

# EAST CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD



## THE HISTORY

The discovery of vast natural gas reserves in the 1880's in the Muncie area attracted businesses that could take advantage of the cheap source of energy. Most notably, the Ball brothers moved their famous Ball Brothers Glass Manufacturing company in Muncie. With the influx of new money and citizens, the downtown core could no longer provide enough land for residential development. The local developers at the time then looked east and what is now known as the East Central Neighborhood was born.

The new industrialists in the city constructed many of the early homes. As a consequence, these homes were often large and ornate. By the time the gas reserves were largely exhausted in the early 1900's, the size of the newer homes were smaller and less



A child from the neighborhood participating in the annual pumpkin carving event.

grand. This history created the eclectic mix of housing sizes and styles in the neighborhood.



The Emily Kimbrough House, purchased and maintained by the neighborhood association and its members

As the bulk of the houses in the neighborhood were constructed in the 1880's and 1890's the predominate style of architecture was Victorian. Later infill construction provided some Arts and Crafts homes.

**Historic District:**

East Central Neighborhood has Muncie's only Historic District, The Emily Kimbrough Historic District. This district maintains architectural accuracy in the area by requiring approval for all exterior improvements residents want to make.





**Urban Orchard:**

East Central Neighborhood and its residents maintain the city's first urban orchard and garden. Once the orchard has reached maturity, it will be producing fresh fruit for the residents, while at the same time educating residents on how their food is produced.



## Events

**Neighborhood Clean-up:**

The neighbors give back to the community by participating in clean-up days.



**Easter Egg Hunt:**

Residents are invited out to celebrate the holiday season with their neighbors.



**OWS Festival:**

An annual festival set in the "Gas Boom" era of Muncie, showing the historic significance of the neighborhood.



**Victorian Christmas Tour:**

A showcase of the historic homes in the neighborhood during the Christmas season.

