Roachdale Historic District Walking Tour

Roachdale, Indiana



H·P·S

Heritage Preservation Society of Putnam County
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heritagepreservationsociety.org

Putnam County Convention & Visitors Bureau
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About this Historic District Tour

Roachdale was established in 1880 in northeastern Putnam County, Indiana. According to the county historian, the town was originally named "Roache Dale" to honor railroad executive Judge Addison Locke Roache, though the town's name was later simplified to "Roachdale." Homes were constructed in a myriad of architectural styles. Commercial buildings were ultimately built as brick Italianate structures after a fire destroyed the previous wooden ones. This self-guided tour is made possible through the Heritage Preservation Society (HPS), a Historic Preservation Education Grant from Indiana Landmarks, the Indiana Humanities, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Information here is primarily from the 2020 National Register assessment form.

About the National Register

In 1935, Congress passed the Historic Sites Act, which established a policy of preserving historic resources of national significance for public use and inspiration. This act gave the Secretary of the Interior the power to survey, document, evaluate, acquire and preserve archeological and historic sites throughout the US. Later, in 1966, with the passage of the National Preservation Act, the National Register of Historic Places was created as the official listing of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects within the country considered to be of local, state or national significance in history, architecture, archeology or culture.

Inclusion in the National Register gives the property prestige and publicity; provides a measure of protection for the property from adverse effects of federally assisted projects; enables owners, who rehabilitate certified historic structures, to take advantage of federal tax credits; and allows property owners to apply for federal grants-in-aid, if funds are made available for preservation projects.

Contributing Structures

If a structure lies within the district but it is not listed, then it is not considered a contributing structure. If a structure is not listed, it may not be 50 years old; however, in most cases the structure has had its stylistic attributes altered to a degree that the structure no longer has architectural integrity. A structure's current state of repair is not a principal consideration in determining whether it is contributing. A structure may need painting or other, more significant repair and still retain all or most of its stylistic elements, and, therefore, be contributing. Conversely, a structure may look "nice," but have had major alterations to its original stylistic elements, such as window sizes and/or shapes and, therefore, no longer be contributing.

Property Type Icon Key


RESIDENTIAL


COMMERCIAL


INDUSTRIAL


AGRICULTURAL


RELIGIOUS FACILITIES


GOVERNMENT

Brochure design and illustration by Evie Brosius.

1. **506 North Indiana Street**

Craftsman Bungalow, c. 1920

2. **505 North Indiana Street**

3. **503 North Indiana Street**

4. **502 North Indiana Street**

Brick Italianate, c. 1880





The Italianate style was the most popular in American houses from the mid-nineteenth century through Reconstruction, and often incorporates features like low-pitched, hipped roofs and overhanging eaves with decorative brackets. Windows are usually tall and narrow and may have rounded tops with decorative hoods.

5. **407 North Indiana Street** • *Brick Italianate, c. 1880*

6. **406 North Indiana Street**

7. **403 North Indiana Street**

8. **401 North Indiana Street** • *Gable and Wing, c. 1890*

9. **304 North Indiana Street**

10. **303 North Indiana Street** • *Brick Italianate, c. 1880*

11. **302 North Indiana Street**

12. **106 North Indiana Street**

13. **100 North Indiana Street** • *Bungalow, c. 1920*

14. **Roachdale Presbyterian Church**
14 North Indiana Street • *Late Gothic Revival, c. 1920*

15. **13 North Indiana Street**

16. **12 North Indiana Street** • *Gable and Wing, c. 1900*

17. **11 North Indiana Street**

18. **10 North Indiana Street** • *Gable and Wing, c. 1900*

19. **8 North Indiana Street**

20. **7 North Indiana Street**

21. **6 North Indiana Street** • *Wood Italianate, c. 1880*

22. **5 North Indiana Street**

23. **4 North Indiana Street**

24. **3 North Indiana Street** • *American Foursquare, c. 1900*

25. 2 North Indiana Street

Brick Italianate, c. 1890





26. 1 East Forest Home Street

27. 6 South Indiana Street

28. 5 South Indiana Street

Colonial Revival, c. 1910





On the west-facing façade, two windows and the entry door align with the narrow dormers above. Three gabled dormers are clad in wood shakes. The sidewalls of the recessed portion of the entry are also clad in wood shakes. The foundation and chimney at the south elevation are red brick.

