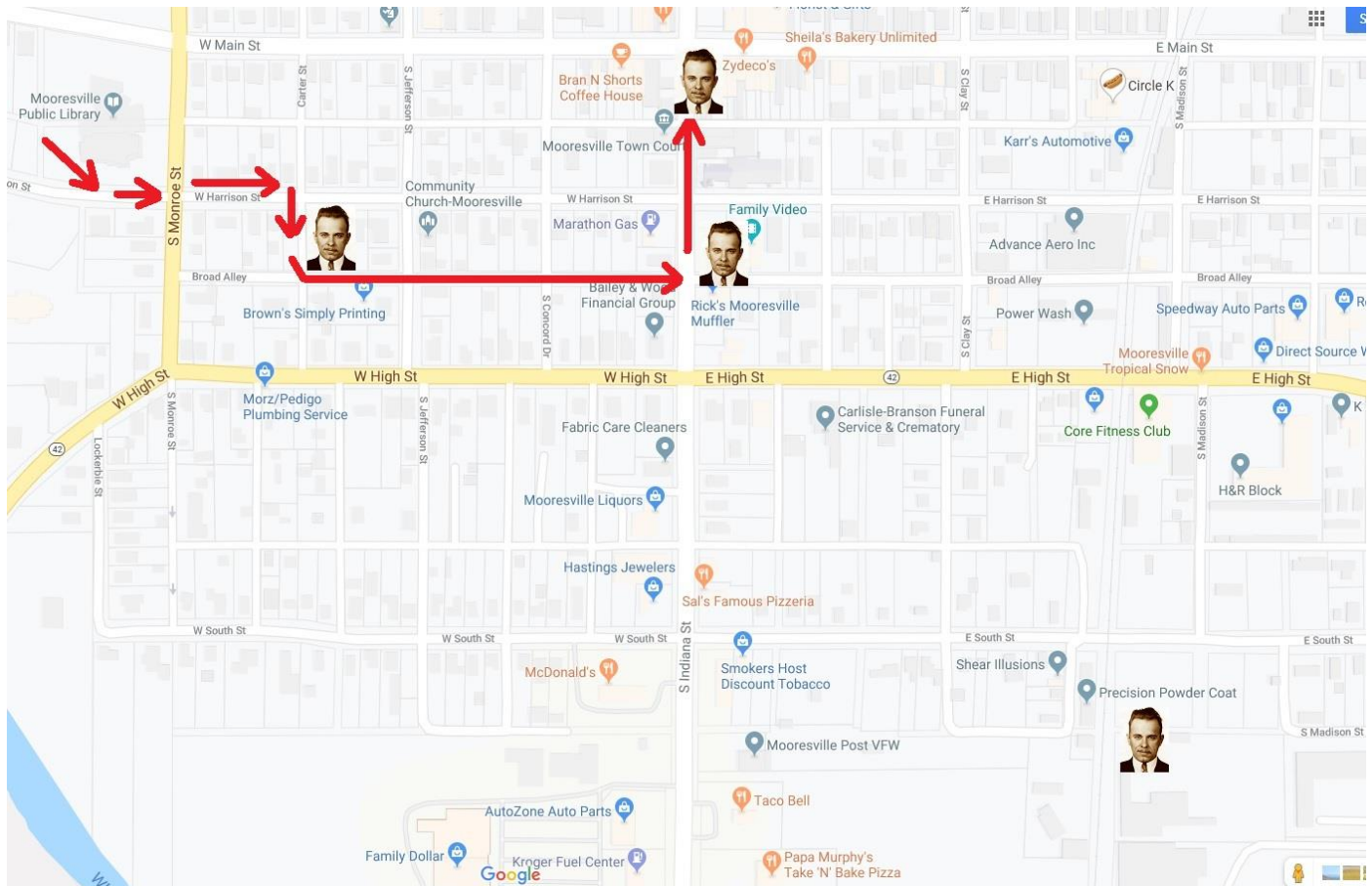


DILLINGER'S HOMETOWN HOLDUP (SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR)

Starting from Mooresville Public Library, follow famous bank robber and Mooresville resident John Dillinger's footsteps during and after his botched attempted robbery of Frank Morgan, owner of the West End Grocery on West High Street, on Saturday, September 6, 1924. (Watch our video at <https://youtu.be/ffnKcbw5Ic0> to learn more about this robbery attempt.)



