



## Historic Temple Preserved

**Temple Heritage Center, Inc. is a new 501(c)(3) nonprofit established to help preserve, repurpose, and promote the historic Beth-El Temple.** Located at 34th and Ruckle streets, Beth-El is the city's oldest remaining synagogue but has fallen into disrepair. Isaiah Kuperstein, owner of Double 8 Foods, serves as president of the organization. One of his grocery stores, on Fairfield Avenue, is adjacent to the Temple but it wasn't until he toured the building with a group of interested preservationists that he became enthralled. "I didn't know the heritage and treasure in my own backyard," he said. "When we went inside I was completely floored!" Designed by renowned local architectural firm Vonnegut & Bohn, the building was completed in 1924 and served as the centerpiece of what was at the time a predominantly Jewish neighborhood. Kuperstein says the group wants to make the Temple a community center and a showcase for Midtown: "It fits right into the identity of this area of the city." Indiana Landmarks was able to acquire the property from the City of Indianapolis at a tax sale and will hold the deed until the Center can raise enough funds to buy it and undertake restoration. Mapleton Fall Creek Development Corporation was able to convince the City to redirect a Community Development Block to the project. Browning Day Mullins Dierdorf has completed a feasibility study. The first phase, to stabilize the building, is estimated to cost approximately \$450,000. Complete restoration costs are pegged at \$2 million. A National Register of Historic Places application is in process and fundraising continues in earnest. Details at [templeheritagecenter.org](http://templeheritagecenter.org)