



1509-1517 J Street are all contemporary structures. Faubians Barber Shop, and Turpin and Deckard CPAs are located in these buildings. Several businesses have been housed in these structures: Stephanies, Bev's Place, Sallee and Company, and the loan offices of Citizen's Bank. At one time the center building was covered with green plate glass tiles.



1501 J Street, **Regions Bank** is a dominant architectural feature on the downtown square. The Renaissance Revival structure was built in 1926 as Citizens National Bank with McGuire and Shook as architects and Leslie Calvin as builder. Built of our native limestone with carved details like the Eagle plaques in the entrance to the bank.

It has a gorgeous two-story lobby with at least four colors of marble used in the walls and floor and carved plaster. The four-petal rose design was once a logo for the bank. Note the corner clock with its stained glass faces. It has been changed through the years to reflect its owners: Citizens, NBD, Union Planters and now Regions.



**Corner Building:** 1001 15th Street - **Stone Cottage.** This quaint building on the NW corner of the courthouse square was built in about 1900. It is Romanesque architecture design. In the 1940s this was a taxi stand. There were three taxis that would pull up on the street below and the operator would get calls, lean out the window and shout down to them on where to pick up their customers. It was also once home to Tiny Tots Togs, Sophisticated Fox, and Roots Accounting.

**Miss Indiana Statue** stands on the west side of the Lawrence County Courthouse. Carved from Indiana limestone, she was dedicated in January 1924 to honor the Soldiers, Sailors and Pioneers of Lawrence County, Indiana.


The four panels around the base depict the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I and an Indiana pioneer scene. The monument is unusual in that few monuments commemorate both pioneers and military.

Funding for the monument came from a bequest by Moses Fell Dunn in his will. Charles Dodd was the contracting carver. Several carvers and cutters worked on the monument. The head of "Miss Indiana" was sculpted by carver Harry T. Easton. The model was Mamie Smith.

The bronze cannon were a gift from the government in 1890 and were here before the monument was erected. They were originally on carriages which have deteriorated.



*Miss Indiana, also called Miss Liberty, was set in 1923 on the west side of the courthouse square. Note the former courthouse in the background.*



# Bedford Revitalization, Inc. Downtown Bedford Walking Tour

Note: Begin on the northwest corner of the square and continue around the square in a counter-clockwise direction.

## Welcome to Bedford, Indiana



Bedford is known as the "Limestone Capital of the World." The Indiana limestone industry started here early in the 1800s. Since that time the popularity of limestone has grown and many of this country's famous buildings have been constructed with Bedford limestone.

A sampling of these structures would include: the Empire State Building in New York (the quarry for this building is shown below), the Tribune Tower in Chicago, the Pentagon and the National Cathedral in Washington D.C., the Biltmore Estate, Asheville, North Carolina and thirty-five of the state capitol buildings.



*Early postcard of the Bedford square looking north. Note the fountain in the foreground.*

## Northwest Corner

The **StoneGate Arts Center** anchors the NW corner of the courthouse square. It was built on the site of the 1950's JC Penny building, which later served as a cinema, church, school, gym, and conference center.



927-29 15th Street, **Lawrence County Museum of History.** The Hamer-Smith building was built in the neo-classical style in 1908. The building has housed Day and Carter Mortuary, a furniture maker, and the Buck Lemon Furniture store before the county museum.





925 15th Street, **Ricks Gym**. The building is rented from the Lawrence County Historical and Genealogical Society. It was built ~1880. Note the limestone



cap, lintels, sills, and belt. It was formerly a Piggy Wiggly Store.

919 15th Street, **Bazaar Cafe** is one of the oldest buildings on the square dating to 1860. Note

the limestone sills. It once housed the Fair Store- a popular department store and Koolers, a local dress shop, had the offices of E.S. Ferguson, Sarah Schafer's undertaker. Check out the tin ceiling.