Stop #1: Behind the First Christian Church on South Jefferson Street (between Harrison & High Streets)

Between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Saturday, September 6, 1924, Frank Morgan, proprietor of the West End Grocery (at 135 West High Street, where Morz/Pedigo Plumbing is located today) was walking home after closing the store. Suddenly, John Dillinger jumped from the shadows behind the First Christian Church holding a pistol and demanded money from Morgan. Unbeknownst to Dillinger, Morgan had taken the day's proceeds to his house earlier in the evening and was not carrying much money at the time of the robbery attempt. Morgan and Dillinger scuffled, causing Dillinger to drop his firearm, which discharged harmlessly into the air. Dillinger then struck Morgan with a metal bar (something like a "blackjack" criminals sometimes used in muggings), opening a gash on Morgan's head. Morgan, who was a Freemason, shouted a Masonry call of distress, to which fellow Masons throughout the neighborhood promptly responded. Dillinger panicked and fled east down Broad Alley. Dillinger's accomplice, Ed Singleton, who was awaiting Dillinger in an automobile down the street (on South Jefferson close to High Street), raced off when he heard the errant gunshot.



Robbery attempt happened about here on South Jefferson Street, just south of the First Christian Church (on West Harrison Street)



Stop #2: Bass Building, 3 East Main Street, Downtown Mooresville

Dillinger escaped along Broad Alley and made his way to a tavern in the basement of the Bass Building (3 East Main Street, on the southeast corner of Main and Indiana Streets in downtown Mooresville). There, he asked customers and employees if “Mr. Morgan was all right” after being attacked. No one in the bar had heard about Morgan’s injuries, since news of the event had not yet travelled downtown. Subsequently, several persons present wondered how Dillinger had known Morgan was hurt.



The Bass Building is on the right (above). The tavern was in the basement.

Dillinger went home to the family farm on Old State Road 267 (North Monroe Street at Northridge Drive) and confessed to his crime. His father recommended that his son turn himself in to Mooresville town marshal Greeson, which John voluntarily did. Frank Morgan required eleven stitches to sew-up his head wound, and at Dillinger's trial, the judge rendered a harsh sentence (2-12 years on the first count, and 10-20 years on the second count, with \$100 fines for each count) because John had severely injured Morgan and had carried a firearm during the robbery attempt. Dillinger's accomplice, Ed Singleton, who retained an attorney (Dillinger did not), received a much lighter sentence in a separate trial. Dillinger was remanded to the Indiana state reformatory at Pendleton. During his incarceration, Dillinger, embittered by the severity of his sentencing, mingled with hardcore criminals who taught him tricks of the criminal trade and shaped his unlawful ambitions.



John Dillinger Mug Shot (ca. 1924)

DILLINGER AROUND TOWN (MOORESVILLE, INDIANA)

