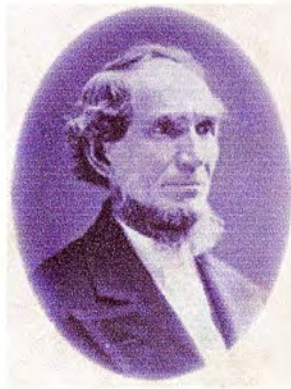


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Dr. James Ford (1812-1898) was born in Jefferson County, Ohio. He studied medicine at Ohio Medical College and Rush College in Chicago, and opened a medical practice in Connersville, Indiana, in 1835. He married America Holton in 1837, and in 1841 he brought his wife and baby to Wabash, where he built the first stage of his home near the corner of Cass and Hill Streets.



America Holton Ford (1819-1891) was the mother of seven children, six of whom survived to adulthood—a remarkable record for the mid-19th century. She created a healthy and abundant home on Hill Street, guiding the family almost alone during Dr. Ford's service in the Civil War. Mrs. Ford wrote of herself, "Home and family seemed, by providence, destined to be my special field of duty."

---

A Project By  
**Easterday Construction Co., Inc.**

Category:  
Historical Restoration—Under \$2 Million





Associated Builders and Contractors



Print

Close

**2006 ABC NATIONAL  
EXCELLENCE IN CONSTRUCTION**
**ENTRY FORM 2006 - ABC National Excellence in Construction Awards**

Prior to completing this form, read and print the [eligibility requirements and submission instructions](#).

To begin the entry process, complete this form by Nov. 3, 2006. Your entry book, including a paper original application, with the \$425 entry fee must be received by ABC no later than November, 17.

Each project entered must be accompanied by an entry book and an entry fee.

Email your questions to [eic@abc.org](mailto:eic@abc.org).

Please complete the information exactly as it should appear on the award. Each submission requires a separate entry form. This must be in your entry binder.

1.	Company Name	Easterday Construction Co., Inc.	
	Company Principal and Title	Kevin L. Berger, President	
	Mailing Address	P.O. Box 88	
	City/State/Zip	Culver	Indiana 46511
	Shipping Address	402 North Slate Street	
	City/State/Zip	Culver	Indiana 46511
	Telephone (Numbers Only, No Spaces)	5748423341	
	Contact person	Kevin L. Berger	
	Contact Phone/Fax (Numbers Only, No Spaces)	5748423341	5748422629
	Contact email	klb@easterdayconstruction.com	

**The contact person will be required to confirm your company's participation in the awards events and proof award information with quick turnaround times.**

2.	Name of project	Dr. James Ford Historic Home	
	Location (City/State/Zip)	Wabash	Indiana 46992
	Contract Amount (Numbers Only, No Spaces)	\$1675800	
3.	Name of primary Architect/Engineer (Firm Name)	Scearce Rudisel Architects	
4.	Name of Client/Owner (Firm name)	Charley Creek Foundation	
5.	Starting Date of Construction (MM/DD/YYYY)	10/30/2002	
	Completion Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	05/12/2006	
6.	ABC Chapter Affiliation	IN, Indianapolis - Indiana Chapter	
7.	Does your Chapter have an awards program?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
	Has this project won an ABC Chapter award?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
	If yes, for what category?	Entered in Historic Renovation under \$2m, won overall Judges' Special Award	
8.	Was this a Design-Build project in your contract with the owner or GC?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
9.	Was this a Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) certified project through the U. S. Green Building Council?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	

If yes, at what level?  
(250 characters max.)

If you have any questions regarding this application, please call (703) 812-2000 or email eic@abc.org

### Entry Category

Please check ONE category and the dollar volume of your contract if applicable.  
Projects with members performing as general contractors or construction managers

- |                                |  |                                       |
|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Mega-Projects               | <input type="radio"/> Over \$100 million           |                                       |
| 2. Commercial                  | <input type="radio"/> Under \$2 million            | <input type="radio"/> \$2-5 million   |
|                                | <input type="radio"/> \$10-25 million              | <input type="radio"/> \$5-10 million  |
|                                | <input type="radio"/> \$25-99 million              |                                       |
| 3. General Construction        | <input type="radio"/> Under \$500,000              |                                       |
| 4. Healthcare                  | <input type="radio"/> Under \$5 million            | <input type="radio"/> \$5-10 million  |
|                                | <input type="radio"/> \$10-25 million              | <input type="radio"/> \$25-99 million |
| 5. Historical Restoration      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Under \$2 million | <input type="radio"/> \$2-10 million  |
|                                | <input type="radio"/> \$10-99 million              |                                       |
| 6. Industrial                  | <input type="radio"/> Under \$2 million            | <input type="radio"/> \$2-5 million   |
|                                | <input type="radio"/> \$5-15 million               | <input type="radio"/> \$15-25 million |
|                                | <input type="radio"/> \$25-99 million              |                                       |
| 7. Infrastructure/Heavy        | <input type="radio"/>                              |                                       |
| 8. International               | <input type="radio"/>                              |                                       |
| 9. Institutional               | <input type="radio"/> Under \$5 million            | <input type="radio"/> \$5-10 million  |
|                                | <input type="radio"/> \$10-25 million              | <input type="radio"/> \$25-99 million |
| 10. Pre-Engineered Building    | <input type="radio"/> Under \$2 million            | <input type="radio"/> \$2-99 million  |
|                                | <input type="radio"/> \$10-\$99 million            |                                       |
| 11. Public Works/Environ.      | <input type="radio"/>                              |                                       |
| 12. Renovation                 | <input type="radio"/> Under \$2 million            | <input type="radio"/> \$2-10 million  |
|                                | <input type="radio"/> \$10-99 million              |                                       |
| 13. Residential                | <input type="radio"/>                              |                                       |
| 14. Other General Construction | <input type="radio"/>                              |                                       |

### Projects with members performing as specialty contractors

- |                            |  |                                      |
|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Electrical              | <input type="radio"/> Over \$10 million          |                                      |
| 2. Electrical-Commercial   | <input type="radio"/> Under \$2 million          | <input type="radio"/> \$2-10 million |
| 3. Electrical-Industrial   | <input type="radio"/> Under \$2 million          | <input type="radio"/> \$2-10 million |
| 4. Exterior Finish         | <input type="radio"/>                            |                                      |
| 5. Interior Contractor     | <input type="radio"/>                            |                                      |
| 6. Mechanical              | <input type="radio"/> Projects Over \$10 million |                                      |
| 7. Mechanical-Commercial   | <input type="radio"/> Under \$2 million          | <input type="radio"/> \$2-10 million |
| 8. Mechanical-Industrial   | <input type="radio"/> Under \$2 million          | <input type="radio"/> \$2-10 million |
| 9. Sitework/Landscape      | <input type="radio"/>                            |                                      |
| 10. Other Specialty Const. | <input type="radio"/>                            |                                      |

All applicants



Please provide in 25 words (maximum), a paragraph describing what is so special about your project that can be used if you are a winner in the EIC Program.