917 15th Street, **Dunn Memorial Temple**. Built in 1917-1918 in Neoclassical design with ionic columns extending from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> floors. The street level has offices. The Masonic Lodge has an extensive library, museum and ballroom. The ball room on the top floor is no longer used because of

fire code restrictions. This is home of Bedford Lodge No 14. It was designed by architect Elmer Dunlap who also designed Bedford's Elks Lodge which was completed in 1917.

915 15th Street, **Twelve Months of Christmas**. This building once housed C&B Electric and still has their brass initials set in their entry. S&T Hardware was also once located here. The store was once covered with plate glass tiles. At one time the sidewalk in front of the store had inlaid white marble arrows with brass C&B letters in each arrow.



911 15th Street, **Bedford Furniture Gallery**. Built in 1907, this is one of the most interesting buildings on the square. It stood on the NE corner of the square until it was moved in 1921 to its current location by using logs to roll the building a few inches at a time. The move made room for the Greystone Hotel. During the move it was kept open for business. People are said to have come from miles around to watch the building move, sure that it would collapse at any time -

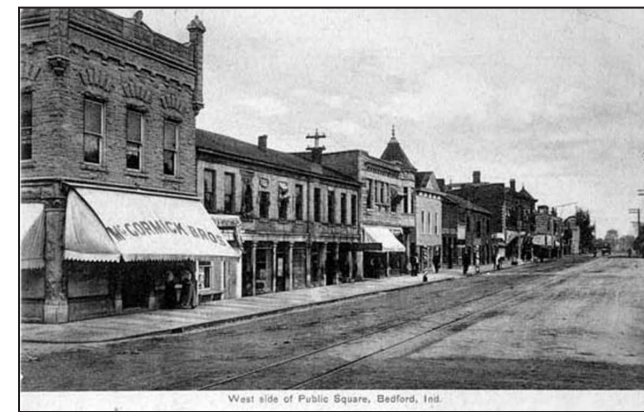


*The Greystone Hotel is shown here anchoring the corner of the north side of the Bedford square. The grand hotel was a southern Indiana landmark from 1923 until it fell to the wrecking ball in 1994.*

no one could possibly move a limestone two story building with mules. It is built on a very sturdy basement. The walls are 36 inches thick reinforced with railroad rails. It was designed to hold an additional three stories which were intended to be added to the building but the addition was never completed.

Dave Jacobs is the third generation owner of the building. Note the glass Star of David designs in the upper windows. This building also has original pressed metal ceilings.

905 15th Street. Originally the site of Dr. Foote's home, then the Bedford Furniture Gallery. More recently the site of the grand Greystone Hotel. The quaint building now on the site reflects the arched windows of the bank architecture on the far corner and the balustrade of the old Greystone Hotel (shown below).



