

Wabash Avenue—West Historic DistrictMultiple OwnershipDescription:*Wabash + 6th St.*

The Wabash Avenue—West Historic District contains 23 contributing structures located in the 400-500 blocks of West Wabash Avenue, the first block of South Fifth, and the first block of North Sixth Street. The area straddles the eastern border of Terre Haute's original plat, filed in October, 1876, which extended as far as the west side of Fifth Street. That part of the district which lies east of the original boundary was platted later in the 19th century, with streets laid out as an extension of the original town's rectilinear grid. No original topographical features remain in this completely-developed urban area, and no physical features, other than the street itself, indicate the original town boundary line.

The buildings currently located in the district represent, in most cases, the area's second period of development and date from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Although all were designed for commercial ventures, they vary in size from three to eight stories, and feature a diversity of architectural styles. Renaissance Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, and Romanesque Revival structures are included in the district, with the last being the most prevalent. Notable examples of the Romanesque Revival style include 518 Wabash, (building 136, photo 27), 522 Wabash (building 137, photo 28) and 524 Wabash (building 138, photo 29). Terre Haute's last surviving Second Empire style block is also located in the district, at 425-431 Wabash (building 85-87, photo 23-25), along with an unusual structure of Moorish influence at 408 Wabash (building 126, photo 34). The largest building in the district, the Hotel Deming (building 247, photo 37), features Neo Classical detailing with a Viennese flavor. Designed to accommodate 250 guests, this 1914 building, when compared to some of the much smaller 1870's buildings in the district, illustrate the extent of Terre Haute's rapid growth during the period from 1860 to 1920.

Following are individual descriptions of some of the more notable buildings in the district, with reference numbers indicating the appropriate photograph.

425-429-431 Wabash Avenue

Photos 23, 24, 25
Bldgs. 85, 86, 87

These structures, located at the corner of Wabash and Fifth Street, are Terre Haute's only surviving Second Empire-style commercial blocks. Erected in 1867-68, the buildings are three stories tall with a mansard roof. They originally featured a paneled wooden frieze and decorative brackets but these have been removed from 85 and 86; all have lost their original iron roof cresting and the tall chimneys. The buildings' three Wabash Avenue facades contain retail space on the ground floor. The storefronts of each unit have been altered, but the upper levels of the buildings retain much of their architectural integrity. The westernmost unit, 425 Wabash (85), is brick and features a triple window on the second floor formed by the conjunction of three rounded arch windows separated by pilasters. The heavy hood molds of these windows are joined. On the third floor, this unit features three segmental arched windows with pronounced hoods and bracketed stone sills.

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Detailing in the adjacent unit, 429 Wabash, is identical, although that facade features a stone veneer.

The third unit, 431 Wabash, is located on the corner of Wabash and Fifth Streets, is brick, and features more elaborate detailing. The ground floor of this unit has also been remodeled. The second floor of the Wabash Avenue facade features a single double-hung unit with a classical pediment, while the third floor contains a pair of segmental arched windows with heavy hood molds. The Fifth Street facade has a tripartite design: the center section, three bays wide, is slightly recessed, thus giving the single-bay units on either side the appearance of pavilions. The center section contains flat-headed windows on the second story, with stone sills and hoods with a trefoil motif. Below the sills are paneled stone aprons. The third floor windows have segmental arched tops with stone hoods and console keystones. The flanking pavilions have more elaborate fenestration: each contains, on the second floor level, a double-hung window set into an opening similar to that on the Wabash facade, featuring fluted pilasters, a heavy pediment, and a stone apron. The paired windows on the third floor have segmental arched tops and hood molds with pronounced keystones. A stone string course serves as the sill for these windows. Ornate dormers originally appeared in the mansard over the pavilions, but these have been removed and the windows are now recessed.

