



GREAT PLAINS
COMMUNICATIONS

CASE STUDY

“My first experience with Great Plains Communications was in my former role as Director of the Ohio County Historical Society in Rising Sun, Indiana. Like Hillforest Victorian House Museum, that building was unique and presented Wi-Fi challenges.”

CLIFF THIES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HILLFOREST HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

COMPANY

Hillforest Victorian House Museum

LOCATION

Aurora, IN

INDUSTRY

Tourism

SERVICES

Hillforest Victorian House Museum is an 1855 Italian Renaissance mansion in the Ohio River town of Aurora. It's listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1992.

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The mansion that became Hillforest Victorian House Museum was designed by Isaiah Rogers, an architect known as the “father of the modern hotel,” and built for Thomas Gaff, a prominent financier and industrialist. Gaff and his family lived there from 1855 to 1926.

It was purchased in 1926 by a local furniture manufacturer, and later became the clubhouse for the local Veterans of Foreign Wars, who used it for that purpose from the late 1940s to the mid 1950s. In late 1955, when the VFW decided the home did not meet its needs, a group of local citizens banded together to purchase the mansion. They formed the Hillforest Historical Foundation as a nonprofit organization dedicated to the mansion's restoration and preservation.

The Hillforest Historical Foundation owns, operates, and maintains the Hillforest Victorian House Museum. In addition to tours, the property is also available for private teas and other parties, wedding showers, rehearsal dinners, small weddings, and photography sessions.



Cliff Thies, Executive Director of the Hillforest Historical Foundation, said, "Great Plains Communications did an excellent job of wiring the historic building of the Ohio County Historical Society. So, when I began my leadership role at Hillforest and was tasked with replacing its unreliable communications provider, I contacted Doug at Great Plains. He came up, took a look at the building, and assured me they could carry out the project."

It was a difficult install since no wires could show. As a National Historic Landmark, the Hillforest Victorian House Museum is under guidelines and stipulations.

"The Great Plains Communications crew was here for several days, and they pulled off the challenging project like champs. The Hillforest Victorian House Museum is completely wired now. Our staff and visitors can access Wi-Fi and use their devices throughout the building. This is especially helpful when people want to scan QR codes to bring up additional information. We can also carry out financial transactions on tablets anywhere in the building," said Thies.

He added, "I highly recommend Great Plains Communications to any local business that's considering new Internet service. Their team's customer service is excellent."

Thanks to Great Plains Communications, we've never had a day without phone service, and we've never had a day without Wi-Fi."

CLIFF THIES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HILLFOREST HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

