About Monumental Memories

What is a memory? Some would say memories define us as humans and shape our personality, expectations and future. Jeffersonville has a personality unique all unto itself. We are a quaint river town sprinkled with historic architecture and bustling businesses. It is a town peppered with proud neighborhoods and is community rich in heritage, full of memories that make us who we are today.

Each enlarged photograph fabricated by SK Signs in Clarksville, Indiana was chosen specifically for the building that it is attached to and a sepia color palette was chosen to unify the ten pieces as well as to harken back to yesteryear. There are identification placards that further explain the “story” of each photo/building fit. Community members contributed the photographs that have been enlarged and are used in this project.

So many photos were contributed in fact, that local artist Bill VanHook has created a complimentary CD to assist in telling our story. It is in the CD that you will see 97 additional photographs that correspond to what has been enlarged. You will hear the voices of three community members that recounted their own memories that follow along with the images and you will be delighted by the background music that was composed specifically for this project by young local musician Rachel May.

The Monumental Memories Project has brought many groups of people together for a common cause: remembering. It is because of a grant written and submitted by the Ellis family that this project gained its initial funding from, OCRA, Indiana Main Street. The Jeffersonville Urban Enterprise Association, Redevelopment Commission and the Public Art Commission also saw great potential in this project and joined in to assist monetarily.

The essence of this project is to remember our past while looking ahead to our vibrant future.

Special Thanks and Credits

PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS:
Photos from the Floppy Mode Collection
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Jeffersonville Public Library
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WALKING GUIDE BROCHURE:
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FABRICATION:
SK Signs

PROJECT SPONSORS:
Jeffersonville UEZ
OCRA
Indiana Main Street
Jeff Public Art Commission
A place to collect our community treasures is a perfect fit for this photo collection. Many of the buildings you see are simply an illusion. No longer in place - relics, ghosts, memories of what once was.

Now a hardware store filled with tools and tall tales, this building once housed beautiful hats made by a hardworking woman that almost ended up a spinster.

Currently filled with visual gems including diamonds and pearls, this building once smelled of gasoline and oil as it housed the taxicabs that buzzed throughout our city and the surrounding area. Beep, Beep!

Who knew such a quaint river town could have such a dodgy past? The site of Antz Café is full of stories with gangsters, guns and gambling.

What do expectorating, silent films and pianos have in common? Find out at the ghost site of the Dream Theater.

Jeffersonville didn’t miss a beat! Check out the similarities of the hustle and bustle of the early 1900s and our current day Spring Street stretch.

Girls just wanna have fun! This building once housed the latest fashion for ladies. Easily recognized with a saw tooth roofline, which is in stark contrast with the Italianate buildings that surround it, this building is a great example of trend setting!

The party’s still hoppin’! The war was over, yet the fun on Spring Street was just beginning. You could pitch a grenade from the Army Surplus Store or catch a show on the street outside!show!

Where are they now? Urban renewal came and went and with it went many treasured buildings. Look at how our News and Tribune has changed.

Up in smoke! This building had many lives that stretched from millions to minions. Once the most treasured building on Spring Street, and a safe home for many a’ Benjamin became another victim of urban renewal and the suburban sprawl.