

# Metamora, Indiana

## Official Tour Guide

Home of the only surviving wood covered aqueduct in the USA



**Attractions**

**Gift Shops**

**Food**

**Live Music**

**Lodging**

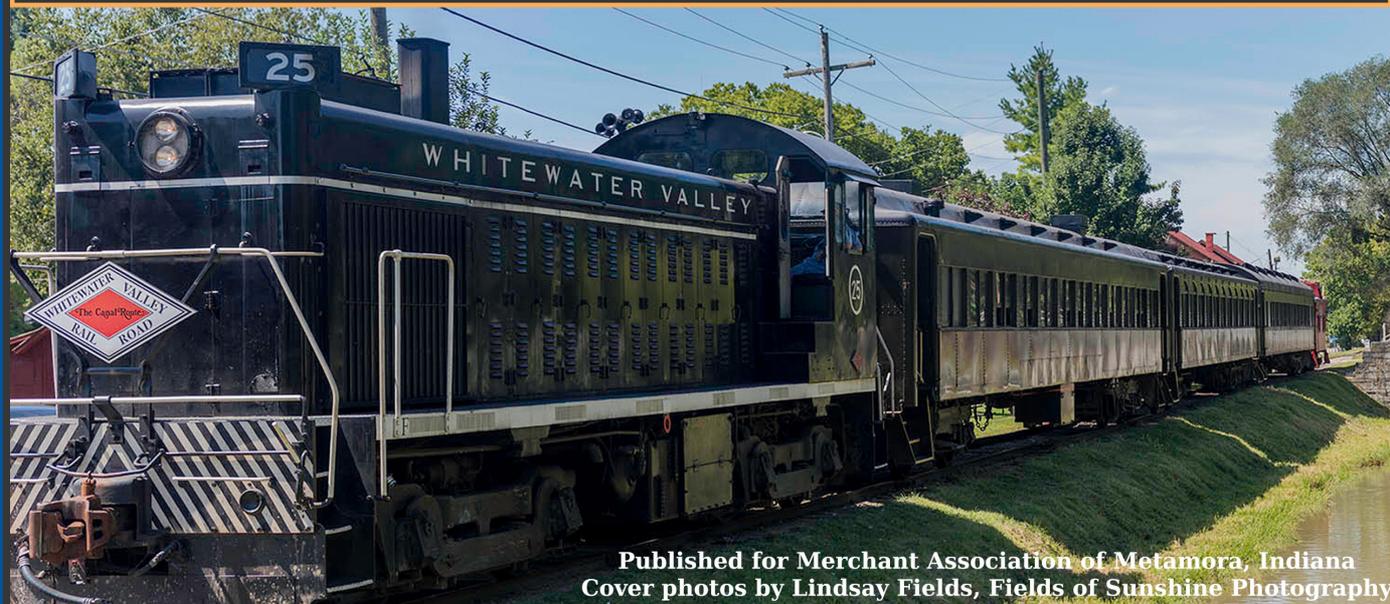
**Grist Mill**

**Canal Boat**

**Train Ride**

**Seasonal Events**

**ALL IN A PRE-CIVIL WAR CANAL TOWN**



Published for Merchant Association of Metamora, Indiana  
Cover photos by Lindsay Fields, Fields of Sunshine Photography

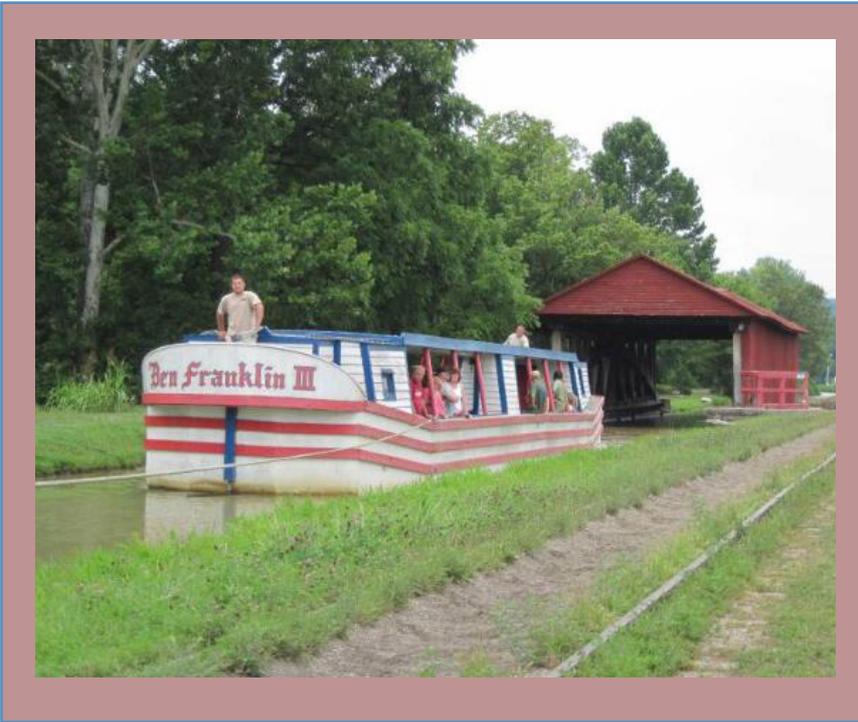


There is always something to do in Metamora.

Visit us throughout the year!

### Duck Creek Aqueduct: Est. 1843

East of the shops of Metamora, Indiana is an iconic landmark few know about. The Duck Creek Aqueduct was originally built in 1843 to carry the canal over Duck Creek which is located sixteen feet below. However, in 1846 flood waters destroyed the original and a new Burr through truss double arch structure was built in its place and currently still stands. This aqueduct is unique as it is the only known wood covered aqueduct still in use in the United States. In 1973 it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, then in 1992 it was designated as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, and in 2014 was named a National Historic



Landmark. You can choose to walk to the aqueduct or you can ride the local canal boat, Ben Franklin III, which is pulled by two Belgian draft horses. It is open May through October, Wednesday through Sunday with rides starting on the hour between noon and four pm. These times are however dependent on canal conditions.

## Experience Metamora!

Experience Canal History in a town surviving from the late 1800's, complete with a Grist Mill, a horse-drawn canal boat, and the nation's only surviving in-service wooden covered aqueduct. All this surrounded by dozens of historic buildings, quaint shops and eateries, in a setting of peacefulness and beauty in the Whitewater Valley in southeast Indiana. Near the center of the Whitewater Canal Scenic Byway on US Highway 52, this village draws people from all over the Midwest to experience both the canal and railroad history. See the historic Grist Mill machinery grinding corn into meal. Take home a bag of cornmeal.

A family can purchase very reasonably priced tickets to experience three modes of transportation from bygone days- the horse-drawn canal boat, the railroad, and a horse and carriage. Kids (both young and old) seem to really enjoy the Gem Mine where they can pan for treasures. Shop for antiques and handcrafted items. See a tinsmith and potter at work along with other artisans. Tap your toes and enjoy the numerous musical events that occur here.

Enjoy a relaxing family day with a meal, ice cream, a delicious cappuccino, or maybe by observing a fudge-making demonstration (with free samples!). Railroad history is kept alive by the Whitewater Valley Railroad of Connersville, Indiana. Most weekends in the summer they bring their vintage diesel locomotives and passenger cars to the village for passenger service. Tickets can be purchased in the middle of town for half-hour rides on this train. There are many annual festivals and events throughout the year. See the calendar of events on page 16.

For more information visit  
[www.MetamoraIndiana.com](http://www.MetamoraIndiana.com).

## Metamora Indiana's Canal Town

Metamora Performing Arts  
[www.metamoraMPA.org](http://www.metamoraMPA.org)

### Opry Barn

Where US 52 crosses the  
Whitewater Canal  
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# Metamora

## Indiana's Canal Town

HISTORIC METAMORA, INC.

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## Monthly Events

**Bluegrass Nights:** Third Sat of month, March to November

**Acoustic Final Friday:** Last Friday of month, March to October

**Grist Mill Jam:** First Sunday of month, April to September

Visit our website for up-to-date information on scheduled shows  
Like us on Facebook



## What is it about Metamora?

### *Home Cookin' in Metamora*

Metamora has some great cooks and the specialties range from traditional American classics to a European Coffee Bar. But it doesn't stop there. You'll find delicious treats like homemade fudge and cookies as well as your old time favorite candies.

### *Eateries in the Historic Downtown District*

#### **Grannie's Cookie Jars**

and Ice Cream is an ice cream and cookie jar shop in town, but really belongs on the "Attractions" list because of the huge selection of cookie jars-A Guinness World Record. The minute you walk in you are greeted by the smell of freshly made waffle cones. They make all of their waffle cones. They have so many flavors to choose from that you'll probably have to get a few different kinds. You can relax on the back porch and enjoy that wonderful ice cream right down to the Chocolate Kiss in the bottom of the waffle cone.



**Mr. Fudge's Confectionery** offers a huge selection of fudge, cookies and old-fashioned soda fountain drinks. If you get there at the right time you can watch Donna in action as she makes the fudge. She makes it look so easy. The atmosphere is that of an Old Fashioned Soda Shop with the checked floor and ice cream tables.

**Scooty's BBQ** (located next to Mr. Fudges Confectionery) hosts a menu of meats that are all charcoal and /or wood grilled. A crafted blend of herbs and spices brings a unique and different flavor to their ribs. Hamburgers, chicken, beef hot dogs are also available. Their French fries are all fresh cut daily and outdoor seating is available.

**The Snack Bar** (at Metamora Gem Mine and Luna's Garden Gift Shop) receives food orders both inside or at the walk up window. Menu items include pretzels, nachos, chips, hot dogs or chili cheese dogs, soups, chicken/cheese quesadillas, loaded baked potatoes and sandwiches. All made to order and served hot in a grab and go style. Come in for a free sample of one of the eight flavors of Italian ice made with real fruit, juice and sugar. Some describe it as a slushy on steroids. Outdoor seating is available and during the cold winter months seating is offered in the heated gem mining area.

