

1. Town Square, Main & Main Cross Streets - Originally, Short Street

connected Main Cross & Market. The 1st Clark County Courthouse 1811-1878 was located midway between Main Cross & Market Streets, facing Main. In 1878 the building became the Charlestown Public School for all grade. In 1917, it was replaced with a new



2. City Hall / Opera House / Hostetter Department Store, 304 Main Cross St - This building was on the west side of the square facing Mar-

ket and was used as a school from 1918-1953. It was tom down in 1966. This building was built by William & Augusta Prather in 1870. It featured an opera house on the 2nd floor above a variety of dry goods, confectionary and department stores. The Opera house with its stage, 16 food ceiling, and ample seating hosted the first public high school commencement in 1890, basketball games, motion pictures shows, town meetings, church services, and agricultural events. In 1997 the building became the Charlestown City Hall.

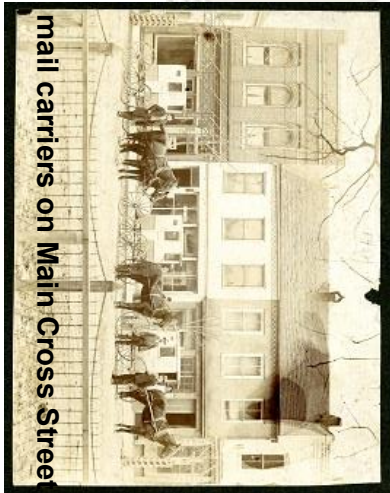
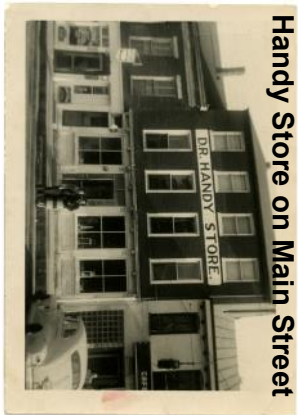
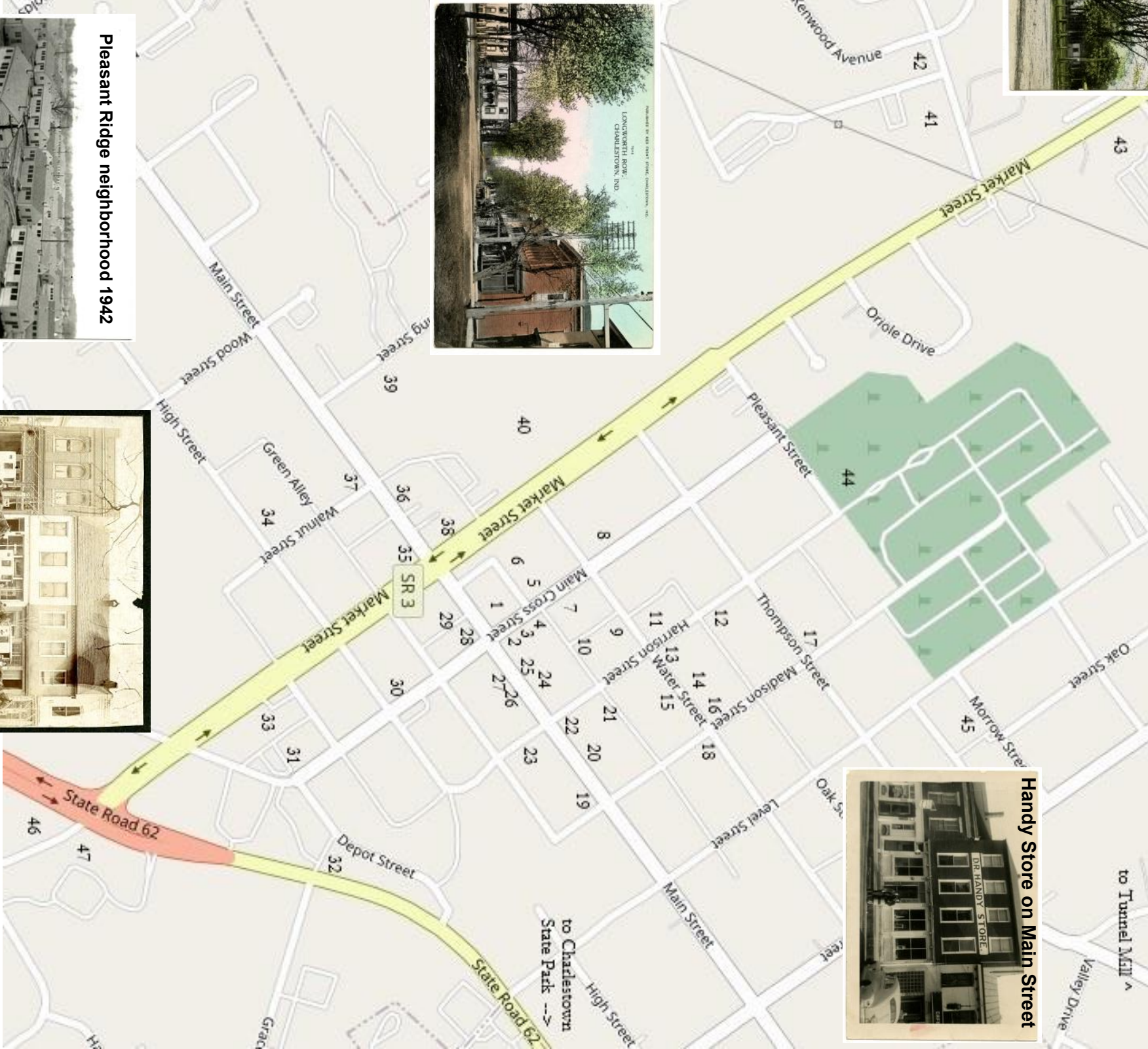
3. Old Post Office location, about 320 Main Cross Street
4. Bus Station, about 330 Main Cross Street
5. Post Office, 361 Main Cross Street - The post office moved here in 1953.
6. 800 Block of Short Street - This block originally contained houses.
7. Beeler House - 366 Main Cross St - Built about 1880. it was owned by George Beeler. He operated several dry goods stores on the square.
8. Charlestown First United Methodist Church, 423 Main Cross Street
9. Handy House, 958 Water Street - This federal style house was built about 1813. D.R. Handy purchased the home in 1931 from Julia McComb and gave it to his daughter, Johnnie Handy, in 1948. Currently, it is Hart's Engi-

