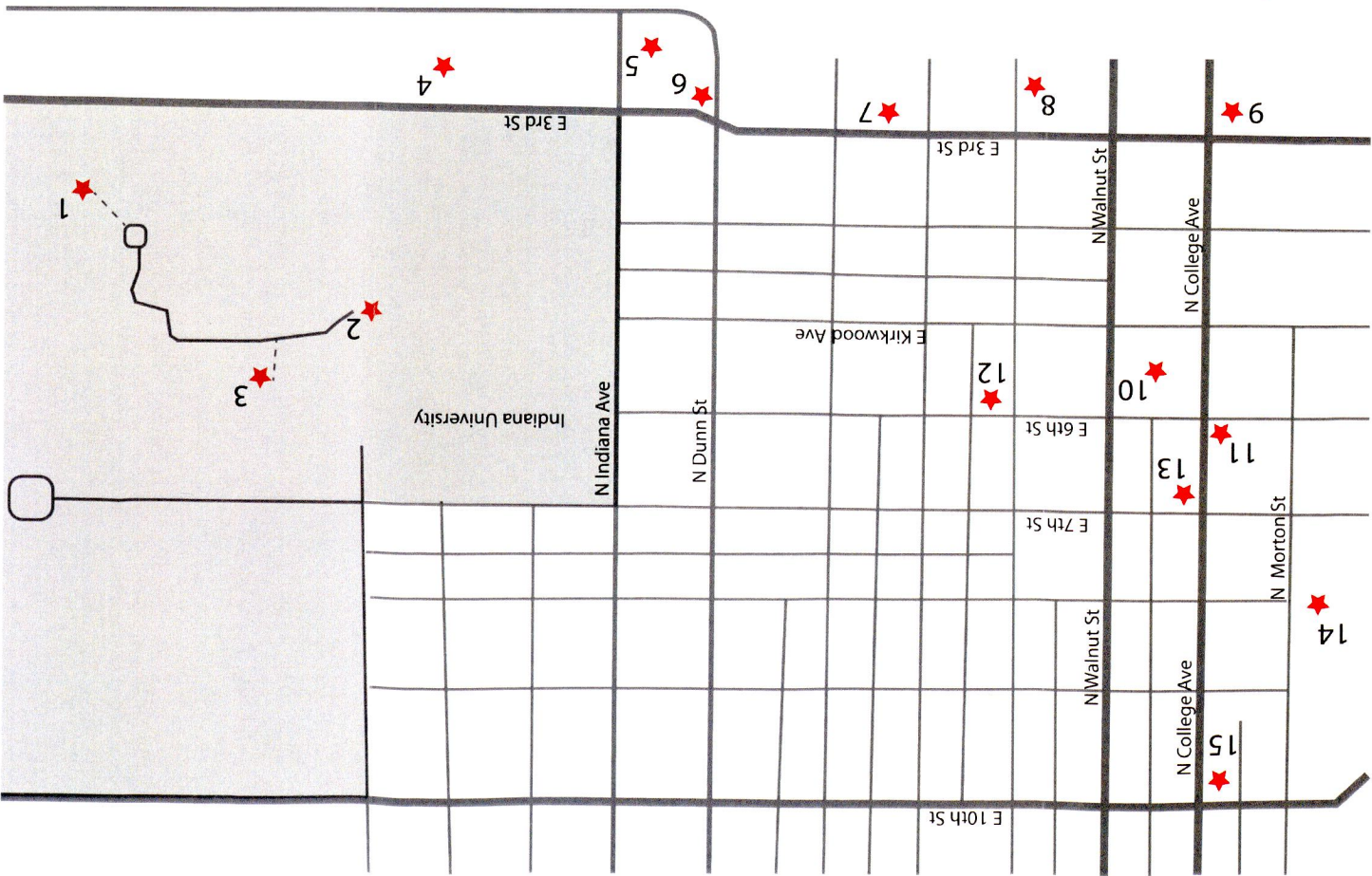


Since the time of Monroe County's first settlers in the 1810s, women in the county have purchased property, ran businesses, and taken leadership roles in the Bloomington community. In the 19th century, women cornered the student housing market by renting out homes and store-backs as boarding houses. Other women made their means as educators, either in public schools or later as Indiana University faculty, mostly in the English department. Still more women, mostly young and unmarried, took up jobs at the Showers Furniture Factory, which was run in part by feminist activist Maud Showers.

Background



In the 20th century, a number of women's groups were devoted to enfranchisement, temperance, of Bloomington's first hospital. Women also made up the vast majority of RCA Television's employees. Their union went on strike on several occasions demanding fair employment practices.

