

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Ehrmann Building

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 929 Wabash Avenue

City or town: Terre Haute State: Indiana County: Vigo

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 X A B X C D

<p>Signature of certifying official/Title:</p> <p><u>Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology</u></p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>Date</p>
--	--------------------

<p>In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>Date</p>
<p>Title :</p>	<p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

Ehrmann Building
Name of Property

Vigo County, Indiana
County and State

4. 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

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Ehrmann Building
Name of Property

Vigo County, Indiana
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Romanesque Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: BRICK

walls: BRICK

roof: STONE:limestone

other: SYNTHETICS:rubber

CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Ehrmann Building, located at 929 Wabash Avenue, Terre Haute, Vigo County Indiana, is a red brick building constructed in the Romanesque Revival style. The three-story building is the only remaining historic structure on the block. Originally constructed for the Ehrmann Manufacturing Company in 1895, the building has retained much of its historic integrity, especially on the exterior of the second and third floors. The structure covers the majority of the parcel.

Ehrmann Building
Name of Property

Vigo County, Indiana
County and State

Narrative Description

The Ehrmann Building fills the majority of the parcel at 929 Wabash. The building is located east of the Wabash Avenue Historic District and the Wabash Avenue East Historic District Boundary Adjustment, and north of the Farrington's Grove Historic District. The three-story building, with a lower level (basement), constructed in 1895 has a one-story, circa 1960, concrete block addition. The three-story circa 2012 Wells Fargo building (925 Wabash) sits to the west and a one-story donut shop (935 Wabash) is set back from the street on the east. The Romanesque Revival building has a low-sloped, built-up asphalt roof. A high degree of historic integrity remains, especially on the facade.

The building has undergone renovations over its history. Major changes to the exterior occurred in the early 1960s for a furniture store, including a new storefront and the addition of a small, single-story shipping building attached to the rear. The most recent renovations to the building (2018-2019) include a new storefront with a design sympathetic to the original.

The highly ornamented facade (photo 2) is clad in hard-burned cherry brick. Decorative brick units form turrets, rounded window heads, and dentils on the cornices. Edges on pilasters and window arches have molded, radius corner bricks. Limestone accents appear at the bases of the turrets, window sills, third-floor window mullions, and at the springlines on the third-floor pilasters. The facade is arranged in three bays, separated by turrets at the upper level, brick pilasters at the second and third levels, and original, fluted, cast-iron columns at the storefront.

The three-bay storefront is constructed of black metal and glass. The center bay cant back to the full-light, double entry doors, with a large transom. Storefront walls include metal kickplate panels, large display windows and tall transoms. The metal beam cover above is painted black. Approximately ten courses of brick sit above the beam.

The second story bays are composed of inset brick walls with corbelling at the upper extents. Large segmental-arch openings in each bay form the fenestration. The arches are several bricks thick: alternating two stretchers, header-stretcher-header. A mullion in the form of an engaged Ionic wood column sits in the center of each opening. A limestone belt course forms the sill. The sash are four rectangular, wood, double-hung units with curved transoms, following the shape of the arch. A wood dentil accented transom bar separates the windows from the transoms.

The third-floor fenestration is composed of a series of four openings in each bay. The windows are original, round-arch, wood, double-hung units. The third-floor window arches are laid the same as the second floor (alternate coursing) but are round arched on the intrados and pointed arched on the extrados. A limestone belt course forms the sill.

The parapet wall at the center bay is raised above the flanking bays. The projecting cornice steps back in a series of decorative elements. At the top, metal clad wood has ovolo molding with ovolo shaped dentils below. Lower, a brick dentil course is followed by two stretcher courses,

Ehrmann Building

Name of Property

Vigo County, Indiana

County and State

and a course of billet moulding. A series of round arches terminate in corbels below. In the center bay, an uncarved limestone nameplate sits below the arches.

The common brick on the east elevation has been painted (refer to photos 1 and 3). Two large murals fill the wall with "Vigo County Historical Museum" painted above. The northern-most mural identifies Terre Haute as "The Birthplace of the Coca-Cola Contour Bottle." The southern-most mural is a reproduction of a Coca-Cola advertising sign. Two former fire exits at the north corner, on the second and third floor, are covered with metal. Hardware from a 1920s Grinnell fire alarm system remains at the north corner. The one-story CMU addition at the rear of the building has a deep inset for the entry door, a metal overhead freight door, and two rectangular windows glazed in glass block.

The south elevation has been painted a dark rust color (refer to photos 3 and 4). The one-story CMU addition, at the east edge, has a metal overhead freight door to the right and two windows glazed with glass block to the left. HVAC equipment sits on the roof of the addition. To the left, on the original building, a large door opening contains fiber cement infill and a new metal egress door, flanked by two former window openings with basement level windows below. All windows on the south elevation are infilled with fiber cement board. Original window openings on the second and third floors have segmental arch heads, formed by two courses of rowlock brick, and limestone sills.

The west elevation remains unpainted, save for historic advertising (photo 5). A wall sign, denoting the Glidden Furniture Store, circa 1960, is at the north edge, along with ghost images of previous advertisements. Limestone beam cushions are visible at the second and third floor levels.

The exterior walls are three wythes of brick with an interior wood and cast-iron support system (refer to photos 6, 17, 18, 22, 23, 25, and 27). Cast iron columns, made by the Prox and Brinkman Manufacturing Co, support the first, second and third floors and wood columns support the roof. Visible at the ceilings are the wood girder and beam structural system and the beadboard underlayment for the floor above. The lower level has a concrete floor. Original plaster had deteriorated beyond repair so exterior wall surfaces are painted, exposed brick.

The original wood stair remains along the east wall, and runs from the first to the third floors, with basement access below the flight running from the first to the second floor (refer to photos 12, 20, and 28). Although visible on the first floor, access to the upper levels is prohibited for safety reasons. An original, turned newel post and railings remain on the first floor. The first-floor balustrade has been replaced with a circa 1960 rectangular patterned system. At the second-floor landing, the stair is enclosed in a drywall partition with access available through a half-light door. Beadboard doors that close off the stair leading to the third floor. The third-floor stair remains and the angled portion is visible on the second floor. The third-floor landing had been compromised when the freight elevator was installed, circa 1960. Therefore, the floor has been extended across the stair opening on the third floor. The 1960s freight elevator is inoperable at this time but the original metal doors with a round, port-hole style windows remain.

