



5 museums that might surprise you

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Indianapolis is a museum town. You've been to the biggies, the Eiteljorg, the IMA, the Indiana State Museum, the Children's Museum.

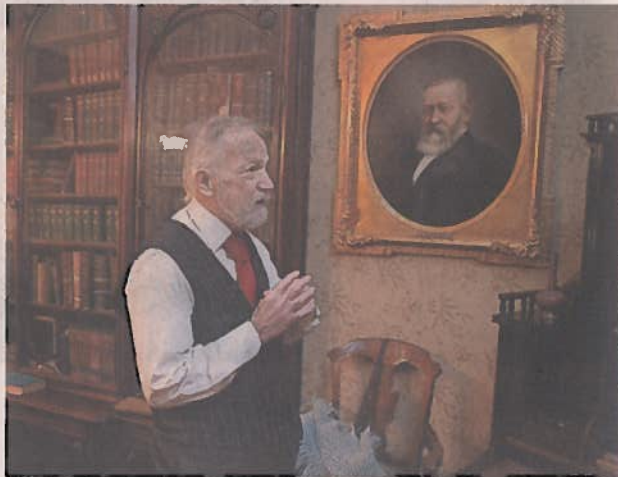
Here are five others. They are small. They don't advertise. But they are worth checking out.

Colonel Eli Lilly Civil War Museum, 1 Monument Circle, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday, free, indianawar memorials.org.

Interesting Civil War artifacts, including Col. Lilly's boots and his sword. Other small weapons plus some medical supplies. Audio-visuals cover camp life, prisoner of war camps and other things of interest. Even if you don't care about the Civil War, you will find the space cool: the museum occupies the rough-hewn basement of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. Yeah, the walls are pretty solid.

Benjamin Harrison Home, 1230 N. Delaware St., 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, \$5-\$10, (317) 631-8888, presidentbenjaminharrison.org.

The house of the 23rd J.S. president looks much the way it did when "Little Ben" lived there. You can learn how the Harrisons lived and more broadly get an idea of what life was like if you were well-off in the late 19th century. On Election Day, reenactors portrayed the Harrisons as they awaited the results of the election of 1888.



MATT KRYGER/THE STAR

Reenactor Ed Myers as President Benjamin Harrison.

Spoiler alert: Harrison won that one.

Rolls Royce Heritage Trust, 2601 W. Raymond St. 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, free.

The museum is a PR effort by the giant manufacturer and is located in a building in its Indianapolis operation. But there's lots of unusual stuff, including a fuel tank from an actual nuclear weapon and a Merlin engine lifted right from a World War II Spitfire plane. The newest item is a fuel tank from the Apollo space program. What's really odd is that museum-goers are welcome to touch the things.

Indiana Medical History Museum, 3045 W. Vermont St., (317) 635-7329, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, guided tours only, imhm.org.

The museum is in a century-old pathology lab, and thankfully the facility has not under-

gone much in the way of remodeling. This is the museum with the brains in the jars. It is somewhat creepy, but the history of medicine is somewhat creepy. Special exhibit through Nov. 28: Lobotomy: Intentions, Procedures, Effects.

Museum of Miniature Houses, 111 E. Main St., Carmel, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, \$3-\$5, (317) 575-0240, museumofminiatures.org.

Contained here are some 600 miniature houses, or rooms — tiny recreations down to the most minute detail. You might call them doll houses, except that if you'd labored over one you'd be slow to turn it over to a child. The sheer painstakingness of this hobby is a marvel that must be seen.

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