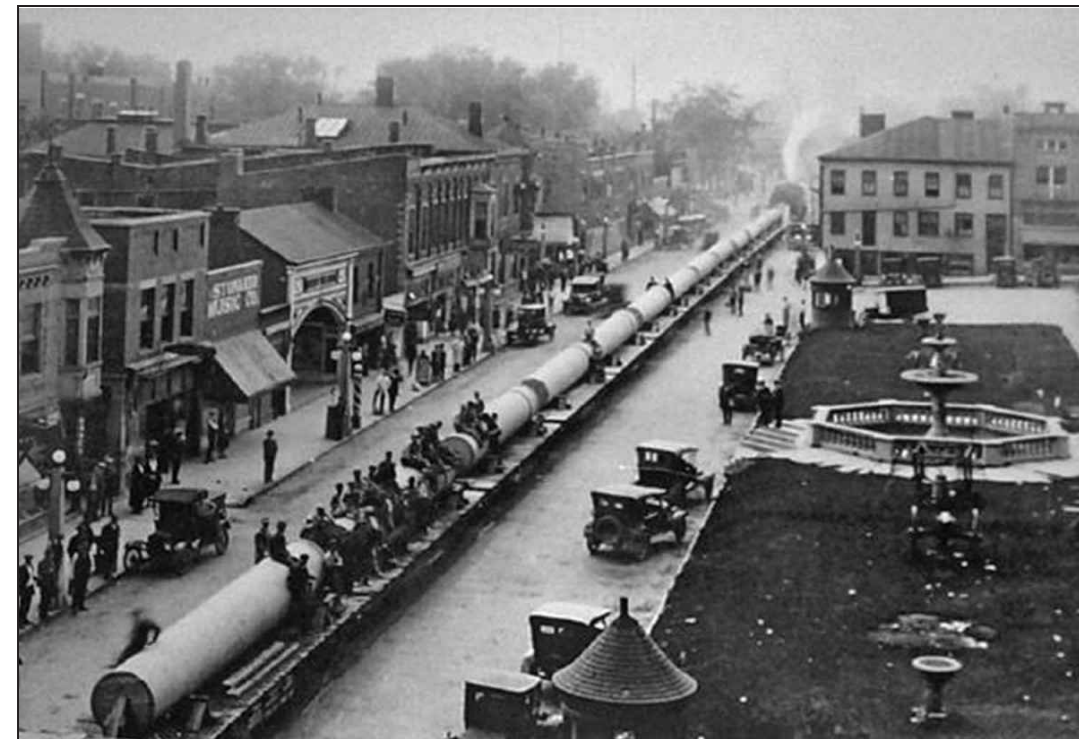
1531-1537 J Street, These buildings are both being remodeled. The brick building has housed Taylor Fabrics, Imperial Travel, and a Jewelry shop. It

previously was white glazed brick with some green glazed bricks. It was remodeled earlier to make it look old fashioned and now has red bricks.

The Queen Anne building with a tower on the corner of the alley was built about 1895. It has housed the Ballpark Heroes and the Greystone Gift Shop. This limestone building has a mix of rough and smooth stone. The street level is done in modern limestone veneer. The doorway has been modified from a corner doorway at the alley. There is also a doorway for apartments upstairs.

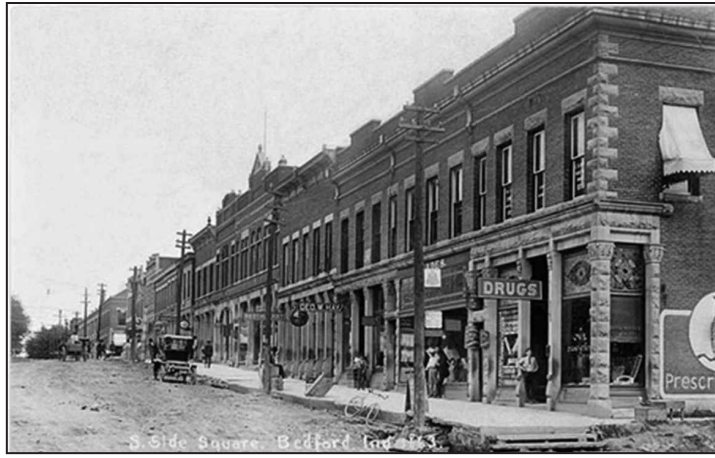
**Maiden's Lane** - This narrow alley is presently used only as a walkway. There are two legends surrounding this alley. One is that it got the name because a bakery sold item out a back door on the alley so young women would come to buy breads in the alley. The second is that the alley was frequented by women of ill repute.

**Harp Commons** - The park area was named after Bedford Mayor Lovell Harp and is maintained by Bedford Revitalization, Inc. The park was built as a green space after the buildings which occupied this space were lost in a fire. Community events are held at the Commons to bring people downtown. The buildings which once stood in the space include a bakery (hence the Maiden Lane story) and a theater. One thought is that eventually a mural front would be put on the building at the Commons to replicate the Grand Theater that once stood on the site (photo below).



*The west side of the square, the square's fountain, and a train going through town loaded with limestone columns. Date unknown.*





This early postcard photo shows the south side of the Bedford square in the early 1900s.

922-924 16th Street. **Purdue University Cooperative Extension** is a building that dates to 1910. It once was home to Sofa Land and Venture. The cornice is architectural metal and may serve as a gutter. This building also once housed Sterling Drug Store, remembered as a place that kids could get a 15 cent milkshake.