Cook, Bell, and Bauermeister Block
421-423 Wabash Avenue

Photo 26, Bldg. 84

This Victorian commercial structure was built in 1890 and survives with a minimum of alterations. It is a three-story structure with a symmetrical main facade, employing an unusual combination of cast-iron and stone. The ground floor contains two retail spaces separated by a center doorway which provides access to the upper floors. These retail spaces originally featured identical cast-iron storefronts; although still intact, one of these was covered over in a recent storefront remodeling. On the second floor, pilasters alternate with engaged Ionic columns to divide the facade into seven bays, each containing a rectangular double-hung, one-over-one window. Fenestration of the third floor is identical to that of the second floor, but pilasters are used exclusively to separate the bays on this level. A rectangular stone panel bearing a floral carving appears just below the center bay on the third floor, while above this bay is a semicircular panel carved with a scroll bearing the construction date of the building, "1890." The pressed metal entablature above the third floor windows includes a plain architrave, a paneled frieze, and a cornice supported by modillions. A parapet wall flanked by consoles, stretches across the middle third of the building above the cornice line. A restaurant currently occupies this building, along with retail shops and professional offices.

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400-406 Wabash

Photo 35, Bldg. 125

This large three-story brick commercial structure at the corner of Fourth Street and Wabash Avenue was built just before the turn of the century. The building was designed by Jupiter G. Vrydagh, one of Terre Haute's most prominent 19th century architects, to replace the Naylor Opera House, which occupied this site until destroyed by a fire in 1896. A Romanesque Revival structure, this building originally housed the Myers Brothers Clothing Store, and since 1926 has been occupied by the Schultz Department Store. Although the ground floor has been altered, the upper stories retain their architectural integrity and feature decorative terra cotta and gauged brick detailing.

The main (south) facade of the building, facing Wabash Avenue, features a symmetrical tripartite design. The center section is divided into six equal bays by pilasters rising from the second floor level. Each bay contains a rectangular window opening on the second floor and a round-arched opening on the third floor level. A projecting hood mold appears above the arcaded third floor windows. Terra cotta panels are used to separate the second floor window openings from those immediately above them, and diaper-patterned terra cotta work is also employed between the third floor window hoods and the entablature.

The entablature features a frieze of terra cotta panels decorated with a guilloche pattern. Gauged brick is used to form a row of dentils above the frieze surmounted, in turn, by a continuous egg-and-dart molding. A metal cornice with a cyma reversa profile completes the entablature. A low brick parapet wall with a limestone cap rises above the cornice to terminate the facade.

The portions of the main facade flanking this center section are identical to each other. On each, the ground floor level has been completely remodeled while the upper stories contain rectangular window openings set in panels framed with egg-and-dart molding. The cornice and parapet wall here are similar to those found on the center section.

The west facade of the building, facing Sixth Street, is less ornate than the main facade and features rectangular windows arranged in pairs and decorated with egg-and-dart and cyma reversa molding. A cyma reversa molding is also used to form the cornice for this facade.

408 Wabash

Photo 34, Bldg. 126

This narrow commercial building is thought to have been designed by J. A. Vrydagh, the father of Jupiter Vrydagh, around 1870. Three stories tall, the structure features a limestone main facade which retains much of the architectural integrity on the upper stories despite a ground floor remodeling. The structure is particularly notable as the only example of Moorish-style architecture in the city.

A 1964 remodeling has left little to indicate the original appearance of the main facade's first floor. The second and third floors, however, are both three bays wide and feature large and unusually-shaped window openings. The center window on the second floor has an ogee-arched top with a vermiculated

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408 Wabash (Continued)

cartouche at its apex. The center window on the third floor features a horseshoe arch with a similar cartouche. The flanking bays on both levels contain slightly narrower horseshoe-arched windows with vermiculated keystones. All of the windows feature heavy hood molds connected by a narrow impost course. Pilasters flank the center bay, and quoins are employed at the corners of the facade. The original frieze has been removed and the cornice has been reduced and simplified.