Increased enrollment of women at Indiana University in the mid-20th century brought co-eds in conflict with IU policies including curfews and club membership. In the 60s, female students joined feminist, left-wing, and anti-war groups in large

numbers, forming a prominent student political bloc. They organized protests and marches in reaction to both university and national issues. Their activities incurred the scrutiny of the FBI, which wiretapped women's health hot lines and gathered information on student activities. Meanwhile, the Kinsey Institute of Sex Research gathered information by other means for the advancement of the study of gender.

(continued on inside cover...)

(continued...)

On a municipal level, women started to occupy more rolls in government. In 1962, the city council appointed Alice Dunlap as the second female mayor in the state. In the 1930s, school board member Elizabeth Bridgewaters had become the first African American elected to public office in Bloomington, and remained an active voice in the community for the rest of the century.

In the 1980s, Mayor Tomilea Allison instigated a grand project to revitalize Bloomington's downtown. The area was widely considered unsalvageable, but Allison pushed to renovate the courthouse with aid from philanthropists Bill and Gayle Cook. Allison also committed her administration to the construction of some of Bloomington's first bike lanes.

Today, the Bloomington community is serviced by the non-profit Middle Way House as well as a Planned Parenthood clinic. Women play a prominent role in both the university and the city, as groups and commissions continue to devote themselves to the rights and welfare of women in Bloomington, Indiana.

In Appreciation

Photo credits: IU Photo Archives (*)
Special thanks to Glenda Murray, Noah Sandweiss, and Anna Mui.

Pictured on front: Sarah Parke Morrison, IU's first female student and educator.



Sarkes Tarzian employee during the World War II

Photo Courtesy of the Monroe County History Center.

A Walk Through Bloomington's Women's History

Historic Tour Guide No. 15



City of Bloomington, Indiana

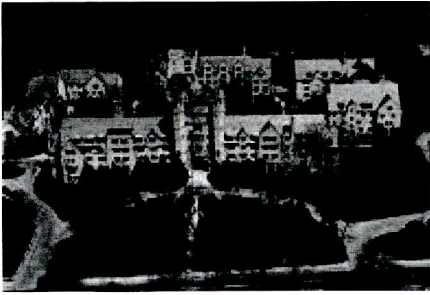


Tour Sites

1. Agnes E. Wells Quad

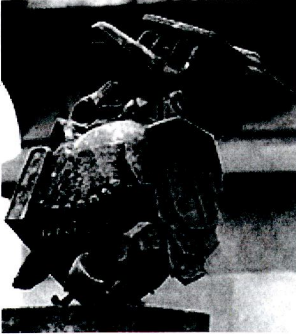
E. 3rd St

Built in 1925, the buildings of Goodbody, Sycamore, Morrison, and Memorial Hall comprise IU's original women's dorm.



Morrison Hall is named for IU's first female student and faculty member, Sarah Parke Morrison (pictured on cover) who attended IU in

1869, holding a degree from Vassar. After graduation she would push for inclusion of women in the Union board and higher admission rates. The building remained a women's dorm until the 1970s. Today, the IU gender studies department is located here, as well as the Kinsey Institute for the study of human sexuality.



2. Wylie Hall

100 S. Woodlawn Ave

Shortly after it's construction in 1884, Wylie Hall's basement served as IU's first women's gym. In the 40s and 50s, Alfred Kinsey conducted his studies on sexuality in the building. Now the seat of the economics department, Wylie contained the office Elinor Ostrom, who earned a Nobel Prize for her theories on environmental protection and common land ownership.



3. Dunn Cemetery

IU Campus

In the family graveyard of the Dunn family, original inhabitants of what's now IU's old crescent, lay interred Ellenor Dunn, Jennet Irving, and Agnes Alexander, suppliers of the continental army during the American Revolution.



4. 730 E. 3rd

Now the Helene G. Simon Hillel center, this was once the site of the Delta Zeta sorority, lodging of journalist, organic farmer, historic preservationist, and early environmentalist writer Rachel Peden.



5. The Legg House

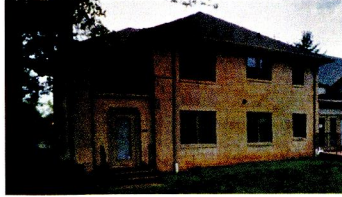
324 S. Henderson

Built in 1848, the Legg house once served as a student boarding house. Up through the mid-20th century, a number of Bloomington women ran boarding houses catering to the IU's student body.



6. 504 E. 3rd

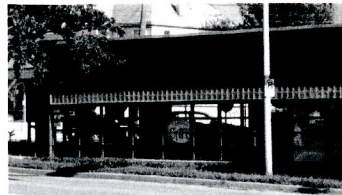
Former home of Alice Dunlap, Bloomington's first and Indiana's second female mayor Dunlap was appointed by the city council in 1962 after the former mayor's resignation.