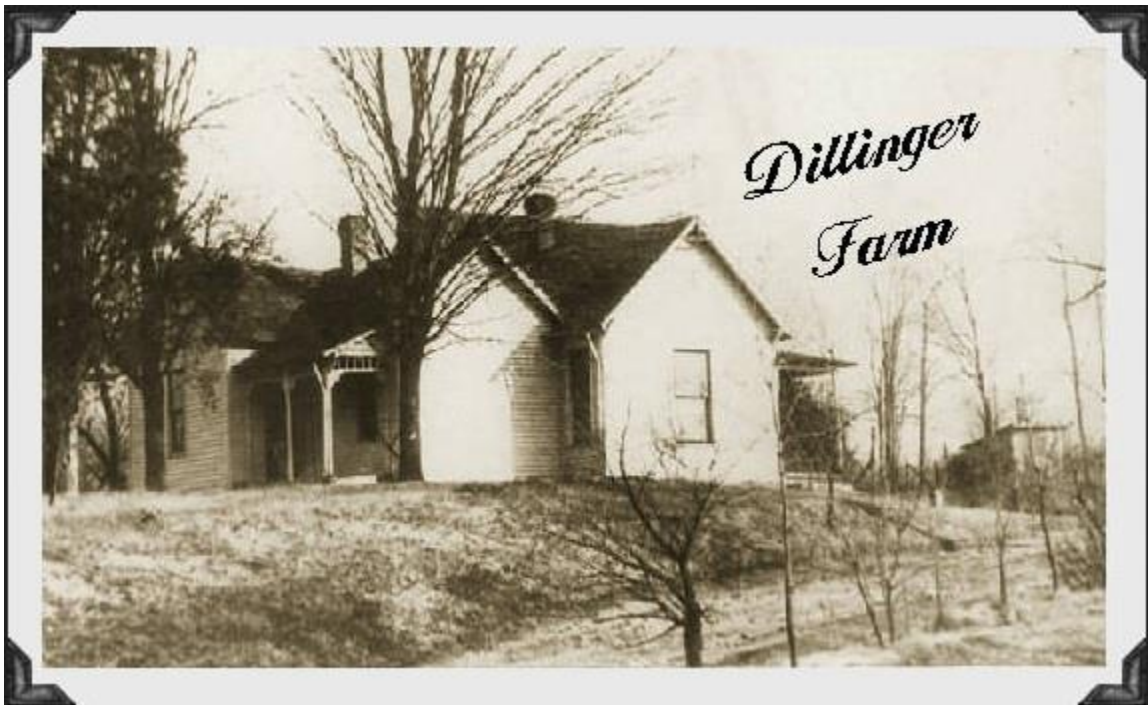
There are three other locations in Mooresville significant to John Dillinger's story: His family's farm, Harvey Funeral Home, and the town ball park.

Drive-By #1: The Dillinger Family Farm

John Dillinger's family farm was located on Old State Road 267 (North Monroe Street at Northridge Drive), as shown on the map below.



The farmhouse remains in the family, as Dillinger's great nephew, Jeffrey Scalf, owns the property.



(Above) Dillinger Farm (image courtesy of Evelyn Frechette)

(Below) John Dillinger outside the family farmhouse, holding a Thompson submachine gun and, purportedly, the wooden gun he carved to escape from Crown Point jail (photo 1934)



Drive-By #2: Harvey Funeral Home



Harvey Funeral Home was located on the southeast corner of Indiana and Harrison Streets in downtown Mooresville, where Family Video is now situated. After John Dillinger was shot by FBI agents in Chicago in July, 1934, his remains were returned to Mooresville before burial at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis. Hundreds braved the 103° F. heat wave to see Dillinger's body at Harvey Funeral Home on July 25, 1934 (see photo below). The line of onlookers circled the block twice.



