

6

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 Fort Wayne Printing Company Building  
other names/site number 003 215 26018

### 2. Location

street & number 114 West Washington Street  not for publication  
city, town Fort Wayne  vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county Allen code 003 zip code 46802

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

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 \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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. \_\_\_\_\_  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_
- 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: warehouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

CLASSICAL REVIVAL

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

TERRA COTTA

roof ASPHALT

other GLASS

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Fort Wayne Printing Building is located on the north side of Washington Street, in the middle of the block between Calhoun and Harrison Streets, in downtown Fort Wayne. Washington Street was a residential area until about 1910, when the downtown commercial area centered along Calhoun Street began to grow to the east and west of that street. Today Washington Street is one of the city's main thoroughfares.

The Fort Wayne Printing Building is a four story 1911 Neo-classical style commercial structure (photo 1). The building's red pressed brick facade is trimmed in white terra cotta, which is used for the window sills and lintels, as well as the decorative panels of festoon motifs that adorn the spandrels. Though it is now covered by a modern wood cladding, a terra cotta spandrel with similar panels also runs along the top of the first floor, as shown in the architect's original rendering (photo 2); the return of this band is visible on the side (west) elevation. Both the rendering and another early sketch (photo 3) show that a bracketed modillion cornice once extended across the top of the facade, beneath the existing panelled parapet. The cornice's former location is now visible as a band of parging. A set of four major piers divide the facade into three major bays, each containing three bays of one-over-one double-hung windows on each upper floor of the facade. The first floor facade has modern display windows, installed in 1947, on either side of a center-bay entrance. In 1982 a brick wall was added to the face of the recessed center bay to create an entrance vestibule. The early views noted above show an original first floor facade with a center bay entrance, flanked by show windows with panelled aprons; all three bays had transom panels made of leaded prism glass tiles.

The west elevation is punctured by a series of window and door openings. Three large window openings on the ground floor have been bricked in leaving only one window of the four-light steel sash used above. The upper floors each have windows with the same sash which pivots horizontally at the meeting rail. These openings with stone sills are set at different heights.

The north elevation's fenestration pattern is more regular being composed of fine openings on each floor. Only the center opening of paired, pivoting steel sash does not match the fenestration on the west facade.

The regular fenestration pattern on the east facade has been interrupted by a modern metal-clad enclosed bridge on the third floor level that connects with the third floor of the Hutner Building to the east.

The building is covered by a flat, asphalt roof over a concrete deck. The low parapet wall that surrounds the roof is capped by a tile coping.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Fort Wayne Printing Building

The interior of the building consists of a single large space on each of the four floors and the full basement. Two files of seven columns each extend the depth of the building behind the center piers seen on the facade. The entire structural system consists of poured in place reinforced concrete columns and slabs, with steel pipe columns used above the second floor.

On the first floor, the original space has been subdivided at its front (south) end by a series of modern office partitions (photo 6). Inspection above the modern ceiling (photo 7) reveals plain plastered columns and ceiling. A stairs and passenger elevator added to the building in 1925 are located at the front (southwest) corner, just inside the display windows. Though they have been enclosed in a gypsum firewall, the open base of the otherwise enclosed platform stairway has retained its first floor railing, a set of plain, blunt-topped square steel newels and a wooden handrail supported by wrought iron Spanish Colonial Revival style balusters (photo 8). In the open area at the rear of the first floor, an open stairs located in the center of the next to last bay descends to the basement. Both this stairway (photo 9) and a platform stairs to the second floor, located in the northwest rear corner (photo 10) appear to be original. Both stairs are trimmed with plain square wooden newels and balusters and a molded handrail. Just to the south of the rear stairs, a large freight elevator is placed with its longest width perpendicular to the side (west) wall.

The basement (photo 11) is a large space with a boiler area and a vault originally used to store printing plates partitioned with clay tile walls midway along the length of the west wall.