Print

Close

The patriarchal home, converted to a duplex, was in disrepair. Forensic demolition allowed historical salvage as the 1870's home was recreated as a modern museum.

### Safety Section

Note: No project with a safety-related fatality, regardless of contractor or trade, is eligible to receive consideration for an Excellence in Construction Award.

Please answer the following 5 questions

If you are STEP award recipient include a copy of your bronze, silver, gold, or platinum-level certificate.

1. Did this project have a safety-related fatality? ☐ Yes ☒ No

**If yes, do not submit your entry for this competition**

2. Total man-hours for all disciplines included in your contract on this project.

(Numbers Only, No Spaces)

(General contractors and construction managers must also include all specialty contractors' hours on this project)

3. Number of OSHA recordable accidents on this project.

(Numbers Only, No Spaces)

(Include all specialty contractors under your contract.)

4. Number of OSHA restricted day cases on this project.

(Numbers Only, No Spaces)

5. Number of OSHA lost-time accidents on this project.

(Numbers Only, No Spaces)

**Print a copy of this registration form to submit with your project binder**

Please use the "Print This Page" button below to print the application.

### Confirmation of your submission

When you click on the "Submit" button below the contact person email address will receive a confirmation of the submission of this application.

Submit



Dr. James Ford

*Historic Home*

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## Contracted Scope

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**Owner:** The Charley Creek Foundation

**Project Name & Location:** Dr. James Ford Historic Museum  
177 West Hill Street, Wabash, Indiana

### Scope of Work:

The Dr. James Ford Historic Home is a restored 1870's Doctor's Home and Practice. The project was begun as a renovation of Dr. Ford's home by his grandson, Richard E. Ford, and the Charley Creek Foundation he founded. The home had passed out of the family's possession and was divided into a duplex at the time of its purchase.

The home is a three-story brick and wood framed structure comprising approximately 4,225 sf of living space. The home was stripped and gutted taking care to preserve everything of historic value. This included stripping years of paint from the exterior brick, stripping years of paint from the interior wood work, stripping existing wood floors and exploratory demolition to determine as much history of the additions to the home as possible. An elevator was installed providing access to all three floors and the basement. ADA accessible restrooms were added and blended into the displays. New wiring, HVAC, security systems, fire sprinkler systems and museum displays with electronics and sound were added and concealed with the structure. The home was then refurbished and redecorated to reflect its history.

The residence to the east was purchased and the historic home on that location was relocated one block away to make room for parking and a historic garden display.

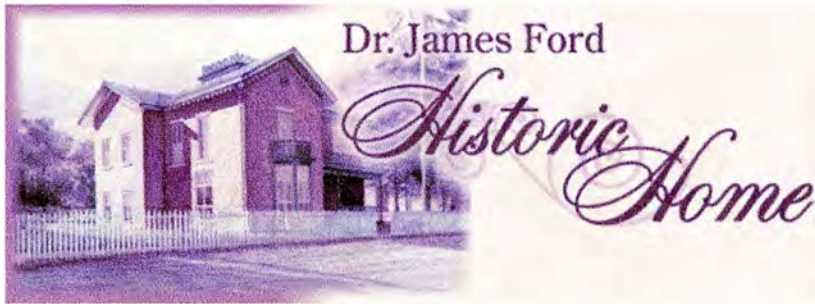
A historic barn on an adjacent property to the west (originally part of the Dr. Ford property) was purchased and renovated as part of the museum. A new cupola, a galvanized standing seam roof and new cedar doors were part of this renovation.

**Project Cost:** \$1,635,800  
(approx. 60% of labor self-performed.)

**Calendar Length of Project:** October 30, 2002—May 12, 2006

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Our firm has had a long relationship with the Charley Creek Foundation, having worked on various projects of different scope and scale. We were brought in at the beginning of the project, shortly after the purchase of the property to begin the process of dismantling years of abuse. The home had passed out of the Ford family and had been divided into a duplex. Changes were made to the structure, the exterior brick was painted, linoleum had been installed over existing wood floors, and multiple layers of wallpaper and paint had been applied to walls. (See Picture 6)

We were part of a team including an Architectural Firm, a Museum Exhibit Design Firm, an Interior Design Firm, and a Landscape Architectural Firm as well as a relative who was a family historian and a newly hired Museum Director. While all of them had the client's best interests at heart, there were issues with different visions for the project. This often put us as the contractor in the middle. Our site superintendent and project management team often performed the function of liaison between the designers and historians.

Preparation of architectural plans was started while demolition was underway. The project evolved constantly throughout construction. As historic research revealed family details and forensic demolition uncovered new (old) discoveries, the project evolved to accommodate them.

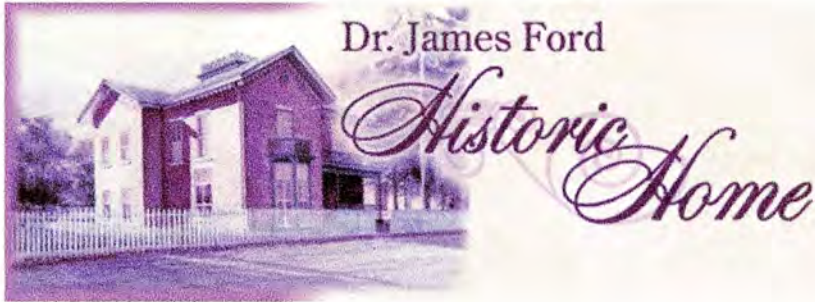
The home had originally been constructed as a two room, single story structure. As the family grew and finances allowed, the home was expanded to accommodate the family and the practice. We uncovered and documented much of this. We found a well under the floor in the kitchen. We found rough hewn timbers in walls that were left in place but served no purpose as their supports as well as what they supported had been changed. We found a pair of wire frame glasses in one of the old wall cavities, that due to its location, we have assumed belonged to one of the original carpenters working on the house.