Ehrmann Building
Name of Property

Vigo County, Indiana
County and State

The original interior configuration is unknown, however, changes in the finish of the original floor indicate an open plan for the former manufacturing facility (refer to photos 6, 17, 18, 21, and 22). Original interior elements remaining include the multi-level wood floor on the first level, wood plank flooring on the second and third levels with minimal resurfacing, exposed Prox and Brinkman metal columns and wood columns (on the third floor), exposed ceiling and beam structure, original fire escape door on the second floor, and star masonry anchors.

New elements have been introduced to aid in egress and functioning of the museum and public spaces (refer to photos 10, 21, and 26). At the northwest corner of the building a new monumental stair and elevator have been added. The monumental stair has a metal structural system with concrete stair. Partial-height walls wind along the center portion of the stair, providing an open space for viewing a totem pole that rises from the first through third floors. Full-height-walls were installed next to the stair on the first and second floors to hide the new elements from visibility through the exterior windows and provide for a window display area. The new elevator walls are constructed of concrete block and clad in brick. An additional egress stair has been added at the southwest corner of the building. The stair walls are concrete block with drywall on each side and the metal stair system has concrete treads. Restrooms and custodial rooms on each floor are located at the east-central portion of each floor, adjacent to the original stairway.

The main entry to the building is gained through north façade (refer to photos 6 through 14). A small vestibule leads to the reception area with the monumental stair and elevator and gift shop entrance to the right. To the left of the entry is the soda fountain room with the Coca Cola bottling room to the side. Entrance to the museum is located on either side of the reception desk. A storage/display area room constructed of partial-height walls sits behind the reception area, forming two short hallways leading to the museum. The interior is open, reflecting the openness of a manufacturing facility. Storefront displays have been erected along the west wall, illustrating former businesses of Terre Haute. The original multi-level floor remains and simple pipe rails provide guidance for safety.

The original exterior wall on the south end of the first floor illustrates the original door and window configuration (photo 14). The windows and doors have been removed, but the trim and some of the mullions remain. Access to the one-story addition is available through two openings that formerly held double doors.

Access is gained to the second floor by either of the new stairways or the new elevator (refer to photos 15 through 20). A wide hallway provides an open view of the expansive space. A few partial-height walls form display areas, delineated by partial-height bulkheads (as indicated on the attached plans). Original windows remain on the north elevation. Some have been rebuilt for functionality. The lintels are molded radius corner brick. Original wood trim, stools and aprons remain. On the south elevation, original windows openings remain visible, with drywall infill and stone lintels. No trim or other elements remain. An original, wood, fire exit door and trim remains on the east wall.

Ehrmann Building

Name of Property

Vigo County, Indiana

County and State

The third floor has been configured for entertainment and public archives (refer to photos 22 through 26). A large room at the northeast corner of the building provides an event space. An auditorium and support spaces have been built-out along the west wall. At the south portion of the floor, the archives area includes tables for research and closed stacks, configured with partial height walls that have been lined with cabinets from a former local pharmacy. Original windows remain on the north elevation. Some have been rebuilt for functionality. The upper sash of the single-hung, rectangular units has arched glass with wood infill. Original wood trim, stools and aprons remain. The limestone mullions and brick lintels are visible. On the south elevation, original windows openings remain visible, with drywall infill and stone lintels. No trim or other elements remain. A former fire-escape opening on the north end of the east wall is infilled with drywall, but the original wood trim remains on the east wall.

The lower level has been configured for staff offices and storage (refer to photos 27 and 28). Along the south wall, full-height walls enclose climate-controlled storage and a separate mechanical and electrical room. The center of the lower level is open for general storage, and full-height walls along the north wall configure work space for the staff.

Remnants from the building's manufacturing days include an early twentieth-century cast-iron Grinnell Fire Alarm notification system bell with an exterior bell and the corresponding unit inside (photo 11). In the partitioned area at the southeast end of the first floor is an in-floor, circa 1920 Toledo scale (photo 13).

Ehrmann Building
Name of Property

Vigo County, Indiana
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Ehrmann Building
Name of Property

Vigo County, Indiana
County and State

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture
Industry
Social History

Period of Significance

1895-1938

Significant Dates

1913

Significant Person (last name, first name)
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)

Vrydagh, Josse A.

Ehrmann Building
Name of Property

Vigo County, Indiana
County and State

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance, 1895-1938, reflects the tenure of the Ehrmann Manufacturing Company on the site. Although other businesses occupied the building from the 1940s through the end of the twentieth century, the period was chosen for the company's significance in the industrial development of Terre Haute, and also for the incidents occurring on the property that fomented reform for the rights of laborers.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Ehrmann Building is eligible for the National Register under criteria A and C. The 1895 building, designed by Josse A. Vrydagh, retains a high degree of historic integrity, is an excellent example of Romanesque Revival Commercial architecture, and contributes to the rich industrial history of Terre Haute, Indiana. The building housed the Ehrmann Manufacturing Company, makers of work clothes, from 1895-1938. The Ehrmann Company was a significant employer of women during the period. In 1913, a significant strike occurred on the property, part of the struggle between labor and management being discussed in the Indiana General Assembly and occurring throughout the nation in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In a broader perspective, the Ehrmann labor conflict was a local instance in a wave of labor strikes in the U.S. in the early 19-teens.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Industry

The City of Terre Haute experienced great industrial development between 1890 and 1920. Convenient transportation was available on the Wabash and Erie Canal and the Indianapolis and Terre Haute Railroad.¹ Local raw materials, such as coal and clay, offered fuel and raw materials for the foundries and brick manufacturers.² The industrial economy brought the need for work

¹ Mike McCormick, *Terre Haute: Queen City of the Wabash*, Chicago: Arcadia Press, 2005, pages 6, 32, 36.

² McCormick, pages 50-52.

