

Evansville Grove Society



Historic House Tour

Saturday, September 19, 2026



Tour 5 Historic Homes

104 West Main

39 West Liberty

224 West Church

44 West Main

112 Grove



104 West Main

Evans Hall, 104 W. Main, is a High Victorian Gothic house built in 1884. It was home to Dr. John M. Evans, the

city's namesake, Evansville's first physician, and its first elected mayor. The house was "one of the grandest in town," with gas heat and light and running water from a cistern in the attic. After Evans's death it was home to the local Masonic Lodge, of which Evans was a founding member. The Masons added a large veranda to the front of the house and built the Greek Revival addition to the rear of the building. Since 2016 the building has been owned by Attorney Walter E. Shannon, who maintains a law office on the ground floor and has undertaken substantial restorations.

44 West Main

The Campbell-Combs house at 44 West Main Street is a highly distinctive Late Victorian structure originally built in 1881. Also known as The Tower House for its square, steeple-shaped tower, the home is an example of so-called "stick-style" architecture, which added trim boards, soffits, gables, and other decorative features to the basic balloon-frame house design that became common in the mid-



nineteenth century. The tower and the rounded bay windows are unusual features. Of particular interest is the intricate woodwork throughout the interior. This house offers an opportunity to see a renovation in progress, and the owner will be on hand to answer questions.

224 West Church

The Johnson-Morrison house, a "fine Italianate frame house" listed in the Evansville Historic District's inventory in the National Register of Historic Places, was built in 1882. Nearly 150 years old, the house has been relatively well cared-for over its life and underwent extensive and respectful remodeling in the 1940s. Under its



current owner, Pat Carr, the house has nearly completed another significant renovation, undertaken this time with the close cooperation of the Wisconsin Historical Society. It is a good example of remodeling that brings together modernization and preservation in a creative way.



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39 West Liberty

The Baker-Otto house at 39 West Liberty Street is a marvelous example of Italianate design, inspired by 16th-century Italian Renaissance architecture, which first appeared in England at the beginning of the nineteenth century and became very popular in the United States from the late 1840s to the 1890s. The Evansville inventor and industrialist Allen S. Baker built the house in 1883. The current owners, John and Kim Otto, have done significant restoration work on it since occupying it in 1990. Watch for the chandeliers, doorknobs, and other original features. Squares of the original wallpaper are mounted in the second-story hallway. Don't miss the beautiful gardens at the rear of the house.

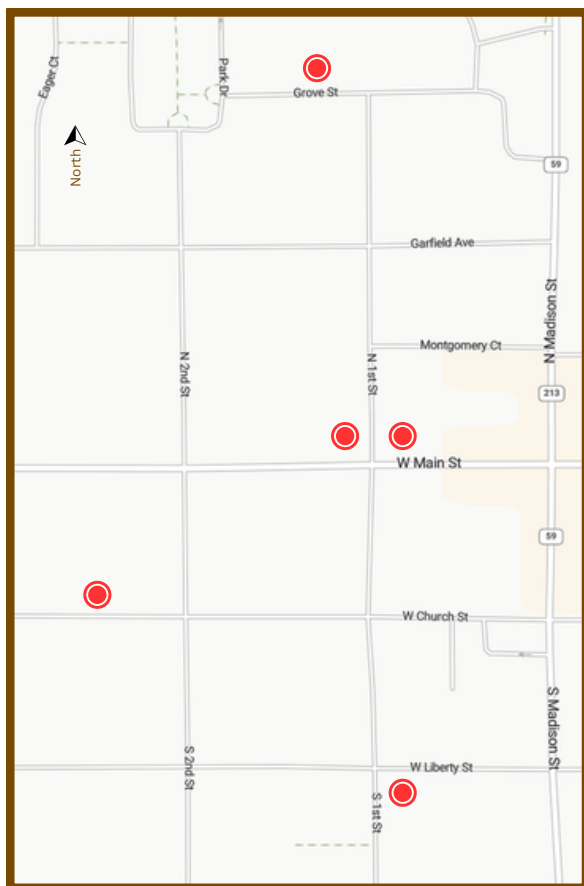


112 Grove

The Harley A. Smith House at 112 Grove Street is a fine example of Tudor Revival architecture, which became popular in the United States after World War I. It has a poured concrete foundation, exterior walls made of brick and so-called "weeping" mortar, and a steeply pitched, multi-gable roof with a substantial chimney, all of which are characteristic of the Tudor Revival style. The masonry contains a great many fine details, including the brick window surrounds. The owner, Norman Barker, is native to England and has undertaken his own remodeling projects, the most recent of which is an English-style rose garden in front of the house.



Start your tour at any house.



Thank you for supporting the Evansville Grove Society.

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For more information about the houses, visit grovesociety.org.

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