As the various discoveries were documented, the team worked with the Owner to determine the best period to illustrate the house and its history. The 1870's were chosen as the period of choice since it reflected the long history of the home while taking advantage of the home in its completed state.

Dr. Ford was a surgeon in the Civil War and based his practice in his home. He was also an Architect. He was the Architect for the Christian Church catty-corner across the street. As his home evolved he duplicated some of the details that he used on the Church on his home. We restored many of these details. We relocated the historic home next door so the Church could be seen from Dr. Ford's study. (See Picture 9) One of the stories about Dr. Ford told of his returning deathly ill from the Civil War, but despite this, when the War ended he climbed to the widow's walk and joined the celebration by firing his shotgun into the air. We rebuilt the widow's walk.

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Throughout the project the goal was to create a working museum without damaging the historic home. We removed base board and trim in order to fish MC cable around the rooms to upgrade the electrical system with the minimum of damage to the old plaster and lathe walls. Electronic talking museum displays are used throughout the home and electrical and control wiring for these had to be threaded through walls with minimal damage to the plaster and wood lathe. A sprinkler system was specially designed to provide protection for the exhibits with the minimum of disturbance to the structure. The sprinkler heads were concealed in details and piping was threaded through walls and ceiling passages. A high pressure HVAC system was used in order to provide air conditioning with tube ducts that could be concealed in walls without adding duct chases.

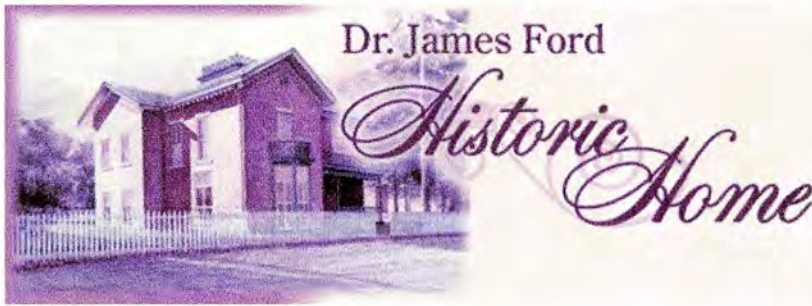
In order to provide as much ADA accessibility as possible, a commercial elevator was added to the back of the home. (See Picture 8) Its doors were hidden in existing windows and the mechanism was hidden in the basement. The top of the shaft was designed to recreate the design of the widow's walk and salvaged brick were used to make the modern addition fit into the structure. A corridor was threaded through the attic to access the third floor and access to the basement was provided through an existing exterior entrance. An exterior porch was sacrificed to provide room for ADA accessible restrooms. These were concealed using false interior windows, closed exterior shutters and other means to provide this amenity without taking away from the historic ambience.

Historical significance sometimes conflicted with sound practices for a modern museum. Tough decisions and research on our part were required to provide the best solutions. We installed faux slate shingles employing copper accents using modern techniques such as ice & water shield for practicality rather than trying to recreate an 1870's slate roof. Low slope standing seam roofs on the home have factory coatings and modern seams. The railings around the front reflect the old wood railings shown in period pictures, but they are all custom made, powder coated steel for safety and durability. The custom made, round top picket fence was constructed from clear cedar, primed and painted on six sides to assure a long life. The exterior brick has a protective clear coat that was selected to provide protection without being seen. Everything was done with the goal of visual authenticity, but long term value for the Owner.

We enjoy a bond of trust with this client and despite the inevitable ups and downs of a project of this scale and significance, we remain friends and enjoy a continuing relationship. Our field crew that worked on this project has been invited back to see the completed work at the dedication and follow up events.







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A major part of the challenge for us as the contractor on this project was the coordination of the work with the designers and the fluid nature of the plans as the work proceeded. The Owner placed high value on the diverse skill sets of each design professional and encouraged their input on all aspects of the project. The landscape architect provided input on the structure and its design details. The architect and interior designer had input on the site considerations and its design details. A lead designer was not designated. The Owner remained the final decision point on all details until near the end of the project when some of the final decisions were left to the Museum Director. The Owner was traveling during large portions of this project so often it was left to us to coordinate these decisions and keep the project moving forward.

The family ties to the project often made the decisions extremely difficult. Dr. Ford lead such a rich life that there was more material than the home could effectively hold. The Owner was extremely sensitive to remaining true to the family history while fully understanding the needs to upgrade the facility for accessibility. As a historic structure, the home could have taken liberties with ADA accessibility, but the Owner encouraged every effort to make the home accessible to anyone with an interest in the history it had to impart.

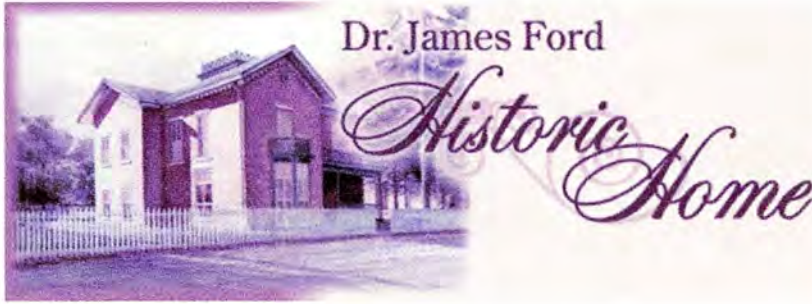
The Owner also used personal family items in the displays so security and property protection were extremely important to this project. Conflicts had to be resolved between the desire to retain the old skeleton key locks, while installing a security system with active dial-out capabilities. Concerns about how the fire sprinkler system might affect displays had to be addressed as well as concerns about the public's potential interaction with these systems.

While we were the General Contractor for this project, there were some trades hired directly by the Owner and some installations were handled directly by the designers. This put us in the sometimes difficult position of coordinating work with subcontractors that were not financially under our control. The personal relationships that the Owner had developed with these other contractors added to the delicate nature of this coordinated effort.