7. Rachael's Cafe

300 E. 3rd

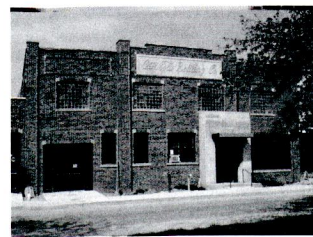
The former site of Rachael's cafe, an LGBT cafe and event space operated by trans-woman Rachael Jones.



8. Middle Way House

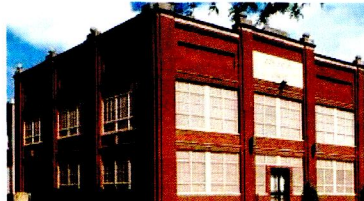
318 S. Washington

Since 1971, the Middle Way House has served as a shelter and resource for women affected by domestic violence, and human trafficking.



9. 302 S. College Ave

Now the Bloomington convention center, this was once the site of a 19th century school led by Margaret McCalla, first female superintendent of Monroe County School Corporation. In 1908, McCalla would have a school on 10th street named for her.



10. Monroe County Courthouse

W Kirkwood Ave

This 1908 beaux arts courthouse was saved and restored by long time city council woman and commissioner Charlotte Zietlow, and Bloomington's second female mayor Tomilea Allison, who is also responsible for the opening of Fountain Square Mall on the south side of the square, and the creation of Bloomington's first bike lanes. In 1921 Minnie Waldron took up the office as Monroe County's first female judge. Kirkwood, the throughfare on the south side of the square was the site of numerous marches and sit-ins in the 1960s, which were organized in part by female and feminist student organizations. A plaque on the east side commemorates a speech given by Susan B. Anthony on the spot in 1870.



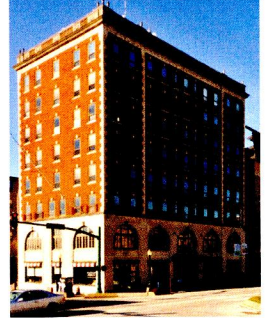
Please respect the privacy of the owners by viewing all listed buildings from the street.

11. Graham Plaza

NW Corner of 6th and College

Headquarters of Sarkes Tarzian, Inc., a company founded by the Bloomington manager for RCA TV and radio company.

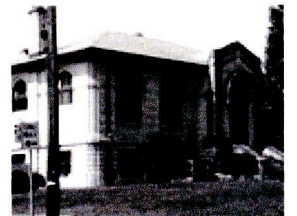
Starting in 1940, RCA employed thousands of young women (up to two percent of Bloomington's workforce) in a 1.5 million square foot factory. In the 60s, conflict between the company and workers led to violent strikes and thousands of layoffs. RCA left Bloomington in 1998.



12. Monroe County History Center

202 E. 6th

Originally the Monroe County Public Library, this building was a meeting place for a number of women's groups including the Bloomington Business Women, an early 20th century group of female business owners. As Bloomington's black school, school board leader and activist Elizabeth Bridgewater studied here before attending IU. She would go on to run for mayor.

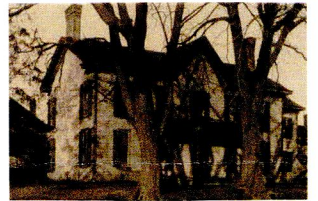


Women, an early 20th century group of female business owners. As Bloomington's black school, school board leader and activist Elizabeth Bridgewater studied here before attending IU. She would go on to run for mayor.

13. Monroe County Women's Seminary

Corner of College and 7th

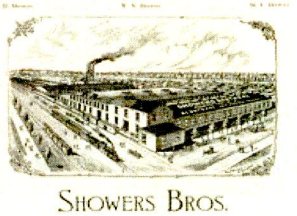
In 1833, a women's seminary was founded at this site on the corner of 7th and college. The two floor wooden building served as the alma matter to many of Indiana's 19th century school teachers. Women not enrolled in the seminary could still participate in a weekly literary society which hosted debates on law, science, literature, and civil rights issues. The seminary closed in the 1860s. The Monroe County circuit court is also located at this corner, where Viola Talliaferro served as Monroe County's first black judge.



14. Showers Building

401 N. Morton

Bloomington's City Hall is housed in what was once the Showers Furniture Company's primary factory. Once the world's largest furniture factory, the business was run in part by Maud Showers, an activist and local leader, who retained her partnership after her divorce from Hull Showers, eventually making vice-president. Maud Showers advocated for equal pay, women's suffrage, and the taxation for religious institutions.



15. Farmer House Museum

529 N. College

This 1869 I-House was renovated and donated to the city of Bloomington by Mary Farmer as a museum of domestic life throughout the history of Bloomington. The collection's photos, clothes, and artifacts shed light onto the experience of Bloomington women through the late 19th and 20th centuries.

