Collection #
P 0930

LA PORTE, INDIANA, ARCHITECTURE SLIDES, CA. 1959–1960

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 folder of slides
COLLECTION DATES:	Ca. 1959–1960
PROVENANCE:	Gift from Ted J. Ligibel, Ph.D., of Michigan, February 2018. He received the slides from Martha H. Boice of Ohio, whose aunt, Lois Harbage, took the photographs.
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ACCESSION NUMBER:	2018.0035
NOTES:	

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The city of La Porte, in La Porte County, Indiana, is home to numerous examples of impressive historic architecture. In particular, the Indiana and Michigan Avenues Historic District contains some of the best examples of architectural styles from a significant period in the development of the city. Styles range from early Gothic and Greek Revival to Italianate and Queen Anne, and include later Tudor Revival and Colonial Revival structures. The district's boundaries are roughly Indiana and Michigan Avenues between Maple and Kingsbury Avenues. It was La Porte's premier residential area for wealthy merchants and professionals during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The William Orr House is an example of Eastlake Victorian architecture, with Italianate and Gothic influences. It is also known as the Orr-Richter House. It was built in 1875 by architect W. J. Edbrooke of Chicago. Located at 4076 W. Small Road, it was originally the home of William Orlando Orr (1833–1924), a farmer. In 1984 it was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Francis H. Morrison House was designed by Chicago architect Charles Whitney Stevens and built ca. 1905. Located at 1217 Michigan Avenue within the Indiana and Michigan Avenues Historic District, it is a Period Revival house with a blend of Classical, Tudor, and Gothic details that contrast with the Craftsman look of the stucco foundation and porch trim. It was originally the home of Francis Henry Morrison (1866–1966), a banker. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

Although it is not known when the Pulaski King House was originally built, the home's defining architectural character is due to major structural remodeling done in 1903 by local architect George Wood Allen in the Colonial Revival style. Located at 1200 Michigan Avenue within the Indiana and Michigan Avenues Historic District, it was originally home to the family of Pulaski King (1823–1898), a dry goods and carpeting merchant. Like several grand homes in the district, the building transitioned from a private estate to a commercial space while preserving its historic exterior. It came to house the insurance company Hargrave & Hargrave in the 1930s, eventually serving as the corporate headquarters for General Insurance Services.

The Scott-Rumely House, designed by architect Wilson B. Parker in the Classical Revival style, was built in 1901. Located at 211 Rose Street, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2016. It was originally home to the family of Emmet Scott (1873-1937), who was president of the Kumfy-Kab Company, which manufactured baby carriages. Scott also served as Mayor of La Porte. The house was inherited by his daughter, Fanny, and her husband, Edward A. Rumely, who was a physician by training but active in his family's agricultural machinery business. He also founded the Interlaken School, a boarding school for boys, in La Porte. The house was occupied by Rumely family members until 1979 and then was owned by an out-of-state bank until it was purchased by Indiana Landmarks in 2014.

Sources:

Find a Grave https://www.findagrave.com/ Accessed 5 August 2026.

Obituary for Emmet Scott. *The South Bend Tribune,* 12 June 1937, p. 12.

Preserve Historic La Porte. "Francis H. Morrison House" https://preservehistoriclaporte.org/historic-property/francis-h-morrison-house/ Accessed 5 August 2026.

Preserve Historic La Porte. "La Porte Historic District and Sites" https://preservehistoriclaporte.org/preservation-in-la-porte/la-porte-historic-districts-and-sites/ Accessed 5 August 2026.

"Rumely mansion open house set." *The South Bend Tribune,* 2 September 2014, p. A3.

United States Department of the Interior. National Register of Historic Places Inventory–Nomination Form, 1984 c70989ac-4fc7-4558-a65c-2f7c00a47940 Accessed 5 August 2026.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Lois Harbage traveled the country as Ohio president of the American Association of University Women. During her travels, she took photographic slides of architecture and then used them to create a slide show titled "Charms & Atrocities" that she presented to the public at various venues. The slides came to be in the possession of Martha Boice, daughter of Lois's sister, Gladys Hibbert. Martha (1931–2026) had a keen interest in historic architecture and was an avid preservationist.