The project is also in a very visible location with poor accessibility to staging. We were directly across the street from the Wabash Carnegie Library which was undergoing a significant renovation project at the same time. There is a Church to the east of the property which maintains a preschool with an active play area directly adjacent to our site. The site is one block off Main Street, one block west of the County Courthouse, one block North of the Post Office and one house separates this site from State Route 15 which serves as a busy thoroughfare through Wabash. The property is contained by two narrow alleys and the adjacent house sits 3' from the lot line.







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Dr. Ford came to Wabash with nearly nothing. He was a Doctor when much of the medical knowledge available was self-taught. His knowledge of architecture was also self-taught, but the depth of his understanding of construction is evidenced in the buildings he designed that are still in use, not the least of which is his historic home. His descendants continued his commitment to public service and were prominent members of the community up to and through the current generation. Dr. Ford and his family have been innovators and inventors throughout their lives. They hold various patents for ideas they have put into service. The Ford Meter Box Company is nationally known. It continues as a family business started by the descendants of Dr. Ford and is one of Wabash's preeminent corporate citizens.

The Dr. James Ford Historic Museum not only highlights the life of Dr. James Ford, but also gives a glimpse into the past history of Wabash. It is maintained as a period home, changing displays to reflect the season. Dr. Ford's service in the military is highlighted showing what the Civil War meant to residents of Indiana. Not only is the home representative of the period, but the grounds have been planted with landscaping appropriate to the times. The grounds include kitchen gardens demonstrating the types of food that would have been grown there. A grape arbor has been established and maintained much as it would have been in the 1870's. A formal garden is maintained as it would have been when garden parties were in fashion. (See Picture 5)

The home is also a working, documented contrast of construction techniques used through the life of the home. One room is dedicated to the renovation of the house and contains pictures of the reconstruction project from the beginning to the end. (See Picture 10) There are examples of materials that were found during demolition. Where new techniques were used, there are displays contrasting the old and the new. There are pictures documenting the repeated details between this home and other architectural work by Dr. Ford.

The Charley Creek Foundation's dedication to historic preservation is evidenced throughout this project and not just in the home. The residence next door was of historic architectural significance, but from a later period. Care was taken to preserve this home, lifting and moving it down the street, across a state highway to a new location in an existing historic neighborhood. A rental directly behind the home was researched during this project and was discovered to be one of Wabash's earliest residences. This structure is being preserved and will serve as an annex to the museum. A limestone barn on an adjacent property was originally part of the Dr. Ford residence. This was purchased, made accessible and renovated as an exhibit for a horse drawn sleigh, gardening tools and other period pieces. The Dr. James Ford Historic Home will make an impact on the Wabash community for generations to come. (See Picture #1)

---

Please place this form as your first page behind the safety tab of your entry. No project with a safety-related fatality, regardless of contractor or trade, is eligible to receive consideration for an Excellence in Construction Award.

A. Did this project have a safety-related fatality? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, do not submit your entry for this competition.

B. Does your company have a written Safety & Health Policy Manual? ☒ Yes ☐ No  
(Give a brief summary — maximum one page or include a copy of its Table of Contents)

See attached

C. Have you developed a site-specific Safety & Health Policy Manual? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
(Give a brief summary — maximum one page or include a copy of its Table of Contents)

See attached

D. Were toolbox safety meetings held? ☒ Yes ☐ No Documented? ☒ Yes ☐ No

How often? Weekly Include a one-page summary or an actual example.

See attached

E. Was specialized training conducted on this project? ☒ Yes ☐ No What types? Asbestos Abatement

F. Total man-hours for all disciplines included in your contract on this project 24649 (General contractors and construction managers must include all specialty contractors' hours on this project).

G. Number of OSHA recordable accidents on this project. 1 (Include all specialty contractors under your contract.)

Number of OSHA restricted day cases on this project. 0

Number of OSHA lost-time accidents on this project. 1

H. Provide information for person responsible for safety on this project and attesting to these accident rates.

Name Andrew R. Schouten

Title Company Safety Officer

Phone Number (574) 842-3341

Email mail@easterdayconstruction.com

Signature Andrew R. Schouten

I. Supply the project's organizational chart identifying the person responsible for safety.

J. Does your company have a substance-abuse policy? ☒ Yes ☐ No

K. Were there any innovative safety and health programs used specific to this project? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Explain:



B. We have developed a Safety Program with help from our insurance carrier, Amerisure, and our insurance agent, Gibson Insurance. (Gibson Insurance is an ABC member also.) We have refined this program over several years and update it as necessary with new information and practices as necessary. We implement the program through monthly company meetings where we go through one or two of the major headings and solicit questions from the field crews. (Attached is the table of contents from our Safety Policy Manual.)

C. We do not develop a site specific manual, but we do site specific safety procedures. Examples: We do fire exit plans and post escape routes with plan views designating the routes and locations of the fire extinguishers in the building. We do specific equipment training when new equipment is brought on site. We request safety literature and training from subs that will be working near our personnel and using equipment, chemicals or other agents and procedures that could affect our crews.

D. We do weekly tool box safety meetings. Tool box safety meeting outlines are sent to the job site superintendents with payroll on Friday and completed by the superintendents on the following Monday. The topics are generic safety items with job site specific topics added as needed and deemed appropriate. Each outline includes a place for all employees on the site as well as the superintendent to sign off. These outlines are returned to the office with payroll time tickets on Tuesday and participation is tracked by the Safety Officer. An example of job specific training is listed below under Item E.

E. The house that we removed from the site had asbestos in it, requiring us to contract with an abatement subcontractor to complete asbestos abatement. When the abatement subcontractor was on site, we requested that they give our crew a lesson in how to recognize asbestos in the various forms that we might encounter. They showed us examples of what they found in the house so that we would know what to recognize in the future. They explained the hazards of asbestos as well as dispelling some of the myths that surround it. We believe that this will pay dividends on future projects.

