

Building community, one building at a time

THE BUILDING NAMES PROJECT

INTRODUCTION

One of the top urban universities in the country and central Indiana's largest public university, Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) is actively working to create and nurture a campus community. A vibrant campus community is critical to successful student recruitment, retention, and graduation. The campus is embarking upon a new era of development with new campus housing that opened in fall 2003.

Cultivating a close-knit community of resident students is a priority for IUPUI. In creating community, IUPUI can also recognize our past, appreciate the present, and support the future. The Building Names Project was an effort to collect and recommend names to the Trustees of Indiana University regarding the naming opportunities associated with new campus housing. The “Building Names Project” provides a special opportunity to create a deeper sense of community by recognizing and celebrating our heroes, community leaders, and donors in the names chosen for each of the houses that students will occupy.

CAMPUS HOUSING INITIATIVE

IUPUI is an urban comprehensive university established in 1969 by Indiana University and Purdue University to serve students in the metropolitan Indianapolis region. Since its inception, IUPUI has grown immensely, developing a strong research mission and expanding to include 19 schools that serve over 21,000 undergraduates and 8,000 graduate and professional students. Although IUPUI has had campus housing since the 1920s, the program has been limited; approximately one percent of the students lived on campus (300 out of 29,000) in 2002. However, through the efforts of a new campus housing initiative, our long-term goal is to provide housing for up to 3,000 students or 10 percent of the student enrollment.

IUPUI has had minimal housing on campus for many years; the primary example was Ball Residence Hall, which served as the residence and academic home for the IU School of Nursing in the 1920s. Responding to student concerns, IUPUI has developed new apartment-style housing, which will accommodate an additional 771 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. Ball Residence Hall will continue to serve approximately 300 first-year undergraduate students.

The new community is composed of a series of “houses,” which include 12 to 16 apartment units in each house. Apartments have one, two, or four bedrooms, and fully furnished kitchens. Each house accommodates 22 to 46 students, and is named for our past heroes, community leaders, and donors.

THE BUILDING NAMES PROJECT

The purpose of the Building Names Project is to build a sense of community between the resident student and the university as well as the campus and the Indianapolis community. This will create a sense of belonging and will help students recognize that in becoming a part of the IUPUI family, they are part of something larger than themselves. The goals of this project were to

- reclaim the history and culture of the space and place that IUPUI currently occupies
- acknowledge the individuals who have in many cases worked their entire professional lives in and around IUPUI to make the university one of the top urban universities in the country
- recognize major donors

The project includes many major naming opportunities: three neighborhoods, 23 houses, one new residential street, one community park, and one parking deck.

The Building Names Project is an initiative led by Karen Whitney, vice chancellor for student life and diversity, in collaboration with Paul Mullins, associate professor, Department of Anthropology. Professor Mullins directed an effort to collect names and short biographies of people whose lives and accomplishments meet one or more of the criteria. This project also greatly benefited from history Professor Ralph Gray's research and recently released book, *IUPUI: The Making of an Urban University* (2003). Names were also solicited from students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners. Only the names of individuals who were deceased for five years or more could be considered. A chancellor-appointed advisory group reviewed and recommended names to Chancellor Bantz. Those names were then sent to the Indiana University trustees for final approval.

This project is indebted to the thoughtful review and recommendations presented by an advisory group of educators and community leaders, including Mari Evans, Scott Evenbeck, Mary Fisher, Wilma Gibbs, Ralph Gray, Robert Holden, Glenn W. Irwin Jr., Paul Mullins, Paula Parker-Sawyers, Olgen Williams, and A'Lelia Bundles.

THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF PLACE

Reclaiming the history and culture of IUPUI is an attempt to consider the people who have inhabited the property that IUPUI presently occupies, and the activities that occurred there. IUPUI is bound on the west by the White River and on its north side by Fall Creek; it is defined by West Street on the east. Recognizing the culture and history of the place reminds the students who live on campus that they are a part of a living legacy and have joined a greater narrative of past residents who have lived in the same place.

IUPUI "HEROES"

Although IUPUI in its current form is only 35 years old, parts of the campus have been in active operation for more than 100 years. The IUPUI "Heroes" are individuals who, by their outstanding achievement and extraordinary dedication, helped make IUPUI one of the top urban universities in the country.