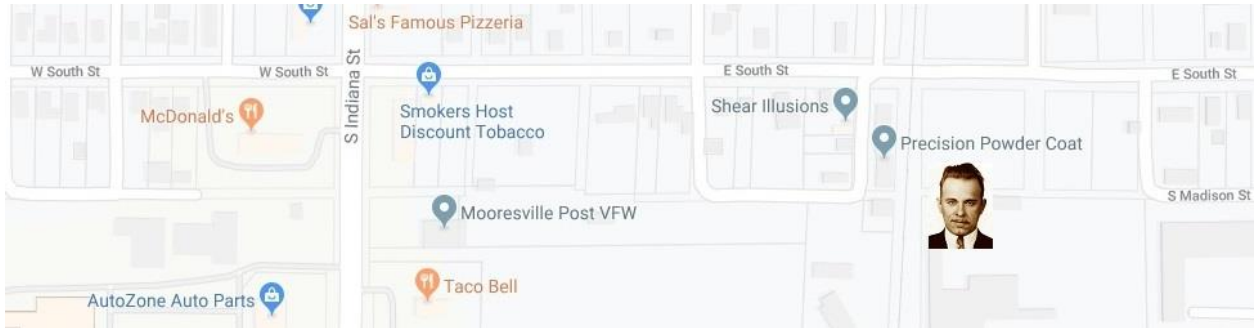


(Above) John Dillinger's Body at Harvey Funeral Home, July 25, 1934

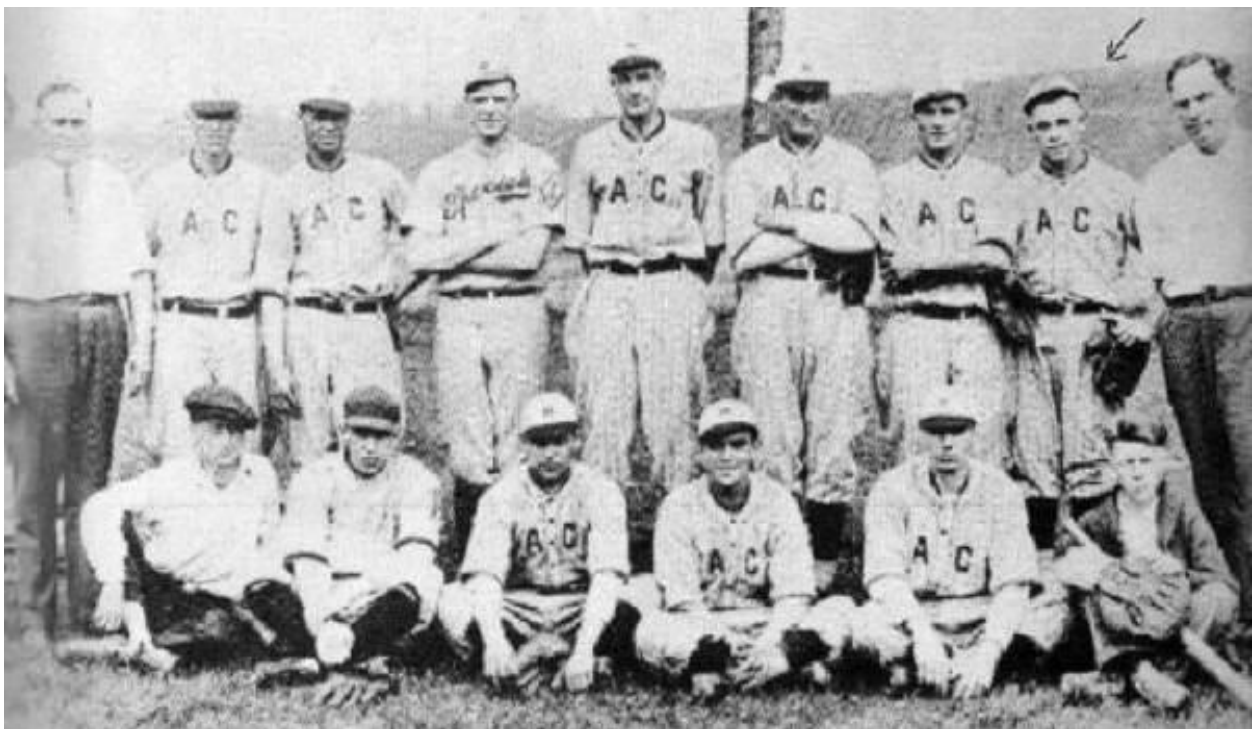
(Below) Unloading John Dillinger's remains at Harvey Funeral Home

