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Mooreville's Treasure Trove #3 (April 2008)

Bill Buckley, Indiana Room Librarian

MOORESVILLE SANITARIUMS & HOSPITALS

Historic Mooreville, IN Scenes and Places

Taken from the Past and Brought into the Present

18 North Indiana Street



In 1880 physician Dr. Clark Robbins began treating patients at his office located at 18 North Indiana Street. He was joined by his son-in-law, Dr. E. Bert Hadley, in 1881 to establish a sanitarium specializing in rectal diseases. [FN 1] In a 1909 photograph above, this brick building is boxed in red. Patients who remained for several days during their treatments usually roomed and boarded at Reverend Jesse's home at 8 East Washington Street (on

the corner of Washington and Indiana Streets) or at Charles Hadley's home nearby. [FN 2]

The building located at 18 North Indiana Street was originally constructed around 1874, at which time the Savings Bank of Mooresville (later the Farmers State Bank) owned the property. Following Dr. Robbins' use of the premises as a physician's office, the building housed a drugstore (1902) and a dry goods store (1910). During the 1920s Wadley Co. used it as a poultry and feed store. Much later it became a jewelry store (1960s) and an insurance/real estate business (1972). [FN 3]

[1909 photograph courtesy of Joanne Raetz Stuttgen and reprinted in Stuttgen, Joanne Raetz, & Tomak, Curtis, *Morgan County* p. 35 (Postcard History Series) (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2007)(ISBN 0-7385-5120-1), which is available at local and online booksellers and is highly recommended to those interested in historical photographs of Mooresville and Morgan County.]

18 North Indiana Street (2007)



Today, the two houses shown in the 1909 photo immediately to the north (right) of 18 N. Indiana St. are gone. The first, smaller home would have been close to where an alley now runs. The second, larger structure was the sanitarium that Dr. Robbins built in 1900 (see below for more details). [FN 2]

Currently, 18 North Indiana Street houses a retail business called Autumn Whispers.

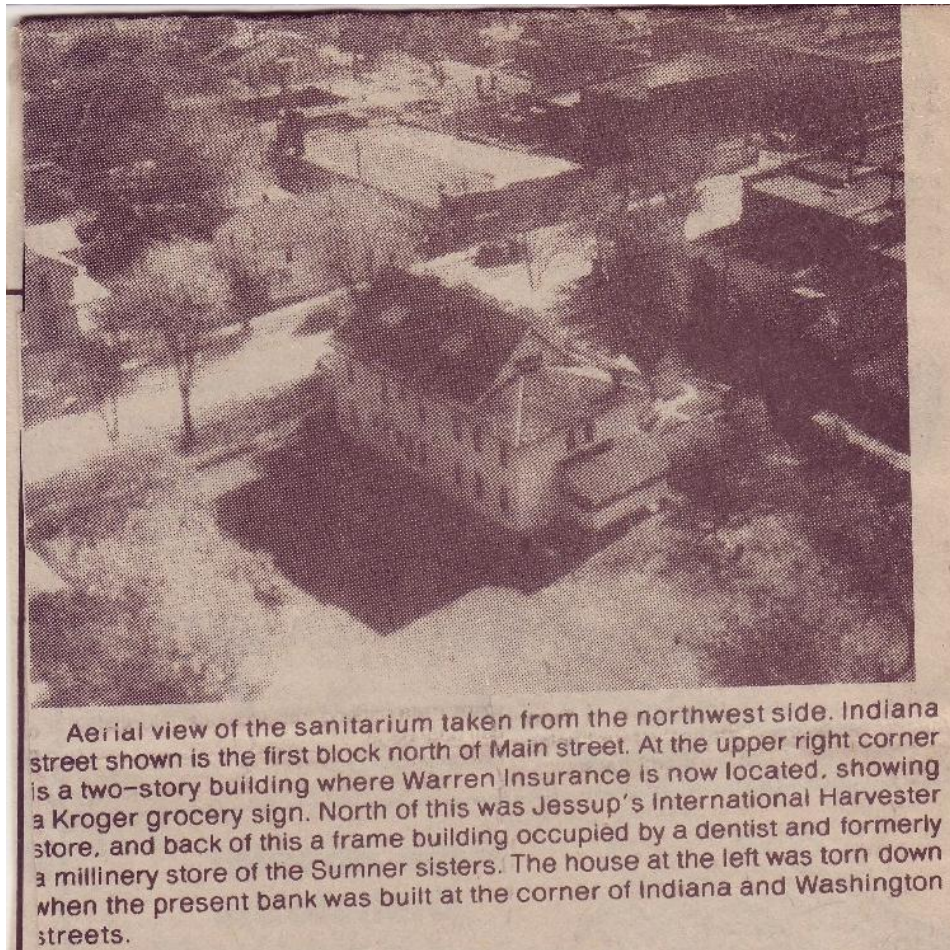
Mooreville Sanitarium (1900-1936)



In 1900 Dr. Robbins constructed a sanitarium at the southwest corner of Washington and Indiana Streets (see the *circa* 1909 photo on page one and the photo above [*circa* 1910-12]). [FN 4] It was across from the present day location of Citizens Bank.



The photograph (*circa* 1909) (above, bottom of page 3) features several people, who are, from left to right (on the porch): Dr. William Strong, Dr. E. Bert Hadley, Dr. Fred Hadley, and Mrs. Melissa Robbins, widow of Dr. Robbins. Standing inside the window are Edith Hadley Shirley, daughter of Dr. E. Bert Hadley and granddaughter of Dr. and Mrs. Robbins, and Miss Ann Baker. The persons standing in front of the porch and sitting on the steps were unidentified sanitarium patients. [FN 5] The aerial photograph of the Sanitarium (below), from approximately the same time period (*circa* 1910-12) appeared with Becky Hardin's article in *The Times*, Sept. 24, 1981.