Ehrmann Building

Name of Property

Vigo County, Indiana

County and State

clothes. In the 1860s, George Zimmerman, a wool weaver, created bib-overalls and opened a factory in Terre Haute to manufacture the garment that had become popular with working men.³ Zimmerman's daughter, Rosa Urban, married Carl Stahl who succeeded his father-in-law as owner of the business in 1888. Rosa's son Camille Urban joined the family business and in 1895 the name was changed to the Stahl-Urban Company. A new building was constructed for the factory at 920 Ohio Street (demolished in 2012) in 1906.⁴ Emil Ehrmann began work as a bookkeeper at the Zimmerman factory in 1885. Emil Ehrmann and his brothers Charles and Albert opened a clothing manufacturing business at 124-126 Main Street (Wabash Avenue) in 1888.⁵ The company remained in business until 1938.

Social History

The Ehrmann Manufacturing Company initially employed 75-100 women and girls to sew garments in their homes.⁶ In 1895, Emil Ehrmann purchased land at 929 Wabash Avenue and constructed a new building for the enterprise (this is the nominated property).⁷ To handle the increased manufacturing capacity, Emil and Albert hired their brother-in-law, Frederick A. Reckert.⁸ Industry boomed in Terre Haute and in 1897 the company reported employing 300 women in-house and 200 sewing at home.⁹ In 1912 Ehrmann opened a factory in Brazil, Indiana, increasing capacity again and becoming a major employer of women locally.¹⁰

Along with other cities throughout the nation, the industrial revolution brought tensions over pay and working conditions. The famous strike and tragic fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York became the catalyst for female employees to stand up for their rights. Workers at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory were laid off for forming a union in September 1909. In November 1909 workers at all shirtwaist factories walked off the job and began picketing. This behavior was not considered acceptable for women and they were labelled prostitutes and thugs. Prominent women such as Alva Smith, Vanderbilt Belmont, and Anne Morgan, daughter of J. P. Morgan, supported the striking women by offering financial assistance and speaking in public about the cause.¹¹ The strike ended on February 25, 1910 after the union compromised with manufacturers and gained agreements for a 52 and one-half hour workweek, overtime and holiday pay, and supplies needed for the job purchased by the manufacturer. Some shops unionized and some remained open. The strike laid the foundation for unionism in the garment

³ McCormick, page 58.

⁴ Terre Haute Tribune Star, "Historical Treasure: The Stahl-Urban Company," accessed online. http://www.tribstar.com/features/history/historical-treasure-the-stahl-urban-company/article_43bf346f-a3d7-5133-b2d8-1f668a2d0761.html

⁵ Terre Haute Daily Wabash Express, "Local Industrial Review," 1/22/1888, page 1.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Terre Haute Saturday Evening Mail, 5/4/1895, page 1.

⁸ Terre Haute Saturday Evening Mail, 11/2/1895, page 1.

⁹ Terre Haute Semi-Weekly Express, "Girls in Factories," 10/26/1897, page 4.

¹⁰ Brazil Daily Times, "New Factory Starts," 7/10/1912, page 1.

¹¹ Laura B. Edge, *We Stand as One: The International Ladies Garment Workers Strike, New York, 1909*, Twenty-first Century Books: Minneapolis, 2011, 47-48, 75-77.

Ehrmann Building

Vigo County, Indiana

Name of Property

County and State

industry and set a precedent that women could organize and affect change, and that all classes could join together for political purposes. On March 25, 1911, a fire began on the eighth floor of the Triangle factory resulting in the deaths of 123 women and girls and 23 men, mostly due to locked and inward facing doors restricting the routes of egress for the workers.¹²

As early as 1891, workers at the Ehrmann factory attempted to form a union but lost their jobs for their actions.¹³ The workers went on strike in 1913 after their pay was reduced by 50 cents per day. Additional reasons for the strike included unsanitary factory conditions and the lack of heat in the winter because management turned off the heat at lunchtime and it was too cold to sew in the early afternoon.¹⁴ The Terre Haute Central Labor Union, organized with the help of native son Eugene V. Debs, endorsed the strike.¹⁵

On January 29, 1913, a group of the striking women traveled to Brazil to ask for their support in the strike. Labor leaders in Brazil supported the Terre Haute strikers as Miss Jacobs of Terre Haute spoke at the Knights of Pythias Hall. None of the women from Brazil attended the meeting. The day before the meeting, Frederick C. Reckert, manager of the plant, held a meeting with the Brazil workers, stating the company's side of the story. According to the Brazil workers, they were making from five to fifteen dollars a week and were not inclined to strike in sympathy with the women in Terre Haute.¹⁶ However, the women in Terre Haute formed picket lines and collaborated with the local Teamsters to harass strike-breakers.

Workers' rights had become a state-wide issue by 1913. General Assembly Representative John J. Keegan introduced a bill to set up a commission to study the working conditions and make recommendations in regard to women and children working in factories. The bill suggested an eight-hour workday for women, restricting child labor to only those aged fourteen and older, improvement of physical conditions in the factories, and a minimum wage. Ada Walton, Ehrmann factory worker and member of the Terre Haute Central Labor Union, testified at the Indiana House of Representatives on January 23, 1913, about conditions at the factory. She reported her average earnings at \$6.53 per week and that management took 30 cents of the pay for use of lights when it became too dark in the factory to work. She reported that workers needed to work five or six hours in their own homes to make clothing appropriate for them to wear to work.¹⁷

Terre Haute women supported the striking workers. The Terre Haute Women's Club paid for Ada Walton and other women to travel to Indianapolis to testify and attend the hearings. At the

¹² Laura B. Edge, *We Stand as One: The International Ladies Garment Workers Strike, New York, 1909*, Minneapolis: Twenty-first Century Books, 2011, 35, 37, 108-109.

¹³ Indianapolis News, 8/11/1891, page 8.

¹⁴ Indianapolis News, "Women Go on Strike," 1/11/1913, page 24.

¹⁵ Indianapolis News, 1/11/1913. Nick Salvatore, *Eugene V. Debs: Citizen and Socialist*, Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1984, page 45.

¹⁶ Brazil Daily Times, "Brazil Girls Balk on Sympathy Strike," 1/30/1913, page 1.

¹⁷ Indianapolis News, "Women Workers at 8-Hour Bill Hearing," 1/24/1913, page 8.