MAJOR DONORS

Every major project at a university is helped by donations from interested individuals and groups. We are grateful to the private donors who helped fund the Resident Scholar Scholarship Program, which gives students financial assistance to live on campus. Housing naming opportunities have been set at the \$250,000 level of giving.

CONCLUSION

Recognizing our history, culture, and heroes is a critical part of building community one structure at a time. The Building Names Project provides an approach toward naming that contributes to creating a vibrant and successful student community.

In 2003 the Board of Trustees of Indiana University approved the names for the houses. A new street was named in honor of Maynard K. Hine. One house was designated for honors students, another for an international, cross-cultural living experience. The remaining houses were named in honor of:

Cleo W. Blackburn
Isaac N. Blackford
Mary Burchard Orvis
Patricia A. Boaz
Mary Ellen Cable
Ethel P. Clark
John Morton-Finney
Lillian Thomas Fox
William "Bill" Garrett
John Wesley Hardrick
Lola L. Lohse
John W. McCormick
John L. "Wes" Montgomery
Freeman Briley Ransom
David K. Rubins
May Wright Sewall
George P. Stewart
Frances Connecticut Stout
Emma Lou Thornbrough
Madame C. J. Walker
Aldred S. Warthin

BLACKBURN HOUSE

Cleo W. Blackburn (1909–1978) was educated at the Butler University School of Religion and Fisk University. Returning to Indianapolis, he became the superintendent of Flanner House, located at West and St. Clair Streets. Flanner House primarily supported the African American community, providing education, job training, and homes to needy families and making an immeasurable impact on the local community. Under his leadership, social services provided to African Americans improved dramatically in Indianapolis. He received numerous honorary doctorates and was an influential leader for many organizations. Blackburn was superintendent of Flanner House from 1936 until 1975.

BLACKFORD HOUSE

Isaac N. Blackford (1786–1859) was one of the first justices to serve on Indiana’s Supreme Court. He moved to Salem, Indiana in 1812 and served as county clerk. Five years later he moved to Indianapolis when he was appointed to the Indiana Supreme Court. In 1824, he upheld the controversial convictions of four Indianapolis men who were convicted for the murders of 10 Native Americans in what was known as the Fall Creek Massacre. They became the first European Americans in Indiana to be executed for killing Native Americans. Blackford had significant landholdings including a large swath along West Street.

BOAZ HOUSE

Patricia A. Boaz (1922–1993) was an associate professor of chemistry who began her career at IUPUI in 1967. Her contributions to the chemistry department and the School of Science were both numerous and pioneering. Through funding from the National Science Foundation, she created and developed the School of Science Learning Center. The center helped establish the use of visual media, computers, and other technologies in science teaching. Boaz had a special interest in helping older nontraditional students succeed. Her office door was always open to students who wanted advice or counseling, and her passion for teaching enriched the lives of many students.

CABLE HOUSE

Mary Ellen Cable (1862–1944) was one of the most influential African American educators in Indianapolis. She taught in Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) 4, 19, 23, 24, and 40, and was supervising principal at School Number 4 until her retirement. During her career she trained 61 teachers, and at the time of her death, five were IPS principals. She was active in Bethel A.M.E. Church, Sigma Gamma Rho, and served as the president of the Colored Women’s Civic Club. She also organized Indiana’s first NAACP chapter, serving as its first president. Cable lived at 423 West Street, on what is now the eastern edge of the IUPUI campus.

CLARKE HOUSE

Ethel P. Clarke (1874–1970) was superintendent of nurses and director of the Indiana Training School for Nurses from 1915 to 1931. Her legacy to the school and to the nursing profession included her visionary support of the six nursing students who founded the nursing honor society, Sigma Theta Tau International, in 1922. Her dedication to learning included developing cutting-edge curriculum, encouraging student social activities, and providing outreach to the public. Her approach became a model of excellence that advanced nursing and health care for Indiana.

HINE STREET

Dr. Maynard K. Hine (1907–1996) was dean of the IU School of Dentistry from 1945 to 1968, transforming the school into one of the world's premier dental educational institutions. Dr. Hine devoted 52 years of his life to Indiana University, the School of Dentistry, and IUPUI. He was a national leader in the profession, serving as president of the American Dental Association. Dean Hine was the first chancellor of IUPUI for four years from 1969 to 1973, forging the challenging partnerships and teams that would make IUPUI one of America's great urban universities.