29. 8 South Indiana Street

30. 2 East Grove Street

31. 100 South Indiana Street

Free Classic, c. 1910




This two-and-one-half-story house is in Free Classic style, which blends the asymmetrical, ornate forms of the Queen Anne style with classical elements like columns, pediments, and bay windows. It is clad in wood lap siding with fish scales in the upper gables and second-story porch. Above the front porch steps, a curved eave forms the pediment and has a fan-shaped ornament within. The attic gable windows are semicircular, and two diamond-shaped windows sit in front of and beyond the entry door.

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32. 101 South Indiana Street • *Bungalow, c. 1910*

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33. 100 South Meridian Street

Queen Anne, c. 1900




This one-and-one-half-story Queen Anne features a steeply-pitched roof, a dominant front gable, an asymmetrical façade, and two small gables above the entrances to the wraparound porch. Turned wood posts and delicate spindle work under the porch roof support the spandrels.

34. **101 South Meridian Street**

35. **9 South Meridian Street**

36. **8 South Meridian Street**

37. **7 South Meridian Street** • *American Foursquare, 1895*

38. **6 South Meridian Street**

39. **4 South Meridian Street**

40. **5 East Forest Home Street**

Free Classic, c. 1910





This two-and-one-half-story house is an excellent example of Queen Anne Free Classic. It has a prominent front gable, projecting bays, dormers, wood decorative details, and an asymmetrical front façade. The roof level of the house has many interesting details. Three 12-over-1 windows project from the front gable. On the east side, an arch-topped window sits in the gable, adorned with decorative scrollwork. A small shed dormer contains two 12-over-1 windows. The west side includes two gable dormers; a larger one to the rear with an arch-top window, and a smaller one near the front with an oculus window, like the one on the front porch at the stair landing.

41. 101 East Forest Home Street

American Foursquare, c. 1910



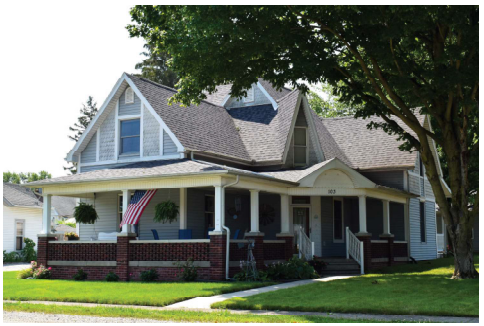


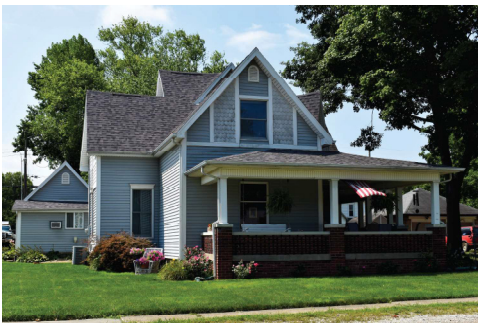
This two-story symmetrical house sits on a brick foundation. The porch balustrade is a brick basket-weave pattern. The porch roof is supported by square columns on brick piers. It has a central entry flanked by Victorian-style picture windows with leaded upper sash. The second story has 3-over-1 double-hung windows flanked by wood shutters. A hipped-roof dormer sits in the middle of the front of the roof and is filled with square, wood, painted vents.

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42. 103 East Forest Home Street

Queen Anne, c. 1900





In Roachdale, the majority of the Queen Anne houses, like this outstanding example, are vernacular versions with wrapping porches, but without towers or ornamental exterior finishes.

43. 102 East Forest Home Street

Ranch, 1957



Ranch-style homes, known for their rambling, close-to-the-ground profile, first appeared as a residential style in the 1920s and gained popularity with the booming post-war middle class between the 1940s and 1970s. These single-story structures typically include elements such as low-pitched roofs and asymmetrical façades.

This particular home features these elements, combining wood siding with stone for an interesting, balanced look. This home sits where the former two-story school, built in 1898, sat on SR 236. After the school was torn down, several ranch homes were built in the new space in 1957.

In the Roachdale Historic District, only a handful of ranch homes exist; however, the Fairview Addition (also known as the New Addition) south of the Roachdale Elementary School boasts many ranches built in the 1960s and 1970s.

