



CITY OF SOUTH BEND

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION



October 26, 2023

Notre Dame Architecture – Historic Preservation Research

Welcome! The purpose of this session is to provide you with a brief introduction into the various records and documentation that may assist you in your preservation projects. Many of these resources are available online.

1. Public Records
 - a. City of South Bend Document Search

“ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS ACT” (APRA)

DIGITAL RECORD STATS:

YEAR	2019	2021	2022	2023
PAGES	246,441	361,763	362,644	364,803
SIZE	107.92 GB	270.7 GB	314.43 GB	361.70 GB

- i. Property Records (our scanned files)
 1. Survey Cards
Documents related to the County-Wide survey to document structures and determine eligibility for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.
 2. Property Ownership History
Documents related to recorded deeds, financial documents, newspaper articles, and other records that indicate who lived at the property at different times.
 3. ‘Certificates of Appropriateness’
Documents related to proposed changes to locally designated properties.
 4. Photographs
Documents, drawings, and photographs showing the evolution of a property.
 5. Blueprints
Documents, drawings, and schematics related to a structure as originally designed/built or indicating proposed changes.
 6. “MISC”
Miscellaneous documents related to the property, including correspondence, loose photographs, newspaper clippings, etc.
- ii. Unique Record:
 1. Portage Township 1932 Assessor Cards
Historic Assessor Cards, indicating information related to the property and its

MICHELE GELEFMAN
PRESIDENT

A CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ADAM TOERING
HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADMINISTRATOR

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evolution between 1932 and approximately the 1960s. Different font color indicates different update years.

2. Online Resources

- a. City of South Bend Historic Preservation – Public Information Lookup
ArcGIS Web map of the nine Local Historic Districts and individually designated local landmarks.
<https://southbend.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ff989c7c12fd4eb78a1807b70272066c>
- b. State Historic Architectural and Archaeological Research Database (SHAARD)
Indiana’s official inventory of surveyed sites and structures.
<https://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/4505.htm>
- c. SHAARD Database Map
Indiana’s official inventory of surveyed sites and structures, color-coded to indicate National Register Eligibility.
<https://indnr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1593429c17c34942a0d1d3fac03c4a80>
- d. Assessor’s Records – Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG)
County Assessor Cards for every parcel in St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties
<http://macog.com/>
- e. National Register of Historic Places (Map)
Somewhat inaccurate map indicating National Register listed properties and districts.
<https://www.nps.gov/maps/full.html?mapId=7ad17cc9-b808-4ff8-a2f9-a99909164466>
- f. South Bend Brownfields Coalition (Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps)
Website compiling historic “Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps” for local communities, geolocated and overlaid with current maps.
<https://www.brownfieldcoalition.org/>
- g. Library Resources (Michiana Memory)
Inventory of historic documents, images, and maps related to local history.
<https://michianamemory.sjcpl.org/>
- h. Building South Bend
Partnership between “The History Museum,” the Notre Dame Architecture Library, and the Historic Preservation Commission.
<https://buildingsouthbend.nd.edu/>

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- i. Library of Congress
Inventory of documents, images, and maps housed by the Library of Congress.
<https://www.loc.gov/>
3. Offline Government Resources:
 - a. Archives
 - b. Recorder's Office

Our digitization efforts are ongoing and dynamic. If you have questions about specific properties, preservation best practices, or are interested in learning more about internship opportunities with the Historic Preservation Commission, please contact us directly.

Contact Information:

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