



JIMMY STEWART'S BIRTHDAY WALK

A self-guided activity to do anytime!

"I have a great love and pride for Indiana. I belong here...and I am grateful for it."

- Jimmy Stewart

1 The Jimmy Stewart Museum/Jimmy Stewart Mural - 835 Philadelphia St.

The Jimmy Stewart Museum opened on May 20, 1995 to house memorabilia of the famous actor and his family, some of which were personally selected by Jimmy for display. Jimmy allowed the museum to be established under the condition it remained humble in size, was located in downtown Indiana and would economically benefit his hometown.

The mural of Jimmy inside the museum's stairwell was painted by muralist Damian Mitchell in 2020 as part of a 12-mural series created by the visiting Dripped on the Road, LLC, residency program hosted by the local Spruce Art Residency. Mitchell worked with the museum's Executive Director, Janie McKirgan, to select a reference photo. Mitchell added the striking blue eyes as a special touch. Using spray paint, it took six hours across two nights to complete the mural.

Fun in the Stewart House

As a child, Jimmy staged plays in his family's basement with his friends.

He also passed his time learning to ride the family horse. His experience with horses and acting would serve him as an adult.

Jimmy Takes Flight

Once, young Jimmy "flew" a wagon attached to a kite from the roof of his house. Perhaps this early fascination with flight inspired him to continue his military career after WWII by serving in the Air Force Reserves, earning the rank of Brigadier General.

2 Jimmy Stewart's Birthplace - 975 Philadelphia St.

James Maitland Stewart was born in this home on May 20, 1908 to Elizabeth (Bessie) and Alexander (Alex) Stewart. Contemporary accounts call the home a "modest" frame house, less grand than the neighboring brick house owned by D.F. Rinn, President of the Indiana Carriage Company. The Stewarts lived here until the family grew to include Jimmy's two sisters, Virginia (Ginny), and Mary at which time the family moved to the larger home on Vinegar Hill.

3 Stewart's Home on Vinegar Hill - 104 N. 7th St.

The Stewarts moved into this Dutch Colonial home following the birth of their three children. Jimmy grew up in this house, which was always filled with music. Jimmy, his mother, Bessie, and sister Ginny played piano. Joined by sister Mary on the violin, the family would often sing together.

4 Jimmy Stewart Garden - N. 7th & Jimmy Stewart St.

The Jimmy Stewart Island Garden was renovated by the Indiana Garden Club through a grant received from the National Garden Club. A memorial plaque was donated by the Jimmy Stewart Museum and was dedicated to Jimmy and his wife, Gloria, who loved to garden. The bed consists of perennials, including native pollinators with supplemental annuals.

5 Old Indiana Borough Hall - 39 N. 7th St.

This Dutch Colonial Revival building was built in 1912 and served as the town's fire station and borough building. Alex Stewart was a volunteer fireman, and Jimmy had lasting memories of his father running down the steps from their home on Vinegar Hill to the fire station. This structure was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

6 Old Indiana County Courthouse - 601 Philadelphia St.

Constructed in 1869 and designed by architect James W. Drum in his Modern Renaissance style, the "old courthouse" replaced an earlier one built in 1808. The old courthouse, now owned by First Commonwealth Bank, was replaced by the current courthouse located at 825 Philadelphia Street. When LIFE magazine came to Indiana to cover Jimmy's return from serving in the Army Air Corps in WWII, they captured Jimmy sitting atop a building, or perhaps on a wall near his home on Vinegar Hill. In the distance is the Old Courthouse's clock tower decorated with a sheet hung by his father Alex, "Welcome, Jim." Sticking up behind that, you can see the top of the handmade "V" for Victory, also installed by Alex in 1941. This is thought to be one of the earliest uses of that symbol in the U.S. In honor of Jimmy's 75th birthday, another "V" was built and installed for the celebration.