Ehrmann Building

Name of Property

Vigo County, Indiana

County and State

January 23 hearing, Bertha King of the Young Women's Suffrage Club of Terre Haute spoke out against the argument made by factory owners that industry in Indiana would suffer because they wouldn't be able to compete with factories in other states that did not have eight-hour laws.¹⁸ The club women also appointed a committee to urge factory women of each city to send letters to their representatives to weigh-in on the eight-hour law.¹⁹ When John J. Keegan attempted to resign from the General Assembly after his bill was defeated, the club women sent a letter to him approving the stand he took in regard to the eight-hour bill.²⁰

The Ehrmann management responded to the strike in a variety of ways. When the women of the Mattox M. E. church invited management to meet with a committee of the strikers at the church in hopes of an amicable resolution, Frederick A. Reckert, plant manager, declined.²¹ Ehrmann management travelled to Marshall, IL on February 6 and announced that they would move part of their business to Marshall and offered the 50 women who attended the meeting a job, stating that although the starting wage would be low, the women could earn more as they became proficient in their work. Thirty-five women signed agreements to work in the factory.²² Strike breakers were hired to continue manufacturing, eliciting protests from the striking women. In April, three female strike-breakers were accosted on their way home from work by about 20 strikers. They took refuge in a home and the strikers surrounded the house until 9:00 that night. Although the police were called, they refused to interfere since there was no violence being committed other than calling the strike-breakers scabs.²³

Tensions at the Ehrmann Manufacturing Company reached a fever pitch on May 27, 1913 when an altercation between strikers and management culminated with Emil Ehrmann, owner of the factory, shooting and killing Edward Wade, a teamster aiding the striking women. Newspaper accounts following the shooting focused on the demonstration at Wade's funeral by thousands of union laborers and the indictment and trial of Ehrmann.²⁴ In 1914, a jury acquitted Ehrmann of murder charges.²⁵ The murder happened on the sidewalk immediately in front of the factory, as did picketing associated with the strike.

The Ehrmann factory remained in business until 1938.²⁶ Emil Ehrmann moved to Florida after his acquittal and Frederick A. Reckert assumed full management of the factory until his death in 1928. Reckert's son, Frederick C. Reckert, joined the business after graduating from Yale University and remained head of the company until it closed in 1938.

¹⁸ Indianapolis News, "Women Workers at 8-Hour Bill Hearing," 1/24/1913, page 8.

¹⁹ Terre Haute Women's Club Minutes 1907-1913, Ledger 54, page 180, 2/8/1913 meeting, Vigo County Public Library.

²⁰ Terre Haute Women's Club Minutes 1907-1913, Ledger 54, page 182, 2/22/1913 meeting, Vigo County Public Library.

²¹ Brazil Daily Times, "Reckert Declines to Talk," 2/7/1913, page 2.

²² Brazil Daily Times, "Ehrmann to Start Branch Factory," 2/7/1913, page 2.

²³ The Saturday Spectator, "Girl Strike Breakers Besieged," 4/19/13, page 3.

²⁴ The (Muncie) Star Press, "Four Thousand Union Men in Wade Funeral," 6/2/1913, page 5.

²⁵ Terre Haute Daily Tribune, "Ehrmann Given His Release," 10/23/1914, page 1.

²⁶ The Saturday Spectator, 1/28/1939, page 5.

Ehrmann Building
Name of Property

Vigo County, Indiana
County and State

Architecture

The Ehrmann Building is significant because of its Romanesque Revival styling and as one of the few remaining structures designed by Josse A. Vrydagh.

Josse A. Vrydagh was born in Belgium and studied at the Louvain School of Arts (the school name is used in biographies of Vrydagh, however, it is possible that the correct name is Academy of Fine Arts of Louvain). In 1854, he emigrated to the United States with a Phalansterian colony to Dallas, TX and worked as an architect. After four years the colony disbanded. Vrydagh returned to Europe, but came back to the United States in 1863, establishing an office in Terre Haute in 1866. In 1870, he was elected a fellow of the American Institute of Architects. Vrydagh's architectural career extended beyond Terre Haute; In 1874, he was awarded one of the ten premiums for drawings submitted to the competition for Centennial buildings in Philadelphia. The same year, Vrydagh submitted drawings for the new Indiana State House competition. He received an award in 1877 from the Federal Government for plans for a new Patent Office, although the building was never constructed.²⁷

Vrydagh had a thriving practice in Terre Haute and western Indiana. His extant work in Greencastle, Indiana includes the 1871 First National Bank (1 North Indiana Street) and the Williamson's Block (4- 12 East Washington Street).²⁸ He also designed the McJohnston Chapel in Vanderburgh County in 1880. Vrydagh designed the circa 1875 Posey County Courthouse in Mount Vernon, Indiana. Most of the buildings he designed in Terre Haute have been demolished or destroyed, including the Opera House, Old City Hall, Indiana State Normal School, multi-story business blocks at 6th and Wabash Avenues (the Deming and Beach Blocks), district schools, high school, the Terre Haute House and National hotels, St. Joseph and St. Patrick Catholic Churches, and the Hulman Spice Company buildings.²⁹ The Emanuel Lutheran Church (635 Poplar) still stands in the Farrington's Grove Historic District and the Highland Lawn Cemetery Chapel also remains.

Vrydagh designed buildings in a number of contemporary styles throughout his career. The Italianate Posey County Courthouse has Second Empire decorative elements. In Greencastle, the First National Bank was originally of Second Empire design, but the only remaining element from the original are the round-head windows on the second floor. The Williamson block, also in Greencastle, is an Italianate building. The McJohnson Chapel is a small Gothic church. Vrydagh's Highland Lawn Chapel (1893) is in the Romanesque Revival style, however his

²⁷ Terre Haute Saturday Evening Mail, "Death of J. A. Vrydagh," 1/22/1898, page 1. Indianapolis Journal, 1/30/1875, page 3.

²⁸ National Register of Historic Places, Courthouse Square Historic District, Greencastle, Putnam, Indiana. Indianapolis Journal, "Notice to Contractors," 3/28/1870, page 5. Greencastle Banner, "Our New City," 4/1/1875, page 3.

