

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



Buckingham Lodge-1861

The Preservation Legacy of Indian Hill Historical Society

For forty years, the Indian Hill Historical Society has preserved history in the Village. The organization has collected memorabilia, genealogies, oral histories, photographs, maps and other relevant material, and serves as the caretaker of the community's past. Additionally the group has consistently worked to save historic structures within the Village. Three local landmarks have been preserved with the Society's efforts.

The Little Red Schoolhouse (8100 Given Rd.) was vacant in 1973. After being a school for 66 years, it was the Administrative Office for the Village, a community center, and the Board of Education's office. A *Bulletin* article titled "Landmark Becomes a Quandary" stated that the building might be sold. Then Council invited Tyler Emerson to form a committee to find a use for the building. With Andy Hauck and a steering committee, the Indian Hill Museum Association, now known as the Indian Hill Historical Society, was formed. Residents who donated \$100 became founders of the organization and their funds were the seed money for the restoration of the historic school. The building underwent extensive repairs to its interior and exterior, and once the work was accomplished, the pristine Little Red Schoolhouse sparkled like a jewel. It became the headquarters for the Indian Hill Historical Society. More recently (2003) a new state-of-the-art schoolhouse kitchen was constructed, bringing the structure up to date for the 21st century.



A second preservation effort of the Indian Hill Historical Society was a collaborative effort with the Elliott House Restoration Committee. The historic stone house (9400 Given Rd.) was the residence of one of the area's earliest pioneer families. It was acquired by Indian Hill in 1969. The Historical Society and Restoration Committee determined that it would cost roughly \$100,000 to do a complete restoration. Together they attempted to raise the money. A Double Dip Ice Cream Social invited guests to pledge to repair various parts of the exterior. Solicitation letters were mailed, and appeals were made in the *Bulletin*, and later a Pioneer Trader Open House raised more money. By the 1980s some restoration had been accomplished, but the house still needed more work, and fundraising efforts were losing steam. In 1994 a young couple was awarded a 99 year lease on the house, with the provision that they complete the restoration. They honored that provision, provided their own labor, and transformed the house into a cozy residence. Thus the Elliott House was saved.



A third building saved from the wrecking ball was Buckingham Lodge (8650 Camargo Rd.) The farmhouse, which was built circa 1861, was bequeathed to the Village in 1966. By 1988 the house had deteriorated and was slated for demolition. The Indian Hill Historical Society, led by President Ginny White and Board Trustee Jim Ewell spearheaded the charge to save the old homestead. They persuaded Council to redirect the \$34,000 budgeted for demolition costs towards restoration. Then they campaigned, raising additional funds so the Lodge could be rehabilitated. A total of \$66,000 was collected, including the money from the Village. New wood siding was installed and the farmhouse was restored to its original size. The project was completed in 1990. Soon after, Buckingham Lodge became the office and library of the Society.

An active preservationist group, the Indian Hill Historical Society has protected these significant structures in the community. They stand as reminders of an earlier era in the Village.