White Block
426-428 Wabash Avenue

Photo 31 (far right)
Bldg. 133

The White Block, constructed in 1899, is a large Romanesque Revival-style building located at the corner of Fifth Street and Wabash Avenue. The building features pressed brick construction with limestone and terra cotta detailing, and remains relatively intact despite an inappropriate ground floor remodeling. The White Block has been a prominent downtown landmark for the last 80 years, due in part to the domed tower which rises from the northwest corner of the building.

The upper two stories of the Fifth Street facade, which stretches for more than 130', is divided into equal-sized bays by pilasters rising from the limestone belt course at the second floor level. On each floor, each bay contains a pair of double-hung windows in recessed panels separated by wooden mullions. The Wabash Street facade is approximately 41' wide and is likewise divided into bays by pilasters. The center bay of this facade contains a single double-hung window on each floor, while the flanking bays feature paired window units similar to those on the Fifth Street facade. All of these windows feature limestone sills. On both facades, terra cotta panels appear in the frieze area, surmounted by two courses of egg-and-dart molding and a pressed metal cyma recta cornice. Above the cornice is a low brick parapet wall with a stone cap.

The building's distinctive round tower rises from the second floor level of the building's northeast corner. The second story level of this tower contains a pair of rectangular windows, while a pair of rounded-arch windows appear in the tower's third story. All of these windows feature stone sills and gauged brick hood molds. Terra cotta tiles bearing the legend "White" appear in the tower's frieze. The highlight of the tower is the round dome which rises above the building's parapet level. This ribbed metal dome still retains a decorative metal finial at its apex.

The Albrecht Building
518-520 Wabash

Photo 27, Bldg. 136

This five-story Romanesque Revival building was constructed in 1893 by two local merchants, Max Hoberg and Sheldon Swope. It was remodeled six years later according to plans prepared by F. J. Scholtes, a local architect. Since that time, except for a recent remodeling of the ground floor facade,

The Albrecht Building (Continued)

the building has remained intact. The main facade, which faces south onto Wabash Avenue, is four bays wide and features rusticated stone construction. The most prominent feature of the building is the three-story arcade which extends from the second through the fourth floor level. This arcade is composed of massive limestone piers, detailed to resemble columns, linked together by rounded arches above the fourth floor windows. The piers feature battered bases located just above the first floor cornice line, and are faced with alternating blocks of smooth and rock-faced ashlar. Two piers feature foliated capitals; capitals on the remaining piers are plain. Rounded arches above the fourth floor windows link the capitals of the piers, forming the arcade. These arches feature smooth stone voussoirs. On the fifth floor, each bay contains two smaller, round-arched windows separated by a square, battered, smooth stone column with a cushion capital. The arches of the fifth floor windows, like those on the fourth floor, are joined to form an arcade across the facade. Above this is an architrave with cyma recta molding, a cornice with dentils, and a parapet.

522 Wabash Avenue

Photo 28, Bldg. 137

This three-story commercial structure, adjacent to the Albrecht Building, dates from 1890 and is another example of the Romanesque Revival style. Built of pressed red brick with terra cotta detailing, the building has suffered an inappropriate storefront remodeling but retains its architectural integrity on the upper two floors. The second floor level is dominated by a segmental arched opening which stretches across the entire facade. This arch, which features gauged brick with an archivolt of cyma reversa molding, unites three large double-hung windows with transoms. The third floor features three equal-sized, rounded arch windows, arranged in an arcade. The sills of these windows are formed by a limestone string course with brick dentils, and egg-and-dart molding. The rounded hoods feature terra cotta archivolts, and the spandrel area is decorated with terra cotta chequerwork. String courses of molding and dentils are used above the spandrels. The cornice has been removed; a plain brick parapet with tile coping crowns the building.