²⁹ Terre Haute Saturday Evening Mail, "Death of J.A Vrydagh," 1/22/1898, page 1.

Ehrmann Building

Name of Property

Vigo County, Indiana

County and State

interpretation of the style on the Ehrmann building is unusually elaborate for a manufacturing facility.³⁰

Romanesque Revival (1850-1890)

The Romanesque Revival style is characterized by massive forms in the style of Romanesque architecture from the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Typical elements include round arches and highly articulated details.³¹ The Ehrmann Building displays these features in the round arch detailing on the parapet wall and third floor windows and in the decorative mullions at both the second and third floors.

The Ehrmann Building may be compared to several properties in Terre Haute. The original site of the factory 124-126 Main Street (Wabash Avenue), was demolished to make way for the Vigo County Jail. The Stahl-Urban factory, formerly located at 920-928 Ohio Street, was demolished in 2012. The factory of Samuel Frank and Sons, overall manufacturer, located at 510-516 Ohio Street now houses the Woodburn Graphics Company. The circa 1891 building has retained its Italianate style. Although Samuel Frank and Sons also manufactured overalls (circa 1911), the Ehrmann Building stands apart from these resources because of its Romanesque Revival styling and as the site of the 1913 strike that helped set the stage for labor reform in Indiana.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

The Ehrmann family were not only industrialists but also artists. Max Ehrmann, brother of Emil, worked briefly at the Ehrmann Manufacturing Company. His passion, however, was philosophy and writing. He is best known for his poem "Desiderata."³² Albert D. Ehrmann, one of the original owners of the factory, created art from a young age. In the 1920s, he studied art in Paris for two years.³³

³⁰ National Register of Historic Places, Highland Lawn Cemetery, Terre Haute, Vigo, Indiana.

³¹ Cyril M. Harris, *Illustrated Dictionary of Historic Architecture*, New York: Dover Publications, 1983, pages 161, 164.

³² Terre Haute Star, "Ehrmann Works Achieving Fame," 12/10/1971, pages 1, 21.

³³ Terre Haute Tribune, "Ehrmann Funeral Held this Afternoon," 8/30/1949, page 1.

Ehrmann Building
Name of Property

Vigo County, Indiana
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Edge, Laura B. *We Stand as One: The International Ladies Garment Workers Strike, New York, 1909*. Minneapolis: Twenty-first Century Books, 2011.

Harris, Cyril M. *Illustrated Dictionary of Historic Architecture*. New York: Dover Publications, 1983.

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory: Vigo County Interim Report. Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1984.

McCormick, Mike. *Terre Haute: Queen City of the Wabash*. Chicago: Arcadia Press, 2005.

National Register of Historic Places, Courthouse Square Historic District, Greencastle, Putnam, Indiana.

National Register of Historic Place, Highland Lawn Cemetery, Terre Haute, Vigo, Indiana.

National Register of Historic Places, Posey County Courthouse Square, Mount Vernon, Posey, Indiana.

Salvatore, Nick. *Eugene V. Debs: Citizen and Socialist*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1984.

Terre Haute Women's Club Minutes Vigo County Public Library.

Newspapers

Brazil Daily Times

Greencastle Banner

Indianapolis News

Muncie Star Press

Terre Haute Daily Wabash Express

Terre Haute Saturday Evening Mail

Terre Haute Saturday Spectator

Terre Haute Semi-Weekly Express

Terre Haute Star

Terre Haute Tribune

Terre Haute Tribune Star

Ehrmann Building
Name of Property

Vigo County, Indiana
County and State

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 167-628-21122

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

Use the UTM system

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 465318 | Northing: 4368646 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Ehrmann Building
Name of Property

Vigo County, Indiana
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary encompasses the property at 929 Wabash Avenue, Terre Haute, Indiana, parcel number 84-06-22-354-005.000-002, and also includes that portion of the public sidewalk in front of 929 Wabash, bordered by lines extending from the east and west property lines to the north edge of the south curb of Wabash Avenue.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the Ehrmann building, and of the site of the significant activity that took place as described in the statement of significance above. The strike, picketing, and murder of Edward Wade occurred on the sidewalk in front of the Ehrmann Building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Rose Wernicke
organization: Consultant
street & number: 447 West 91st Street
city or town: Indianapolis state: IN zip code: 46260
e-mail rdwernicke@yahoo.com
telephone: 317-372-3625
date: 1/21/2020

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Ehrmann Building
Name of Property

Vigo County, Indiana
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Ehrmann Building

City or Vicinity: Terre Haute

County: Vigo

State: Indiana

Photographer: Rose Wernicke

Date Photographed: December 2, 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 28 Looking southwest at the facades of 929 and 925 Wabash Avenue.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0001

2 of 28 Looking south at the facade of 929 Wabash Avenue.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0002

3 of 28 Looking northwest at the east and south elevations.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0003

4 of 28 Looking northeast at the south elevation.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0004

5 of 28 Looking southeast at the west and north elevations.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0005

6 of 28 Looking southeast at the first-floor interior.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0006

7 of 28 Looking northeast at the first-floor interior.

Ehrmann Building

Name of Property

Vigo County, Indiana

County and State

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0007

8 of 28 Looking southwest at the built-in storefronts along the first-floor west wall.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0008

9 of 28 Looking southwest at Coca-Cola Bottling area and the impact of partial height walls and ceiling structure.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0009

10 of 28 Looking northwest in the reception area at the monumental stair circling the totem pole.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0010

11 of 28 Looking northeast in the Soda Fountain. Grinnell Fire Alarm hardware at the upper right.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0011

12 of 28 Looking southeast at the original stair on the first floor.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0012

13 of 28 Looking northeast at the Toledo scale.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0013

14 of 28 Looking northwest in the circa 1960 addition at the original window and door configuration on the south wall.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0014

15 of 28 Looking south at the second-floor interior.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0015

16 of 28 Looking north at the second-floor interior.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0016

17 of 28 Looking northwest at the second-floor and the use of partial-height bulkheads to maintain an open feel to the museum.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0017

18 of 28 Looking southeast at the original fire escape door remaining.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0018

19 of 28 Looking northeast at the second-floor window details along the north wall.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0019

20 of 28 Looking east at the former entrance to the original stair and at the new restroom core on the second floor.