10. Old Water Tower, behind 958 Water Street - Daniel R. Handy donated the land to the city for the water tower.
11. Charlestown Arts & Enrichment Center, 999 Water Street
12. Old Jail, 464 Harrison St - This federal style building built in 1819 was used as the jail and sheriff's residence.
13. Green Tree Tavern location / Watson / Coombs House, 1015 Water St - The Green Tree Tavern was a log building on the stage coach road. It was built by Capt. James Biggett in 1812. Jonathan Jennings, 1st governor of Indiana, was inaugurated and married Clarissa Barbree here. It was razed in 1898 when Ward Watson built a house.
14. Resident Hotel, 1065 Water St- Built by Ward Watson as a private home about 1917, it became a hotel and restaurant in the 1940s during the WWII population boom.
15. Boyer House, 1094 Water St- This house was the home of the William Boyer family. It was built in 1816. He and his sons operated a blacksmithing forge on the property.

16. Mrs. Guernsey House, 1091 Water St
17. Funeral Home, 1087 Thompson St - Built about 1840.
18. 1116 Water St - Built about 1860.
19. Hammond House, 1096 Main St - Rezin Hammond, a pioneer Methodist preacher and postmaster, owned this house.
20. Downs House, 1045 Main Street - Built by Thomas Downs in the 1809, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
21. VFW Post 1427 - 350 Harrison St
22. USO Center / Community Hall, 1005 Main St - Originally built as a USO Center about 1942 for the soldiers of World War II, it later became the Community Hall.

23. Baird Feed Mill, about 244 Harrison St - The mill burnt in the 1960s.
24. Handy House, 959 Main St - D.R. Handy lived here. He operated the Handy Store on Main across from the square.
25. Old Public Library, next to alley at 957 Main Street
26. Masonic Lodge, 950 Main St - This is the current location of the Blazing Star Masonic Lodge #3 which was first established in 1816 as the third lodge in Indiana Territory.