PRESIDENT

SAFETY OFFICER

PROJECT  
MANAGER

PROJECT  
MANAGER

SUPERINTENDENT

SUPERINTENDENT

SUPERINTENDENT

SUPERINTENDENT

SUPERINTENDENT



**OSHA PROGRAM INDEX  
FOR  
EASTERDAY CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.**

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**OSHA PROGRAM INDEX**  
**FOR**  
**EASTERDAY CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.**

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**SECTION ONE**

**CORPORATE SAFETY POLICY**

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Supervisor Action  
Employee Responsibilities  
Reporting Injuries  
Accident Investigation  
Workers' Compensation  
Correcting Deficiencies

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**HAZARD COMMUNICATION PROGRAM**

Hazard Determination  
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Hazardous Materials Identification

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**WRITTEN LOCKOUT/TAGOUT PROCEDURES**

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LOTO Procedure  
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Machine Specific Procedures

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Bomb Threat  
Bomb Threat Checklist



**OSHA PROGRAM INDEX**  
**FOR**  
**EASTERDAY CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.**

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Head Protection

Eye/Head Protection

Foot Protection

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Body Protection

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**SECTION NINE**  
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**OSHA PROGRAM INDEX**  
**FOR**  
**EASTERDAY CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.**

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**FOR**  
**EASTERDAY CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.**

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# Charley Creek Foundation

October 30, 2006

Associated Builders and Contractors  
4250 North Fairfax Drive, 9th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Sir;

We are pleased to write to you about the work Easterday Construction did on the Dr. James Ford Historic Home. The Charley Creek Foundation and its chairman Richard E. Ford have worked with Easterday Construction for many years. We did not hesitate to call Larry and Kevin Berger when we started talking about buying one of the oldest homes in Wabash County and renovating it into what is now the Dr. James Ford Historic Home. We knew they could handle the project.

Dr. James Ford and his wife, America Holton Ford, purchased three lots in Wabash in 1838 at a time when this newly platted hilltop was wilderness. They and their infant daughter moved here in 1841 and built a one-room (9'x12') brick house –probably the first brick structure in Wabash. During the next 35 years, they added to their home as their family grew and their fortunes improved. Dr. Ford was a talented architect – as well as a medical doctor, writer, agronomist, inventor, and Civil War Surgeon –and the house achieved its graceful appearance. Today's restoration recreates the Ford home as it might have appeared in 1875. Period furnishings complement interactive exhibits, and Civil War-era medical equipment is displayed along with a Victorian garden and stone barn.

The project was complex and required a professional company that could deal with the challenges of renovating a 150-year old house while working with numerous consultants, who had to agree on the same vision of the end result. Easterday Construction met the challenge and worked with the architect, designers and staff to solve problems such as finding ways to safely and effectively remove layers of paint from the exterior brick. They had to respond to professional museum designer's expectations for the electrical, plumbing and HVAC system, the layout of the rooms, and the special spaces needed for equipment to run the exhibits. The interior designer had a vision for how the rooms were to be finished to reflect the correct time period, Easterday Construction worked closely with him to share information they uncovered as they renovated the house. The staff for the museum had materials from James and America Ford's own writings (and some photos) as to how they used the home and this information had to be reflected in the final structure.

A critical piece of this project was the research into how the building was added to over time. Easterday worked closely with the architect, carefully digging on the site, and examining the walls to discover how they were put together and in what sequence. The discovery of a long-covered-up fireplace in a wall made it clear which part of the house had been the original room built in 1841. I think that the employees of Easterday Construction enjoyed this detective work as much as we did!

The site had been a duplex house for much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with the Ford descendants who had inherited the house living on one side. The construction crew had to transform the house to a museum quality structure, with new electrical and HVAC systems, and reopening doorways, removing paint and wallpaper, digging a pit for the new elevator, removing and restoring front and



rear porches. In the process of this major construction project the Easterday crew watched carefully as they turned over shovels of dirt to retrieve pottery shards, toys and bottles. They carefully stripped wallpaper to reveal early layers to help guide the interior designer in selection of new wall coverings. These recovered pieces of the building's history as well as the discoveries made as to how the building was put together are now part of the first exhibit in the changing exhibit room, called "This Old House".

While the Charley Creek Foundation hired Easterday Construction, of Culver Indiana, for its ability to handle the project, we felt that as many local contractors should work on the project as possible. Easterday was able to use local contractors in many areas of the project, which in turn helped the local economy and built good will for the Charley Creek Foundation and the Dr. James Ford Historic Home.

The end result is a spectacular new historic museum. The facility not only tells the story of Dr. Ford's life as a pioneer in Wabash County, but visitors come from all over the state to see the building. This new museum is an asset to Wabash and Northern Indiana.

Sincerely,

Beth S. Stein  
Project Manager

S C E A R C E  
R U D I S E L  
A R C H I T E C T S

October 30, 2006

Associated Builders and Contractors  
4250 N Fairfax Drive 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203

RE: 2006 Excellence in Construction Award

Dear Sirs:

It is my pleasure to recommend Easterday Construction Company for an award for their work on the Dr. James Ford Historic Museum. The project was very difficult from many aspects yet they completed their work with excellence. This excellence shows in both quality of craftsmanship and in maintaining a teamwork attitude with the owner and the several different designers on the project.

The project was treated similarly to an archeological site during the demolition and site work. Great care was needed to protect historic elements while restoring the facility. When walls or floors were opened, the owner, the contractor, and the architect examined sections of wood and plaster for historic significance. Studies were made as to time frames for each portion of the museum building. Two cisterns and one well were discovered on the site.

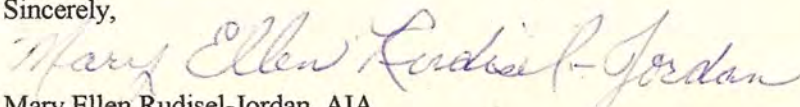
The project while being a restoration also had to be made accessible for future use as a museum. An elevator was added to the exterior matching the original construction and public restrooms were added in the location of an historic porch. The project had to be fully fire protection sprinkled, adding lines in historic plaster and minimizing penetrations to the wood floors and historic elements.

The site was examined by metal detectors for clues to the past. The site was then made part of the museum experience adding walks, gardens, and even a clothesline. In order to provide space for the above items, an historic Queen Anne House had to be moved across a state highway to a new site. The old stone barn at the back of the property was also restored for the housing of a carriage and artifacts.

Wiring for museum displays and lighting had to "disappear" from historic walls, floors, and ceilings. Walls had to be covered with paper thin reproduction wall coverings. Porch columns and railings had to be custom made to match old photographs. The faux slate roof, copper gutters, ceramic tile work, wood trim work, restored stone work, and restored wood floors were challenges.

Easterday Construction Company worked with the museum display designers, the interior designer, the landscape designer, the owner, the museum curator, and me, the architect, with professionalism. They are to be highly commended for their work on this project.