**The Farmhouse** offers home cooked meals and indoor seating. Breads and baked goods are all made from scratch. Stop in for the taste of a home cooked meal. The Farmhouse is located in the Historic Thorpe House on Clayborn Street and operates as both a restaurant and B&B.

Looking to experience something different? As you munch on your free sample of family grown gourmet popcorn, you can peruse the menu at the **Smelly Gourmet**, who specializes in the grilled cheese panini (Italian for "sandwich") sandwich. Definitely not your mama's grilled cheese, with ELEVEN different varieties. From a Reuben to a Greek and even a Spam, served with their special seasoned chips they call "Smelly Chips". Everything is homemade by Smelly himself, right down to the bread which contains a good portion of cornmeal from the Metamora Grist Mill. Finish off your lunch with a cappuccino ("the best this side of the Atlantic")

### *Eateries in Duck Creek Crossing*

**The Barn Stable Cafe** is more than a cafe. The friendly staff serves hot food made to order along with drinks both hot and cold to include specialty teas and iced coffee. The Barn Stable cafe makes numerous baked goods from scratch such as pies, cakes and cookies. Special orders are accepted. Catered events can be coordinated at their location that offers plenty of indoor seating or off-site.

**The Bake Shop** in Duck Creek has baked goods all made from scratch. Desserts such as pies, cakes, candy and fudge along with other seasonal treats can be found here. They offer indoor seating as well.

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- \* BBQ RIBS
- \* HOT DOGS
- \* HAMBURGER/CHEESEBURGERS
- \* FRENCH FRIES (FRESH CUT DAILY)

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OR WOOD GRILLED**

#87A/I-5

**Family Touch Cafe** serves festival like food in a family atmosphere. They offer seating upstairs in the cafe or you can purchase items downstairs in a grab and go style. Enjoy walking tacos, slushies, hot and cold drinks and more. Friendly service that treats you like family every time. Be sure to shop Family Touch Primitive Treasures gift shop for flags, candles, Fall and Christmas items while you're there.

Monica and Tom Robins run the **Duck Creek Fudge Shoppe and Restaurant** across from the gristmill with the wrap around porch. **Mr. Ed's** is very diverse; from fudge and candies to antiques, Candleberry candles, Watkins products and more. Sharon and Bob also own Salt Creek Antiques on Clayborn Street, which is filled with antiques, collectibles and metal signs.

### *Unusual and Unique Shops in Metamora*

As you enter **Words and Images/The Train Place** you'll more than likely be greeted by George, the one who deals with the "Train Place" portion of the name of the shop. If you are lucky, he may start up one of his model trains for you. He has many old lanterns and pieces of railroad memorabilia alongside his cast iron cookware pieces. Gail, George's wife, deals with the "Word's and Images" part of their store name, with her collection of interesting literary titles and her own paintings displayed on the walls.

Antique lovers enjoy browsing Dave's **Meeting House Antiques** at the east end of Lover's Lane (on the north side of the Canal.) As Dave says, it's "worth the walk" to see his collection ranging from pre-Columbian dinosaur eggs to all kinds of more modern cool stuff.

**Village Whimsy** is a unique shop that is filled with all homemade and handcrafted items. This creative mother/daughter team makes jewelry, aprons, signage and much more.

**Luna's Garden Gift Shop** is a must see. This one location offers a unique gift shop with an array of items that range from mild to wild. With six rooms of merchandise one can find items such as salt lamps, home decor, handcrafted items, Silver gemstone jewelry, New Age supplies, Incense, Herbs, Pocket knives, kids gifts, clothing and more. **The Gem Mine and The Snack Bar** are also at this location as well as horse and carriage rides. Outdoor seating overlooking the canal, park and waterfall make it an inviting place to relax. Enjoy playing a game of cornhole, shopping, mining for gems, eating a snack, or just relaxing on the front porch. There is something for everyone here.

Take a step back in time and visit **The Martindale House** on Main Street. After Amos Martindale opened the Martindale House in 1870, it became one of the town's favorite stops for weary travelers. Today the building remains and is being restored as a place for travelers to experience life in the nineteenth century. From the tin shop to the restored tavern; the Martindale House offers hand crafted tin and copperware and antiques. Coming soon historic cooking, and overnight accommodations will be offered. See a working tinsmith, enter the rustic tavern, hear "the latest news" from a Metamora citizen, or get a taste of historic cooking during one of the Martindale's special Events.

### *Music in Metamora*

Many folks come to Metamora to enjoy all the live musical events that are ongoing throughout the year. From the Music Festival that is always held on Labor Day weekend to the Acoustic Final Fridays open mic there are many good tunes and toe tapping happening here. Metamora Performing Arts sponsors many music and other events throughout the year at the Opry Barn. Lots of visitors come out for the Grist Mill Jam and Bluegrass Night. Please refer to the town's website or Facebook for times and details of artist performing. The Cat & the Fiddle hosts musical events often and posts the calendar of events on Facebook.



**Tin Shop** • **DAVID BOWSER**  
TINSMITH

- Antiques
- Collectables
- Coming Soon••
- Historic Cooking
- Tavern



19038 Main Street • By the Canal Boat • Map 86/H5

### Artistry and Antiques in Metamora

At the west end of town, commonly known as “Duck Creek Crossing” you’ll see many old log cabins. Many of these cabins host businesses that focus on hand crafting the merchandise that they sell. For over 30 years **The Wood Shack** has offered hand crafted wood items to include signs, furniture, jelly cabinets and more. The best jelly can be found here and he accepts custom orders for many woodworking projects. **Woodworks Etc.** also been here for over 30 years with beautiful wood furniture handcrafted by the owner Ron Colvin. His store is filled with many country decor items and reproduction antiques.

Unique items and personalized gifts while you wait can be found in Shari’s **Cranberry Junction Gifts/Dragonfly Pottery**. Stop in and see Shari at work creating beautiful pottery pieces on site.

Other creative business owners hand make merchandise. **Buttons ‘N’ Bows** has two cabins in Duck Creek and welcome sport fans and all craft-minded folks. Many sports related hand made crafts and home decor items can be found there. They also carry American Girl Doll clothing and comical signs. **Frosty Mornings** in Duck creek offers hand made items and



lots of seasonal home decor items as well. Cindy at **The Mystic Mouse** creates dream catchers, aromatherapy candles, and seasonal decorations. **Country Peddlers** have unique hand embroidered pictures, home decor items along with wooden and metal signs, black iron items and more.

**The Leather Hatchery** is also located in an old log cabin. There you will find a huge assortment of leather goods. A biker’s paradise! There are many other cabins in Duck Creek that offer primitive decor items and antiques so be sure to visit each one to find that special gift or treasure for your home.

### Interactive Adventures

**The Canal Boat** ride, drawn by two Belgian draft horses in the fashion of the 1800’s transportation, is a relaxing half-hour ride with a bit of the history of the canal and town presented for those interested in listening.

The Ben Franklin III, launched in 1989, was designed and constructed in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

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#35/D-6

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**The Whitewater Valley Railroad** bills themselves as a rolling history museum. They are a non-profit educational organization operating vintage railroad equipment between Connersville and Metamora. The Railroad is completely staffed with highly trained (no pun intended) and well-qualified professional volunteers who love the railroad (read "adult children with wonderful toys to drive") who present a fun history lesson while you are traveling with them.

**The Metamora Grist Mill** is just one of the many mills and factories built to utilize the water power of the canal. Built in 1893, the mill is still used to grind cornmeal in the 21st century. Purchase a bag of cornmeal while you're there. **The Whitewater Canal Hiking/Bike Trail** starts at the east end of Metamora and is a great way to enjoy a bit of the Whitewater Valley while getting exercise on the par course fitness trail along the trail. About 2 1/2 miles long, wildlife has been seen along the route including bald eagles, blue heron, pleated woodpeckers, and many other species.

**Metamora Gem Mine** is located on the north side of the canal. You will see a rustic fourteen-foot water tower pouring water down into one of the newest attractions in Metamora. The Gem Mine is a place for all ages to pan for precious and semi-precious gems and fossils. To get started you first need to choose your bucket size in **Luna's Garden Gift Shop**, which the Gem Mine is attached to.

Once you purchase your bucket you are almost ready to start panning. Gather your stone identification chart, bags for your treasures, and head out back to get your bucket and screen pan. Once you take a seat at the twenty-four foot sluicing system the fun begins. The dirt is shoveled into the screen pans and then shaken back and forth in the water. The water removes the dirt

and what is left behind in the screen pan are the treasures that you get to take home. Over 100 different types of gemstones and fossils can be found. The Metamora Gem Mine is a place where aspiring miners of all ages can learn and have fun at the same time. Discounts are offered to groups of ten or more. Many people enjoy

visiting Metamora for a horse and carriage ride through the town. Others travel through town searching for the numerous geocaching and Pokémon stops that are located throughout the village.

A short distance west of Metamora is the **Salt Creek Ranch** horseback riding stables, with several hundred acres and over a hundred horses for the equine-inclined. Cabins are available for overnight stay. **Whitewater Canoe Rental** offers canoeing, kayaking, tubing and rafting 8 miles west of Metamora on US Highway 52. **Zip Lining** can also be found just 8 miles west of town.



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#55/D-6

Dorothy Wagner

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### Places to Stay

If your day of eating, shopping and activities has worn you out, or you just want to simply relax for an evening in this quaint village, you might want to check into one of the several B&B's or overnight Inns located right in the village. **The Metamora Inn** has five rooms. Jo serves up an amazing breakfast for the guest. **The Cat and The Fiddle** at Duck Creek Crossing has a very large second floor room with an amazing balcony.

Down by the Aqueduct you'll find Betty at the **Hospitality House** who has guest return year after year because people just love her. **The Grapevine Inn** with three spacious rooms and the **The Robins Nest** which is a beautifully decorated private cottage with a private driveway. Both are located in the center of the historic district.

