program, and the state's Historic Homeowner Tax Credit program. The agency also functions as Indiana's central repository for historic structure and archaeological site records.*

*The awards will be presented by Beth McCord, the director of the DHPA, and the rest of the division's staff at local award ceremonies this fall. The following will receive the Indiana Historic Preservation Award:*

### Cheryl Ann Munson

Indiana Archaeology Award



Cheryl Ann Munson (B.A. University of Arizona, 1965; M.A., University of Illinois, 1971) is an archaeologist and Research Scientist Emerita in the Department of Anthropology, Indiana University-Bloomington. She is receiving this award in recognition of her many decades of important archaeological research and field investigations at Indiana sites as well as her contributions to archaeological outreach in our state and others.

Much of her work has been concentrated on cultural resource management projects, including investigations at Patoka Lake, a series of buried sites along the Ohio River, the Southwind site, and hundreds of smaller projects.

Understanding the last precontact cultures to inhabit southern Indiana and the Ohio Valley has been her research focus and led to the definition of the late Mississippian Caborn-Welborn phase (AD 1400-1650). She directed or co-directed investigations at numerous Mississippian sites—including Hovey Lake, Caborn, Slack Farm, Murphy, Bone Bank, and Prather—as well as the archaeological study of Wyandotte Cave. Munson also teamed with other archaeologists and volunteers to present a widely recognized public education program that was held over many years at the Hovey Lake archaeological site, where they introduced scientific archaeology and archaeological ethics to thousands of children and adults.

# The Powers Church and Cemetery Association

Indiana Historic Preservation Award for Outstanding Grant-Assisted Rehabilitation



The Powers Church and Cemetery Association will receive the Indiana Historic Preservation Award for Outstanding Grant-Assisted Rehabilitation Award for rehabilitation of the bell tower and steeple of the Powers Church. The church is named after the four Powers brothers who settled in York Township in the late 1830s. The area became a thriving community, centered around a sawmill, a general store, a grist mill, and the Powers Church, built in 1876. By the 1920s, the village was dwindling, and the church was closed and abandoned. The Powers Church and Cemetery Association acquired the building in 1976 and opened the doors to a time capsule: original woodwork and wallpaper, light fixtures, wood stove, clock, and pump organ were all remarkably intact. Over the next 40-plus years, the Association and the Powers Church Restoration Committee have been dedicated to preserving, maintaining, and sharing the unique rural resource. In 2019, the Association applied for a Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grant to assist with the rehabilitation of the steeple and bell tower. The construction of these features is unusual in that they are structurally incorporated into the main church, rather than separately framed and attached.

The deterioration of the wood steeple was allowing water infiltration and rot to set in. The octagonal steeple structure was reinforced, and the scalloped ribs and siding were replaced. The louvers, siding, molding, and decorative scrollwork on lower levels of the tower were also replaced. The metal roof and flashing on the upper level was replaced, and the two circular windows were inspected, recaulked, and repainted.

The picturesque church is popular for weddings, family reunions, and other gatherings. The Association also hosts several non-denominational services throughout the year, despite the lack of electricity or indoor heating or plumbing. The remarkable condition and upkeep of the property is due to the tireless and dedicated volunteers of the Powers Church Association and Restoration Committee. For the last 40 years, they have relied on donations of money and time to maintain and operate the church. The HPF grant helped secure the building for continued preservation, use and enjoyment, but the credit truly goes to the members of the local community who have been such careful stewards of this exceptional place.

The Powers Church received a \$25,000 grant from the federal Historic Preservation Fund of the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, which was administered for Indiana by the DNR DHPA. The federal funds were matched with \$27,000 from the Association.

## Garfield Park Neighbors Beautification & Walkability Committee

Indiana Historic Preservation Award for Efforts to Preserve the Garfield Drive Historic District



The Garfield Park Neighbors Beautification & Walkability Committee in Indianapolis will receive the 2022 Preservation Award for National Register of Historic Places efforts from the Preservation Services section of the DHPA. The group marshalled the National Register nomination of the Garfield Drive Historic District through public meetings, research, writing, mapping, and photography, all on their own. Led by resident Ed Berry, the group persisted through Covid restrictions, contacting the DHPA staff through email, phone, and porch delivery. Their efforts are a model grassroots effort in education, promotion, and self-help for neighborhoods interested in the National Register of Historic Places.

The multi-year effort resulted in the listing of the Garfield Drive Historic District. Bordered by Raymond Street, Shelby Street, East Garfield Drive, and South Garfield Drive, the district also includes the rowhouse apartments at Bradbury and Shelby. It includes over 200 historic houses within its borders. The greatest influence on the development of the neighborhood was undoubtedly Garfield Park, immediately south of the district. The Citizens Street Railway trolley line on Shelby Street and the city's improvements in the park made the lands nearby highly suitable for home building. Between 1905 and 1913, all the land of the district was platted, with a reshuffling of lots in one section in 1924. Builders filled the streets with bungalows, American Four Squares, Colonial Revival, and Tudor Revival houses, mostly between 1910 and 1940. Shelby Street naturally became the commercial corridor, and it includes a former firehouse that served the community. The district is a significant example of how transportation and the Kessler Park & Boulevard Plan of 1909 helped shape the growth of Indianapolis.

*To view all DNR news releases, please see [dnr.IN.gov](https://dnr.IN.gov).*