MORTON-FINNEY HOUSE

John Morton-Finney (1889–1998) educator, lawyer, and humanitarian, was born in Kentucky to a former slave. Morton-Finney was a Buffalo Soldier in World War I; a teacher at historically black colleges; and taught Greek, Latin, German, Spanish, and French in Indianapolis Public Schools, including Crispus Attucks High School. He earned 12 college degrees including a degree from IU School of Law—Indianapolis. He earned his final degree at the age of 75, practiced law until the age of 106, and died at the age of 108.

FOX HOUSE

Lillian Thomas Fox (1866–1917) was a journalist and an outspoken member of the Indianapolis community. She was Indianapolis' first African American female journalist. In 1891, she was an assistant editor for the local African American newspaper, the *Indianapolis Freeman*. In 1900, Fox became the first African American woman hired by a white-owned paper, the *Indianapolis News*, to write a regular news column. In 1903, she founded the Woman's Improvement Club, which provided health care to tuberculosis patients and scholarships to assist indigent African Americans. Fox also organized the Indiana State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs in 1904.

GARRETT HOUSE

William “Bill” Garrett (1929–1974) was on the Shelbyville, IN high school basketball team when they won the 1947 state championship and was named Indiana’s Mr. Basketball. He attended IU Bloomington from 1947 to 1951; was the first African American player on the IUB basketball team and the first African American basketball player in the Big Ten. He was named to the All-America team in 1951. Garrett played with the Harlem Globetrotters, taught at Crispus Attucks High School, coached the basketball team, and was named Indiana Coach of the Year for 1959. He was assistant dean for student services at IUPUI from 1973 until his death in 1974.

HARDRICK HOUSE

John Wesley Hardrick (1891–1968) was educated in Indianapolis and attended Harriet Beecher Stowe Public School, Manual High School, and the Herron School of Art, where he studied under Otto Stark. Best known as a portrait painter, in 1928 Hardrick painted a 6-by-8 foot mural for the Allen A.M.E. Church Chapel entitled Christ and the Samaritan Woman at the Well. His works are in the collections of the Indiana State Museum and Indianapolis Museum of Art, and were displayed at the Smithsonian Institution in 1929 and the American Negro Exposition in Chicago in 1940.

LOHSE HOUSE*

Lola L. Lohse (1916–1999) began her career with IU as a student enrolled at the Normal College of the American Gymnastic Union in Indianapolis in 1935, graduating from IU in 1939 with a Bachelor of Science in physical education. She later earned an Master of Science degree from IU. In 1955 she began teaching full time at the Normal College, and in 1963 was appointed as director of the school and assistant professor. In 1971 the Normal College became the IU School of Physical Education at IUPUI, and Lohse was appointed the first dean. She retired from the university in 1977.

**Lohse House will be officially dedicated on December 7, 2004.*

MCCORMICK HOUSE

John W. McCormick (1791–1825) was among the European American pioneers of Indianapolis, settling near the eastern end of the former Washington Street Bridge in 1820. He built one of the first taverns in the area, where a meeting by the state commissioners was held in June 1820 to decide the location of the new state capital. McCormick was chosen as a county commissioner in 1822. McCormick’s Rock commemorates the site of his cabin on the east bank of the White River, which is now the White River State Park.

MONTGOMERY HOUSE

John Leslie “Wes” Montgomery (1923–1968) was one of Indianapolis’ elite jazz musicians. Wes began playing in the bars along Indiana Avenue and was an active improviser who played in a vast range of styles despite having no formal musical training and being unable to read sheet music. He played with the best-known jazz musicians of the post-World War II era, working day jobs as a welder to support his family. Montgomery’s early 1960s albums won widespread critical praise, including a Grammy in 1966 in the Best Jazz Instrumental category for “Going Out of My Head.”

ORVIS HOUSE

Mary Burchard Orvis (1880–1964) came to IU in 1916 to work in the Indianapolis Center of the Extension Division as an executive secretary. She became an assistant professor of journalism and the “officer in charge” of the center in 1921, holding that post until 1945. Her students included Joseph Hayes, author of *The Desperate Hours*; and children’s book author Laura Long. She was responsible for one of the earliest student activities at the Extension. In the spring of 1936, she organized “Free Victrola Concerts,” which were intended to present good classical music to the students.