**The Banes Suite**, a private, very spacious and luxurious suite for two is attached to the Smelly Gourmet located in the historic Banes house. All provide comfortable private accommodations for an overnight or weekend stay. Check the website [www.MetamoraIndiana.com](http://www.MetamoraIndiana.com) for more details, or just stop in and meet the Innkeepers and see the rooms (if they are not currently occupied.) Camping is also offered at the Whitewater Scenic Byway. Most sites offer electric and Primitive sites are also available.

Most businesses are listed on Trip Advisor or have their own Facebook page if you would like to research them further.

Vist [www.metamoraindiana.com](http://www.metamoraindiana.com) for more information and events.

## Mr. Fudge's Confectionery



Across from the Canal Boat Dock

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#87/I-5

## History of the Whitewater Canal Historic District

The Canal was built 26 feet wide at the bottom and 40 feet wide at the water surface. The water was four feet deep and the "towpath" was ten feet wide. The "berm bank" on the opposite side of the canal from the towpath was five feet wide at the top. The slopes of embankment were made to measure 21 inches horizontally to each 12 inches vertically.

There were 7 feeder dams in the Whitewater River and 56 canal locks with a total fall of 490 feet. The fall was one of the basic reasons the canal failed. The fall was said to be 77.00 inches per mile, compared to the 8.8 inches per mile of the Wabash and Erie Canal in northern Indiana. The extensive fall resulted in damage each time a flood occurred. In 1847 a flood did \$90,000 damage. Later that year another flood did \$110,000 estimated damage with \$30,000 of it going unrepaired.

At various times it seemed that the Canal must be abandoned. But repairs and operations were continued until 1853 when a third great flood practically put the canal out of business.

About this time the western movement of railroad construction reached Indiana. The towpath made a ready grade for the iron horse, and the financial—as well as physical condition of the Canal, practically pushed the transportation phase of the Canal out of existence. In 1863 the Indianapolis & Cincinnati Railroad acquired the rights to build on the old tow path

When the Canal failed as a means of transportation, the water rights remained. The Brookville and Metamora Hydraulic Company was organized to maintain the Canal which then functioned as a "mill race".

There were many mills erected along the banks of the Canal since it was constructed for the dual purpose of navigation and hydraulic power. Between Laurel and Brookville and beyond, a number of mills were erected to manufacture flour and woolen products.

On the section of the Canal built into Cincinnati, water was used to power some 90 "runs" of stones. A pair of burrstones was considered a "run". It was simpler and extremely less costly to maintain the canal as a "mill race" than for transportation. Canal locks need not be kept in repair. The four foot minimum depth was non-essential.



Primarily a continuous head of water was the prime requirement. Under these conditions the mills along the banks operated into the 1920's.

Eventually the cost of maintaining the Canal as a "mill race" grew prohibitive, and the development of competing means of power for the mills along the Canal spelled doom for the Whitewater Canal. Locks, banks, canal basins and structures were abandoned.

Nature took over and suitable areas were returned to farming.

About 1940 the idea of restoring a section of the Canal for historical and recreational purposes took form. In 1945 the Indiana General Assembly approved an Act which authorized the State to accept property from the Whitewater

Canal Association.

These properties were acquired by the Association from individual owners in order to consolidate a section some 15 miles long.

## The Canal Shops



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In addition to real estate, the remains of abandoned locks, a Feeder Dam, and Aqueduct (in poor condition), and a mill of the vintage of 1900 were accepted by the State to become Whitewater Canal State Historic Site.

One of the Locks, No. 24, called Millville Lock, was restored to operating condition in 1953. It has been kept in repair and operation since that date, being used occasionally to give canal boat riders the thrill and experience of "passing through" a mid 19th Century Canal Lock.

In 1949 the State reconstructed the large covered wooden Aqueduct over Duck Creek in Metamora. The original aqueduct was an open trough, however, it washed away in a flood in 1847. Subsequently it was rebuilt and tradition recounts that the builder ingeniously acquired a covered bridge in its early stages of construction and erected it to replace the open trough.

At the time of its acquisition by the State, the 1847 Aqueduct had deteriorated to the point where it could not be restored. Only complete reconstruction was the answer, however, the original Burr arches of tulip tree lumber (called yellow poplar in Indiana) were salvaged and re-employed. One relic of the past is a corner post of the old Aqueduct showing grooves cut by tow lines as they were snubbed along by tandem teams of horses or mules. They are a tangible reminder of days gone by.

Grist mill operations have been restored at the Metamora Roller Mill. Antique milling equipment has been acquired and is set up to produce corn and wheat products.

In 1964, a gasoline engine (powered) canal boat with turbojet propulsion was constructed and launched. Except for one summer when the Feeder Dam washed out, the "Valley Belle" provided thousands with a short excursion on about a half-mile of the old waterway.



Since 1989, the present Ben Franklin III has been acquired along with teams of Belgian draft horses to pull the boat in the same fashion as in the original transportation days of the canal. One can ride the boat pulled by the horses during the season in Metamora.

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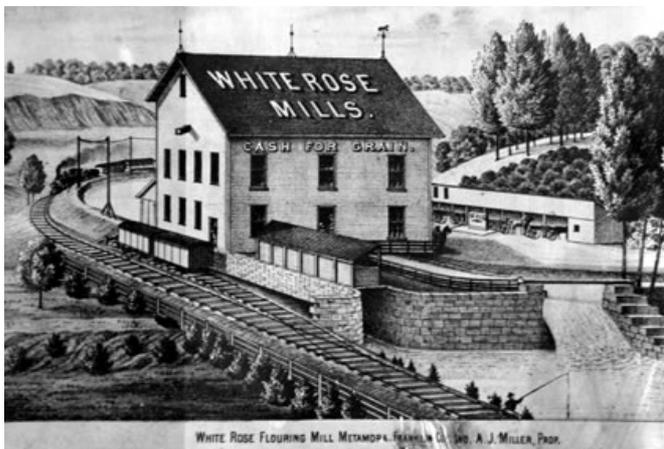


#28/E-5

## Significance of the Whitewater Canal in the 1800'S

The Whitewater Valley was the gateway to the interior. The pioneers of the late 18th and early 19th Centuries floated down the Ohio River or came overland from eastern states to open the territory north of the River. They were attracted to the area by the timber and fertile valleys. Water power sites were another prime attraction for the opening of the area to settlers.

The Whitewater Valley in the pioneer period was the most densely settled area in Indiana, and it furnished important political leadership including 4 Governors and 3 U.S. Senators.



To start the Whitewater Canal project, a meeting was held in Harrison (IN) in 1823. The U.S. Engineers began their survey in 1824, and construction was begun at Brookville, September 13, 1836. The Canal was completed between Brookville and Lawrenceburg in 1839; to Laurel in 1843; to Connersville in 1845; and to Cambridge City in 1846.

The cost of the Canal from Hagerstown through Cambridge City, Connersville, Laurel, Metamora, Brookville, Harrison, Elizabethtown, Ohio, to Lawrenceburg, Indiana was \$1,164,665. The total distance was 76 miles and the average cost was \$15,000 per mile.

Since the Lawrenceburg branch of the Canal had to be located in Ohio for a distance of 7 miles to get around some high ground in Indiana, it became an interstate project.

The Cincinnati branch of the Whitewater Canal was 25 miles in length from the state line in Harrison. It cost between \$800,000 and \$900,000 or an average of \$35,000 per mile.

After completion of the Canal it was employed to transport the product of the region to markets on the Ohio River. But all did not run smoothly.

Floods and repair costs were more than the promoters could compete with. The State of Indiana, which backed the project with funds from the Internal Improvement Act of 1836, finally acknowledged defeat, and the litigation which followed eventually ended the Whitewater Canal Company for transportation.

The Canals of Indiana, including the Whitewater, had their place in the development of this State. They failed as a means of transportation because the railroads could go to the business while the canal system had to attempt to bring the business to it. Canal traffic was slow and the railroad traffic was fast, and business is always in a hurry.

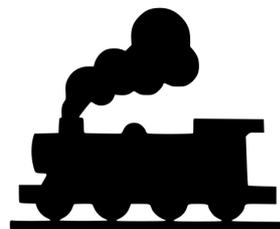
Probably one of the more significant influences of the Whitewater Canal (and others) was its effect on the financial structure of the State of Indiana. The Whitewater Canal had the backing of the State, and when it went bankrupt, the State insolvency followed. As a consequence, the General Assembly drafted a new Constitution (1851) in which it forbade bonded indebtedness except for certain emergencies. To this day the State of Indiana proceeds on a pay-as-you-go basis, rather unique among the 50 states.

## Words & Images The Train Place

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## Music, A Growing Trend in Metamora

The Baggies (short for the full name of the band, “Catrina and the Baggy Bottom Boys”) formed as a music group in 2006, supposedly to be the “house band” for a fund-raising dinner put on by local merchants.

After the second night of the two-night program was complete, they were surprised when they received three separate requests to play at other events/venues in the area—one offered a little bit of money! The Baggies continued to play together, practicing weekly, and celebrated ten years of making music in Metamora in 2016. The band is comprised of four local business or property owners in Metamora.

Catrina Campbell, playing the stand-up bass, is the proprietor of the Cat and Fiddle Event Center and B&B. GI Ball, the mandolin player, operates the Metamora Inn B&B with his wife, Jo. Jim Wendel, the harmonica player, owns



property on the east end of Metamora with the “Back Porch” music stage, the main center for the annual Metamora Music Festival. Steve Collier, the band’s guitar player, runs the Smelly Gourmet coffee bar/sandwich shop/gift shop in the center of town with his wife. The banjo

player is Mike Hallgarth from near Rushville Indiana, and has been with the group for several years now.

There was one other member of the group who no longer plays but still resides in town, Al Rogers. Al provided rhythm while playing the washboard.

Music goes hand and hand with a historic town like Metamora. The past several years has seen a growing trend in the performance of live, mostly acoustic music around the historic village.