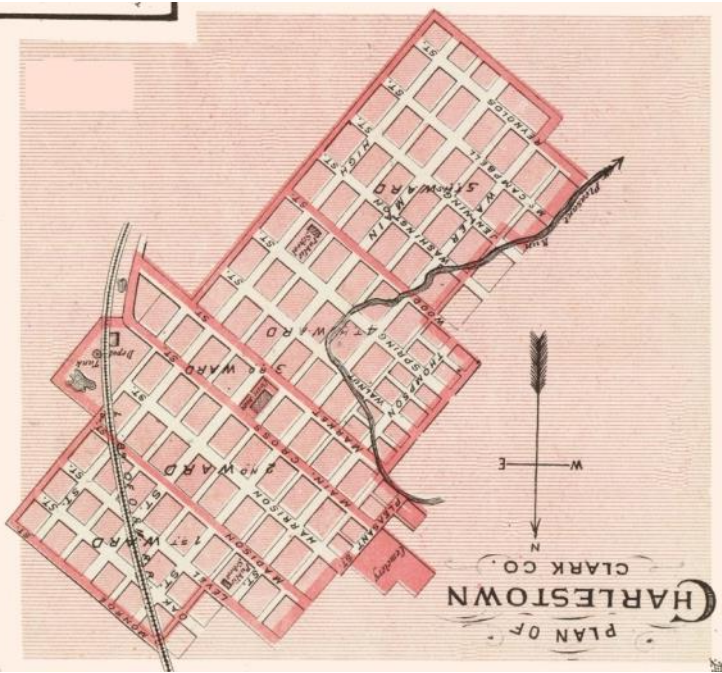
A Walking Tour of Charlestown, Indiana



The first Clark County fair grounds was located on Monroe Street where the current Charlestown High School is located.

Compiled by
Michelle Adams
2021





The county seat was moved to Charlestown in 1811. Indiana became a state in 1816 through the efforts of Jonathan Jennings, Charlestown resident and 1st governor of Indiana. The court house was built on the square in 1817. Due to the fact that Jeffersonville was much closer to the large city of Louisville, the county seat was moved back there on 23 Sep 1878. Charlestown provided access to and from the Ohio River which was the major source of transportation.

The county seat was moved to Charlestown in 1811. Indiana became a state in 1816 through the efforts of Jonathan Jennings, Charlestown resident and 1st governor of Indiana. The court house was built on the square in 1817. Due to the fact that Jeffersonville was much closer to the large city of Louisville, the county seat was moved back there on 23 Sep 1878. Charlestown provided access to and from the Ohio River which was the major source of transportation.

The county seat was moved to Charlestown in 1811. Indiana became a state in 1816 through the efforts of Jonathan Jennings, Charlestown resident and 1st governor of Indiana. The court house was built on the square in 1817. Due to the fact that Jeffersonville was much closer to the large city of Louisville, the county seat was moved back there on 23 Sep 1878. Charlestown provided access to and from the Ohio River which was the major source of transportation.

The county seat was moved to Charlestown in 1811. Indiana became a state in 1816 through the efforts of Jonathan Jennings, Charlestown resident and 1st governor of Indiana. The court house was built on the square in 1817. Due to the fact that Jeffersonville was much closer to the large city of Louisville, the county seat was moved back there on 23 Sep 1878. Charlestown provided access to and from the Ohio River which was the major source of transportation.