44. 2 North Meridian Street

Bungalow, c. 1910



This one-and-one-half-story house is a unique interpretation of a bungalow. The house is oriented with a front gable. The front porch sits at the center of the façade and is covered with a jerkin-head roof that mirrors the second floor house roof. The basket weave patterned brick porch balustrade is covered with a concrete cap. A ribbon of three double-hung windows with transoms sits to the far left of the façade. A bay containing two double-hung windows and transoms sits at the southeast corner of the house. Shed dormers containing three small windows extend over the secondary elevations to the north and south.

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45. **4 North Meridian Street**

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46. **5 North Meridian Street** • *Ranch, c. 1950*

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47. **6 North Meridian Street**

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48. **8 North Meridian Street**

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49. **9 North Meridian Street**

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50. **10 North Meridian Street** • *Gable and Wing, c. 1900*

51. 14 North Meridian Street • *Free Classic, c. 1900*

52. 100 North Meridian Street

53. 102 North Meridian Street

Brick Italianate, c. 1890





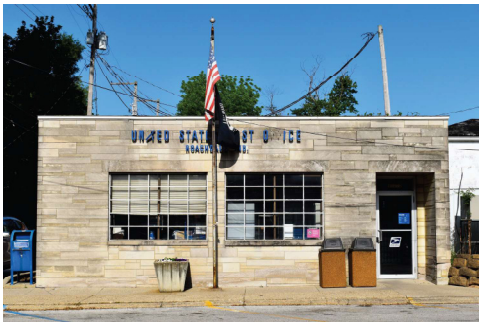
The two-story, cross-plan house has a hipped roof. A recent addition extends off the rear of the house. The red brick cladding is laid in a monk bond pattern. The porch wraps around three sides. First-floor window openings have brick and limestone segmental arch lintels, limestone sills, and wood, double-hung sash. The former paired window opening on the central projection of the house is infilled with a Queen Anne-style large sash with a narrow, patterned sash above. The long, narrow window openings on the second story have limestone lintels and sills. Decorative cornice brackets and wood fascia boards, similar to those on 203 East Columbia, support the shingle roof.

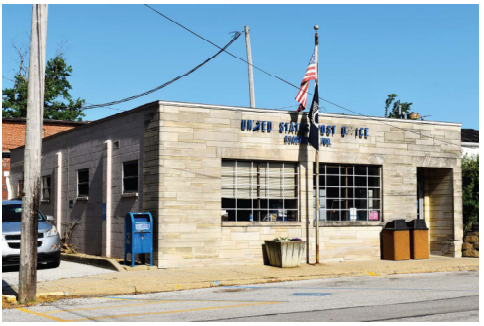
This home once belonged to prominent residents George William Irwin and his sons Glenn and Galen. Galen became the President of Roachdale Tri-County Bank & Trust. Glenn took over ownership of the Drug Store and Soda Shop established by his father George. Glenn's son, Glenn W. Irwin Jr. became a doctor and ultimately chancellor of the IUPUI School of Medicine. The name "G.W. Irwin" is inscribed on the sidewalk.

54. 103 North Meridian Street • *Bungalow, c. 1930*

55. Roachdale Post Office

104 North Meridian Street • International, 1958





The one-story concrete building has a flat roof and ashlar stone façade. The parapet is capped with limestone. The entry containing an aluminum storefront with a transom and full-light door steps back in an alcove at the north end of the facade. Two fixed windows glazed in a five-by-five grid pattern and divided by an ashlar mullion sit at the center of the façade. The window lintels and sills and alcove lintel are limestone. Blue attached letters read “UNITED STATES POST OFFICE ROACHDALE IND.” above the windows.

The U.S. Post Office had been located in several different buildings, as noted on the 1902, 1910 and 1923 Sanborn Maps, including 4 East Washington in 1902 and 15 East Washington in 1910 and 1923. Dedication for the current building was held in September 1957 and a commemorative plaque in the foyer reads, “1958 UNITED STATES POST OFFICE.” The property is privately owned.