The annual Labor Day Metamora Music Festival continues to grow with each year. For the past 18 years, this annual event has seen an increasing number of artists from all over the Midwest. With this growth more stages have been added throughout the town.

Though the Labor Day festival is the king of the music events in town, there have been increasing numbers of live performances for other town events, such as the annual Strawberry Days festival which takes place the first weekend in June.

2014 saw the first annual Metamora Mandolin Gathering, a weekend of seminars, workshops and performances centered around, but not limited to, making music with mandolins and other stringed instruments.



For several years now, there has been the Final Friday Acoustic Open Mic on the last Friday of the month, held indoors during the winter and outdoors on the Lane’s End music stage when the weather permits. This event starts at 6:30pm. The quality of the music continues to improve.

The first Sunday of the month from April through September there is an open Jam Session on the porch of the Metamora Grist Mill. All are invited to come and play and sing. Times for this event are from 1-4pm.

Metamora Performing Arts Inc is an Indiana non-profit membership organization formed to produce and support various cultural events in the community of Metamora. Information and schedules can be found at [www.metamoraMPA.org](http://www.metamoraMPA.org)

MPA has a relationship with Michael Jonathon’s Woodsongs Radio, and is both a Woodsongs Coffeehouse location, and a member of the Woodsongs Front Porch Association which sponsors the Metamora SongFarmers—a community music effort.



MPA maintains a performance venue, The Opry Barn, in an old tomato cannery warehouse on the west edge of the village. Where US 52 crosses the Whitewater Canal and the Whitewater Valley Railroad. Music events, community theater, and other activities take place throughout the year.

Bluegrass Night at the Opry Barn the third Saturday of the month features regional bluegrass groups in a concert setting, with local talent opening each show. Doors open at 5:30. The season runs from March through November.

See the [MetamoraIndiana.com](http://MetamoraIndiana.com) website “Calendar of Events” for music events throughout the year.

## METAMORA PERPETUAL EVENT CALENDAR

Event	2017	2018	2019
<b>Memorial Day Celebration-</b> Always conducted the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend. Celebrated since the Civil War, flowers are thrown into the canal while onlookers sing. Honor and remember past and present soldiers. 2:00 pm.	May 28 <sup>th</sup>	May 27 <sup>th</sup>	May 26 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Strawberry Days *- Always the first Saturday and Sunday of June. Start the summer with sweet strawberry shortcake, topped with ice cream and whipped cream, and great music.</b>	June 3 <sup>rd</sup> *4 <sup>th</sup>	June 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	June 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>1838 Days and Tinsmith/Coppersmith Convergence-</b> Tinsmiths and coppersmiths from around the country gather for workshops, demonstrations, and contests. Step back in time to visit numerous craftsmen of old and folks in time period dress clothing. Dates are confirmed for 2017. Future 1838 Day's dates are yet to be determined but will be posted on the town's website.	June 23- 25 <sup>th</sup>	TBD- Please check town website	TBD- Please check town website
<b>Independence Day Celebration-</b> The Saturday closest to July 4 <sup>th</sup> . Parade at 6:00pm. Fireman's Festival and Fireworks at dusk.	July 1 <sup>st</sup>	July 7 <sup>th</sup>	July 6 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Metamora Music Festival-</b> Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day Weekend. Two fun-filled days of music at the back porch of Lane's End. Music workshops, great food, and free parking at the stage area.	Sep 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sep 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> & Sept 1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Children's Day-</b> Always the second Saturday in August. Bring the family to enjoy the numerous children's games that are set up through out the town. Discounted canal boat rides and gem mining are also offered on this day.	August 12 <sup>th</sup>	August 11 <sup>th</sup>	August 10 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Canal Days-</b> Three days, starts every year on the FIRST FRIDAY in October. Hundreds of vendors in addition to the town shops. Hundreds of thousands of visitors flock over the three days to find an amazing array of antiques, hand-crafted items, flea market items, and your favorite festival eats and treats.	Oct 7-9 <sup>th</sup>	Oct 6-8 <sup>th</sup>	Oct 5-7 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Haunted Village of Metamora *-</b> Two weekends- Always the two Friday and Saturday nights before Safe Trick-or-Treating. Guided tours of the spooked-up village after dark. 7:30-10pm \$5 Admission Charge.	Oct 13-14 20-21	Oct 12-13 & 19-20 <sup>th</sup>	Oct 11-12 & 18-19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Safe Trick or Treating-</b> Always the Saturday of or before Halloween. Participating merchants giving out goodies to all kids of ghosts, goblins, and visitors who show up with their bags and cauldrons. 5-7pm.	Oct 28 <sup>th</sup>	Oct 27 <sup>th</sup>	Oct 26 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Village Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony-</b> Always the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Join us in the Gazebo Park across from the Grist Mill for the traditional start of the Christmas holiday season in Metamora. Sing-along Christmas Carols, special music, traditional Christmas reading, free drinks and cookies, and of course getting the town tree lighted! 6:30pm	Nov 18 <sup>th</sup>	Nov 17 <sup>th</sup>	Nov 23 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Christmas Walk *-</b> Always starts Thanksgiving weekend, and runs for four weekends. If there are 5 weekends between Thanksgiving and Christmas many shops will be open. Fridays and Saturdays until 10pm, Sundays until 5pm. Combine history, a Currier & Ives setting, and the pageantry of Christmas for the Christmas Walk. Lanterns light the canal, hear the strolling carolers, buildings are lit up in holiday style and visit Santa Claus at the Santa House. Lots of wonderful holiday shopping, fine eating, and horse & carriage rides.	Nov 24-26 Dec 1-3, 8- 10, & 15- 17	Nov 23-25 Nov 30- Dec2, Dec 7-9, and Dec 14- 16th	Nov 29- Dec 1, Dec 6-8 <sup>th</sup> , 13- 15 <sup>th</sup> , & 20- 22
<b>Recurring Events Throughout the Year</b>			
<p>-Acoustic Final Friday- Last Friday each month March through October, open mic. See website for location details. Sign up at 6:30pm, music starts at 7pm.</p> <p>-Grist Mill Jam- First Sunday of every month April- September 1-4pm</p> <p>-Metamora Performing Arts (MPA) sponsors many music and other events throughout the year. Look them up on Facebook for a current calendar of events.</p> <p>-Bluegrass Night- Third Saturday of the month March- November at the Opry Barn.</p> <p>- The Whitewater Canal State Historic Site sponsors events throughout the year. Find their schedule on their web page.</p> <p>* Many of these events have a Facebook Page.</p>			

## Come Celebrate the Seasons with Us!

Throughout the year there are annual special events in Metamora, Indiana's Canal Town. Many of these have a Facebook page of their own that you can visit to find updates and more information about them.

Strawberry Days takes place on first Saturday and Sunday of June. Sponsored by the Merchant Association of Metamora it features strawberries with homemade shortbread served in the yard of the historic Jonathan Banes house in the middle of town. Live music featuring regional bands goes on each afternoon from the Wagon Stage. On Saturday evening Metamora Performing Arts hosts a pitch in dinner and live music at the Opry Barn, located on the western edge of town where the Whitewater Canal and the WVRR cross US 52.

Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day weekend, the Canal Town celebrates Americana music with the Metamora Music Festival. This free festival organized by Metamora Performing Arts has instructional workshops and instrument builders displaying in the Making Music area along the Whitewater Canal, and a day long schedule of music performances at the Back Porch of Lane's End.

Canal Days Autumn Market kicks off on the first Friday of October for three days of flea market fun with antiques along the Whitewater Canal, crafters in the Mill Park, and flea market booths and festival food all over town. Canal Days originated over 40 years ago as Historic Metamora Inc's sole fundraiser, and has grown in to an event with hundreds of thousands of visitors and numerous vendors each year. We like to say that if you can't find it at Canal Days, you don't need it.

When the dried leaves begin to rattle in the trees Metamora becomes a Haunted Village for two weekends in the middle of October. During the day decorations all around town feature the Halloween spirit, but on Friday and Saturday evenings is when the real fun begins, with a hayride and guided walking tour back through the dark and spooky town. Offered from 7:30 to 10 PM, all ages are welcome but the amount of walking, as well as some of displays, may become an issue with younger children. Dates vary by year; please check the town calendar on our website for current information. Check with the Whitewater Canal State Historic Site and the Whitewater Valley Railroad to see if they are offering special events during this time. Then at the end of the month, Metamora's Safe Trick-or-Treat takes place the Saturday before Halloween from 5 to 7 PM.

The end of the year brings out the Christmas spirit in Metamora. The Old Fashion Christmas Walk includes live music, railroad excursions, and an abundance of holiday cheer. The Saturday before Thanksgiving kicks off the season with the annual Christmas Tree Lighting in the Mill Park. Beginning the Friday of Thanksgiving weekend and going through four weekends, Christmas Walk offers decorations throughout town, shops remain open until 10 PM on Friday and Saturday, lantern light the Whitewater Canal on Friday and Saturday evenings, and all the sounds of the season from carolers singing on the town streets to the laughter and joy of the families and children

All of these events are treasured annually for many who have grown up with the fond memories of Metamora, Indiana's Canal Town. Check the calendar at [metamoraindiana.com](http://metamoraindiana.com) to find details for these, and many other activities offered through the year.



*"Find us next to the driving bridge."*

#82/H-5

## Metamora United Methodist Church

Sunday Service 10:00 A.M.