Sincerely,

  
Mary Ellen Rudisel-Jordan, AIA  
President, Searce Rudisel Architects, Inc.

T 5 7 4 . 2 6 9 . 1 5 9 6  
F 5 7 4 . 2 6 9 . 2 5 2 1  
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4 6 5 8 0



# *Ron Budny / Interior Design*

RONALD C. BUDNY, ASID

TO: Associated Builders & Contractors

DATE: October 24, 2006

RE: Dr. James Ford Historic Home

The Dr. James Ford Historic Home was a project that required much thought and research. Historic accuracy was a must. As the Interior Designer for this project, I started working on the project by immediately researching the architectural details, the interior design details and all of the family details to bring this project to complete accuracy. The "team" was put together at the very beginning of the project. The architect, contractor, interior designer and the client made up our team. The client and I have a very trusting, long-lasting relationship together. Much discussion was had as we reviewed family diaries and records as to the presentation of this house as it would have been in 1870-1875. The architect drew up the necessary plans of the existing structure. We reviewed them with the team and made decisions as to what might have been accurate and what might have been changed after the house fell out of family hands.

We tried very hard to be as accurate as possible to present this house as Dr. Ford would have lived in it with his wife, children and while maintaining his practice. As the contractor, being Easterday Construction Company, began to do the necessary demolition we discovered many accuracies and inaccuracies with the various additions that were put on to the existing house.

The home had fallen into a state of questionable soundness. The contractor reviewed with us all of the necessary things to make this house structurally sound but also to make it user friendly for the people viewing the museum. It seemed every time we turned one corner, we found something else. Great inaccuracies became great puzzlements and challenges to see how these discoveries really worked. They were able to find walls that had existing wall covering and original floor materials. The contractor also found a cistern in the basement that no one ever knew existed. The cistern was certainly something very unique for a house in Wabash, IN at this time. We devised a system of raising the floor so that as people walked through the floor, people could see this unusual rain catch.

Our design team worked almost 2 years before I could begin to work on the decorating of the house in accordance with records we found. We replaced porch supports, balustrades, window trim, moldings, doors, put doors back into walls where walls were filled in and really put the house back in to the way it would have been during the time that Dr. Ford occupied the house.

The care the Easterday Construction crew took to make the architect and myself be happy with the wall configurations and details that were done and also to satisfy the client who was the great grandson of Dr. James Ford., was overwhelming. One of the younger Mr. Ford's cousins, found documentation in the form of a letter written by Dr. James Ford to his wife explaining that he had made purchases while visiting St. Louis, MO. The purchases he made were "gaudy wallpaper in red and green". This gave my presentation a vote of "approval from above", so to speak.

Again, Easterday Construction worked with me very, very closely to make sure all of my findings and research was presented the way we wanted it to be. Only very few compromises had to be made and in the long run it worked better than originally thought.

To have had the experience of working with the Easterday Construction Company was really a designers dream come true. Collaboration and cooperation were beyond what one could imagine. Proof of this is in the experience of walking through the museum and experiencing it for yourself.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Budny", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ron Budny



November 8, 2006

Associated Builders and Contractors  
4250 N. Fairfax Drive  
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Sirs:

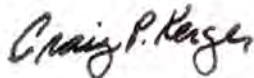
It is Formations' pleasure to write regarding Easterday Construction's involvement with the Dr. James Ford Historic Home in Wabash, Indiana.

The client for the project chose an excellent seasoned team consisting of Easterday Construction, Searce Rudisel as the project architect, and Formations Inc. as the exhibit designer/fabricator. The project involved a major restoration of a 1840s historic home, all-the-while ensuring historic preservation techniques were upheld.

Easterday Construction was involved in every step of the project from design inception to completion. Their ability to estimate costs, value engineer, and identify schedule and lead times served as an invaluable asset to the project. Their team was professional, attentive to detail, and organized, with an exceptional follow-up and follow-through record.

Formations was thoroughly impressed with Easterday's level of execution, which exceeded everyone's expectations. Their ability to blend the new with the old, while maintaining the historic home's fine details and quality was exceptional. It was a pleasure to work with Easterday Construction and we hope to find another project for collaboration in the future.

Best regards,



Craig P. Kerger  
President/Design Principal



FORMATIONS

**Formations Inc.**  
621 S.E. 202<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97233  
(503) 665-7110  
FAX (503) 665.7188  
[www.formationinc.com](http://www.formationinc.com)



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Bristol, IN 46507  
(574) 848-4437  
Fax (574) 848-4575

October 25, 2006

Associated Builders and Contractors  
4250 North Fairfax Drive, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203

DUPLICATE

RE: Easterday Construction Co. Inc.  
2006 Excellence in Construction Awards

Dear Sirs:

I am currently serving my second term as Council Chairman for the Michiana Council of Associated Builders and Contractors. We are under the Indiana Chapter of ABC. Easterday Construction Co. Inc. has been an upstanding member of the ABC Michiana Council for as long as I can remember. Kevin Berger, Easterday's President, has served several terms representing the Michiana Council on the Indiana State Chapter Board of Directors in the past and after a break stepped up last year and started a new three year term. He is an active participant in meetings and represents ABC well.

The Michiana Council is proud that Easterday Construction Co. Inc. received the Judges' Special Award at the Indiana ABC Construction Awards and know that they will represent us well at the national level.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Crouch", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Kevin Crouch  
Michiana Council Chairman, Indiana ABC

DUPLICATE



# Moving day



A crowd watches as the house is moved from its foundation at 161 W. Hill St.

Plain Dealer photo by GREG DANNACHER

**Crowd gathers  
to watch as  
home is relocated  
to another site**

**By ROY CHURCH**  
PD News Editor

After a false start at 7:40 this morning, the winch started moving five minutes later.

By 9, the front of the "big gray house" on West Hill Street was just slightly hanging over the curb.

By noon, 161 W. Hill St. probably will be no more.

The house, owned by the Charley Creek Foundation, by day's end — hopefully — will be sitting at 239 W. Hill St., about a block west from where it started the morning.

See "Move," Page 3A.





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## Dr. James Ford Historic Home hosts 3,000 and counting

By Mary Beth  
Dolmanet

The Dr. James Ford Historic Home, located at 177 W. Hill St., Wabash, is fast approaching the end of its first year as Wabash County's newest institution for education and cultural enrichment. Having opened its doors to the public March 31, 2005 during the celebration of Wabash's 125th anniversary of being the world's "First Electrically Lighted City," the Dr. James Ford Historic Home has already hosted 3,000 visitors.

