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**GAYLE KARCH COOK
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW AND TRANSCRIPT, 2017**

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September 2018

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 folder, 2 DVDs

COLLECTION DATES: 19 September 2017

PROVENANCE: Gayle Cook, Bloomington, Indiana, September, 2018

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NOTES: This forms part of the Indiana Community Builders Oral History Program

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Gayle Karch Cook was born in Evansville, Indiana, in 1934 to Arthur and Thelma (Weinsheimer) Karch. She attended Evansville schools, graduating from Bosse High School in 1952. After graduating from Indiana University (Bloomington) in 1956 with a degree in art, she moved to Chicago, where she met and married her husband, William A. Cook, an entrepreneur in the field of medical supplies.

After the birth of their son, Carl, the Cooks moved to Bloomington, Indiana, and started Cook Incorporated, fabricating cardiovascular catheters in their apartment. In the 1970s, the Cooks became involved in historic preservation as something of a hobby. They started first with the renovation of old houses, such as Cedar Farm in Harrison County, Indiana; the James Cochran House in Bloomington, Indiana; and the Colonel William Jones House in Gentryville, Indiana. Later, they partnered with Indiana Landmarks to restore the West Baden Springs Hotel, the French Lick Springs Hotel and Resort, and the Old Centrum in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Mrs. Cook has written and produced several editions of *A Guide to Southern Indiana* (1972–1982), a travel guide based on the Cooks' Sunday drives around southern Indiana. In 1990, she co-authored with Diane M. Hawes the book, *Monroe County in Focus: Portrait of an Indiana County*, and in 2013, she contributed a chapter titled "Preservation as Good Business," in Nancy R. Hiller's book, *Historic Preservation in Indiana: Essays from the Field*. Since her husband's death in 2011, she has continued her involvement in historic preservation and her volunteer work with the Monroe County Historical Society.

Sources:

Information in collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The following interview is one of a series devoted to collecting life stories from remarkable people whose involvement in Indiana business, politics, religion, education, and philanthropy continues to enhance the Indiana community. Through these individual lives, we can witness the development of Indiana's recent past and better understand Indiana's history from a personal and professional perspective, as illustrated by each individual's contributions to Indiana and their personal connections to all Hoosiers.

This manuscript was transcribed from a digitally recorded interview conducted on 19 September 2017, at the home of Mrs. Gayle Cook in Bloomington, Indiana, by Wendy L. Adams, Indiana Historical Society's (IHS) director of oral history, who was accompanied by Andrew M. Halter, IHS's vice president of development. Data Logistics Co. transcribed the interview in October 2017, and Ms. Adams lightly edited the transcript in November 2017. The interview, which includes the audio recording and the transcript, is housed at the William H. Smith Memorial Library, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, Indianapolis, Indiana.

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