**Courthouse**-- Take a minute and look across at the face of the courthouse. The carving on the south side above the arched window is Minerva the Goddess of Wisdom. Note that on this side of the courthouse, the building is two stories. On the north side of the courthouse, the building appears to be three stories tall. The present courthouse was built in 1930. However the north wall was saved from the 1872 courthouse to demonstrate limestone's long term durability.



926-928 16th Street, Now vacant, this is the only building on the square with an art-deco face. Constructed in 1910 the building lost some of its limestone face blocks several years ago and had to be repaired. It's former tenants have included the Jupiter Store, the Dollar Store, and Jesse's Antiques.

930 16th Street, Also vacant this was earlier a three story building. After a fire, the upper floors were removed and the main floor was remodeled for a retail business and the current facade totally covers the original front of the building. It has been a pawn shop, VIP Fashions, the Diana Shop, etc.

### West Side of Square

1545 J Street, **Atrium Dentistry**. This building is known as the Moses Fell Building. The Romanesque Revival building was erected prior to 1895. We can speculate that the Fell family moved to the area in 1818 which may be why that date is on the building or that is when the county was founded. It may have also been the date the original business was founded before moving to this location? Details include the tower-like corners, arches above the second-floor windows and cornice treatments. Notice that the heights of the towers are different - the reason for this remains a mystery. According to legend - Moses Fell's daughters taught school on the second floor of this building before a school was built. It was once also the home of Stephen's Mens Wear.



1539-1541 J Street The Court Room. This new dining establishment replaced the formers Cutters eatery. The two buildings are listed as dating to 1900-1910. However, we think the earlier buildings may have been destroyed by fire and the shells of the buildings remodeled to construct this building. Another past tenant was Frivoli Fashions, at that time it was a plain brick building painted gray with aluminum sheeting covering part of the front.

### East Side

1502 I Street, The **German American Bank**. The Neoclassical building was built in 1860-61. It was remodeled in 1922, 1993, and 2009. It was originally three stories with the second floor one large room which was used as a dance hall and opera house. It also was the early home of the Masonic Lodge.



It was called City Hall in its early days although there is no information that it served to house city government. Reliance Manufacturing started a garment factory here in 1918 employing 30 people before moving to 12th and K street the next year. In a photo from 1922 there was a furniture store located on the ground floor. The building had very high ceilings and Bedford's first basketball game was played in this building upstairs. After 1922 the building was gutted and remodeled from three floors to four floors. The building had one of the first elevators in Bedford.

It housed Stone City Bank for many years, now German American Bank, Indiana Limestone Institute and some attorneys. The interior is quite elegant with black marble and terrazzo floors.

1506 I Street originally was a 1900 red brick building rebuilt in 1993 with a false front to match the bank building next door. It was a previous home of Baileys Flowers and the Homestead Restaurant.



The east side of the square is shown here in 1898. Two buildings shown here still have tall peaks on their facades. These were later removed likely because the high peaks were unstable. Note the building on the far left has a balcony.



Northeast end of the Bedford square, maybe mid 1950s; former Stone City Bank at the far left.



1508 and 1510 I Street, **Radius and Downtown Dental**. The old Stilson building was built about 1890. Some decorative elements are the limestone lintels on the second floor, the flat arches with keystones and the limestone window sills.

The stars are caps on long tie bolts that reinforce the building. The building was also used as a mortuary, a flower store, the Hansel and Gretel children's clothing store, and had an abstract office upstairs.

1514 I Street was built about 1915. Now vacant, this limestone building, formerly **Ginger Threads**, has both rough and smooth finishes.



Three carved half-columns brace the 2nd floor windows. The building was an extension of the Hardware store next door for part of its history. The original entrance is gone.