"The Dr. James Ford Historic Home is owned by the Charley Creek Foundation, which is a charitable non-profit corporation," Mark Fearnow, director of The Dr. James

Ford Historic Home, explained.

"The Foundation has four main purposes in preserving and operating this house-museum, stable and garden.

I would summarize them as being: to educate the public regarding 19th century life in Wabash; to offer a living example of 19th century design and decorative arts; to present a responsible example of historic preservation; and, along with the Wabash County Historical Museum, the Honeywell Center, the Honeywell House, Stockdale Mill, the Thomas Marshall House and other cultural sites, to attract visitors to Wabash and Wabash County."

For history buffs and the curious-

minded, The Dr. James Ford Historic Home is a veritable gold mine of information, not only about the beginnings of the Ford family in Wabash, but how people of their era lived and survived the "western wilderness" and built the foundation of what the area is today.

Part of what makes the house-museum so interesting are the many areas in which Dr. James Ford himself dabbled and explored.

Regarded as a respected physician (along with his local practice he served as regimental surgeon in the 8th Indiana Volunteer Infantry for two years), Dr. Ford was also a self-taught surveyor, an agronomist, pomolo-



**MORE THAN 200 PEOPLE ATTENDED** an open house held Dec. 22 at The Dr. James Ford Historic Home at 177 W. Hill St., Wabash. The house was decorated for a Victorian Christmas. Pictured are (from left): Kevin Berger, president of Easterday Construction Co., Inc., Culver; Architect Mary Ellen Rudisil-Jordan and Mark Fearnow, director of The Dr. James Ford Historic Home. Berger and Rudisil-Jordan were key players in the construction and restoration of the house-museum. (photo by Mary Beth Dolmanet)

gist and an architect (he designed his home - which started as only one room -

and also the Wabash Christian Church).

The phrase "Behind every man is a good woman," rings true in the Fords' case. It was left to America Holton Ford, Dr. Ford's wife, to care for their children and his mother while he served the first two years of the Civil War.

In the master bedroom of the house-museum it is stated just how well America cared for her family during her husband's absence.

She continued collections for his previous medical services and ran the farm they owned west of town, all while managing their household. She did this all so well that Dr. Ford came home to \$10,000 in the bank.

There is another item of interest in the closet of the master bedroom. For those planning to visit, be sure to ask about the coffin.

The house itself has been beautifully restored with great attention to detail. Every effort was made to remain true to the original floor design, with the exception of the



**THE DINING ROOM IS JUST ONE** of several elegant rooms visitors will see when visiting The Dr. James Ford Historic Home, located at 177 W. Hill St., Wabash. Fans of "Gone With the Wind" will be interested in knowing that the chairs at the table used to belong to Cousin Pity Pat. (photo by Mary Beth Dolmanet)

tower in the back of the house to accommodate an elevator shaft for those who find stairs a bit of a challenge.

The rooms are filled with rich colors and artifacts that are representative of typical household things in an upper middle class home of the late 1800s.

There are also

audio treatments, created by Formations, Inc., Portland, Ore. (the same organization that created the exhibits in the Wabash County Historical Museum) scattered throughout the house filled with even more general and family information.

(continued on page 3)

## On the Prowl for Owls

Native Indiana birds an interesting winter study

In last week's paper we discussed common signs owls leave behind, and the habits of three of Indiana's native owls. This week

we will learn about five more species of Indiana owls and how Indiana laws protect these birds of prey.

By Lynnanne Fager  
The Short-eared Owl, often called the

Evening Owl, Grass Owl, Meadow Owl and Mouse-hawk, is 15 inches long with a wing span of 38 inches, is most commonly seen during the winter from November to mid-April. It is often



**THE BARRED OWLS** pictured above were photographed while being rehabilitated at Asherwood Environmental Center. (photo by Lynnanne Fager)

seen gliding over open farm land and often is mistaken as a Northern Harrier (Hawk) as it hunts for rodents during early daylight hours and at dusk. During the daytime it prefers to stay hidden in the tall grasses commonly found along roadside ditches and streams. Here, often in flocks, they are camouflaged and are extremely difficult to see.

There are few documented nesting sites with most occurring in the southwestern portion of the state. While the Short-eared Owl was once noted to nest in northern areas of the state, diminished habitat lost to agricultural expansion has contributed to the loss of its nesting range. It is reported that nests are of a

(continued on page 3)



# Dr. James Ford Historic Home... (from front page)



**VISITING THE LATE DR. JAMES FORD'S** former examination room may not be for the faint of heart. A mannequin lays on the antique examination table having just endured a foot amputation: a common solution to the problem of gangrene and infection in the 19th century. Visitors will also be greeted by "Oscar" - a skeleton in the Ford family closet. (photo by Mary Beth Dolmanet)

## On the prowl for owls

(from front page)

slight depression in the ground, lined with fine grasses where 5 - 9 eggs are laid.

Predators of the migratory Short-eared Owl are the Bald Eagle, Northern Goshawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and Snowy Owl.

### Barred Owl

Another common owl found in this area is the Barred Owl. Also known as the Swamp Owl, Striped Owl, Round-headed Owl, Wood Owl and Rain Owl, this owl is 21 inches long with a 40-inch wing span. Unlike the Great Horned Owl, it appears "earless" as it has no tufts on its round head. It has brown plumage, a long tail and brown eyes.

It is not uncommon to hear this owl calling in the middle of the day. The most familiar of its calls is "Hoo hoo hoo-hoo, hoo hoo hoo-hoo-awwww." This call can be interpreted to sound like, "Who cooks for you, who cooks for you—all?" This owl readily responds vocally or in person to humans mimicking its call or by the use of a tape recorder.

The Barred Owl

makes use of abandoned Red-shouldered Hawk or crow nests, tree cavities or a hollow in the top of a broken tree, laying 2 - 3 white eggs. Incubation is possible by both adults, but mainly by the female. Pairs mate for life. Their average territory size is one square mile.

The Great Horned Owl is its only predator. Most Barred Owl deaths are a result of man, either by shooting or automobile collision.

