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Frank Arganbright Genealogy Center

Alameda McCollough Research Library
Richard Wetherill Archives
1001 South Street
Lafayette, IN 47901

**Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum**

200 Battle Ground Avenue
Battle Ground, IN 47920
765.567.2147

Fort Ouiatenon Blockhouse Museum

3129 South River Road
West Lafayette, IN 47906

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The Tippecanoe County Historical Association along with the Roy Whistler Foundation and The Archaeological Conservancy are pleased to announce the creation of the Ouiatenon Preserve.

The Ouiatenon Preserve is a Roy Whistler Foundation Project and an Archaeological Conservancy Research Preserve. The property will be co-owned and operated by the Tippecanoe County Historical Association and the Archaeological Conservancy.

Over the last three years, this partnership has raised or contributed in excess of \$1.1 million and has purchased or contracted to purchase approximately 200 acres including and surrounding the actual archaeological site of Fort Ouiatenon. The Ouiatenon Preserve is located approximately one mile west of the Fort Ouiatenon Historical Park along South River Road and the Wabash River. A significant portion of funding was awarded under the Indiana Bicentennial Nature Trust and the Indiana Heritage Trust with matching contributions provided by the Roy Whistler Foundation and The Archaeological Conservancy. The purpose of this effort is to protect these unique, important and nationally significant archaeological sites while simultaneously creating a nature preserve that will improve the environmental and ecological health along the Wabash River. These properties include 19 historic and prehistoric archaeological sites including the northern, eastern and western portions of Fort Ouiatenon and the large Native American Kickapoo and Mascouten villages which were near the Fort.

Fort Ouiatenon (1717-1791) was the first European settlement and the first of three forts built by the French in the 18th Century in what would later become Indiana. It was constructed across the river from the principal Ouiatenon (Wea) Native American village and existed during many of the pivotal periods of early American history including the European colonization of North America, the French and Indiana War, the American Revolution and the subsequent birth of the United States of America and the Northwest Territory Wars. Fort Ouiatenon is considered one of the most important archaeological sites in Indiana and is one of the only preserved sites of its type in our Country.

Over the next several years, in cooperation with NICHES, areas within the preserve will be converted and restored from agricultural use to a lowland grass prairie. Additionally, Dr. Michael Strezewski with the University of Southern Indiana will conduct remote sensing surveys and test excavations to further delineate and understand the archaeological resources present. A public entrance will be constructed along South River Road to serve as a trail head, parking area, and interpretation area. A pedestrian trail loop will be created connecting this area to the Fort Site and include interpretive signage. The preserve can eventually be included in an extension of the Wabash Heritage Trail which currently terminates approximately one mile to the east.

Through this effort, we will protect these sites for future generations to research and learn from and create a wonderful place in our community to enjoy nature and celebrate our incredibly rich and unique Native American and early European history while improving the health of our environment and river.

Terry Edgell, President

Colby Bartlett, Vice President -Immediate Past President- Ouitenon Preserve Development Chair

Kathy Atwell, Executive Director