

YOUR GUIDE TO

Haunted

HAMILTON COUNTY, INDIANA

CARMEL

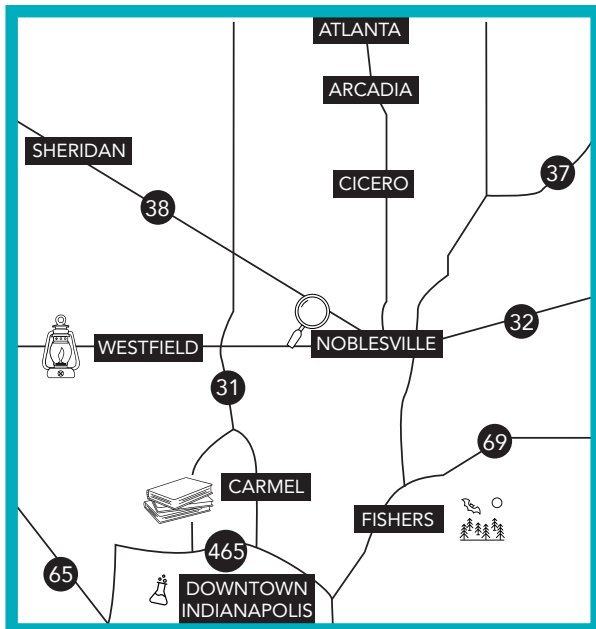
This now-booming metropolis was once called Bethlehem and carries its own rich history with great little eateries to boot.

Jamaican Reggae Grill & Union Brewing **622 S. Rangeline Road, Carmel**

OK, there's nothing spooky about this place other than it's just delicious and located next door to a wonderful courtyard where you can gather around the fire pit, listen to local music and sample local brews and tell your own ghost stories. Too much fun.

Wood's Library Restaurant **40 E. Main St., Carmel**

Isaac Bales worked as a janitor in the former Carmel Library that now houses "Woody's" in the early 1900s. While the owner claims to haven't ever seen him, just to be sure (based on some suspicious banging of pots and pans in the kitchen when no one is there), drinks may be left for Mr. Bales ... just in case. The food's great and the atmosphere is equally as wonderful if you are a bibliophile.



See addresses in listings

FISHERS

This now-refined community was once a little rough around the edges, both as a station on the Nickel Plate Railroad and as an outpost of sorts. As a result, there are some fun stories to tell.

Bombings and Suspicions **6698 E. 116th St., Fishers**

This story really doesn't involve hauntings, but it does involve incendiary devices and intrigue--even in the 1890s in "rural Indiana." Despite the rapid changes in a now metro downtown Fishers, you can still see this iconic building standing there. Fishers resident Sam Trittippo opened a store here in 1886 along with his son Albert Watson (A.W. Trittippo). While many community residents loved their "drink," not everyone felt that way including the Trittippo family. In 1892, young Trittippo opened the barn door to get out the family buggy as he did every morning and was startled by a loud noise and a flash. Someone had filled a 2-inch by 18-inch pipe with birdshot, nitroglycerine and dynamite! It detonated when the door was opened. He survived but he was badly burned on his face and hands. He later got a note of warning that said "Death will come by powder and lead to both of you. Now get. Traps now fixed to your buildings ready to touch off. Now go." The family wasn't targeted again until three years later, and they stood firm in their convictions.

Heady Hollow **126th & Allisonville Road, Fishers**

You have to ignore the beautiful new widened road and imagine this dip in the 1800s when carriages would clip-clop their way down what once was State Road 37, by-passed in 1959 to its current location. Named for the nearby Heady family cemetery, rumors abound of things seen here that cannot be unseen - the ghosts of children buried there who come out on foggy nights.

Conner Prairie **13400 Allisonville Road, Fishers**

If you want more light-hearted intrigue after making your way through Heady Hollow, check out the Headless Horseman at nearby Conner Prairie for a bit of fun special nights in October. Daytime is fun too, but it's at night when the horseman is seen riding the old covered bridge there. ConnerPrairie.com.