7 It's A Wonderful Life Mural - 100 S. 6th St.

Located on a low wall at the northeastern corner of South 6th Street and Gompers Avenue, the "It's A Wonderful Life" mural is easily visible to community members on their daily travels. This mural was painted in 2020 by Dripped on the Road, LLC, resident muralist Risa Boogie, whose talents include illustration and woodworking. Within this colorful mural, Boogie includes messages of love and unity for the community.



brought to you by



For more self-guided flyers and additional walks, visit Indiana County Walking Decathlon on Facebook or online at ICOPD.org (look for the Decathlon logo). For more information about Jimmy Stewart, visit jimmy.org. **Questions?** Email jmckirgan@jimmy.org



8 J.M. Stewart & Co. Sign - 200 S. 6th St.

The 20'-long carved sandstone lintel that once capped the J.M. Stewart & Co. Hardware Store can now be seen along the Wayne Avenue side of the Silas M. Clark House, which is now home to the Historical & Genealogical Society of Indiana County.

9 Doughboy Statue - Memorial Park

The Doughboy statue was designed by artist/entrepreneur Ernest Moore Viquesney in 1920 and sculpted by Paul Mohrmann. The statue was initially named "Spirit of the American Doughboy" but was changed to "Spirit of the American Soldier" to be more inclusive. It was erected in 1925 by a committee led by Jimmy Stewart's father, Alex. Alex served in the Spanish-American War and World War I, and his own father served in the Union Army, as did Jimmy's maternal grandfather. The Stewart military tradition goes back to Jimmy's third great grandfather, Fergus Moorhead, who served in the Revolutionary Army.

10 Calvary Presbyterian Church - 695 School St.

Established in 1807 as the "First Presbyterian Church". This Victorian-eclectic building was completed in 1906 and originally had a steeple atop the northwest tower, but it was removed in 1966. In 1959 the congregation changed its name to Calvary Church (UPCUSA) because the split of two branches of Presbyterians had left two "First" churches standing side by side in Indiana. The Stewart family sat near the front of the right side of the center aisle, facing the pulpit. Both Alex and Bessie were members of the choir. Jimmy attributed his values to the teaching of his parents, his grandparents, and Rev. Dr. Frederick Hinitt, who was pastor of First Presbyterian while Jimmy was growing up. Jimmy continued to attend church services most of his adult life and married Gloria McLean at the Brentwood Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles, CA, on August 9, 1949.

11 Stewart's Grandparents Home - 120 S. 7th St.

Jimmy's grandfather, James Maitland Stewart (Jimmy's namesake), was a first-generation American whose forebears settled in the Indiana Borough area in 1785. "J.M.", as he was known, eventually became a partner in a hardware store located in Indiana after attending college, teaching school, and serving in the Union army. Now the Welsh & Budash Building, the buff-brick home once belonged to Stewart's Grandfather, and both Alex and Jimmy spent a lot of time there.