Ehrmann Building

Name of Property

Vigo County, Indiana

County and State

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0020

21 of 28 Looking south at the egress stair in the southwest corner of the building and details of infilled windows on the south wall and remaining star anchors.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0021

22 of 28 Looking southeast at the third-floor interior, remaining wood columns, and changes in floor finish from an earlier floor plan.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0022

23 of 28 Looking south at the third-floor archives area and ceiling structure.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0023

24 of 28 Looking southeast at the auditorium.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0024

25 of 28 Looking southeast at the event space on the third floor.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0025

26 of 28 Looking northwest at the elevator, stair landing, and third-floor window details.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0026

27 of 28 Looking south at the lower level interior.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0027

28 of 28 Looking southeast at the original lower-level stair.

IN_VIGO_EHRMANNBUILDING0028

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Ehrmann Building

929 Wabash Avenue, Putnam County, Terre Haute, IN
Site Plan

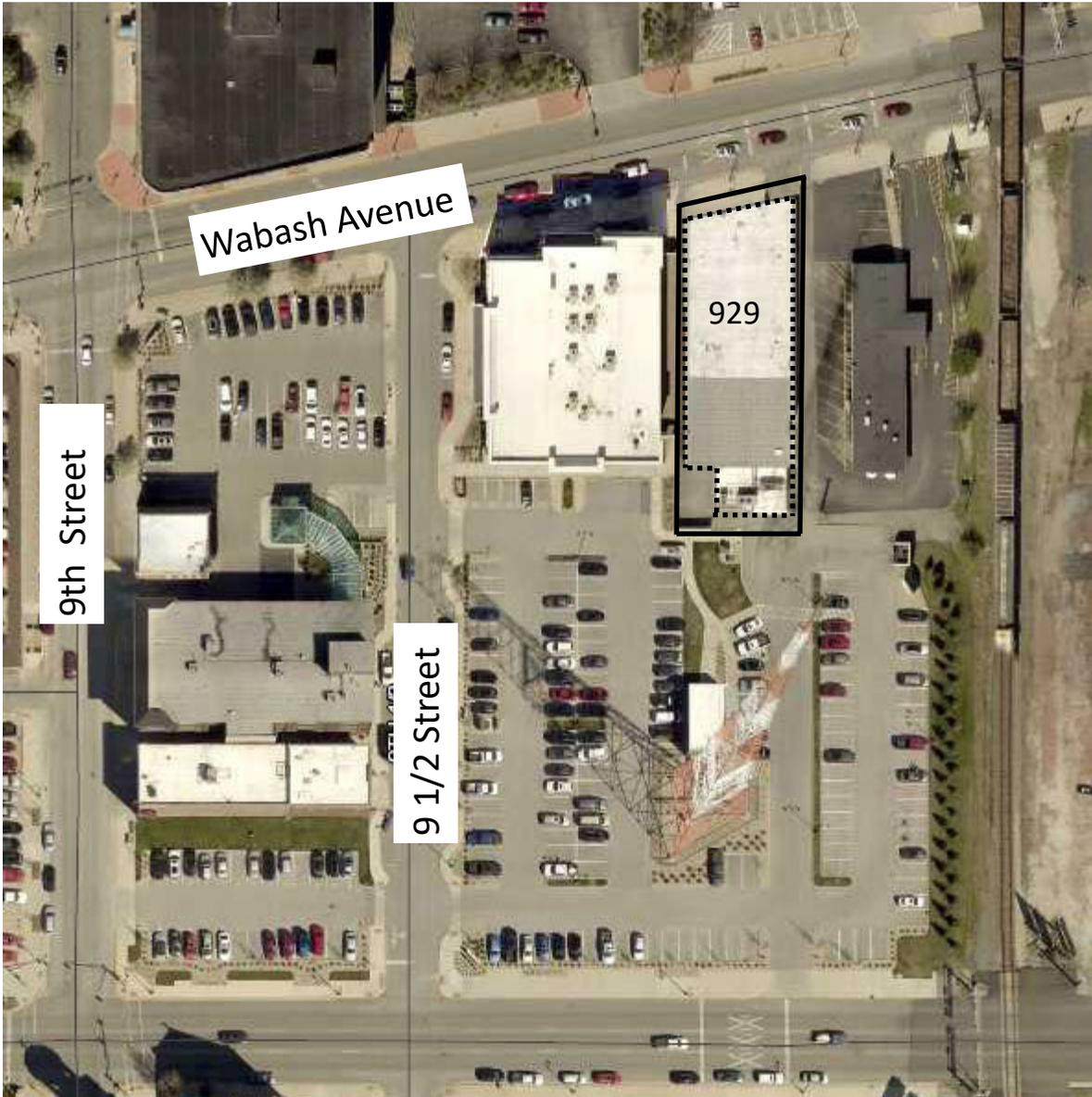


Photo from <https://beacon.schneidercorp.com/?site=VigoCountyIN>.

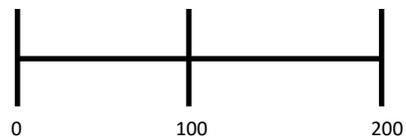
Legend

— Property Boundary

..... Building Outline

929 Wabash is a contributing resource.

Scale (feet)



