

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mohr, Louis, Block
other names/site number 003 215 26012

2. Location

street & number 119 West Wayne Street
city, town Fort Wayne
state Indiana code IN county Allen code 003 zip code 46802

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Date: 6/23/88

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
entered in the National Register.
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: business

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN

Other: Richardsonian Romanesque

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation LIMESTONE

walls BRICK

STONE: Limestone

roof ASPHALT

other GLASS

WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Louis Mohr Block is located on the south side of Wayne Street, just west of Calhoun Street in downtown Fort Wayne. Starting late in the last century and continuing well into this one, Calhoun Street was the principal shopping area in the city's central business district; the Wayne-Calhoun intersection was the center of the retail area after 1930. Today Calhoun Street is a transit mall open only to pedestrians and buses. Most retail activity in the area is now dependent upon the office workers who have replaced shoppers as downtown's principal users. Wayne Street, always a secondary retail area, is today a mixture of retail and office uses.

The Louis Mohr Block is a two story Richardsonian Romanesque style commercial building which was built in 1891; its three story rear addition was erected in 1926. The building's most outstanding original feature is the cut limestone cladding of the upper part of its facade. The five bays of the upper wall are divided into two distinct parts: four bays are enframed by partially fluted pilasters that extend to the cornice; these bays have flat-topped second story windows separated by groups of colonnettes beneath a dentilled spandrel, round-arched attic windows with smooth voussoirs, and a plain frieze with fluted brackets. The fifth bay, on the right (west) side of the facade, presumably denotes the former location of a stairwell by its treatment as a smooth wall in which a recessed bay contains a flat-topped opening on the second and attic registers, the latter finished with a jack-arch; the treatment of this bay is repeated where the facade returns on the side (east) wall. A frieze consisting of dentils beneath a band of fluted bull-nosed modillions extends across the entire facade and its return beneath a plain projecting cornice and an open balustrade (photo 1). The present first floor facade treatment dates from a 1963 remodelling; it consists of a recessed entry with display windows beneath rough-sawn wood cladding over the former transom area. The only visual clues to the original treatment of the first floor are provided by an 1897 view (photo 2) that shows a curtain wall with round columns enframed by the bases of the stone pilasters still seen above.

The side elevation of the original portion of the building has segmental-arched second story windows; since the flat-topped openings placed high on the first floor of the same wall match those on the first and second floors of the rear addition, they were probably added to the old wall as a part of the later construction. The three stories of the rear addition (photos 3, 4) are punctuated by a largely regular pattern of fenestration composed of multi-paned wood casement sash. Most of the windows have been covered with plywood panels on the side and rear elevations.

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Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 2 Louis Mohr Block

The interior of the first floor consists of a large display area in front of a smaller storage area, which includes stairs to the unfinished basement. The entire display room has a stamped metal ceiling in two patterns: one design is used over the area of the former storefront, and a second pattern extends the remainder of the length of the room. Along the side walls, the tops of slightly recessed wall segments (perhaps former display locations) are trimmed with stamped metal cove cornices (photo 5). The row of high east windows seen outside is completely concealed. Midway down the length of the west wall, a series of modern partitions encloses the door of a passenger elevator and the base of platform stairs. These elements are more apparent on the second floor, where the stair has an open run with plain square balusters and newels, and the type of Spanish Colonial Revival style bracketed plaster canopy used over the elevator doors on both the first and second floors can be seen clearly (photo 6). Both the soffit of the stairs and the walls of the elevator enclosure are finished in textured Spanish plaster.

The second floor is a single large room with a single stamped metal pattern used throughout for its ceiling and cove cornice (photo 7). Just to the north of the stairwell, a former skylight opening can be seen. At the front of the room, the facade windows have fluted center-cove casings and aprons and bullseye head blocks (photo 8); the same treatment is visible on the five original sidewall windows, which have been covered with plywood panels on the inside. At the rear of the room, a modern partition largely conceals the front of a former salon area. The top of the salon's front wall follows the curve of a central segmental-arched opening which is flanked by two smaller similar openings (photo 9). Partitions divide the area behind the wall into three rooms: a central display area is raised two steps above the rest of the room and is entered via treads that project from the central arch, and the flanking arches lead into two smaller side rooms. The salon doorways are trimmed with edge-molded casings topped by oval plaster cartouches; the stippled plaster walls of the side rooms are decorated with oval medallions enframed by molded panels beneath a band of rosettes and a plain frieze (photo 10).