### Barn Owl

The Barn Owl is (continued on page 4)



Barn Owl

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Probably the most intriguing room is the one in which Dr. Ford most likely saw his patients. Visitors will see a helpless mannequin recovering from a foot amputation on the examining table, along with a host of medicine bottles and medical instruments.

A period stethoscope is available for those who would like to hear another's heart, as well as a tuning fork to check someone's hearing.

Although the term "specialist," as we think of it today, really didn't exist for doctors in the 19th century, Dr. Ford was greatly interested in eye

care.

According to the "Eye Surgery" pamphlet in the examining room, "Dr. James Ford was ever diligent for the needs of his patients. Believing that the people of Wabash County would benefit greatly if he could offer advanced treatment for vision and eye problems, he traveled to Philadelphia in 1866 to gain this knowledge at the University of Pennsylvania."

Another point of interest in the examining room is a standing skeleton, known as "Oscar." He comes with a very interesting story attached to

the display case.

According to another brochure available at the Dr. James Ford Historic Home, "The house was occupied by Fords for 140 years until 1980 when it was willed to the Christian Church. It was re-acquired from a private party in 2002 by the Charley Creek Foundation, headed by Dr. Ford's great-grandson, Richard Edwin Ford of Wabash."

There was a six-month planning period before construction began, not only to the house but also to the grounds and stone (continued on page 4)

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# ABC honors Culver's Easterday Construction

By DEE GRENET  
STAFF WRITER

CULVER — Easterday Construction spent nearly three years restoring the Dr. James Ford Historic Home to its 1870s condition.

The labor paid even bigger dividends than the Culver company hoped.

The Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) of Indiana honored Easterday Construction with the Judges' Special Award — the organization's highest distinction — at its 19th annual awards banquet Sept. 27 at the Indiana Roof Ballroom in Indianapolis.

An outside panel of judges graded projects based upon constructability, uniqueness, overall impact of the scheme and safety records. ABC of Indiana presented more than 150 awards at the function.

"We had the most points for any project," Kevin Berger, who represented Easterday Construction at the ceremony with Roger "Bud" Thews, his superintendent on the project, explained. "We entered it as a historic renova-

tion project. It would have won that category, but they gave us the overall top award for having the most points for a project."

Dr. James Ford (1812-1898), who moved to Wabash in 1841 and developed an innovative medical practice, served as a surgeon during the Civil War. He also earned notice as a surveyor and agronomist in Wabash.

Culver summer resident Richard E. Ford hired Easterday as general contractor to restore the home and doctor's practice, built by his grandfather during the 19th century.

"We've done work for Mr. (Richard) Ford, probably over the past decade," Berger said. "The house passed out of the family and was used as apartments when Richard bought it."

According to a paper Berger included with the project submission, Easterday Construction employees took great pains to recapture the 1870s quality of the home while adding hidden modernities.

"We gutted the home, taking care to preserve every-

thing historical," the script noted. "We stripped paint from exterior brick, interior woodwork and wood floors. We provided exploratory demolition determining the history of the many additions. An elevator was installed, accessing all four floors. Accessible restrooms were added. New wiring, HVAC, security systems, fire sprinkler systems and electronic museum displays were concealed within the structure."

Easterday Construction also worked with architects, exhibit designers and interior designers from throughout the country on the lengthy endeavor. Formations, Inc. of Portland developed the plan for the home.

"It was very challenging because we worked with so



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Pictured is the Dr. James Ford Historic Home at Christmas.

many people and we designed it as we were building it," Berger said. "Mr. Ford pulled people in from all over. He had landscape artists and interior designers from

Indianapolis. The architect was from Warsaw. The plan was developed by a firm out of Oregon.

"It was a rewarding experience," Berger added. "I

learned a lot about the history of Wabash and Richard's family."

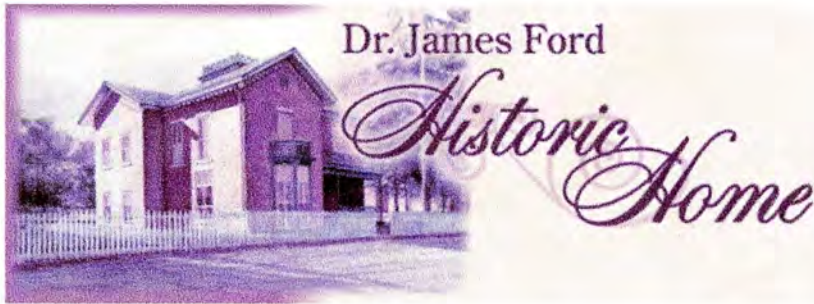
By winning the top honor, Easterday Construction qualified to enter the project at the national level for consideration for an Excellence in Construction Award, a move Berger expected to make.

"The base criterion is the same," Berger explained. "We'll have to re-write the paper for the national organization."

The home itself, located at 177 W. Hill St., Wabash, operates as a museum illustrating 19th-century family life. The museum is open from 1 to 5 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday, or by appointment.

Further information about the home may be obtained at [www.jamesfordmuseum.org](http://www.jamesfordmuseum.org).





Painting © Terry Armstrong (574) 267-2209  
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## The Merit Shop Philosophy

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Easterday Construction Co., Inc. has long been a promoter of the Merit Shop Philosophy. Our company has been a member of Associated Builders and Contractors for over 25 years. We practice this with our own employees as well as with our subcontractors. We use union subcontractors when they are competitive and we do not discriminate on bid day.

Our company president, Kevin L. Berger, has served several terms on the ABC Indiana State Board of Directors and last year agreed to rejoin the board for another term. Our company has been active in our local Council, helping with projects and with employees holding positions on the steering committee. We have used the ABC Apprenticeship program to train key employees.

We strive to promote the Merit Shop Philosophy and support other like-minded individuals. In addition to using Merit Shop Subcontractors, we are currently obtaining Insurance, Accounting and Legal services through three fellow ABC members.

The Dr. James Ford Historic Home was a 100% Merit Shop Project. We always attempt to use fellow ABC members where appropriate and on this project we used the services of six (6) fellow ABC Indiana firms. (See them listed below.) We make sure the Owner understands why we use the firms that we do and why Merit Shop is important. Education is our best defense against the discrimination and propaganda that we face.

### **Additional ABC members working on the Dr. James Ford Historic Home**

Wabash Electric Supply, Inc.  
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ABC National Chair

Kirk Pickerel  
ABC National President and CEO