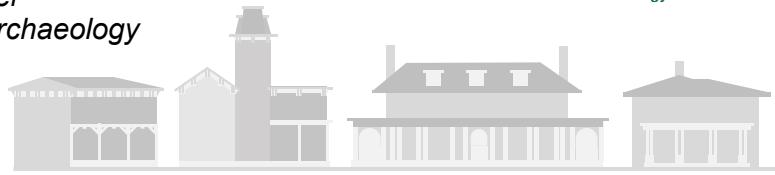


# Indiana's Vice-Presidential Heritage

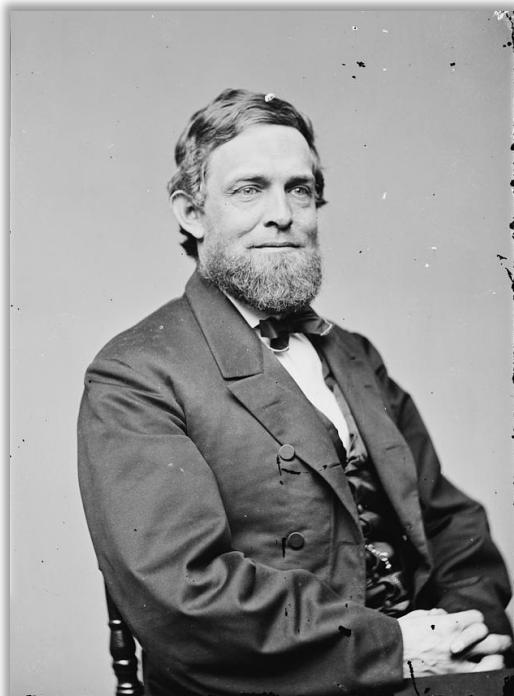
By Kim Marie Padgett, Historic Structures Reviewer  
Indiana DNR Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology



A total of 50 people have served in the Office of the Vice President of the United States of America since the United States Constitution went into effect in 1789. The Vice President's primary responsibility is to assume the role of President of the United States if the President is unable to perform their duties. The Vice President also serves as the President of the United States Senate.

Indiana has a rich political history affiliated with three United States Presidents and six Vice Presidents, second only in number to the state of New York's eleven Vice Presidents. Indiana was historically considered a swing state which is one reason why there have been so many Hoosier candidates. You may already know of **J. Danforth Quayle** from Huntington (44<sup>th</sup> Vice President under George H.W. Bush, 1989-1993) and **Michael R. Pence** from Columbus (48<sup>th</sup> Vice President under Donald J. Trump, 2017-2021). However, did you know that Indiana is home to historic sites associated with Vice Presidents **Schuyler Colfax** (South Bend), **Thomas A. Hendricks** (Shelbyville), **Charles W. Fairbanks** (Indianapolis), and **Thomas R. Marshall** (Columbia City)?

## No.17



### Schuyler Colfax

(b.1823- d.1885) served as the 17<sup>th</sup> Vice President under President Ulysses S. Grant from 1869-1873. Originally from New York City, Schuyler Colfax's father died before he was born. At the age of 13, his mom remarried and the family moved to New Carlisle, Indiana. By age 18, Colfax was working alongside his stepfather (George Matthews, St. Joseph County Auditor) as deputy auditor, beginning his political career. Colfax became a correspondent for the Indiana State Journal and in 1845 became part owner of the South Bend Free Press, renaming it St. Joseph Valley Register. In 1850, he was a member of the Indiana Constitutional Convention and in 1854 was elected to the United States House of Representatives. By 1863, Colfax served as Speaker of the House until his Vice Presidency tenure.

