## OLD TOWN HALL

HUNTINGBURG, INDIANA

In search of an alternate location to capture new product photography, a place unexpectedly emerged where lasting ties to our community and the **OFS family were** rediscovered.



**CLOCK TOWER AND BALCONY** 



## THE OLD TOWN HALL

While 2020 has been a year of uncertainty, it has encouraged us to appreciate the people and places that are often passed by in the routine pace of life. Join us between the rolling hills and immense beauty of Southern Indiana, a place we call home, and discover the wonder of our corner of the world.

Initially, Old Town Hall was essentially the stage, a space to cross something off the to-do list. Walking through the door, however, it came alive and awoke a sense of reverence for all the stories that these walls could tell. Stories of those who took a moment to quiet their minds and take a closer look. Spending time here forced us to take a step back and experience the history that has always been part of our hometown story.



OLD TOWN HALL BEFORE RESTORATION

Our matriarch, Phyllis Menke, is the center of many of these stories, as she contributed to the rebirth and revitalization of this historic building when she rescued it from demolition in the 1980s. Through her guidance and ambition the Old Town Hall was restored to its former glory.

Step into the Old Town Hall with us, where this 1887 Italianate structure features authentic Victorian lighting, elongated windows, 14-inch brick walls, and the original tin ceiling. Throughout its life, it has served as a fire station, a jail, and later a hub for Huntingburg's social, cultural, and political events.

As Ryan Menke, SVP of Sales and Marketing, says, "This building means a ton to our family. It was my grandmother's passion project



Phyllis Menke stands beside the national register of historic places plaque near the front entrance.



Volunteers working to salvage wood from the Huntingburg High School for the Old Town Hall. Phyllis Menke is featured lifting up a baseboard from the pile.

when we restored it back when I was a teenager. I stripped these boards right here to repurpose them for the historic preservation."

When we found this location, we couldn't help but think that it was meant to be. Phyllis calls it "serendipity," the way our color palette (chosen for a different space) naturally worked well with the wallpaper, the rich wood trim, and the detailing of the building to bring the past and present together as one.

Hank Menke, CEO, describes the symbolism of the Old Town Hall by saying, "When you look at an old building like this, you see resilience and strength. And it is in times of change like these that we all find our strength, identify leaders, and discover the resilience to continue to adapt."

With soft golden light streaming in through the window panes, we quietly reflect on this story of beauty, adversity, resilience, and take note of the importance of slowing down for moments of gratitude.

As Hank says, "Our DNA is built on change. It takes resilience to keep moving forward, just like this old building."



A POLAROID FOUND IN ONE OF PHYLLIS MENKE'S SCRAPBOOKS

