The large upper floor areas are distinguished from one another primarily by differences in detail and the presence of modern partitions in some areas. The second floor (photo 12) has square concrete columns, beams, and an exposed concrete ceiling. On the front wall, the second floor windows have plain plaster reveals trimmed with wooden sills and picture molding (photo 13). The third and fourth floors each have a large area broken up only by the elevator, stairway, and restroom enclosures along the west wall (photos 14, 15). On the fourth floor, the stairway has an open landing with a steel pipe handrail (photo 16). The walls and ceilings of the upper floors all show traces of paint, and oak flooring has been laid over the concrete floor slabs. The windows in the side and rear walls of the upper floors are steel units set in plain reveals (photo 17); those on the second and third floors are placed with their sills five feet above the floors, presumably for the sake of originally providing clearance for storage units or work benches. The sills of the fourth floor rear windows are two and a half feet above the floor. All of the steel windows are glazed with translucent wire glass.

**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

1911  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1925  
1947  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

SNYDER, RALPH B.  
STRAUSS, ALVIN M.  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

The Fort Wayne Printing Building is primarily of local architectural significance as both an industrial example of the Neo-classical style and as one of four remaining known works of local architect, Ralph B. Snyder. The design exemplifies the reduction of the Neo-classical style to a few simple facade elements used to elaborate the front of a new type of mill building then popular in Fort Wayne. Earlier local industrial buildings had used heavy timbers and wood joists in combination with masonry bearing walls. With the construction of the Mossman-Yarnelle Building (Charles R. Weatherhogg, architect) in 1907, however, the use of combinations of masonry bearing walls with steel or concrete columns and concrete slabs was locally introduced. The flexibility of arrangement and greater load-bearing capacity made possible by the use of such structural combinations appealed to local manufacturers, who erected such similar structures as the George Bursley Warehouse (1911, Mahurin & Mahurin, architects), the Sherman White Warehouse (1913, Mahurin & Mahurin, architects), and the Fisher Paper Company (1914). The Fort Wayne Printing Building is unusual among local examples in its use of Neo-classical facade elements. All but one of the other examples just cited were given architectural treatments derived from the Arts and Crafts style popular at the time. They typically featured tapestry brick facades enriched with geometric patterns of stylized classical ornament, and their designs did not include the use of projecting cornices.

Ralph Snyder, the building's architect, enjoyed a brief but important local career as a designer of commercial structures. Though he appeared in the city directories as early as 1904, Snyder was then a draftsman for the Western Gas Construction Company, a utility contractor. After 1906, Snyder was employed for the same purpose by the Fort Wayne Electric Works, a predecessor of General Electric; while employed there he apparently designed at least one of that firm's buildings (1907). The destruction of the downtown Aveline Hotel by fire in 1908, resulted in the construction on its former site of the Shoaff Building, a commission which launched Snyder's architectural career. The Shoaff Building, a nine story neo-classical design, was the largest commercial structure built in downtown Fort Wayne up to that time. In 1909, further additions were made to Fort Wayne Electric Works, and Snyder designed a large addition to the Wayne Hotel (built in 1887, Kendrick & Shrimpton, architects, demolished). Snyder also designed the Hotel Allen (1908) and the St. James Apartments (1911, demolished). Besides the Shoaff and Fort Wayne Printing Buildings, Snyder's only other downtown commercial

See continuation sheet

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2 Fort Wayne Printing Building

---

design was the Patterson-Fletcher Building, originally erected in 1908 by the Fort Wayne Drug Company and the Pidgeon Millinery Company (and determined eligible for the National Register in 1983). In 1911 Snyder married, and his meteoric rise was signified by his move from a modest cottage at 1217 Wilt Street (in the West End National Register district) to 1704 Forest Park Boulevard, an exclusive northeast suburban development. Though Snyder had done much to define a new generation of neo-classical commercial buildings in Fort Wayne, he apparently could not sustain his success; in 1912 he left the city for Chicago, where he died in 1934. Local obituaries listed Snyder's achievements while in the city; unfortunately, his Chicago obituary in the Tribune did not explain Snyder's later career.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Books

Gardner, H.W. Fort Wayne, Indiana: A Presentation of Her Resources. Fort Wayne: Indiana Printing Company, 1913

Newspapers (in chronological order)

"New Quarters for Fort Wayne Printing Company," Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette, May 21, 1911, Page 5

"Earl Groth Announces Store Plans," Fort Wayne News-Sentinel, October 28, 1947, page 1.

Leininger, Kevin. "Historic Battle Building." Fort Wayne News-Sentinel. February 2, 1987, page 3A.

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 One Acre

UTM References

A 16 656270 4548800  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 457 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, 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