The early architecture of Vinegar Hill reflects several period revival styles including Greek Revival, French Provincial, Spanish Colonial, Italian Renaissance, and Art Deco. Many homes are highly decorated with carvings, sculpture, and architectural yard ornaments. Henry Radford Hope, namesake of the IU School of Fine Arts, was a professor at the university's Institute for Sex Research, now the Kinsey Institute. Significant Indiana University professors and researchers also lived in the neighborhood including Alfred C. Kinsey, director of the university's Institute for Sex Research, now the Kinsey Institute, and Mabel Sullivan, owners of a men's clothing store. Many prominent Bloomington business owners who built homes here. Dominant names in the limestone industry were John Matthews, an English stonecutter, in the 1850s. His small orchards that was to give the neighborhood its name. Irvin S. Matthews and Albert T. Hoadley, both from industry, also built here. It was the smell of rotting fruit from the abandoned orchard that was to give the neighborhood its name.

The limestone industry saw its greatest growth and prosperity between World War I and the Great Depression. Limestone from Bloomington was in demand for the rebuilding of Chicago following the fire of 1871. At the same time, many architects, such as Richard Morris Hunt, were commissioned to replicate the styles of old European—Greek Revival and Beaux Arts—and ordered Indiana limestone to build grand houses like “The Breakers” in Newport, RI; “The Biltmore” in Asheville, NC; and the Frick Mansion in New York City. Often quarry workers found prominence as they rose to the top of their companies, becoming presidents, managing directors, and chief executives. As the industry grew, many of these men—quarry workers, business owners, and managers—moved to Bloomington and became part of the local community. By 1907, there were seventeen limestone mills and quarries in Bloomington, with many more located within the city limits of Bloomington, with many more located within the city limits of Bloomington. The limestone industry’s growth and prosperity attracted many families to the area, and Vinegar Hill Historic District is a testament to the area’s rich history and architectural significance.

The houses shown here are representative of historic resources in the district. The prominence of the neighborhood is reflected in those who built the residences. Another distinctive feature of the district is the prominence of the university’s Institute for Sex Research, now the Kinsey Institute. Assistance was provided by Danielle Bachant-Bell, Nancy Huskaid, Joanne Stuttgen, and Dot Spore. Historic photographs were provided by Indiana University’s William H. Mathers Museum photographic archive, the Shaw East and Shaw Starkeys Collections.

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This page discusses various homes and their histories in Bloomington, Indiana, focusing on their architectural styles and the people who built or lived in them. It mentions homes like the N. J. Will House, built in 1927, and the Heltonville Limestone Corporation, established in 1929.

- The Mazzullos also constructed the brick-clad Foursquare House at 1123 East First, which was built in Vinegar Hill and is a catalog home. The battered columns on the front of the house are a distinctive feature.
- The Kinsey House at 1320 East First was constructed in 1929 and was designed by architect Ernest Flagg.
- The Boerner House at 1213 East First was constructed in 1938 and is a Tudor Revival style home with a prominent gable-end parapet.

The page also includes a list of homes and their addresses, such as the Merry House at 824 South Sheridan, built in 1929-38, and the Sullivan House at 837 South Sheridan, built in 1929.

The text also includes references to the IU Art Museum, which houses much of the permanent collection. The museum has been operated by the university since its establishment in 1921 and now comprises a significant part of the IU Art Museum's permanent collection.

In summary, this page provides a detailed overview of Bloomington's architectural history, highlighting the significant roles played by various individuals and companies in shaping the city's built environment.