The third floor exists only in the 1926 rear addition; it apparently housed the store's business offices. On the northwest corner of the third floor, a hallway contains the stair and elevator landings; partitions to the south of the elevator define two restrooms and an office (photo 11). A large archway on the east side of the hall opens into an ell-shaped general office area that can also be entered from the south end of the hall; a second private office is located on the northeast corner of the third floor (photo 12). A single large room extends across the rear (south) of the third floor (photo 13). All the rooms are finished with stamped metal ceilings and cove cornices. The private offices and the hallway are trimmed with plain baseboards and architrave casings. Though they also have baseboards, the larger areas have casement windows set in plain plaster reveals.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1891

Significant Dates
1926
1963

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Kendrick, Frank B.
Rammel, William V.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Louis Mohr Block is primarily of local architectural significance as an example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style; it is also one of the few remaining works of Frank B. Kendrick, a local architect. Though the Richardsonian mode provided most of the architectural vocabulary popular for Fort Wayne commercial structures of the late nineteenth century, few of them were built with facades made entirely of cut stone, and of those fewer still have survived to this day. Among the largest examples were the Pixley-Long Block (1886, Wing and Mahurin, architects; demolished 1929), the Odd Fellows Block (1890, Frank B. Kendrick, architect; demolished 1949) and the Schmitz Block (1888, Frank B. Kendrick, architect). The Mohr Block is the only smaller commercial example of this type to survive; along with the Schmitz Block, it is also one of the only two commercial structures designed by Frank Kendrick still standing in Fort Wayne. Kendrick was a native of Philadelphia; he began his architectural career in that city in the office of Bruce Price in 1869. By 1879 he had moved west to Fort Wayne after stays in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and at Salem and Springfield in Ohio. In 1880, Kendrick started a contracting firm with Alfred Shrimpton after 1888, Kendrick resumed his architectural practice. Though he returned to Ohio for a brief stay, Kendrick was back in Fort Wayne by 1891, when he designed the Mohr Block. He apparently left Fort Wayne to reside permanently in Crown Point, Indiana, about 1901. During his years in Fort Wayne, the city's architectural scene was dominated by the firm Wing and Mahurin; Kendrick is notable as the only other local architect, especially during the late 1880's, and early 1890's, whose commercial work matched the scale and sophistication of that other firm.

Very little is known of Kendrick's client, Louis Mohr, other than that he sold sewing machines and bicycles at this location until 1902, when the property was bought by E. B. Kunkle, a local manufacturer who owned other rental property on this block. In 1925, Martin Ankenbruck purchased the former Mohr property from Kunkle's estate. Ankenbruck and other members of his family operated a women's clothing store, The Vogue, at this location; they doubled the size of the building in 1926, and remodelled the first floor facade in 1963 to the design of architect, William V. Rammel. By the latter date, the store's stock had changed to gifts and greeting cards. John Ankenbruck, a local historian, was among the members of the family who closed the business about 1970. The Mohr Block was then occupied until 1982 by Jefferson House Interiors, a furniture and interior design firm. The building is now vacant.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Books

The Valley of the Upper Maumee River, R. S. Robertson, editor, Madison, Wisconsin: Brant & Fuller, 1889.

Periodicals

notice of Louis Mohr Block by Kendrick, in Inland Architect and Building Record, April, 1891, Volume 17, Number 3, page 40.

Newspapers (in chronological order)

'John Riedel occupies former Kendrick office in Schmitz Block,' Fort Wayne Daily Sentinel, November 5, 1891, n.p. (untitled article)

"Vogue Store to be Remodelled," Fort Wayne News-Sentinel, February 26, 1926, page 24.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than 1 acre

UTM References

A 16 656260 4548870
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The east thirty feet of lot 484 of Hanna's Addition to the City of Fort Wayne

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This constitutes the historic boundary of the property

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Craig Leonard, Historic Preservation Consultant
 organization _____ date December 1987
 street & number 521 West Market Street telephone (219)-824-4010
 city or town Bluffton state Indiana zip code 46714

FORT WAYNE WEST QUADRANGLE
 INDIANA - ALLEN CO.
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

3966 11 NE
 (CEDARVILLE)

10' 654 640 000 FEET

656

657

85° 07' 30"

41° 07' 30"

1 320 000
 FEET



LOUIS MOHR BLOCK
 FORT WAYNE, IN
 16 656 20 1947

NEW HAVEN 6 MI.
 W. VERP OHIO 2.5 MI.