1516 I Street houses **Resource Mfg**. This neoclassical building dates to about 1915. It had been the Penguin Bookstore, Hanna and Tindles Hardware store and was the Chicago Branch Store. In addition to hardware, the store had a soda fountain and served old fashioned sodas in tall fluted glasses. The building has arched attic windows, & inlaid, turned, round plaques finished with a smooth surface. The third floor arch was once a door with a balcony (see picture to left). The building also had a peaked roof.



1522-1524 I Street, **McIntyre & Smith Attorneys and Wildflower Primitives**. Built about 1885 in Italianate style it is said to be haunted. The stars are cast iron and with the tie bolts stabilize the building. It began as Kramers Household Wares, then Heitiger Brothers Hardware, later Sherwin Williams.



The building at 1524 was a former pet store, and the Merit Shoe Store before becoming the Wildflower Primitives.



1526 I Street, **Classic Title**. Built around 1910. It was the former Pfeiffer and McDonald Jewelry Stores. It was once covered with metal panels.

1534 I Street. **Sweihart Law Office**. Built about 1910. This has been an attorney's office for many years. The third floor windows were bricked up and the front was reworked to give it a modern look. This building is also haunted by a ghost slamming doors, running up and down stairs and sitting on the deacon bench.

1536 I Street. **Group One**. Built around 1890, this building was once the Stone City Bank. Its Romanesque Revival facade originally had a limestone peak that was removed because it was thought to be unstable. (You can see the building when it had the peak in the picture on page 3. In that picture also notice the grand entrance of the original building.) The facade is very ornamental in keeping with the prestige of the bank. It was later used by Bedford Paint and Wallpaper for many years. Apartments are upstairs. The little angel in the alcove is believed to have been commissioned as the guardian of the money when the building was a bank.



1538 I Street. **Hudson Photography**. Built about 1895 of red brick with carved limestone lintels. The street level front is

modern. In the 1940's and 50s, the building was a Kroger Store. It was also briefly a store called Jesters.

1542 I Street. **En Point Dance**. This building was originally a J.C. Penny Store, then home to Ideal Shoes, a store called Aldens (below), and then S&L Creative Corner. The earlier 3-story building was destroyed by fire. The owner who rebuilt the structure chose this rough-surfaced vertical-grooved limestone to give the building an interesting look.



*The east side of the square in 1930. Notice that now only the one building still has its tall peak. The square is shown with a mixture of horse and wagons and cars.*



*This photo shows the south end of the east side of the courthouse square ca. 1960?*



*The southeast corner of the square in 1916. The building on the corner burned in 2002.*

### South Side of Square

904-906 16th Street, **Bowhead and Paglavsi** are now the tenants of this modern building. The building was built in 2003 after fire destroyed the 1910 limestone building which had long anchored the corner. The former building was known as the Kresgie building and built as part of this once popular chain of department stores. It then was the Kellers Men Store, and at the time it burned it was the Crowders Rexall Drug and Ben Franklin. The picture below shows the Keller Store and the Kresgie Store next door in the late 1950s.



908 16th Street, **Baileys Flowers**. This building was built in 1860 in the Federal style and has served as a retail store through many generations, including a dress shop and a Rexall Store. It is thought to be the oldest building on the square. It was damaged in the fire that destroyed the



building next door and the owners considered tearing down the building but were encouraged to restore it because of its historical significance. The building also housed the Kresgie store as shown in the picture in the lower left corner. It also was home to the Wells Shop of Fashion and a dentist office upstairs. The front is clad in red porcelain enameled steel.



910-920 **Courthouse Plaza**. This 1910 structure was remodeled in about 1965 to accommodate the Woolworth Store. Pictures before and after in 1965 are shown above. The historic buildings were razed to make room for the new Woolworths. Montgomery Ward also used the building.

After Woolworth closed in the 1980s, it stood vacant for a number of years though it was used for a variety of purposes: concerts, haunted fundraisers, etc. In 1996 the building was acquired by the Bedford Urban Enterprise Association (BUEA). They remodeled the building for \$1.7 million, acting as landlord for offices until the building was sold to the county to become the Courthouse Plaza in 2001.

