



WORDS: LEAH R. SINGER  
PHOTOGRAPHY: JOSEPH C. GARZA

## THE DRESSER HOME

**M**usic aficionados know Paul Dresser as the famous American musician who wrote numerous ballads in the early 1900s. He is most known for composing "On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away," the state song of Indiana. Dresser's roots, however, extend beyond music and are planted here in Terre Haute.

Individuals can take a glimpse into his life by viewing the Dresser Home, located on Dresser Drive in Fairbanks Park. He was born in the house in 1858, when it was located on the 300 block of

South Second Street. It was moved to its present location in 1963. In 1967, the Indiana General Assembly designated the home a State Shrine and Memorial.

The Dresser House curtains are open so visitors can look inside the first floor of the house and see the living room, bedroom and kitchen. While the furnishings themselves did not belong to the Dresser family, the interior of the

original brick building is an example of how most Hoosiers lived in the pre-Civil War period.

### BE A HISTORY MAKER

There are many ways you can contribute to the History Center capital campaign. To learn more, call 812-235-9717 or visit [www.vchsmuseum.org](http://www.vchsmuseum.org).

Extensive background about Dresser and the house is posted on display cards at the windows so individuals can read about the property and Dresser family.

With the new curtain and information display, visitors can learn about an aspect of Terre Haute history at any time. Group tours are available by appointment only through the Vigo County Historical Society.