RANSOM HOUSE

Freeman Briley Ransom (1884–1947) studied theology at Walden University and law at Columbia University. Moving to Indianapolis in 1911, he boarded with C. J. Walker, became the company’s attorney, and eventually served as the manager of the Madam Walker Company until his death. Ransom held a variety of civic and elected positions including Indianapolis city councilman, president of Flanner House, State School for the Blind trustee, Democratic National Convention alternate delegate, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church trustee, and legal consultant to the NAACP. The family home at 848 North California Street stands today in a neighborhood now named after him.

RUBINS HOUSE

David K. Rubins (1902–1985), artist and educator, came to IU’s Herron School of Art in 1935. He taught and directed the sculpture program there for 45 years. His works include the statue of Abraham Lincoln at the Indiana State Office Complex, the Lilly Monument at Crown Hill Cemetery, the ornamental work at the federal courthouse, the bust of Dean John Van Nuys at the IU School of Medicine, the *Stumbling Man* statue at the Indianapolis Museum of Art, and the cherub that adorned the clock on the downtown Ayres Building every Christmas (now in the Indiana State Museum).

SEWALL HOUSE

May Wright Sewall (1844–1920) was an educator, cultural leader, and organizer of the women’s suffrage movement in Indianapolis. She formed the Art Association of Indianapolis, which became the John Herron Institute and later the IU Herron School of Art. She helped found the Equal Suffrage Society of Indianapolis and was a contemporary of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. From 1881 to 1883 she led a campaign that narrowly failed to secure women the right to vote in Indiana. She was an early member of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, which became the American Association of University Women.

STEWART HOUSE

George P. Stewart (1874–1924) was co-founder of the *Indianapolis Recorder* newspaper in 1897; and in 1899 he became sole owner, editor, and publisher until his death in 1924. The *Recorder* published positive stories acclaiming the achievements and accomplishments of African Americans. A member of Bethel A.M.E. church, Stewart was involved in several businesses, political and fraternal organizations including the Colored Republican Committee, Indiana Association of Colored Men, Indiana Chapter of the National Negro Business League, the Indiana Negro Welfare League, the Waterford Lodge #13, F. & A. M. Marion Lodge #5, Knights of Pythias, Persian Temple #46, Nobles Mystic Shrine, and the Indianapolis Camp of the American Woodsman.

STOUT HOUSE

Frances Connecticut Stout (1854–1933) was a successful businesswoman who epitomized African American determination and strength in Indianapolis. In the late 1880s, Frances and her husband Benjamin became the first African American stand holders in the Indianapolis City Market. They developed a substantial clientele in what was known as the “carriage trade.” Stout manufactured all of her goods at her home, including squab, hominy, rabbits, and produce. A lifelong Bethel A.M.E. member, she continued her business after her husband’s death in 1909. By the time of her death in 1933, Stout had acquired a considerable estate that was later sold to the city for the construction of Lockefield Gardens.

THORNBROUGH HOUSE

Emma Lou Thornbrough (1913–1994) was European American and a pioneer in the field of African American history. Her scholarly works included *The Negro in Indiana Before 1900: A Study of a Minority* (1957, reprinted 1993), *Since Emancipation: A Short History of Indiana Negroes, 1863-1963* (1964) and editor of *This Far by Faith: Black Hoosier Heritage* (1982). She was a professor of history at Butler University from 1946 to 1983 and was educated at Shortridge High School, Butler University, and the University of Michigan. She taught at IUPUI and many of her works were published by IU Press.

WALKER HOUSE

Madam C. J. Walker (1867–1919) was one of America's first female African American millionaires. She was born on a cotton plantation in Louisiana to former slaves and was orphaned by age seven. In the 1890s she began to lose her hair and experimented with home preparations to relieve her scalp problems. She sold her own home-manufactured hair care products as Madam Walker's Wonderful Hair Grower. In 1910, the company moved to Indianapolis because of the convenient rail access and a well-established African American community. Walker was a Bethel A.M.E. member. She built a factory, salon, training school, and theater on Indiana Avenue across from the area now occupied by the IUPUI campus.

WARTHIN HOUSE

Aldred S. Warthin (1866–1931) was a physician and educator. He received an A.B. from IU Bloomington in 1888 and an honorary LL.D. in 1928 in recognition of his achievements as teacher, author, editor and physician. A medical educator for over 35 years, he was also an international scholar who wrote more than 1,000 articles for journals and textbooks. He also wrote books which were widely read by laypersons. In 1958, IU named an IUPUI campus building, Warthin Apartments, in his honor. The Warthin Apartments were demolished in 2001 to provide space for the Campus Apartments on the Riverwalk.