Schuyler Colfax purchased an Italianate-style home at the northwest corner of Taylor Street and Market Street (renamed Colfax Avenue) in South Bend from Reverend Moore of the First Presbyterian Church. A portion of the house can be seen on an 1891 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. Later, Colfax's son,

*Above: Hon. Schuyler Colfax of Ind., Between 1855 and 1865, Photograph from Brady-Handy photograph collection, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.*

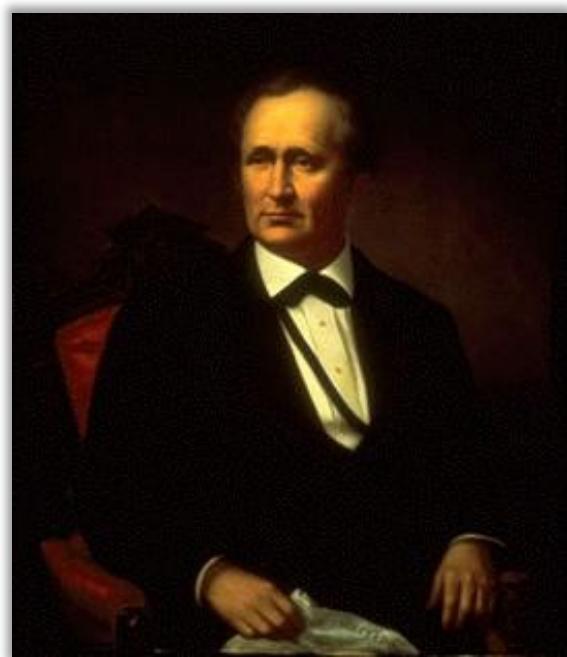
South Bend Mayor Schuyler Colfax III, sold the property to F.C. Raff who demolished the home for the now extant Progress Club building. It is believed that architectural elements of the razed Colfax home were used to construct F.C. Raff's Italian Renaissance Revival house next door. The former Colfax home site is located within the West Washington Historic District and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. In 1966, the property was dedicated with an Indiana Historical Marker by the Indiana Sesquicentennial Commission.



**Above Left:** Photo of Schuyler Colfax Residence, c. 1900, Photo from The History Museum, Colfax Collection



**Above Right:** 1891 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, showing the residence of Schuyler Colfax; from Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division, Sanborn Maps Collection.



**Above:** Portrait of Thomas Andrews Hendricks by artist William R. Freeman, Photo from Indiana Historical Bureau.

# No. 21

## Thomas A. Hendricks

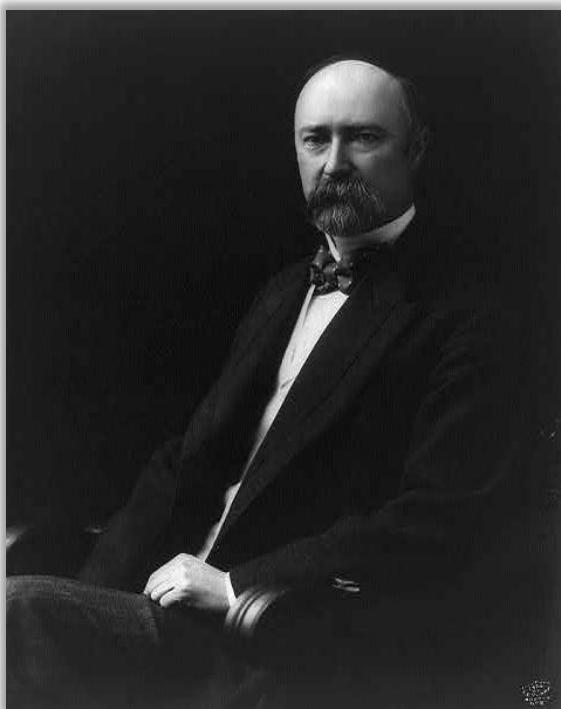
(b.1819 – d.1885) served as the 21<sup>st</sup> Vice President under President Grover Cleveland in 1885. Hendricks was born near Zanesville, Ohio and as a child moved with his family to Madison, Indiana and later to Shelbyville. He attended Hanover College in 1841 then studied law in Pennsylvania. Hendricks passed the Indiana bar in 1843 and practiced law in Indianapolis. Hendricks quickly became well respected for his service in the Indiana House of Representatives (1848-1849), a delegate to the Indiana Constitutional Convention (1850), U.S. House of Representatives (1851-1855) and the U.S. Senate (1863-1869). Also the nephew of former Indiana Governor William Hendricks (1822-1825), Thomas A. Hendricks himself was elected as the 16<sup>th</sup> Governor of Indiana and served from 1873 until 1876. Hendricks became Vice President in 1885 but only served nine months until his

