



Historic Preservation plays a vital role in enriching the cultural, social, economic, and environmental fabric of our community, making it a more vibrant, resilient, and sustainable place to live, work, and visit. Some examples would be the Indiana Theatre, the Eugene V. Debs home, Fowler Park's Pioneer Village, and the Allen Chapel AME Church.

Each of these sites contributes to the rich tapestry of the county's history and provides opportunities for residents and visitors to learn about and appreciate the area's cultural heritage. As county commissioner I would take several actions to ensure that historic buildings are adequately protected and preserved:

1. **Establish Historic Preservation Ordinances:** Work with local stakeholders to develop and implement ordinances that designate historic districts and establish guidelines for the preservation of historic buildings within those districts.
2. **Create a Historic Preservation Commission:** Establish a commission dedicated to overseeing historic preservation efforts, including reviewing proposed alterations or demolitions of historic structures and providing guidance on preservation techniques.
3. **Incentives for Preservation:** Offer financial incentives such as tax credits, grants, or low-interest loans to property owners who undertake preservation projects or maintain historic buildings.
4. **Educational Programs:** Organize educational programs and workshops to raise awareness about the importance of historic preservation and provide property owners with information on preservation techniques and available resources.
5. **Partnerships with Preservation Organizations:** Collaborate with local preservation organizations, historical societies, and other stakeholders to leverage their expertise and resources in preservation efforts.
6. **Inventory and Documentation:** Conduct surveys to identify historic buildings within the county and maintain a comprehensive inventory of these structures. Encourage property owners to document the history and architectural features of their buildings.
7. **Adaptive Reuse:** Promote adaptive reuse projects that repurpose historic buildings for new uses while preserving their architectural integrity. Provide assistance and guidance to property owners interested in undertaking adaptive reuse projects.
8. **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Launch public awareness campaigns to highlight the cultural and economic benefits of historic preservation and garner support for preservation efforts among residents and businesses.

9. **Enforcement of Preservation Regulations:** Ensure that historic preservation ordinances are enforced effectively and take appropriate action against violations, such as unauthorized alterations or demolitions of historic structures.
10. **Long-Term Planning:** Incorporate historic preservation goals and strategies into the county's comprehensive planning process to ensure that preservation efforts are integrated into broader land use and development policies.

By implementing these strategies, I believe I could play a role in safeguarding the cultural heritage and architectural legacy of historic buildings in Vigo County..