Hand Pumped Pipe Organ Installed in 1915

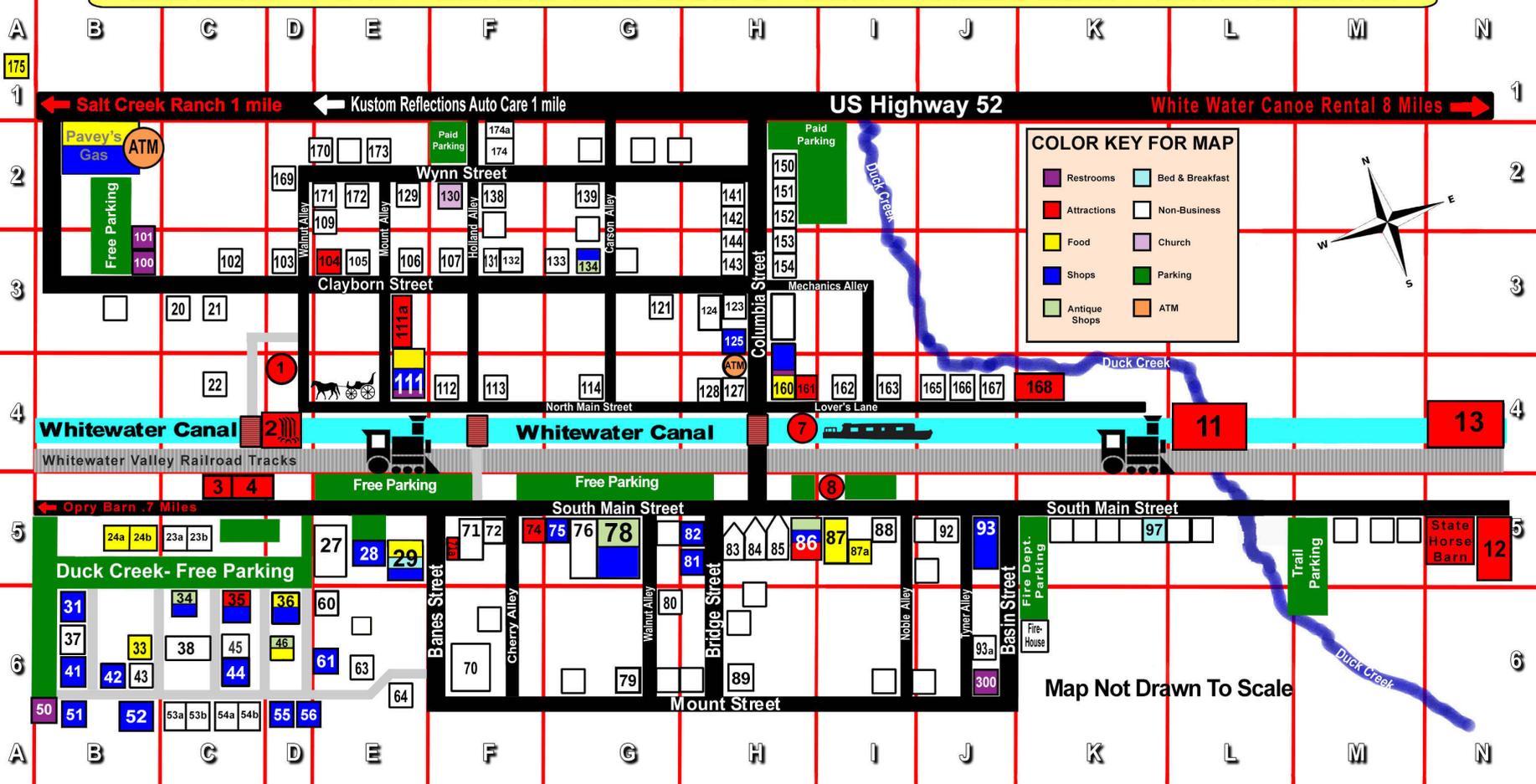
Join the congregation each Sunday for an early morning service in Metamora's small country church.



Church Built in 1853  
Located on Wynn Street

#130/F-2

# MAP OF HISTORIC METAMORA INDIANA



Metamora is not a theme park or museum with set hours of business each day. There are over 50 shops and eateries; all are individually owned and operated. The proprietors set their own hours. Some are open during the week; most are open on the weekends. Others are open year round; still others are only open May through December. Please contact any Metamora shop or eatery if you have questions concerning hours of operation.

P.O. Box 117 Metamora, IN 47030  
[mail@metamoraindiana.com](mailto:mail@metamoraindiana.com)  
[www.metamoraindiana.com](http://www.metamoraindiana.com)

## ATTRACTIONS

- 1/D-4 Park & Gazebo  
2/D-4 Canal Lock #25  
4/C-5 Grist Mill 765-647-6512  
7/H-4 Canal Boat 765-647-6512  
8/I-5 Canal Boat Horse Stable  
11/L-4 Aqueduct  
12/N-5 Whitewater Canal Trail  
13/N-4 Gordon's Lock #24  
71/F-5 Healing Cross of Metamora  
812-583-6361  
74/F-5 Whitewater Valley Railroad  
(pg. 17) Ticket Office & Gift Shop  
765-825-2054  
111a/E-3 Metamora Gem Mine (pg. 5)  
Family Attraction, Mine for Gem Stones  
& Fossils, Gift Shop, Rock Shop, Silver  
Gemstone Jewelry, T-Shirts, Home  
Decor, Snack Bar 765-647-0670  
A-1 Salt Creek Ranch (pg. 19)  
Horseback Riding, Lodging, Camping  
765-698-2044

## FOOD

- 29/E-5 The Smelly Gourmet (pg. 10)  
Grilled Cheese Panini Sandwiches  
513-314-5693  
175/A-1 Hav-a-Bite Diner (pg. 17)  
Daily Specials, Breakfast, Steak Every  
Fri-Sat. 765-647-5499  
87a/I-5 Scooty's BBQ (pg. 2) - BBQ Ribs, Hot  
Dogs, Burgers, & More 765-647-3519  
24ab/B-5 Barn Stable Cafe - 765-698-0739  
Great food and friendly service Dinner parties  
and catering offered on site or off. Gourmet coffee  
and teas and homemade desserts.  
111/E-4 The Snack Bar @ Metamora  
Gem Mine (pg. 5)  
Italian Ice, Drinks, Sandwiches, Pretzels, Nachos,  
Hot Dogs, Loaded Baked Potatoes, Soups, &  
More. Outdoor Seating Available 765-647-0670

## SWEET SHOPS

- 160/H-4 Grannie's Cookie Jars (pg. 8)  
Homemade Waffle Cones 765-647-1708  
87/I-5 Mr. Fudge Confectionery  
(pg. 6) A Metamora Landmark since 1975:  
Fudge, Candy, Ice Cream & More 765-647-4956

## GIFT SHOPS

- 28/E-5 Unique Creations (pg. 8)  
Souvenirs, Toys, Signs & Gifts  
765-647-2150  
29/E-5 The Smelly Gourmet (pg. 10)  
Home of Great Coffee, Sandwiches,  
Handmade Gifts. Home of Banes Suite.  
A Single Luxurious Overnight  
Accommodation for Two Adults.  
513-314-5693  
125/H-3 Jackie B's  
Gift Shop, Heritage Lace, Homemade  
Dog Treats, Hand-painted Items by local  
artist, & a lot more. ATM Outside  
765-647-2894  
111/E-4 Luna's Garden/ Metamora Gem  
Mine (pg. 5)  
Unique Gifts. Rock Shop & Gem Mine.  
Silver Gemstone Jewelry. Home Decor,  
T-Shirts. Items from Mild to Wild!  
765-647-0670  
56/D-6 Wood Works Etc. (pg. 4)  
Custom Furniture, Candles, & More  
513-236-2866  
55/D-6 Country Peddlers (pg. 6)  
Wooden & Metal Signs, Black Iron  
Items, Light Sets, Timed Battery  
Candles, Shelves, Embroidered Pictures,  
Yankee Candles, Home & Holiday Decor  
765-647-3558  
160/H-4 Grannies Cookie Jars (pg. 8)  
World's Largest Collection of Cookie  
Jars, Homemade Waffle Cones  
765-647-1708

## Duck Creek Crossing (pg. 27)

Multiple Shops, Check us out in the  
Duck Creek Area on the Southwest Side  
of Town

- 34/C-6 Two Sparrows  
Antiques, Primitives, Wares, Handmade  
Gift Ideas & Signs 513-309-1709  
81/H-5 Mark Harper Productions  
765-625-0113 Jewelry, North American  
Flute, Photography, 10086 Bridge Street,  
Metamora, Indiana

- 44/C-6 Mystic Mouse  
Handmade Seasonal Decorations:  
Christmas, Fall, Halloween  
and Aromatherapy Items. Plus Handmade  
Dreamcatchers 513-202-9199

- 82/H-5 Martha Janes (pg. 13)  
Find me on the canal next to the driving  
bridge.  
35/C-6 Cranberry Junction Gifts/  
Dragonfly Pottery (pg. 4)  
Whitewater Valley's Premier Pottery  
Studio! Laser engraved gifts  
personalized while you wait. Fun,  
educational toys. Inspirational gifts and  
home decor. www.dragonflypottery.com  
93/J-5 The Canal Shops (pg. 7)  
A Village Under One Roof, Located by  
Fire Dept, Handicap Accessible  
765-647-1343  
75/G-5 Village Whimsy  
Unique Gift Shop, Featuring locally  
made items by mother & daughter team.  
Featuring handcrafted jewelry, aprons,  
signage, and more!