Anna Lois Harbage, who was called by her middle name, was born on 6 February 1900 to Vynul and Celeste Wilson Harbage, who farmed in Madison County, Ohio. Lois graduated from London (Ohio) High School and in 1921 from Ohio Wesleyan University. From 1921–1923, Lois served as assistant director of the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Council of Girl Scouts. Then from 1923–1927, she was director of Louisville Girl Scouts in Kentucky, and subsequently director of Girl Scouts in the Columbus, Ohio, area. In the 1930s, Lois was dean of freshmen women at Ohio Wesleyan University, where she also served as a trustee.

By 1940, Lois had moved to Toledo, Ohio, and had a career in real estate. She served as board president of the Toledo YWCA, as executive secretary of the Toledo Woman's Club, and as president of the Toledo Branch of the American Association of University Women. President Dwight Eisenhower appointed her to the Midwest Regional Conference on Education in 1957.

Lois was still active in her eighties with the Toledo Monnett Club of Ohio Wesleyan University. At its 1983 Homecoming, Ohio Wesleyan presented Lois with awards for softball, field hockey, and basketball captain "to honor one of its all-time great female athletes." Lois died on 12 October 1987 in Sylvania, Ohio, near Toledo.

Sources:

Ligibel, Ted. Personal communication, 5 January 2018.

Ancestrylibrary.com (Accessed 6 August 2026):

Find a Grave
United States Federal Census, 1900–1950
U.S., City Directories, 1822–1995
U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900–2016

"Girls' Troop, 24, To Open Season: Scouts Present Miss Lois Harbage, Director, with Farewell Gifts." *The Courier-Journal* (Louisville, Ky.), 4 September 1927, section 3, p. 7.

Martha Boice Obituary. *Dayton Daily News* (Ohio), 17 June 2026, p. A4.

"Monnett Club to Begin 51st Book Review Series." *The Blade* (Toledo, Ohio), 1 November 1983, p. 23.

"Scout Leader Promoted." *The Cincinnati Enquirer* (Ohio), 27 February 1923, p. 5.

Wolfe, Don. "I've Heard: Never Too Late." *The Blade* (Toledo, Ohio), 31 October 1983, p. 31.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of sixteen color slides taken of historic architecture in La Porte, Indiana, by Lois Harbage. The William Orr House, the Francis H. Morrison House, the Pulaski King House, the Scott-Rumely House, and others are represented in these slides.

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CONTENTS	CONTAINER
William Orr House: 3 slides [1959]	Slides: Folder 1 of 1
Two slides labeled “Chalik’s barn,” one labeled “Chalik’s Home,” and one labeled “Cottage across from Chalik’s.” [1959] [A John P. Chalik (Sr.) (1890–1975) was found to be a resident of La Porte, but it is unknown if this barn and home were his properties. He was an Armenian immigrant who founded a rubber and plastics manufacturing company.]	Slides: Folder 1 of 1
One slide labeled “Greek architecture – hiding a salt box” shows one house and part of another [1959]	Slides: Folder 1 of 1
Francis H. Morrison House: 1 slide [1959]	Slides: Folder 1 of 1
One slide labeled “Old Rose House – now Essling Mortuary / La Porte” [1959]	Slides: Folder 1 of 1
Pulaski King House: 1 slide showing the house from the side [1959]	Slides: Folder 1 of 1
One slide labeled “Parsonage of Lutheran Ch[urch].” [1959]	Slides: Folder 1 of 1
Scott-Rumely House: 1 slide [1959]	Slides: Folder 1 of 1
One slide labeled “La Porte Cup & Saucer [House]” [1960]	Slides: Folder 1 of 1
One slide labeled “La Porte Salt-box – crowded in” shows a house close to other houses [1960]	Slides: Folder 1 of 1
One slide labeled “Steamboat Gothic in La Porte, Ind.” [n.d.]	Slides: Folder 1 of 1