

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle—

Historic Buildings Reborn

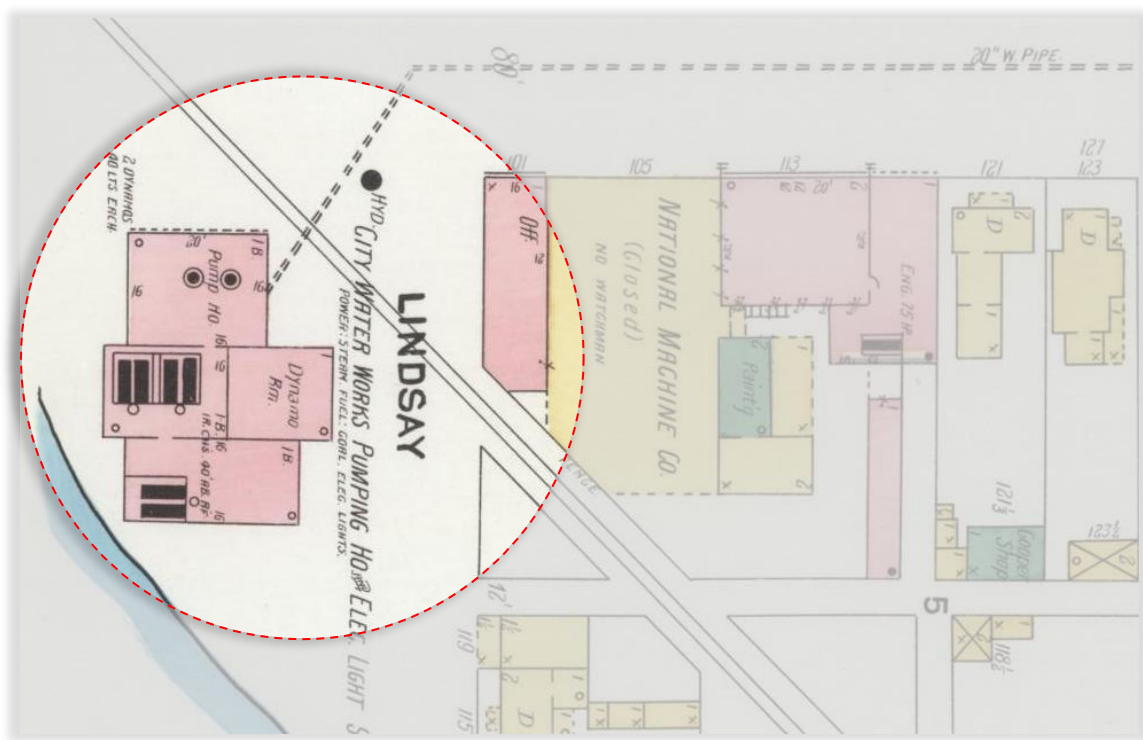
Part One: Columbus Pump House

By Miriam Burkett, Historic Structures Reviewer
Indiana DNR Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology



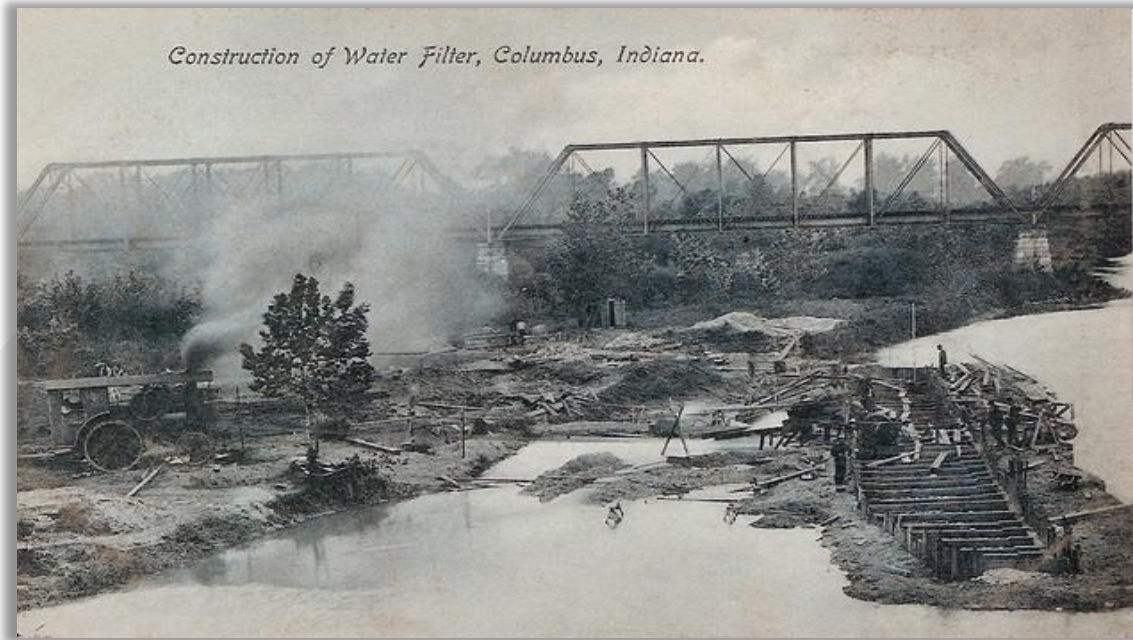
Adaptive reuse continues to be one of the most successful ways to preserve historic buildings. Often buildings end up being utilized by a business or organization that is very different from its original use. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation allow for this so long as changes to the distinctive materials features, spaces and spatial relationships are minimal. Preserving the built environment is a vital component to maintaining the architectural heritage of a community. Once a building is gone, it is gone. It is as simple, and often as complex, as that. In this series, we will highlight different historic buildings across the state that have been saved by finding new uses.

The Columbus Pump House, previously known as the Columbus Power House, City Water Works, and the Senior Center, was designed by architect Harrison Albright and completed by 1903. It is located on the banks of the East Fork of the White River adjacent to 2nd Street. Harrison Albright, an American architect, was best known for his design of the West Baden Springs Hotel in Orange County, Indiana.



Above: City Water Works Pumping House and Electric Light Station; Sanborn Fire Insurance Map; September 1906;
(Credit: Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division, Sanborn Maps Collection)

Prior to the construction of the Columbus Pump House, there was an existing building at this location that was also utilized as a pumping station by the City of Columbus. With a larger footprint, Albright constructed the new Pump House over the original wooden "Holly Works" structure. Albright's building was occupied by the city water works department until 1951 and pumped water from the river for use by the citizens of Columbus.



Above: Construction of the original 1903 water filter in Columbus, Indiana. (Wikipedia)



Above: Water Works, Columbus, Indiana, c. 1910, (From Indiana Album: John D. Rondot Collection)



Above: Interior of the main room of the Columbus Pump House in 2013, (Photo by Richard McCoy, Wikipedia)

The building was sold by the city in 1952 and was renovated to become the Southern Machine Company. Later, in 1976 the building was once again renovated and became the Senior Center. It remained the Senior Center until 2011.



Above: Upland Brewing Company Interior, 2018



Above: Upland Brewing Company, March 2024

Thankfully, the building did not sit vacant for long. Upland Brewing decided in 2016 to open a location in Columbus and chose this building to house their Columbus Brewpub. The building was rehabilitated to accommodate this new use as a brewhouse and restaurant, including a kitchen, banquet space, private meeting area, and exterior patio. Care was taken to preserve the significant features of the building such as the archways separating the historic interior spaces. With a few exceptions, the Pump House's exterior appears much as it did when it was originally constructed. Not only has this rehabilitation given a new purpose to a formerly vacant underutilized structure, but it has also ensured that the building will remain standing for years to come.



Above: Upland Brewing Company, March 2024