Dr. Robbins suffered a stroke and passed in 1906. Dr. E. Bert Hadley took over the practice with the help of his brother, Dr. Fred Hadley. Following Dr. Hadley's retirement in 1914, Drs. F. S. & J. C. Kincaid came aboard for two years. [FN 7] Dr. J. E. Comer became a co-owner with Dr. Thomas Daggy in 1916 but moved to Richmond, IN within a year. His brother, Charles Comer, became co-owner in 1917 and changed the establishment's name to Comer Sanitarium. [FN 6]

On October 6, 1936, at approximately 8 A.M., a fire destroyed the Mooresville Sanitarium; fortunately, there were no injuries. [FN 6]

Henry Conduitt House (1906-1929) to Comer Sanitarium (1936-1948) to Comer Hospital (1948-1962) Kendrick Hospital (1962-1971)

After the 1936 fire, Dr. Comer moved the sanitarium to his residence at 130 North Indiana Street, situated at the corner of Morgan and Indiana Streets. [FN 7] This was commonly known as the Henry Conduitt house, which Dr. Comer had purchased in 1929. Conduitt built the house in 1906. Mooresville photographer J.P. Calvert took this photograph (*circa* 1911), when the Conduitt family still resided there. Appearing in the picture (see top of page 6), from left to right, are: Florence (Shephard) Conduitt, age 33; Maude (Gray) Kenworthy, age 15; Bonita (Conduitt) Marley, age 5; and Henry Conduitt, age 67. [FN 8]



Henry Conduitt House (circa 1911)

When Dr. Comer's sons, Drs. Kenneth and Charles Comer, joined their father in medical practice, they changed the name of the sanitarium to Comer Hospital in 1948 or 1949 following their father's retirement in 1947. Following Dr. Charles Comer's death in 1956, Dr. William Kendrick joined the partnership in 1956, during which time the facility was known as the Comer-Kendrick Hospital. In 1962, Dr. Kenneth Comer left practice to become Morgan County's State Board of Health officer. Dr. Kendrick changed the name to Kendrick Hospital. [FN 7] (See photo from *The Times* on page 8 [FN 9]). In May 1971 the facility was renamed Kendrick Memorial Hospital [FN 7] and was relocated to its present location on Hadley Road (near State Road 67), and it is presently operated as St. Francis Hospital & Health Services. [FN 10] The Conduitt House was converted into a business and apartment center in 1973 [FN 9] but was demolished in 1981 following a fire. [FN 11]



Comer Sanitarium (late-1940s)



Kendrick Hospital (postcard, early 1960s)



Former site of Kendrick Hospital, following conversion into business & apartment space in 1973 (above photo date: July 19, 1976). See also Mooresville Times, Jan. 11, 1973 article (next page).

Plan offices for old hospital building

Times 1-11-1973



by Joe Seed

The old Kendricks Hospital building 130 N. Indiana st., has recently been purchased by Robert Heath and Charles Partlow. Mr. Heath, a Mooresville resident, announced that although plans for the building have not been completed probable plans call for a business and apartment center.

The Indiana Building, as Mr. Heath reported it would be called, could cater to several different types of business, and he has already been approached by some area businessmen.

With enough room downstairs for two or three offices the up-

stairs would be entirely apartments. Mr. Heath indicated that there would be room for three or four two bedroom - furnished and un-furnished apartments upstairs and that occupancy could begin as early as next week although he insists that it will be six months to one year before remodeling is completed.

There have been many improvements made on the old building in the past several years including an all new wiring system. Some future remodeling plans will include laundry facilities, and a ping pong and

pool table to be located in the basement, with nearly ten thousand dollars being spent on remodeling before improvements are completed.

Plans for the building could include a small medical center but this would only include the ground floor leaving the second floor as an apartment building.

Mr. Heath expects a population boom in the Mooresville area and feels there will be a need for this type of facility.

The new Indiana Building would offer an ideal location for many people being only a few blocks from either the high school or downtown Mooresville.

FOOTNOTES (REFERENCES):

[FN 1] Clara S. Richardson, *History of Mooresville, 1824-1974* p. 104.

[FN 2] Becky Hardin, "Kendrick Hospital Started Downtown 100 Years Ago," *The [Mooresville] Times*, Sept. 24, 1981; Phyllis Rushton, "Mooresville Sanitarium: From 1880 to the Present," *Morgan County History & Genealogy*, Volume 4, No. 3, p. 7 (Summer 1998).

[FN 3] Joanne Raetz Stuttgen, Morgan County Historic Preservation Society, Nomination of Mooresville Commercial Historic District, Morgan Co., IN, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Section 8, p. 15 (Dec. 19, 2001) [hereinafter cited as *National Registry Nomination*].

[FN 4] Stuttgen, Joanne Raetz, & Tomak, Curtis, *Morgan County* p. 34 (Postcard History Series) (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2007)(ISBN 0-7385-5120-1) [hereinafter cited as Stuttgen & Tomak].

[FN 5] Stuttgen & Tomak at p. 35.

[FN 6] Hardin, *The [Mooresville] Times* (9/24/1981).

[FN 7] Phyllis Rushton at pp. 7-8.

[FN 8] J.P. Calvert Photograph Collection, Indiana Room, Mooresville Public Library.

[FN 9] Joe Seed, "Plan Offices for Old Hospital Building," *The [Mooresville] Times*, January 11, 1973.

[FN 10] "Kendrick Hospital Will Be Sold to St. Francis Health Services," *The Reporter-Times*, October 16, 1999.

[FN 11] Marylou Smith, M.L.S., *A Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Mooresville*, Mooresville Public Library, April, 2007.

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