## ANTIQUES

- 78/G-5 Words & Images/The Train  
Place (pg. 9) Kerosene lamps &  
Lanterns, books, railroad items, cast iron  
cookware, original artwork 765-647-1212  
86/H-5 The Martindale House (pg. 3)  
Tinware Antiques & Collectables. Hand  
Made in Shop

## LOCAL SPONSORS

- 130/F-2 Metamora United Methodist  
Church (pg. 13)  
Historic Metamora Inc. (pg. 1)  
Support local history, \$10 Annual  
Membership  
Metamora Performing Arts - Opry Barn  
(pg. 1) Metamora Performing Arts is a non-profit  
membership organization supporting  
activities in Indiana's Canal Town  
B-2 Pavey's Grocery & Convenience Store  
Convenient Store, Hot Food & Deli,  
Gasoline, Automotive & Hardware  
A-1 Kustom Reflections Auto Center  
(pg. 23) Collision repair, auto body and paint,  
minor mechanic work, locksmith, over 30  
years experience 765-309-1089

## LOCAL LODGING

- 29/E-5 Banes Suite (pg. 10) Deluxe Suite  
for Two 513-314-5693  
97/K-5 Hospitality House (pg. 6)  
B&B 765-465-2135  
A-1 Salt Creek Ranch (pg. 19)  
Horseback Riding, Lodging, Camping  
765-698-2044

## PUBLIC RESTROOMS

- 50/B-6 West End of Town  
300/J-6 East End of Town  
100-101/B-3 State Historic Site  
111/E-4 Metamora Gem Mine  
160/H-4 Grannies Ice Cream

## OUT OF TOWN SPONSORS

- Sandi Baker Remax Realtor (pg. 19)  
Call me for all your Real Estate  
Needs! 765-647-3330  
Holiday Inn Express (pg. 29)  
Harrison, OH 513-367-1111  
Hampton Inn (pg. 29)  
Batesville, IN 812-934-6262  
Whitewater Canoe Rental (Back Cover)  
Brookville-Metamora-New  
Trenton, IN 800-634-4277  
Franklin County Tourism (pg. 21)  
Brookville, IN 1-866-647-6555  
or 765-647-6522  
Ripley County Tourism (pg. 28)  
812-654-2772  
FCN Bank (pg. 25)  
Brookville, IN 765-647-4116  
Dreams End Log Cabins (pg. 28)  
Brookville, IN 513-258-5203  
Whitewater Valley Railroad (pg. 13)  
Connersville, IN, 765-825-2054  
Big Boyz (pg. 23)  
Pizza, Pasta, Sandwiches, Salads  
Brookville, IN 765-647-1500  
Ward Log Cabins (pg. 24)  
Brookville, IN, 765-647-5329  
Maximum Results Real Estate (pg. 20)  
Valerie Fields - Call or Text  
Rushville, IN 765-490-0199

# Travel Through Time On Indiana's Most Scenic Railroad

**Valley Flyer** Visit Metamora, IN. Rain or shine the train leaves Grand Central Station at 12:01 pm every Saturday, Sunday & Holidays between May through October. Two hour layover in Metamora.

**May & October Specials** Every Thursday and Friday during the month departing at 10 am for Metamora. Exciting spring and fall trips.

**Twilight Limited Train To Dinner** Every 1st & 3rd Friday, May – October. Travel to the Laurel Hotel for a delicious meal such as Pan Fried Chicken. Price includes train ride, meal, tax and tip. Reservations required. Departs Grand Central Station at 6 pm.

**Overland Limited** Wild West Excursions - Every third Saturdays - May – October. All aboard with a western twist. Bandits, marshals, robber barons, fancy and some not so fancy women.

**Metamora Music Festival** Sept 3 & 4, 2016.

**Canal Days Limited** Oct 7, 8, 9, 2016. Hundreds of outside vendors, artists, craftsmen, and thousands of visitors make this a great event.

**Pumpkinliner** Oct 29 & 30, 2016. Visit the pumpkin patch and get a pumpkin. Train departs 10 am, 12:30 pm, 2:30 and 4:30 pm.

**Throttle Time** May 7 & 14, Sept 17, Oct 1, 2016. The general public will be offered a chance to operate one of many historic diesel-electric locomotives on the Whitewater Valley Railroad main line as a guest engineer. Each guest engineer will participate in a brief operational training session before sitting at the throttle for 30 minutes of actual hands-on locomotive operations.



Come and see where the Red Diamonds still work the rails. Ex Cincinnati Union Terminal #25, the last remaining 750 hp unit in existence and only one of four Lima-Hamilton diesels to survive.

Metamora Ticket Office - #74/F5

## WHITWATER VALLEY RAILROAD

Grand Central Station  
455 Market St., Connersville, IN 47331

765-825-2054

[www.whitwatervalleyrr.org](http://www.whitwatervalleyrr.org)



**Santa Claus Limited** Saturday November 26, 2016. Santa visits the kids. Train departs Grand Central Station at 9:30 am, 11:45 am, & 2 pm.

**The Polar Express™** November 18 – December 18, 2016. Only licensed event in the Tri-State area. Limited seating. Reservations required.

**Metamora Holiday Special** November 25, 26 and Dec 3, 10, 17, 2016. Metamora's Annual "Christmas Walk" is one of the top 100 attractions in North America. Reserve a seat in the coach or rent a caboose and make it a family and friends trip.

*The Whitewater Valley Railroad is an operating railroad museum dedicated to the preservation of a historic branch line railroad, to the restoration of railroad equipment, and to the conduct of railroad educational programs operated by trained volunteers.*

*The Whitewater Valley Railroad is a Not For Profit 501c3 Organization.*

*Special Train or Caboose Rental*

*Reserve a one way or round trip to Metamora during the regular operating season.*

*Call Whitewater Valley Railroad about all train excursions. Group rates, special school rates and charters are based on the requirements of our customers.*

Find us on  
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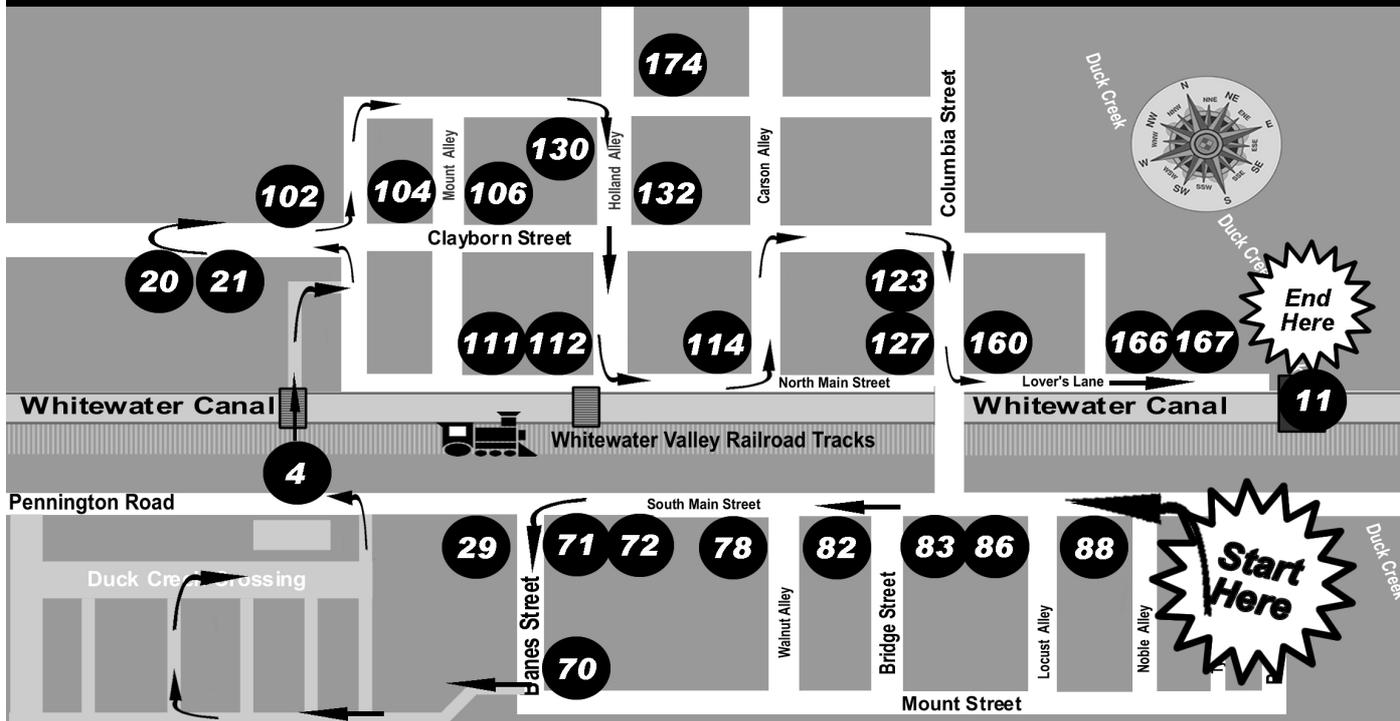


[officialbestof.com](http://officialbestof.com)

## A Self-Guided Tour of Metamora

Begin this walking tour with the understanding that this is not intended to be a complete and accurate history of the places noted. There is a significant lack of historical documentation of Metamora and many of its structures. Much of the information presented here is thus difficult to verify, and many of the stories must be categorized as “local lore” passed down over the years.

### METAMORA WALKING TOUR SUGGESTED PATH



Refer to the provided Walking Tour map. Begin your tour at #88 on the east end of South Main Street.

#### #88 Dr. Cupp's House



Little information of any value can be located about this house, other than that it is thought to have been the residence of one of the earliest doctors in the town.

Information from the Martindale Hotel indicates that expectant mothers in the area would stay in an upstairs room of the Hotel known as either the “birthing” or the “borning” room. This was because Dr. Cupp lived next door, and was thus a better assurance of having a Doctor available for delivering their baby than if the ladies were at home on a bad winter night.

#### #86 Martindale Hotel



The Martindale Hotel was built in 1838 by Ezekial Tyner to house his store room and counting room where he acted as agent for the canal trade. Mr. Tyner was a shipping agent for the canal boats going in and out of Metamora.

Thomas Tague purchased the property in 1856 and ran a tavern until 1870 when Amos Martindale took over the building, extending it to the west and began operating the Martindale House. The Martindales lived upstairs and had twelve children. When sufficient guests arrived, it often was necessary to put the kids up in the attic.

You can find Metamora on Facebook. Look for the Metamora, Indiana that says “Historical Place.” This will keep you updated about all that is going on in Metamora!

Though there were many owners of this building, there was always a public dining room for guests of the hotel and for the travelers who came by canal, stage or by train.

### #83 Allison Store; #84 Van Camps Store; #85 Lucy Martindale Confectionery

The Masonic Lodge, Van Camps Drugs and the Martindale Confectionery are three buildings in one group. The first is the former L. Allison & Son Grocer.