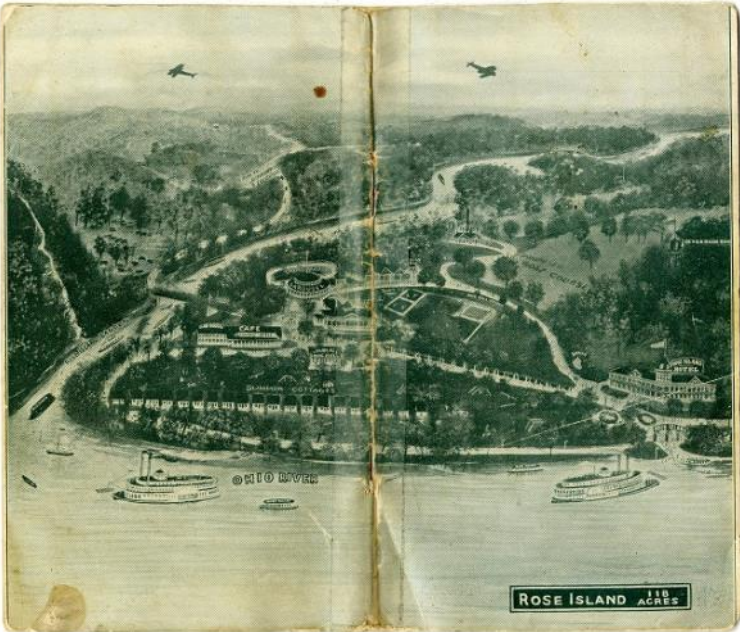
A Brief History & Walking Tour

Indiana Ordnance Works 1942



Charlestown becomes a Boomtown

The United States federal government began acquiring land in Charlestown, Indiana in 1940 to build a smokeless powder ordnance plant to supply the US military during World War II. Indiana Ordnance Works (IOW) Plant 1 and Hoosier Ordnance Plant (HOP) began production in 1941. IOW, the black powder manufacturing facility, was built and operated by DuPont. HOP, the bag manufacturing facility, was built on the south side of IOW and operated by Goodyear. The facility employed over 25,000 people at its peak during the war. The population boom brought many improvements to the town including schools, fire department, housing, sewers, water and roads. In 1944, IOW Plant 2 construction began on the north side of Charlestown Landing Road. On 30 Nov 1945 at the end of WWII, the 3 plants were combined and renamed Indiana Arsenal. Between 1 Nov 1961 and 1 Aug 1963, the plant was designated Indiana Ordnance Plant. After this time, it became Indiana Army Ammunition Plant (INAAP). Production of ordnance continued at the plant until 1992. After that time, the land and facilities were leased to private industry. A large portion of the land became Charlestown State Park. In October 2016, all of the land and facilities were officially sold by the government. The area has become an industrial park.



Fern Grove & Rose Island

Fern Grove was a picnic ground and park at the mouth of Fourteen Mile Creek where it enters the Ohio River. This area was previously known as Devil's Backbone. In 1923, David Rose bought the park and added many improvements. He turned it into a family resort and amusement park. It offered a hotel, swimming pool, rides, games, zoo and cottages.

Tunnel Mill

Tunnel Mill was built by John Work in 1819 on Fourteen Mile Creek north of Charlestown. The name came from the 700 foot tunnel Work had dug in order to divert the water at a natural bend in the creek. The mill operated until 1917.



INDIANA MEMORY PROJECT



The Clark County Collection contains thousands of digital images of Clark County history including 1937 Great Flood post cards, Civil War letters, Korean War letters, yearbooks, Rose Island brochure, store ledgers from the 1800s, World War II letters, Louisville Cement Company items, Indiana Army Ammunition Plant items, photographs, Speed Community Fair brochures, news-letters, hotel ledgers, judge docket ledgers from 1890-1920s, church items, family papers, and much more.

Visit our 2 collections on Indiana Memory at <https://indianamemory.org>



Charlestown Library
51 Clark Rd, Charlestown, IN 47111
Mon-Thu: 9 am - 8 pm
Fri-Sat: 9 am - 5 pm

CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
Charlestown
430 N Indiana Ave, Sellersburg, IN 47172
Mon-Thu: 9 am - 8 pm
Fri-Sat: 9 am - 5 pm

Sellersburg Library
214 E Main St, Henryville, IN 47126
Mon: 9 am - 6 pm
Wed: 12 pm - 6 pm
Fri: 9 am - 5 pm

Borden Library
117 W Main St, Borden, IN 47106
Mon: 11 am - 6 pm
Wed: Closed
Fri: 9 am - 5 pm

New Washington Library
210 S Poplar St, New Washington, IN 47162
Mon & Fri: 9 am - 5 pm
Tue & Thu: 12 pm - 8 pm
Sat: 9 am - 1 pm