NORTH



Ehrmann Building

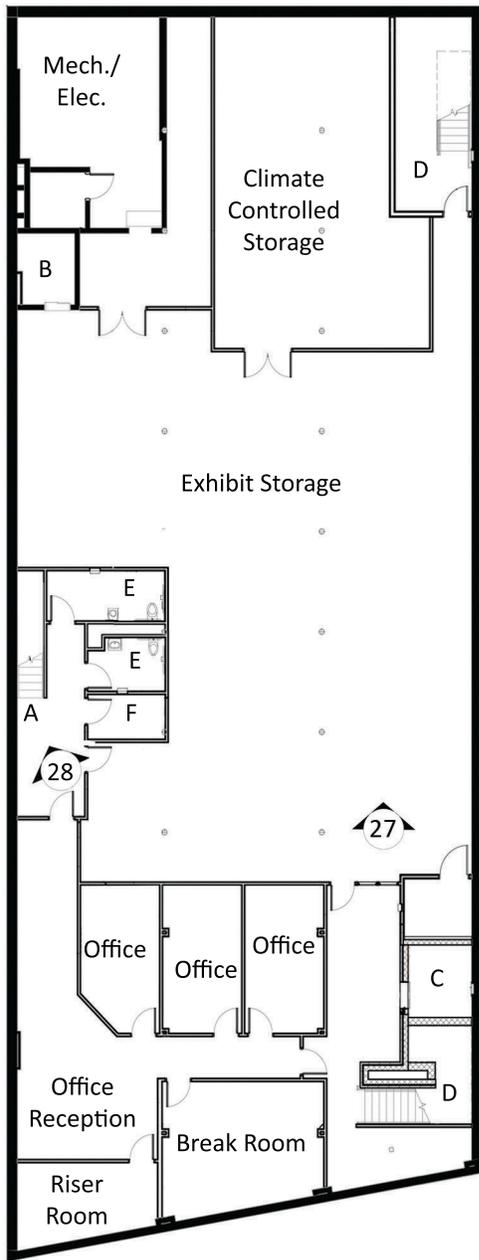
929 Wabash Avenue, Putnam County, Terre Haute, IN

Plans and Photo Key - Lower Level and First Floor

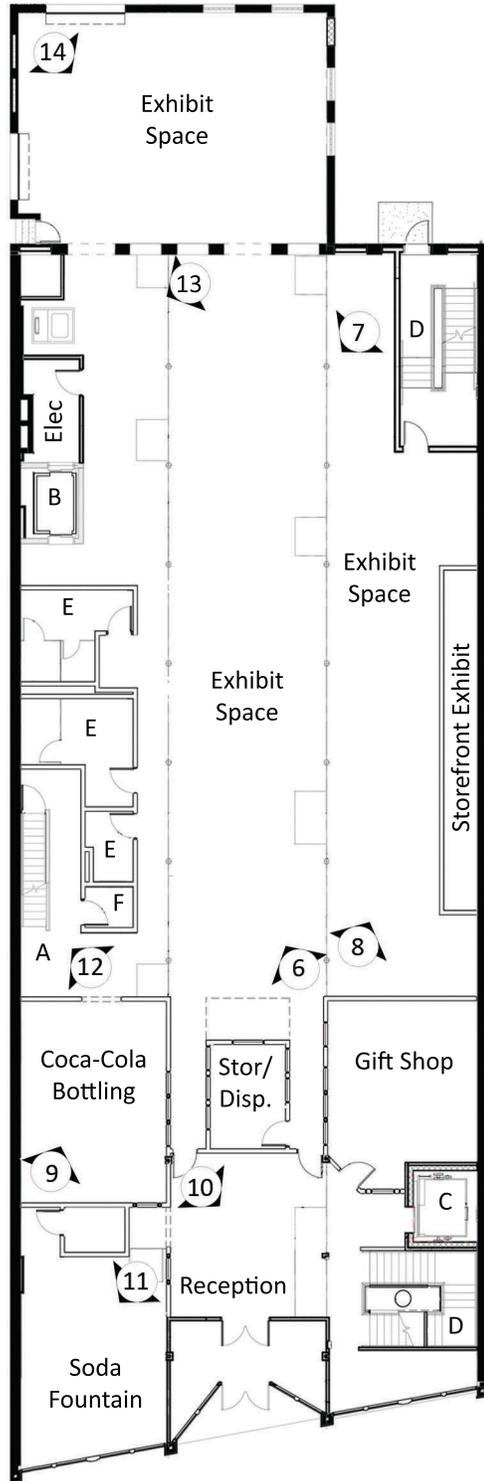
Legend:

- A - Original stairs
- B - 1960s elevator
- C - New elevator
- D - New Stair
- E - Restroom
- F - Custodian

- Original Walls
- New full-height walls
- New partial-height walls
- New partial-height bulkeads
- Original infilled window



Lower Level
Not to Scale



First Floor
Not to Scale



Ehrmann Building

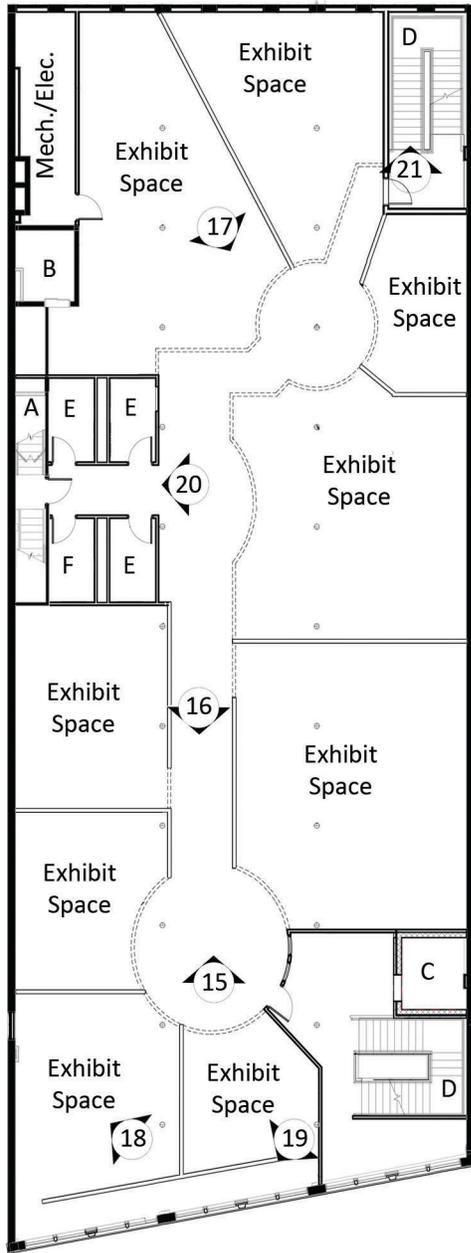
929 Wabash Avenue, Putnam County, Terre Haute, IN