The second story of this building was purchased in 1888 for \$1,500 for the Metamora Lodge #156 Free and Accepted Masons which was organized in June,

1853. This is believed to be the only lodge in Indiana with most of its original cobalt blue window panes still intact.

The two buildings east of the lodge were built in the 1850s and were Italianate in design. The center store was that of Mr. Van Camp's Drug Store which had the front blown out by a gasoline explosion in 1851. The third building is the Lucy Martindale Confectionery.

### #82 Jenks Martindale Grocery/General Store

The General Store was built by Alfred Blacklidge in 1885 and was used by the Blacklidge family as a mercantile store. During the early 1900s, Blacklidge was extending credit to surrounding sharecroppers when bad times came, forcing many of the farmers to default on their debts.

This economic blow forced Blacklidge out of business and he sold the building to Ellsworth Martindale and Stephen Jenks in 1910. They operated as Martindale and Jenks General Mercantile until Jenks sold out to Martindale in 1920.



Ellsworth Martindale was the son of the Martindale House (Hotel) family. He operated the General Store as sole owner until 1941, at which time he sold it to Mr. Hillenbrand.

Until he closed the store in 1969, Mr. Hillenbrand operated his grocery store in the General Store building first as a Clover Farm Store and finally a DOT store out of Cincinnati.

### #78 Jackson Meat Market/Mill Street Gallery



This building was built crooked as evidenced by the correction in the laying up of the brick on the upper portion of the left wall. Fire destroyed the original buildings in this section. The

store was built by Joe W. Jackson and housed his grocery business in the 1880s.

### #72 Gordon Hall/Canal Front Dry Goods Store



Also known as the Canal Front Dry Goods Store, Gordon Hall is a two story frame of Federal style built in 1848. It was first known as the firm of Jenks,

Banes & Calvin Jones. Mr. William N. Gordon started a banking business in the west half of the building in 1910. He later relocated to the building which is now the Farmers Bank. The east half was Caroline Gordon's Candle Shop. The upstairs was used as a community hall for dancing, roller skating and a yearly traveling medicine show.

## Hav-A-Bite Diner

on U.S. 52

Under New Ownership



OPEN: MON-SAT 7AM-8 PM  
& SUNDAY 7 AM - 3 PM

**\* Breakfast Served 7-11 AM\***

**Steaks Every Friday & Saturday  
4 PM-8 PM**

\*CATERING AVAILABLE\*  
765-647-5499

#175/A-1

The back addition was an old ice house. Ice was sawed off both the canal and Duck Creek in the winter and was then stacked between layers of sawdust to insulate it for summer use. To help further insulate the ice in storage, the walls of the building are built three bricks deep. These ice ponds and storage houses were under lease by the Cincinnati Coal and Ice Company.

### #71 Odd Fellows Hall



This brick building was built in 1853. It is the only 3 story building in Metamora. The ground floor was a general merchandising establishment

operated by three generations of the Gordon Family. At one time, the Metamora Post Office was located in the Gordon store.

The second floor was used originally as a town hall. It was later occupied by the Knights of Pythias Lodge which was organized in December 1896. The Odd Fellows Lodge was located on the third floor and was instituted by General P.A. Hackleman, a Franklin County native and Union General. The third floor still has the original pressed tin ceiling and walls with over 20 different designs.

***Now turn left on Banes Street, observing the Banes House on your right.***

### #29 Jonathan Banes House



The Jonathan Banes home built in 1845, is a classic Federal Home which is typical of those homes referred to as mansions. This is a two story brick with a central staircase. There

are two rooms upstairs and two rooms downstairs, in addition to the kitchen behind the west room.

Each room has a fireplace. With the coming of the canal boats and cheaper freight rates, the fireplaces fell into disuse, replaced with cast iron stoves. This home like most others of similar plans has a roomy kitchen built onto the back where much of the winter was spent, huddled close to the huge kitchen hearth.

This lovely old home was the residence of Jonathan Banes who came to Franklin County in 1837 with the Wilcox & Van Horn Construction Co. of Pennsylvania. Banes was a carpenter superintendent on several

sections of the canal below Brookville and for this work he was paid in horses (paper money was not to be trusted in the 1840s). These horses were then driven back to Pennsylvania and sold.

In 1845 Mr. Banes erected a cotton factory on the site of the Metamora Grist Mill. Jonathan Banes married Maria Mount, daughter of David Mount (the town's first settler). When David Mount died, Jonathan inherited the Mount family homestead which encompasses the south fields behind the village. Map #29.

### #70 Gordon Brothers Double Residence



This large two story home was built around 1860 as a home of brothers Milton B, and Mahlon C Gordon and their families. Milton was involved in the milling

business, Mahlon was the largest landholder in the county.

A son, William, later became President of the local bank. In the early 1900's the Lennard family bought the home. Mr. Lennard was also a Bank President at the Farmers Bank on the north side of Main Street. The house maid left an iron unattended and the home was damaged by fire in the 1920's and was rebuilt to reflect the end of the Victorian period.

***At this point in your walking tour, turn right up the gravel path and continue between the two log cabins. You are entering the area of town known as Duck Creek Crossing.***

***This entire area of shops, including about a dozen old log cabins, is not original to Metamora. As Metamora's popularity as a tourist town grew in the early 1970's, this acreage on the west end of town was subdivided into small lots and sold with the covenants and restrictions requiring property owners to establish and maintain the appearance of an 1850's shopping town. The log cabins were all moved into Duck Creek after 1973, though most have their own stories and histories.***

***After the back gravel paths through Duck Creek, proceed to the Grist Mill.***

**Metamora was platted in 1838. The Whitewater Canal only carried boats from 1839 to 1865, but the canal was maintained to supply hydraulic power all the way up to 1936.**



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## #4 Grist Mill



Built in 1845 by Jonathan Banes as a cotton mill (spun cotton into thread) this mill was equipped with 1,000 spindles (the equivalent of 1,000 spinning wheels)

and was known as the "Metamora Cotton Factory."

Soon, this factory was in serious financial difficulty because of the import of dry goods and ready made clothing via canal boat. In 1856, the cotton machinery was taken out and the establishment changed to a flouring mill under the ownership of Murry and Banes.

Purchased in 1857 by John Curry, the flouring mill went by the name of John Curry & Son. Curry sold to Thomas Tague about 1863 and it was known then as "Hoosier Mill".

In 1877 the mill was acquired by William McClure and by the early 1880's it was called "Crescent Mills."

The original three story mill burned sometime between 1882 and 1900. In 1900, Frank Wright erected a three story brick flouring mill with a daily capacity of fifty barrels of flour. This mill operated day and night, depending entirely on hydraulic power.

The mill employs a 50 inch hydraulic breast wheel on an eight foot fall of water, thus receiving 30 horsepower. Relics of these hydraulic turbines lie outside the mill today.

This mill burned again in the early 1930's and was rebuilt to its present two story structure. Ross Brumfiel bought the mill and ground corn meal, sold coal and mixed feed. The mill continued in use until 1941 when its water power was halted by a break in the feeder dam at Laurel.

The Mill was acquired by the State of Indiana in about 1947 along with the canal and aqueduct, which was turned into the Whitewater State Historic Site to preserve the history. The Mill, along with the Feeder Dam, Aqueduct, and portions of the canal, were restored to operation by the State and are operated today as a State Historic Site by the Indiana State Museum.

*After leaving the Grist Mill, cross over the canal on the foot bridge behind the mill, noting the water wheel that powers the mill. Continue through the park past the Gazebo, turn left, then left again to go up Clayborn Street. The hike up the hill really isn't too bad!*



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**#21 Monroe Allison House**

This home was built in the early 1870s by Monroe Allison. The framework is of hand hewn logs mortised and secured with wooden pins. The board and batten siding, as well

as the floors are of 1 1/4 in poplar. This is the only house of this style in Metamora. Included are 9 rooms on 6 different floor levels, plus a widows watch on top.

Allison was a carpenter and specialized in building railroad depots. The local folklore is that when he completed a depot here in the Whitewater River Valley he would float the surplus materials down the canal and add another room to his house. Several types of gingerbread ornamentation on the eaves of the house testify to this story.

Allison was a Civil War veteran serving as a drummer boy in the Union Army. He and Lucy were married on the then new Robling suspension bridge at Cincinnati. They raised five children in this house, which has three small upstairs bedrooms. The cupola was the last addition to the house. He wanted to be able to sit in it thinking the sun helped his arthritis.

**#20 Dr. Thomas Conner House**

Built in 1860 and occupied by Dr. Conner from 1861-1896. It served as a tenant farm house for the Cederside Farm, which was on the opposite side of

Clayborn Street from 1896-1950.

Dr. Conner was a physician and an attorney, and a member of the Franklin County Medical Society and a member and Deacon of the Christian Church.

When viewed from the front the house appears to be one story, however, it is built into the hillside and is actually two full stories. The first story has a frame wall only on the south side facing the canal; the other three walls are stone.

If you observe the siding on the west side, you can see where there were originally two gables; the saddle between them drained into a cistern. The pump over the cistern is still in place. Later the two gables were converted into one. The old gables though not visible are still present in the attic, complete with the original wooden shingles.

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Bisecting the inside of the house on the second floor is an eight-foot wide hallway with a large doorway at each end. They were not called breezeways in 1845 but performed the same function.

*Now make a U-turn and head back down the hill.*

### #102 Walker Brothers Warehouse



This two story house is constructed of rubble limestone; it was built in the 1850's by John and Daniel Walker. The brothers migrated in the 1840's by way of the Ohio

River and the Whitewater Valley. They operated several businesses in Metamora, a general store, a distillery and a mill. This building served as a warehouse for the whiskey produced in their distillery. The barrels were loaded onto canal boats at a dock immediately below the Metamora Lock south of this building. By 1867, it was used as a brewery by A.I. Senior. In the late 1800's, it was converted into a residence. Two architectural changes have been made since that time, the addition of the east-facing porch and a recent third story.

