

**Welcome to historic Camp Chesterfield! Spiritual home to the Indiana Association of Spiritualists (IAOS), Camp Chesterfield has been a “spiritual center of light” for generations of Hoosier Spiritualists. The IAOS was first established in 1886 and moved to its current home at Camp Chesterfield in 1890.**

Camp Chesterfield is historically significant, listed as a historic district on the National Park Service’s “National Register of Historic Places.” The non-profit group, “Friends of Camp Chesterfield Foundation,” is working on projects to preserve the unique architecture of the numerous structures at Camp Chesterfield, and to foster its historical significance and cultural heritage to a wider audience around Indiana and beyond.

Today, Camp Chesterfield is a flourishing Spiritualist community equipped with a welcome center for visitors, two hotels, a guesthouse, an administrative building for its educational program, a full-service cafeteria, a spacious cathedral, a modern bookstore and library, an art gallery and museum, and a quaint little chapel in the woods.

**Trail of Religion //** Along the shady grove in the center of the grounds is a semi-circular memorial unique to Camp Chesterfield called the “Trail of Religion.” Dedicated in 1943 to the world’s great religious leaders, this display features the limestone busts of Lao-Tse, Buddha, Confucius, Vardhamana, Osiris, Zoroaster, Abraham, Mohammed, Zeus and Jesus, the Christ.



**The Western Hotel //** Built in 1945, this hotel was designed after the typical “roadside inns” of the era. Equipped with a period lobby and art-deco check-in counter, it has two floors featuring both single and twin rooms with baths; the basement houses a large and spacious women’s dormitory that allows for communal accommodations, and a smaller men’s dormitory. This hotel boasts being the first fire-proof building in the state of Indiana.



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**ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER**

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**TREE OF LIFE - BOOKS & GIFTS**

Phone: (765) 378-0236

**WESTERN HOTEL**

Phone: (765) 378-0237



**DIRECTIONS TO CAMP CHESTERFIELD:**

- ▶ Indiana I-69 – (South from Fort Wayne, North from Indianapolis) to Exit 34 (Anderson/Muncie).
- ▶ Take SR 32 West.
- ▶ Travel West on SR 32 to the third traffic light (Washington Street).
- ▶ Turn North or right onto Washington St.
- ▶ The entrance to Camp Chesterfield is one block North on Washington St. in Chesterfield, Indiana

**INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF SPIRITUALISTS, INC.**

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# Historic Camp Chesterfield

A Spiritual Center of Light



**A Guide to Camp Chesterfield’s Historic Structures and Unique Religious Displays**

**Dr. J. E. Hett Art Gallery and Museum //** The Hett Art Gallery and Museum was dedicated in 1955. This facility boasts a unique collection of Spiritualist-related historical objects and artwork, including an outstanding collection of original memorabilia from the Fox Sisters—the founders of Spiritualism. As well, the museum houses the largest collection in the world of original “precipitated spirit portraits” by the internationally renowned “Bangs Sisters” who often summered at Camp Chesterfield.



**The Sunflower Hotel //** This hotel was built in 1914 to help keep pace with the ever increasing number of people who needed lodging. The Sunflower Hotel was considered to be a “modern” hotel, equipped with 70 rooms. Not in active use today, there are plans to restore The Sunflower with the intention of returning it to its original glory.



**The Chapel in the Woods //** Regularly utilized for weekly church and message services, the Chapel is at the heart of Camp Chesterfield, hosting many important events that take place on the grounds throughout the year. From weddings to funerals, ordinations to dedications, lectures to church and message services, “The Chapel in the Woods” has been an integral part of Camp Chesterfield’s religious and social life for many generations.



**The Cathedral of the Woods //** Over the years, Camp Chesterfield has witnessed the construction of three primary structures in the same location where the current Cathedral is located. The original structure (circa 1891), the “Old Auditorium,” was initially a large tent with a raised, wooden platform for message work. In 1903, it was replaced with a new building, which was called the “Second Auditorium.” This building stood until 1953 when it was razed to make way for the present structure, the “Cathedral of the Woods.” The Cathedral was dedicated on June 26, 1954 and is used as a venue for large gatherings.



**American Indian Memorial //** Located on “Inspiration Hill,” next to the Trail of Religion is a memorial erected to honor Native Americans. The statue features a life-sized figure of an American Indian atop an eight foot pedestal, palms upturned, face looking toward the source of all light and life. Erected in 1940, the Native American statue is a tribute to the deep connection Spiritualism has with Native American peoples.



**The Totem Pole //** The majestic totem pole located on “Inspiration Hill” was originally commissioned in 1961 and formally dedicated in 1962. The totem pole represents the story of an eagle that discovered a salmon. Reading the totem pole from the top to its base, depicts an eagle, a salmon, a whale, a chief, and finally, a bear.

**Maxon Cafeteria //** The “Old Wooden Dining Hall” was built in 1918, replacing an even older dining hall. This new dining hall had brick ovens built behind the structure to bake fresh bread and was used until the mid-1950s when the current Maxon Cafeteria was constructed. Today, the Maxon Cafeteria is a full-service dining facility that also hosts social events, receptions, and large meetings.

**The Garden of Prayer and Sentinel Angel //** Unique to the state of Indiana, the “Garden of Prayer” is a prime architectural example of a European-style grotto that was established as a site for spiritual meditation and religious devotion. Consisting of two rooms, it is equipped with altars and statues of Jesus Christ where devotees pray and light devotion candles. In 1940, the Sentinel Angel was placed outside the entrance of the Garden of Prayer as a memorial to the Mack Family.

**Labyrinth //** The labyrinth at Camp Chesterfield is located on the former site of the “Ladies Bazaar” which stood from the early days of Camp Chesterfield’s formation, but was razed after a fire and many years of harsh weather conditions had taken its toll on this historic building. The public is welcome to walk the labyrinth anytime.

**The Toad Stools //** Camp Chesterfield began as an actual “camp” where visitors would come to have readings and attend message services in the open air. Eventually, the area called the “toad stools” was made to allow mediums to give messages to the many people who would visit the grounds during high season (June-September). An early version of a “psychic fair,” this historically and architecturally significant area served a very important purpose in the history of the IAOS and Camp Chesterfield.

