



The Barker Family's contributions to their community

Trinity Cathedral, now known as the Trinity Episcopal Church was built in 1889. John H Barker contributed the greater share of cost for building it.

Barker Hall originally built in 1886 by John H Barker in memory of his first wife and their three children, who died in infancy.

John Barker also donated the money to have the Bishop's Mansion built for Trinity Church.

In 1929, his daughter Catherine had Barker Hall reconstructed in memory of John H Barker's first three children who died in early childhood.

Michigan City Public Library built in 1859 to which he also contributed a third of the cost. He and Mrs. Barker would host the Library Foundation meetings at Barker's Mansion.

John Barker donated Marquette Hall at St. Mary of Immaculate Conception Church.

St. Anthony's Hospital built in 1904 the cost of the building and equipment being \$80,000, large part of which he contributed in the name of Mrs. John H. Barker, Catherine's mother.

The bandstand, Peristyle and the first conservatory in Washington Park were donated by the Barker Family.

John Barker in 1904, gave an annual endowment to the Ames Band which later became the Municipal Band.

The YMCA was built in 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Barker held the fundraisers and foundation meetings at Barker Mansion he also contributed one half of the project cost of \$100,000.

Catherine donated the altar at St. Mary's Catholic Church in honor of her mother Katherine Barker.

Catherine Barker helped start the Michigan City School of Fine Arts in the Warren building in 1922.

Catherine Barker created the Barker Welfare Foundation in 1924. The foundation continues to be active today and instrumental in giving their support to Barker Mansion and many other charities. Many of the family members are actively involved in the running of the Barker Welfare Foundation today.

Catherine Barker established the Barker Annuity Fund which provided pensions for the former Haskell & Barker employees who were not eligible for the benefits under the newly established Pullman Plan. When the purpose of the Annuity Fund had been fulfilled the remaining balance was transferred to the Barker Welfare Foundation.

In 1948, Catherine had given the Barker Mansion to Purdue to use as an educational study center.

After Purdue North Central was established in 1968, the ownership of the Barker Mansion was returned to the Barker Welfare Foundation. At that time Catherine and Foundation arranged for the home to be donated to Michigan City, to be used as a cultural civic center.

Mrs. Catherine Hickox was very involved in plans for the restoration of the mansion and the future of Barker Mansion monies were provided to restore and arrangements were made to return the original furnishings from when Catherine was a child.

Written summer 2015 by Intern Keri Jakubowski. Sources available upon request.