The distillery proper was located about 1/2 mile west of town along the canal. Nicholas Walker came to Metamora in 1846 from Cincinnati and by 1849 was joined by the George, John and Daniel Walker families. They built a large brick building on the north side of the canal (where the bank building now stands). Here they conducted an impressive general store dealing exclusively in canal imported merchandise. Walker Bros. Mill, containing 4 runs of Bur Machinery, was located immediately west of this structure (present picnic area). This mill along with Rubottom Mill and the John Armstrong dwelling, livery stable, and grocery all burned in the destructive fire of April 1856.

### #104 Ben Franklin II



This boat on the private lot on Clayborn Street is the actual Ben Franklin II, the canal packet boat replica built by the Whitewater Canal State Historic Site and used here in Metamora on the canal pulled by horses for tourist passenger service in the 1970's/1980's.

When is Metamora open? People don't think of Metamora as a town but that is what it is. It is not an amusement park or a museum that opens and closes its doors at a certain time. You can visit Metamora anytime just like you can visit any town. The State Historic Site operates on a schedule but the shop are all private owned properties and they determine their own schedule.

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When the state authorities determined the need to replace it with a newer boat (the present day Ben Franklin III), local lore has it that some local resident(s) wanted to purchase or obtain this boat as a museum in town.

Apparently the red tape involved with transferring title of this boat to private residents proved too much to overcome, and the boat was ordered destroyed. A contractor was hired to cut the boat into large pieces and haul it away for burning. The boat was cut up, and the sections hauled away out of town to prepare for burning. One or more local folks determined to save the boat apparently obtained all the cut up pieces (four or five large sections) from the site where it was to be burned, then reassembled the boat and transported it to its current location.

Plans are to eventually transfer the Ben Franklin II to the Whitewater Canal Gateway Park Museum.

***Continue past the Ben Franklin II and another building, then observe the Walker Brothers Double Residence. You will turn left up Mount Alley, but not before checking out this house.***

### #106 Walker Brothers Double Residence



The Walker brothers, John and Daniel, moved to Metamora from Cincinnati in 1848. They bought two adjacent lots and built this poplar clapboard

two story building on the shared property line, a 19th century duplex. Note the two front doors. John and Lucy lived on one side and Daniel and Caroline on the other. There is a single central chimney; apparently the Walkers shared the chimney and had a double fireplace. The brothers built a mill on the canal, operated a distillery and a warehouse. They left Metamora after the demise of the canal perhaps due to a decrease in Irish canal laborers and a decrease in their distillery trade.

***Turn right on Wynn Street and past another house.***

### #130 United Methodist Church



The early circuit riders helped form this congregation's first meeting at the William Gordon Farm in the 1820's. A revival held in Kennedy's Wagon Shop in 1840 led to the building of a church in Metamora Cemetery call "Watcoot."

The present church was built in 1853 on land donated by John McWhorter. The Basement of this church served for a time as the village school prior to the Civil War.

First remodeling in 1886 removed exterior staircases and enclosed the central vestibule. Stained glass windows and a hand pumped pipe organ was installed in 1915. Congregational name was changed to United Methodist Church in 1968.

***Before you turn right and walk down Holland Alley, check out the Blacklidge House on your left.***

### #174 Blacklidge House



William Blacklidge built the Greek Revival temple and wing style house in the late 1850's. Two wings flank the two-story center 'temple'. William G. Blacklidge was a carpenter; his son, Alfred, operated a general store in

town.

***As you continue walking south on Holland Alley, you will be coming up on the back side of the Thorpe House.***

### #132 Thorpe House



The Thorpe House was built by Jim Thorpe (not of Olympic fame) in the 1840's. One of the few facts we have of its history is that it was sold in 1861 for \$900. The original house was square in area

occupied; additions gave it the current appearance. Jim was the son of Metamora's first blacksmith; all of the seven sons were taught the blacksmithing trade.

***Continue south on Holland Alley until you get to the end by canal (which is North Main Street.) On your right you will see the Bank.***

***To see Mount Holland House, you will have to take a few more steps westward.***

### #112 Farmers Bank



The bank, though a 20th century building, is considered a historic building, as it was the only bank in the town. The bank was originally in the Odd Fellows Building; it was moved to this structure when

William H. Gordon built it in 1923.

The building has had no structural changes and the vault remains intact in the basement. This bank is notable in that it might be the only one in the Midwest not robbed by John Dillinger.

*Now continue eastward on North Main Street.*

### #111 Mount Holland House



According to oral tradition the home was built by David Mount on this lot. Unfortunately, it was destroyed by a fire in 1882. Later the Holland family built the home that stands today

on the original foundation of the Mount home. The Mount and Holland families were founders of this town, therefore; the home was dedicated as The Mount Holland House in 1916.

### #114 Gordon House



Little information is available on this beautiful home, fully restored by the present owner in recent years. The only information available is that the owner has a set of original construction

drawings of the home, which indicate it was build in 1856/57 from trees located on the property.

*Now follow the map, make a left turn followed by two right turns to land you on the main entrance road to Metamora (Columbia Street.)*

### #123 Thorpe's Blacksmith Shop



Mr. Thorpe who ran this shop came to Metamora from Bedford County, Pennsylvania. He and his family left Pennsylvania to go to the California gold fields,

but never got any further than Metamora. After a brief return to Pennsylvania, they finally settled in Metamora, where he became a blacksmith and taught the art to his seven sons.

The best-known Thorpe offspring was Christian Haring Thorpe who engaged in blacksmithing, undertaking and hardware. It is interesting to note that there is no historic designation number for this building. Although this is a historic site, the building was too changed by remodeling to be included in the historic district designation.

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## #127 Old Cobbler Shop



The Cobbler's Shop building was long associated with the business life of the community. By 1877, it was the boot and harness shop of Joseph

Staub who was a cobbler and saddle maker by trade. At the turn of the century, Leo and Mike Staub operated it as a shoe repair shop. This shop was relocated to the second floor and was serviced by a wooden stairway on the Columbia Street side.

In 1920, Linnie Banes succeeded Inez Gordon as Postmistress and moved the Post Office from the Gordon Block to this location where it remained until construction of the postal facility in 1969.

*After observing the Old Cobbler Shop and the next building on the tour (below), you will be turning left to go down Lovers Lane.*

## #160 Faulkner-Pierce Drug Store/Redmen's Hall



The Faulkner-Pierce Drug Store is a landmark building of the canal era. The drug store was in operation from 1840 to 1916. Then it

became a hardware store from 1923 to 1961.

The front half of the building was constructed in the 1840's while the back half was built in the late 1860's after the Civil War. The building was built of rock taken from the nearby Duck Creek. The back half of the building was used as a millinery shop and a barber shop. The top floor was Red-Men's Lodge Hall.

## #166 Old Christian Church



The land for this church was donated by Mr. Henry Pond and a church was built and dedicated Christmas, 1871.

You can find Metamora on Facebook. Look for the Metamora, Indiana that says "Historical Place." This will keep you updated about all that is going on in Metamora!

Baptism at this church was conducted in the canal out front. The building was in continuous use as a Christian Church until 1970, at which time the congregation moved to a new structure in upper Metamora.

The building was abandoned for several reasons, the major cause being inaccessibility. With the coming of a new canal boat, a foot bridge across the canal in front of the church had to be removed, creating a serious parking problem for the congregation.

Secondly, the continuous flooding of Duck Creek had seriously undermined the back- foundation of the structure. To insure that the building would not be destroyed, it was converted to an antique shop and thus preserved as a community landmark.

The vertical sun dial in the circular ornamentation of the bell tower is a creditable example of unobtrusive change.

Canal Days, this year and every year, starts on the first Friday in October and goes on for three days. Canal Days originated over 40 years ago in the autumn of the year following the harvest, farmers and traders gathered intowns to sell and trade the fruits of their labor.



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## #167 Henry Pond House



Henry Pond Henry Pond operated a tannery behind and adjacent to this building during the 1830's. The building has two stories aboveground with

a complete cellar below on a relatively square footprint. The structure is largely original with the only later alterations being to the doors and windows.

In 1840 Pond was instrumental in establishing the Christian Church in Metamora as an outgrowth of the Campbellite movement. The new congregation met in the top floor of this building until in 1871 Pond donated lot #12 next door for the construction of the church building that stands there today.

Issac Newton Gustin purchased the Pond building in 1881 and remodeled it to its present appearance. Gustin was the local schoolteacher in the brick school house once located at the edge of town. He was a friend of many Indiana artists including T.C. Steele and J. Ottis Adams. T.C. Steele boarded in this house and painted Metamora scenes ( A Quiet Neighborhood, Metamora, and A Village Street) and local landscapes.

*Though the road ends, you can take a footpath directly ahead to the famous Duck Creek Aqueduct.*

## #11 Aqueduct



Metamora, Indiana has the only wood aqueduct still in service in this country. It was built to carry the canal and canal boats 16 feet above the Duck Creek.

It has a clear span (length) of 70 feet. The water cross section is 17 feet wide and 3 feet deep. Restorations by the State of Indiana were undertaken in 2005 to extend the life of the structure. According to local lore, the present bridge was built to replace a two-span bridge that had been washed out during a flood. Since the canal was a private venture, there are few records.

As for the bridge, its builder and construction date appear to be lost in the mists of time. But a surviving letter suggests that the present bridge was built in 1848 or 1849. The Aqueduct faithfully carried the canal's commerce until the canal ceased operation in 1866, after a railroad was built along the canal's towpath.

In 1948, the bridge was rebuilt and incorporated into the Whitewater Canal State Historic Site. The original arch timbers were retained and reused, but other parts of the trusses were replicated from locally grown yellow poplar.

~The End of the Walking Tour~

## A Glimple of the Past



A picture of the old Broom/Handle Factory. It has been gone since early 1900's, and used to be located right next to the current waterfall.



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