Plans and Photo Key - Second and Third Floors

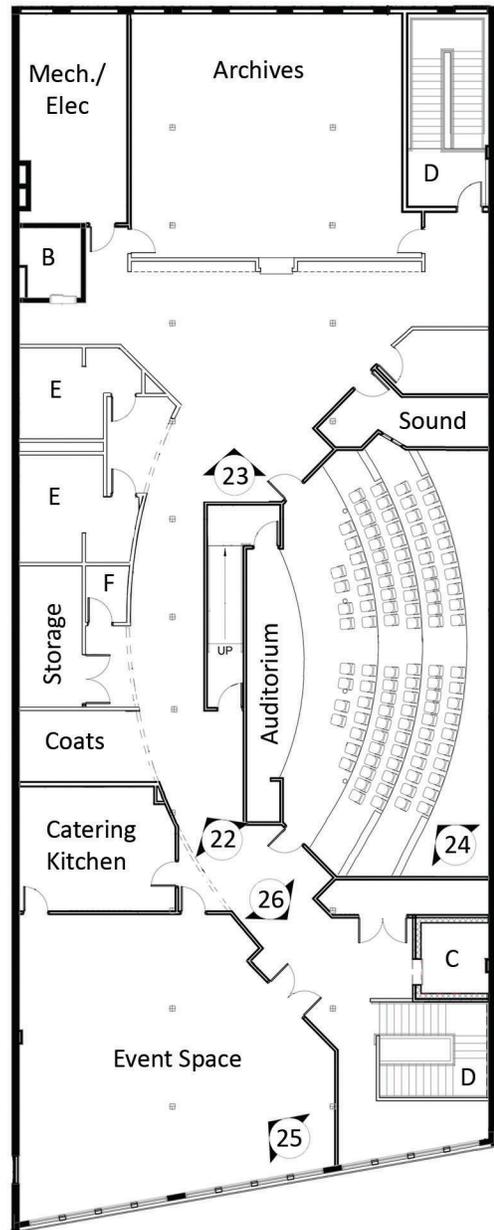
Legend:

- A - Original stairs
- B - 1960s elevator
- C - New elevator
- D - New Stair
- E - Restroom
- F - Custodian

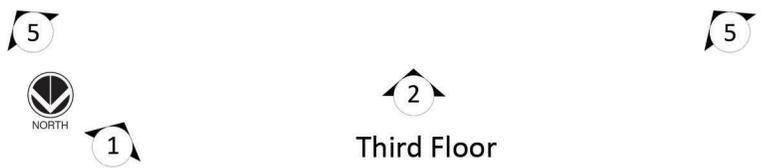
-  Original Walls
-  New full-height walls
-  New partial-height walls
-  New partial-height bulkeads
-  Original infilled window



2
Second Floor
Not to Scale



2
Third Floor
Not to Scale

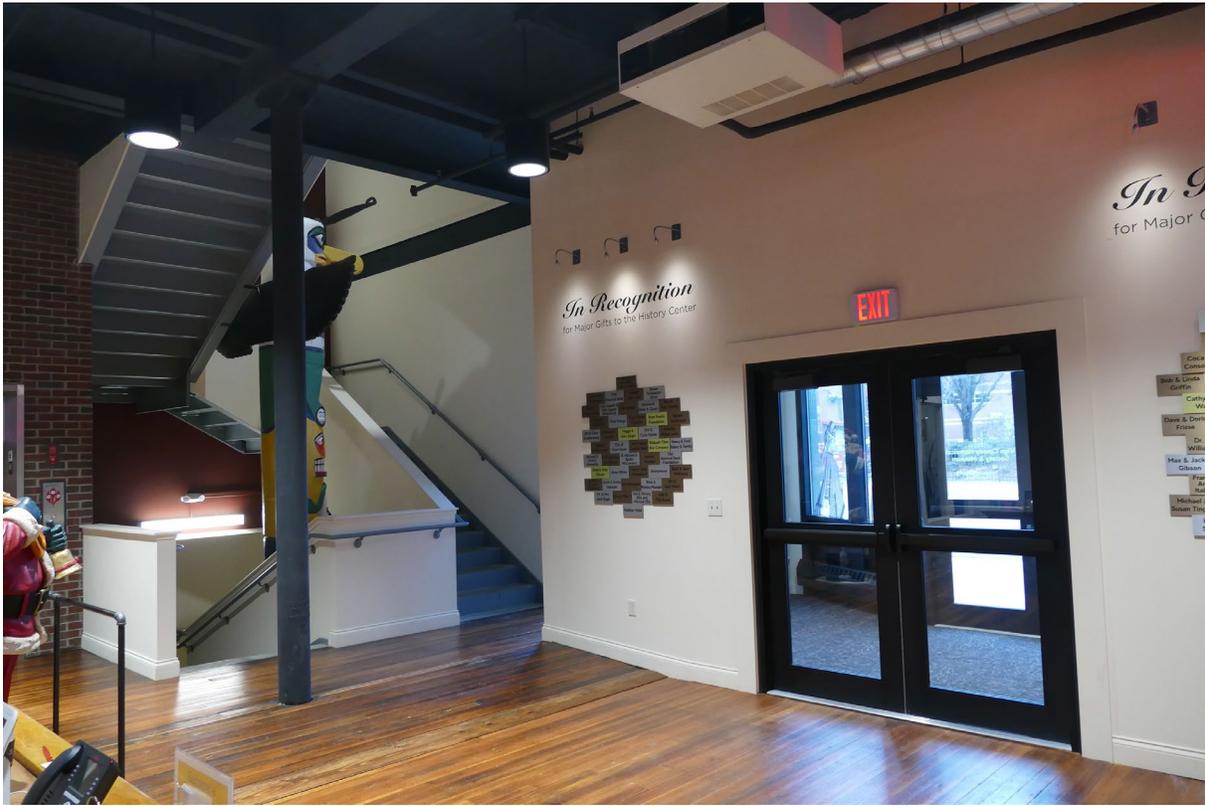




Ehrmann Building, Vigo County, IN photo 0005



Ehrmann Building, Vigo County, IN photo 0003



Ehrmann Building, Vigo County, IN photo 0010



Ehrmann Building, Vigo County, IN photo 0012



Ehrmann Building, Vigo County, IN photo 0019



Ehrmann Building, Vigo County, IN photo 0026