

Delphi Opera House

Historic Opera House Restored as a Multiple Use Performing Arts Venue

PROPOSED

Restored Delphi Opera House Interior

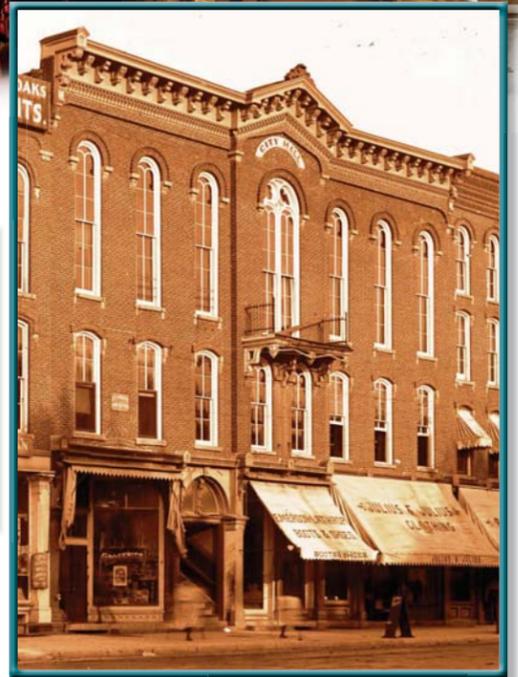


LOCATION MAP



BUILDING HISTORY

The third floor became an Opera House in the late 1800's.



Project Description

PROJECT VISION

This project will return to glory the 19th-century opera house on the third floor of the Assion-Ruffing City Hall building. This "City Hall" never had a government function, but rather was named for the grand hall and meeting space on the building's third floor. A ball celebrating the return of Civil War soldiers in June 1865 was the first event held in the hall. Concerts, dinners, public lectures and dances were regular fare there as Delphi's downtown bustled with commerce spawned by the canal and railroad. In 1882, the hall was remodeled as an opera house and for the next two decades served as the center of entertainment for the area. Traveling theatre troupes and minstrel companies performed there as did local talents. Among the regulars on its stage was famed Hoosier poet James Whitcomb Riley, a frequent visitor to the Delphi area.

The City Hall building, separately listed on the National Register, is owned by the Delphi Preservation Society. The planned restoration project will nearly double the size of the 10,800 square foot structure with a three-story addition housing the elevator and fire stairs and that will create a safe, accessible facility. When restored, the Delphi Opera House will become a 200-seat accessible theater and gathering space with banquet facilities, dressing rooms and multipurpose areas for events from concerts, dramatic performances, dinner theatre, and ballroom dancing, to weddings and receptions. Interpretive museum exhibits on the second floor of the historic structure will tell the story not only of Delphi's opera house, but also of the merchants responsible for the grand architecture surrounding the Courthouse Square, now listed on the National Register as a historic district.

Already completed is the restoration of the building's facade, roof and three ground-level retail bays housing an upscale gift shop, teahouse and art gallery. These destination businesses preview the vibrant shopping and dining environment that the restored Opera House will enable by bringing thousands of patrons and visitors into the downtown for events and performances. With these amenities, upper story lofts and apartments will draw artists and residents into the downtown.

PROJECT READINESS

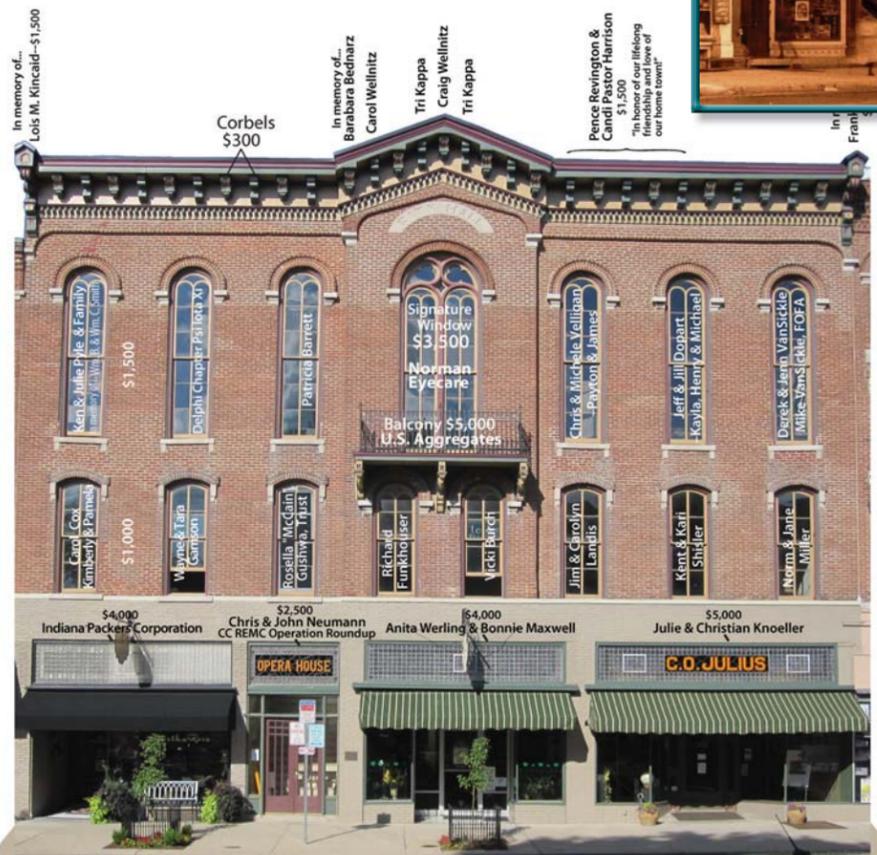
Restoration of the building's facade and replacement of the roof has been completed by the Delphi Preservation Society and funded in part with Historic Preservation Fund grants administered through Indiana DNR's DHPA with matching funds from foundations, corporations, and individual donors. Design schematics prepared by KJG Architecture were updated in late 2011. The project is ready to proceed. The Delphi Preservation Society is committed to providing \$1,000,000 match with funds from two major funding agencies and corporate and individual sponsors.

PROJECT BUDGET

\$4.0 million

PROJECT SCHEDULE

- Year 1 Finish Design Work and Begin Construction
- Year 2 Construction and Finishing



SPONSORSHIPS

The community was incredibly supportive of the Opera House facade restoration.

DESIGN SCHEMATICS



DELPHI
STORIED PAST... STELLAR FUTURE



HWC
ENGINEERING



synthesis
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN
SOLUTIONS