12 Hardware Store Marker - 800 Philadelphia St.

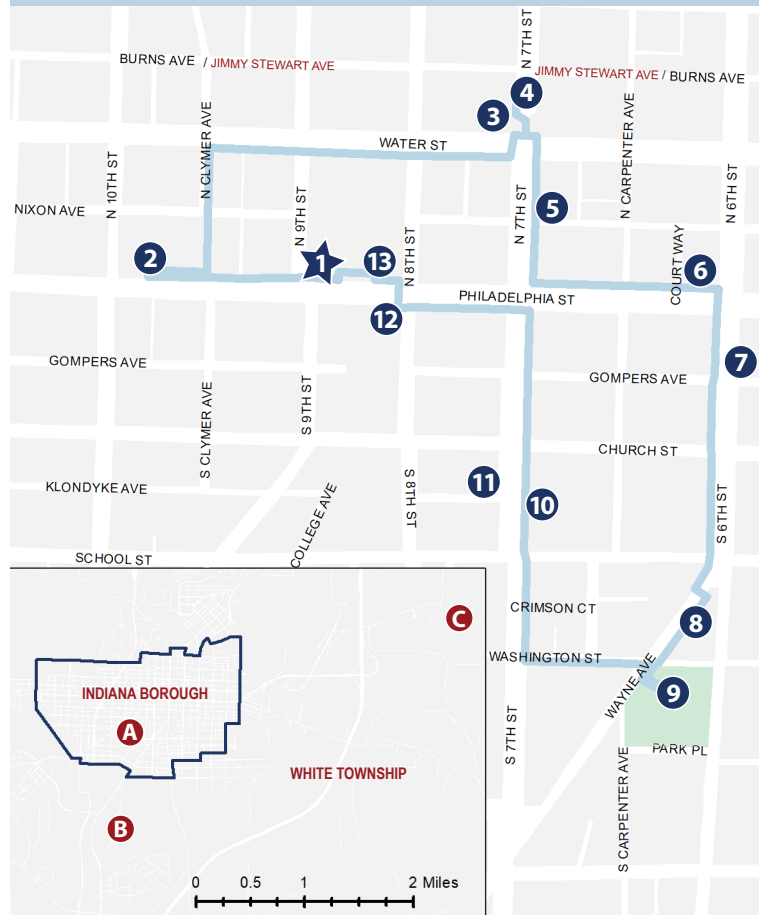
S&T Bank, a long-time supporter of the Jimmy Stewart Museum, is the location of a plaque commemorating the J.M. Stewart & Co. Hardware Store. It is displayed on a low wall outside their front doors. The Hardware Store was located on the approximate footprint of the bank. This was the store's second location in Indiana, the first being on a smaller site on North 6th Street, from which the store moved in 1853.

13 Jimmy Stewart Statue - 825 Philadelphia St.

The 9' bronze statue in front of the Indiana County Courthouse was created by sculptor Malcolm Alexander, who had also captured the likeness of Roberto Clemente, Joe DiMaggio, and Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. While Jimmy approved the likeness of his statue, he left the final word up to Gloria. "I left it up to my wife, and she told me she likes it," Jimmy said in a 1982 interview. The statue's dedication coincided with Jimmy's 75th birthday on May 20, 1983. Stewart was in town for his birthday celebration and statue reveal. The bronze statue was not ready in time so a fiberglass copy stood in for the dedication ceremonies. The temporary fiberglass version is now on display in The Jimmy Stewart Museum.

Spirit of the American Soldier

The land where Memorial Park is located was first recorded in 1774 and belonged to a local Lutheran Church. Formerly a cemetery, a few graves remain, with some dating to the Revolutionary War. Alex Stewart believed this was the perfect place for a memorial, but the Church disagreed. Undaunted, one evening Alex and a contingent from the hardware store took it upon themselves to dig the footer for the statue, intending to use a marble pillar saved from the recent renovation of a local bank. They were stopped by court order, but the case was resolved in favor of Alex. The County secured the statue and surrounding area and Memorial Park was established. Jimmy Stewart said that on the night of the covert pedestal-digging, he threw a quarter into the hole. If it were ever to be recovered, he'd wanted it returned to him! Aside from the quarter, Jimmy contributed the funds for building the park's bandstand, now the site for numerous community activities.



Continue Your Tour!

- A Wilson Hall (IUP) - 1011 South Dr. Indiana, PA**
Wilson Hall was built in 1893 as part of the Indiana Normal School—later the Model School, Teacher's College, and eventually Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). Jimmy attended what we consider elementary and junior high classes until age 15 at the Model School. Jimmy completed his education by attending Mercersburg Academy and Princeton University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1932.
- B Greenwood Cemetery - 901 Hospital Rd. Indiana, PA**
The gravestones of Jimmy's parents, Alex and Bessie, are located in Greenwood Cemetery, across the road from the Indiana Regional Medical Center.
- C Stewart's Airplane - 398 Airport Rd. Indiana, PA**
Jimmy Stewart's personal 1961 Cessna 310 airplane was mounted as a windvane at the Jimmy Stewart Airport in 2020.