death on November 25, 1885. He was laid to rest in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.

In 1865, during his U.S. Senate tenure, Hendricks purchased the brick Italianate/Second Empire house [known as the Bates-Hendricks House] located at 1526 S. New Jersey Street in Indianapolis. The house was constructed in the mid-nineteenth century by Hervey Bates, Sr. Hendricks enlarged the square footage of the home with the construction of the tower and north wing. The Bates-Hendricks house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977 as an excellent example of Italianate architecture and significant role in National History.



**Right:** Bates-Hendricks House,  
photo from SHAARD (NR-0091)



**Above:** Charles W. Fairbanks, Vice President of the United States, half length portrait, sitting., c. 1904, Photograph. From Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

## No. 26

### Charles W. Fairbanks

(b. 1852–d.1918) served as the 26<sup>th</sup> Vice President under President Theodore Roosevelt from 1905 to 1909. Born near Columbus, Ohio, Fairbanks graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1872. In 1874, he passed the bar and moved to Indianapolis with his wife. He became a successful lawyer for a railroad company. In 1888, he began his political career by supporting Republican presidential campaigns, becoming good friends with William McKinley and serving as the keynote speaker for the Republican convention in 1896. Fairbanks was elected to the U.S. Senate (1897-1903) and then became Vice President from 1905 to 1909. After subsequent political campaign losses, he returned to practicing law until his death in 1918 and was laid to rest in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.

The brick and stone Colonial Revival/Eclectic Style Charles Fairbanks house was designed in 1912 by Chicago architect Howard Van Doren Shaw. After Fairbanks died, the house sat vacant until 1923 when the Indianapolis Life Insurance Company purchased the property for its corporate headquarters. Due to a series of alterations and additions, the home was listed only in the

Indiana Register of Historic Site and Structures (Indiana State Register) in 1999.



*Above:* Charles W. Fairbanks House, photo from SHAARD (NR-1465)

## No. 28

### Thomas R. Marshall

(b.1854 – d. 1925) served as the 28<sup>th</sup> Vice President for two terms under President Woodrow Wilson from 1913 to 1921. Marshall was born and raised in North Manchester, Indiana. He graduated from Wabash College at a young age and moved to Columbia City in 1873 where he practiced law. He became a popular orator and was very active in the Democratic Party which led him to be elected the 27<sup>th</sup> Governor of Indiana from 1909 to 1913. It was then that he served two Vice Presidential terms from 1913 to 1921. After his time in Washington D.C., he returned to Indiana, died in 1925, and was laid to rest in Crown Hill Cemetery.

Marshall's birthplace in North Manchester was originally built in the Gothic Revival style but has been altered. The house was moved to 409 North Market Street, rehabilitated, and is maintained by the North Manchester Historical Society. The Thomas R. Marshall house, where Marshall lived prior to his election as Indiana Governor, is a two-story ell-shaped frame house located at 108 West Jefferson Street, Columbia City. The



*Above:* Thomas Riley Marshall, 1912. Harris & Ewing, photographer. Photograph. From Harris & Ewing photograph collection, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

home was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 and is significant at the statewide level in the area of politics/government. The home was restored and is maintained as a historic house museum by the Whitley County Historical Society.



*Above: Thomas R. Marshall House, photo from SHAARD (NR-0152)*

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