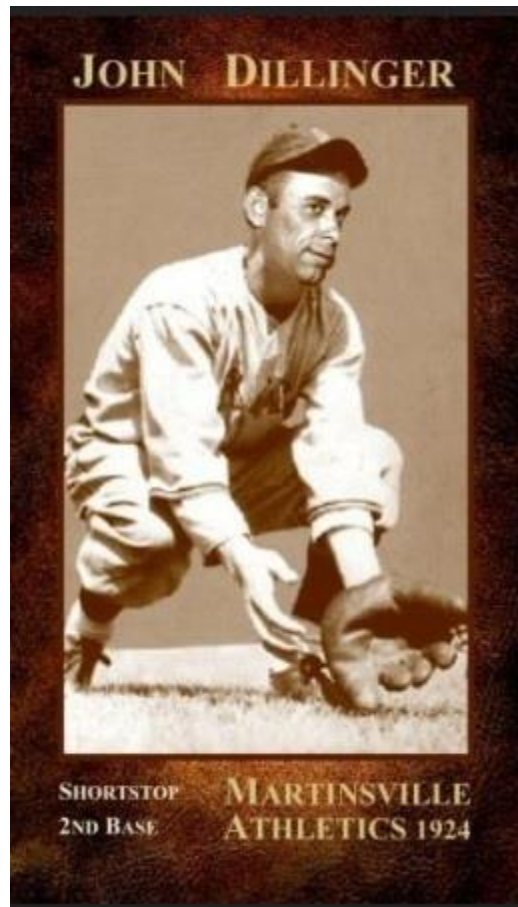


Drive-By #3: Mooresville Town Ball Park

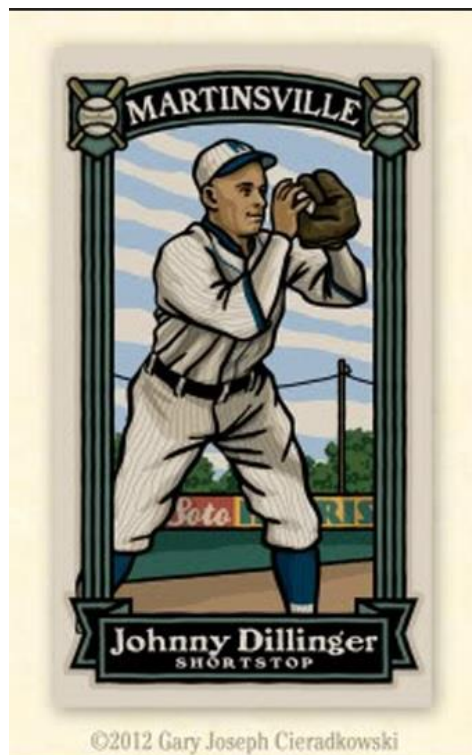


Mooresville historian Clara Richardson wrote in her *History of Mooresville, 1824-1974* that the Bradley Brick Company, which was located south of South Street (east of the railroad tracks), was purchased by the Wooley Company. When Chester E. Lawrence owned the business, he sold a parcel of land to the Town of Mooresville to be used as the Town Baseball Park. It was there that Mooresville's semi-professional baseball team, the Walkovers, played their home games. In 1924 John Dillinger was a member of the Walkovers' team roster, playing shortstop and second base. Dillinger also played the same positions on the Martinsville Athletics (see photo below), another semi-professional baseball team. (Dillinger is indicated by the arrow.)





John Dillinger as a Player on the Martinsville Athletics Baseball Team (1924)



1919 Walkovers won 26 straight *Times TITURS Oct 8, 1964*



Grady Elkins presented this picture to The Times of the 1919 Mooresville Walkovers who won 26 games straight in their 1919 season before they were defeated by Valley Mills. Pictured are, left to right, Frank Mays, pitcher; Alfred McCarty, manager; Ernie Samson, scorekeeper; Ralph McCreary, pitcher; Ed Singleton, umpire; William Johnson, catcher; Walter Keller, 1st

base; and Kenneth Marley, short stop. 2nd row: Dodd, center field; Milford Carlisle, 2nd base; John Herzog, 2nd base or short stop; Carl Jessup, catcher; Gerald Thompson, 3rd base; and Ray Manford, left field. The uniforms the men are wearing were purchased from another team in Indianapolis and that is why they read "Specials" instead of "Walkovers." All players were

from Mooresville but Dodd who was from Indianapolis.

McCreary tried out for the Indianapolis Indians and made it, but an accident kept him from playing on the team.

The Walkovers, managed by Alfred McCarthy, played Sunday afternoons July through September on Mendenhall Field. In 1920 Carl Housand moved up from

assistant coach to take over management of the team. Two other Mooresville clubs, the Walkover Juniors, managed by Forest Rusie, and the Specials, managed by Bill Moore, played at the same time.

Proceeds from two of the games the team played against Brooklyn on the Martinsville field went to buy hospital equipment

The 1919 Mooresville Walkovers Baseball Team Won 26 Straight Games

(Mooresville Times, October 8, 1964)