56. 21-23 East Washington Street

57. 15-17 East Washington Street

58. 9 East Washington Street

Italianate Commercial, c. 1900

59. 7 East Washington Street

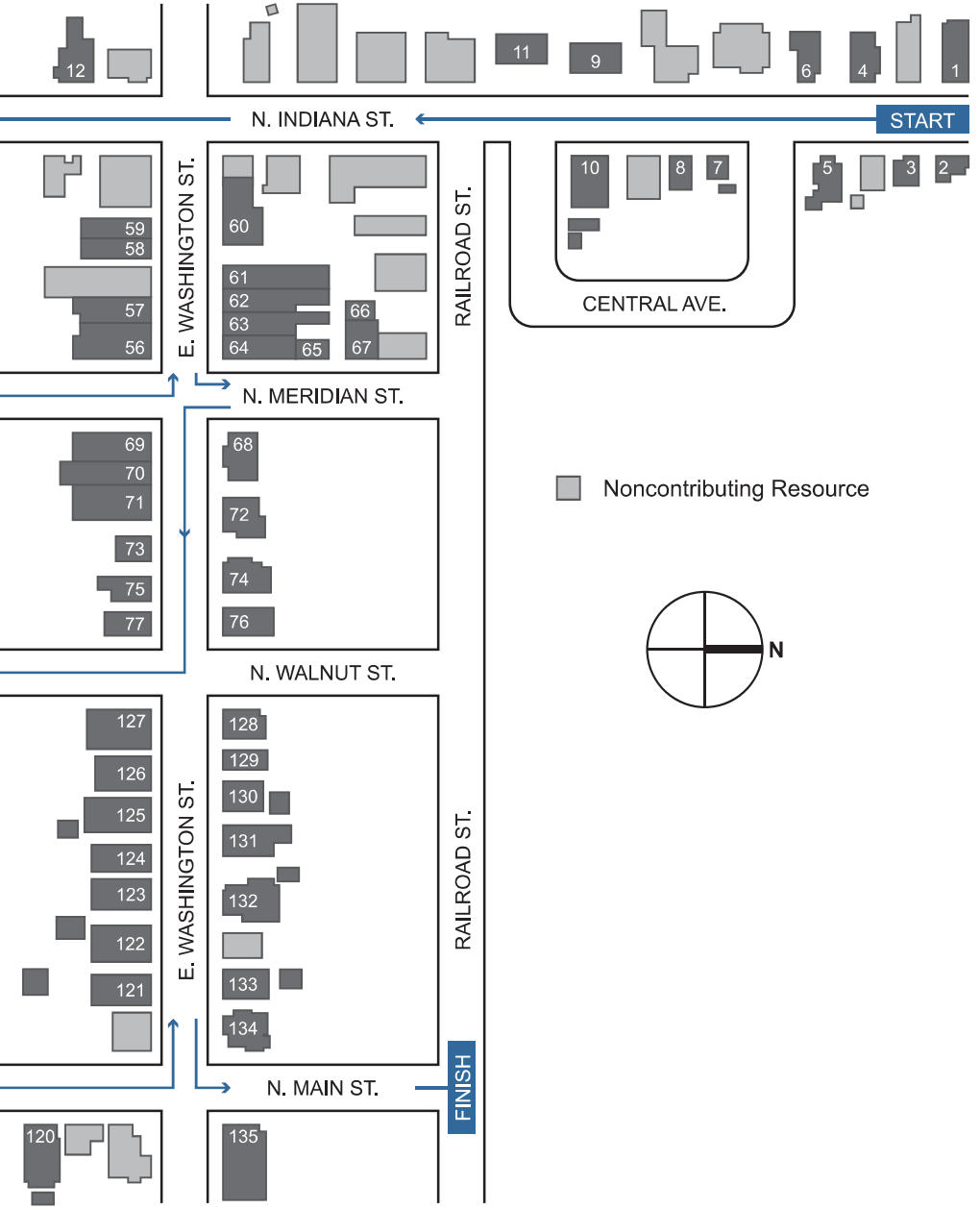
Historic Tour Map

Total tour distance is approximately 2.5 miles. The route follows the through 135. The numbers listed on the map correlate to the brochure determine the street address, you must look at the listing in the brochure by contributing. Please use caution along the route.



Roachdale Historic District

sequential order of the listed structures starting with 1 and progressing number listed for the structure—not the street address. To compare/ that number. Any structures within the district that are not listed are not



60. **8-16 East Washington Street**

Commercial Functional, c. 1910

61. **18 East Washington Street**

62. **20 East Washington Street**

63. **22 East Washington Street** • *Italianate Commercial, 1895*

64. **24-26 East Washington Street**

Commercial Functional, 1897



The two-story, red brick building sits at the corner of Washington and Meridian Streets. Original cast iron pilasters remain at both storefronts and the cast iron beam and rosettes remain at the storefront to the west end. A square limestone nameplate reads “I.O.O.F. NO. 115 ERECTED 1897.” The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) is a fraternal organization with a rich history of promoting friendship, love, truth, and community service.