Ghost Tours by unseenpress.com

WESTFIELD

Once home to the Underground Railroad and lots of rich history, also headquarters for Haunted Ghost Tours offered by UnseenPress.

Underground Railroad

Throughout downtown Westfield and in nearby Eagletown.

Although no direct sightings have occurred because of Westfield's prominent role in the Underground Railroad, the beautiful cemeteries that house the Quakers that bravely protected these fugitives can be toured. Check out our guide to the Underground Railroad at VisitHamiltonCounty.com

1205 Distillery

120 Camilla Ct., Westfield

No intrigue, just home to the official Hamilton County Drink – the Hamilton County Smash – and other fine locally crafted “spirits.” If you know what we mean.

Hamilton County Haunted Ghost Tours

Visit UnseenPress.com for tour locations.

The folks at UnseenPress are famous for their tours throughout central Indiana and for their ghost hunting. While Westfield is home to this intriguing couple, you can find their latest tour schedule at a variety of locations by visiting their website.

Erika's Place

102 S. Union St., Westfield

Enjoy a hot breakfast possibly accompanied by cool ghostly breezes at this local eatery which has some of the best pancakes and omelets and a staff that swears it's haunted.

Grand Junction Brewing Company

1189 E. 181st St., Westfield

Even before you have a wonderful cold brew, you might see boot prints in this old blacksmith's shop. Stay for supper. You never know what might happen.

NOBLESVILLE

The county seat and the seat of much intrigue in this community with its rich history along the White River.

A Cultural Divide

**Strawtown Koteewi Park
12308 Strawtown Ave., Noblesville**

There's nothing left to see but beautiful restored prairie lands and the White River, but this bucolic location was once the site a notorious revenge attack dating from 1821. Now known as Strawtown Koteewi Park, the sleepy rural community was once a lively place as it was located at the intersection of the Lafayette Trace and the trail the followed the White River from southern Indiana. Tavern owner Philip Shintaffer sold liquor to local Native Americans and was known to be a little rough around the edges. During one such transaction, one of his Native American customers argued that the liquor was watered down. Shintaffer knocked the client into the fireplace, where he was severely burned. Weeks later, a group of Native Americans came to revenge the incident and a fight broke out. Shintaffer was wounded and local settler Benjamin Fisher took a tomahawk to the head and was killed along with an unnamed Native American. There are many versions of the story passed down over the years but Fisher was buried in Strawtown and not sent home to his family or to his own property as was tradition. No one knows where the grave is located but locals have claimed to know where the “low mound” that marked his burial was located.

Nickel Plate Arts

107 S. 8th St., Noblesville

This arts studio and gallery is located in one of the oldest buildings in downtown Noblesville and has likely seen its fair share of intrigue. And on November 1, it becomes a cultural destination where you can paint your own Calaveras (decorative skull), make tissue paper flowers and enjoy music.

Nickel Plate Express

Forest Park, 701 Cicero Road, Noblesville

The pandemic has changed programming for this amazing railroad experience but that doesn't mean all the fun has gone. The Nickel Plate Express will offer a variety of fall caboose rides for families and spirited adults! Check them out at NickelPlateExpress.com.

Syd's Fine Food & Spirits (aka Syd's Bar)

Logan & 8th Streets, Noblesville

This historic building has been a tavern since 1889 except during prohibition from 1909-1933. Walter Carey and Sid Gill opened Syd's in 1945 and installed a shuffleboard game in the middle of the bar and where – unlike Cheer's – everyone says “Howdy Bub!” With all that history, it's not surprising the employees leave drinks out for the ghosts they know to reside there.

Check out Hamilton County Historian David Heighway's history stories at the Indiana State Library's blog where we borrowed some of his content blog.history.in.gov.