65. 204 North Meridian Street

66. Ice House

West of 206 N. Meridian Street • Vernacular, 1915



This front gable building served as an ice house in the early 1900s. It has oversized brick laid in common bond. The entry has a limestone lintel, and the door is made of vertical wood planks with metal strap hinges and a metal thumb-latch handle.

Before the invention of the modern refrigerator, ice houses were used to store ice and make it available throughout the year. During the winter, when the ice was thick enough, workers would use special saws to cut large blocks from the frozen surface of a pond or lake. The blocks were then moved to the ice house by horse-drawn sleigh or wagon. As needed, blocks of ice would be delivered by an "iceman" to homes and businesses to keep food and other perishables cold during warmer months.

67. V.F.W. Post 3284

206 N. Meridian Street • Commercial, c. 1900

68. Carnegie Public Library

100 E. Washington Street • Classical Revival / Arts & Crafts, 1913



The one-story building with partially exposed basement is sheathed in buff brick and has a hipped, shingled roof. Concrete steps supported by brick sidewalls and pilasters with limestone tops lead to the entry. Two replacement coach lights sit on top of the stair piers. The original lights sat on tall poles. The central entry system is composed of a wood, full-light door and two narrow sidelights. The transom has two horizontal windows divided into five sections. The entry is topped by a limestone sign panel reading “PUBLIC LIBRARY.” On the west elevation a breezeway has been added at an unknown date, leading to the basement-level entrance.

In 1911, the Philomath Club organized Roachdale's first public library. The club obtained space in an existing building and collected donations of books and periodicals. The library opened on August 13, 1912. Soon after, the Town of Roachdale initiated a funding request with the Carnegie Corporation for a new building. By May 1913 the town had purchased a vacant lot at the corner of Washington and Meridian Streets. Construction of the library began in July 1913 and it opened January 8, 1914.

69. F.H. Bowen Building

101-103 East Washington Street • Victorian Commercial, 1900





This two-story red brick building has a prominent place at the corner of Washington and Meridian Streets. The store is a long-time gem of Roachdale.

The main storefront entry is on the angled corner face. Above the second-floor corner window is a limestone nameplate with the words “F.H. BOWEN 1900.” On the north façade, four bays contain large display windows and transoms. An unused entry door sits in the fifth bay, which is the second bay from the east.

In the early days of the structure's history, Bowen sold dry goods and groceries on the east half and hardware on the west half. At one time, horse-drawn buggies were manufactured on the second floor and lowered to street level by an indoor elevator. Later, farm implements were showcased on the second floor.

Throughout the years, the hardware has served as a hub for home and farm supplies, gifts, and other sundries. A working 1949 Coke machine still dispenses Coke bottles for ten cents. The remaining balance is required in a plastic container on top.

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70. 105 East Washington Street

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71. 107-109 East Washington Street

72. 102 East Washington Street

Queen Anne / Free Classic, c. 1900





This structure exhibits characteristics of the Queen Anne style through its assortment of gables, including a steeply-pitched front gable above the decorative porch gable. The porch wraps around on two sides. Another smaller porch sits on the east side. The classical wood columns supported by brick piers are characteristic of the Free Classic style.

This lovely building has served as a funeral home for nearly 100 years.

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73. 111 East Washington Street

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74. 104 East Washington Street

Queen Anne / Free Classic, c. 1900

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75. 113 East Washington Street • *Bungalow, c. 1940*

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76. 108 East Washington Street

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77. 115 East Washington Street • *Bungalow, c. 1910*

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78. 103 North Walnut Street • *Bungalow, c. 1910*

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79. 100 North Walnut Street

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80. 101 North Walnut Street

81. **12 North Walnut Street** • *Gable and Wing, c. 1900*

82. **9 North Walnut Street**

83. **7 North Walnut Street** • *Bungalow, c. 1910*

84. **8 North Walnut Street**

85. **5 North Walnut Street** • *Bungalow, c. 1910*

86. **6 North Walnut Street**

87. **4 North Walnut Street**

88. **2 North Walnut Street**

89. Roachdale Christian Church

1 North Walnut Street • Late Gothic Revival, 1924 / 1960



The 1924 sanctuary building faces Walnut Street but has a prominent presence also on Forest Home Street. An education building, constructed in 1960, sits to the north of the original sanctuary and a large addition (built in 1993) is located at the east, or back of the complex. The original one-story brick building with partially exposed basement has a campanile entry set slightly forward at the southwest corner. Twelve concrete steps lead to recessed full-light anodized bronze entry doors, topped by a gothic-arched transom decorated with tracery and patterned glass. A round arch wood vent sits in the bell tower.

Like many churches in towns such as Roachdale, the Christian Church was added onto to accommodate a growing post-World War II population. In order to remain a viable part of the community, churches located in smaller cities and towns often needed additional space for Sunday school and social activities.

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90. 105 East Forest Home Street • *Bungalow, c. 1900*

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91. 107 East Forest Home Street • *Free Classic, c. 1880*

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92. 6 South Walnut Street

93. **8 South Walnut Street**

94. **9 South Walnut Street**

95. **107 East Grove Street** • *Gable and Wing, c. 1900*

96. **203 East Grove Street** • *Queen Anne, c. 1900*

97. **204 East Grove Street** • *Gable and Wing, c. 1900*

98. **205 East Grove Street** • *Ranch, 1948*

99. **206 East Grove Street** • *Gable and Wing, c. 1900*

100. **211 East Forest Home Street**

101. **209 East Forest Home Street**

102. **207 East Forest Home Street**

103. **1 North Main Street**

104. **3 North Main Street**

105. **5 North Main Street** • *Gable and Wing, 1911*

106. **204 East Franklin Street**

107. **206 East Franklin Street** • *Gable and Wing, c. 1900*

108. **6 North Main Street**

Bungalow, c. 1910





109. **9 North Main Street** • *Gable and Wing, c. 1900*

110. **8 North Main Street**

111. **11 North Main Street**

112. **10 North Main Street**

113. **12 North Main Street** • *Gable and Wing, c. 1900*

114. **13 North Main Street**

115. **14 North Main Street** • *Gable and Wing, c. 1900*

116. **205 East Columbia Street**

117. **203 East Columbia Street** • *Italianate, c. 1890*

118. **100 North Main Street**

119. **103 North Main Street** • *Bungalow, c. 1930*

120. **105 North Main Street** • *Queen Anne, c. 1900*

121. **213 East Washington Street**

122. **211 East Washington Street**

123. **209 East Washington Street** • *Bungalow, c. 1920*

124. **207 East Washington Street**

125. **205 East Washington Street**

126. **203 East Washington Street**

Free Classic / Queen Anne, c. 1900

127. **201 East Washington Street**

Queen Anne, c. 1900





This high-style Queen Anne uses different paint colors to highlight the ornate wood patterns. Three entry doors open from the wraparound front porch. The first floor includes three large single-pane windows with decorative glass transoms. A polygonal turret rests on the porch roof above the main entry.

128. 200 East Washington Street

Queen Anne, c. 1900





Sister house to the one across the street at 201 East Washington, this Queen Anne features several gables and a turret above the front entry. A single-story porch wraps two sides and is ornamented with spindlework. A side bay window balances the porch.

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129. 202 East Washington Street

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130. 204 East Washington Street • *Free Classic, c. 1900*

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131. 206 East Washington Street

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132. 208 East Washington Street

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133. 212 East Washington Street • *Free Classic, c. 1900*

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134. 214 East Washington Street

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135. 201 North Main Street • *Gable and Wing, c. 1900*

BONUS STRUCTURE:

John Crafton House

200 North Spring Street



The John Crafton house is the farthest west in town. It is not listed on the National Register of Historic Places since the district does not extend west of the railroad. However, the house should be noted for its owner's unfortunate demise on the Titanic.

John Crafton attained wealth in the limestone quarry business and later in the lumber industry. At some point in the early 1900s, he moved his family to Roachdale where he built a modest one-and-one-half-story brick with wraparound porch. In 1912, he departed from New York City to visit hot spring spas in Europe in hopes of curing his arthritis. Before long he became homesick and bought a ticket on a German steamer, but then exchanged it for one on the Titanic since it was leaving for America one week earlier. On April 19, the Crafton family received word that John was not among the survivors.

Preserving the Past, For the Future

The Heritage Preservation Society (HPS) of Putnam County has been deeply involved in the preservation of Putnam County's historic character and heritage since 1977.

You can join us in that effort by volunteering, becoming a member, or participating in events.

To learn more and get involved, visit us at heritagepreservationsociety.org or use your phone to scan the QR code.



The purpose of the Heritage Preservation Society is to promote and encourage interest in the historic structures, history, and heritage of the Putnam County area and facilitate the identification, preservation, and restoration of the structural heritage.

This brochure is intended to both support this mission and educate.