524 Wabash

Photo 29, Bldg. 138

This four-story commercial building is yet another example of the Romanesque Revival style popular in Terre Haute in the 1890's. Built of pressed red brick with terra cotta detailing, this building, too, has been altered on the ground floor level. The building is divided into three bays by the two-story brick piers which rise from the second floor. These piers feature foliated terra cotta capitals which serve as the imposts for the rounded arches which form an arcade over the third floor windows. The fourth floor features a similar arcade, supported by squat, battered, terra cotta pilasters which flank each of the windows on this level. A foliated terra cotta frieze appears just below the subdued cornice. Slender bartizans appear at the extreme eastern and western edges of the building, extending vertically from the middle of the third floor level to a point just above the cornice. The finials, banding, and other decorative elements used on the bartizans are all terra cotta and employ either a cable or a floral design motif.

Koopman Building
32-34 N. 6th Street

No Photo, Bldg. 239

The Koopman Building, built in 1875, is a three-story brick Italianate structure located at the southwest corner of Sixth and Cherry Streets. The ground floor of the east facade has been remodeled, and the original cast-iron pilasters have been covered over, but the upper two floors remain unaltered. Both the second and the third floors contain seven equal bays, each featuring a large double-hung window with a stone sill and a pressed metal hood. The building also features an elaborate pressed metal entablature, including a paneled frieze, a cornice with dentils, and large decorative brackets. The Koopman Building currently houses a barber shop, a loan company, and an office supply store.

Blumberg Building
526 Wabash Avenue

Photo 30, Bldg. 139

This three-story structure, built around 1915, is a combination of Classical Revival and Chicago School elements. The ground floor has been altered and now contains large display windows and a recessed entrance. The upper two floors, both two bays wide, feature stone piers and very large, Chicago-style windows. The piers feature narrow stone capitals at the third floor lintel level, which support egg-and-dart labels over the third floor transoms. The frieze, which formerly carried the name "Blumberg," now features only the two rosette paterae which formerly flanked the legend. Above the frieze is a classical cornice embellished with dentils and modillions, and surmounting the cornice is a low parapet.

Significance:

The Wabash Avenue—West Historic District is significant architecturally for its fine collection of commercial architecture in a variety of late 19th and early 20th century styles. The area includes the city's only examples of Second Empire and Moorish commercial architecture, as well as Italianate, Romanesque Revival, Renaissance Revival, and Chicago style commercial structures. Comprising what is probably the largest concentration of historic commercial architecture in the city, this district remains a viable part of Terre Haute's downtown area.

The Wabash Avenue—West Historic District straddles the original eastern boundary of Terre Haute, now known as Fifth Street. Developed along with the original downtown plat, this district is among the oldest areas of the city, with initial development dating back to the 1820's. Early histories indicate that the area originally saw mixed use as both a commercial and residential area. Later in the 19th century, however, as Terre Haute began to grow at a frenetic pace, this area grew to be almost purely commercial in nature. By the end of the 19th century, it had become the center of Terre Haute's central business district, and its buildings housed a large number of the city's finest retail establishments and professional offices, as well as one of the city's leading hotels. Throughout the 20th century, this area has escaped the demolition common in other parts of the downtown, and continues to retain its original professional office/retail character.

Significance (Continued)

Architecturally, this district is one of the richest areas in the city, containing a varied collection of late 19th and early 20th century structures. Unique among these are 425-431 W. Wabash, and 408 W. Wabash; the former, thought to be the oldest structure in the district, is Terre Haute's only surviving Second Empire style commercial block, while the latter is an unusual example of Moorish-inspired, 19th century architecture, with exotically shaped window openings and elaborate hood molds. Best represented in the district is the Romanesque Revival style, with more than half a dozen examples, including the Albrecht Building (photo 27), 426-428 Wabash, with its prominent corner dome, and 524 W. Wabash (photo 29) with its interesting bartizans. The landmark Hotel Deming, one of the latest buildings in the district, illustrates the Viennese Neo-Classical School, while the Renaissance Revival style is represented by the Cook, Bell, and Bauermeister Block (photo 26), with its stone and cast-iron facade. Other buildings in the district include examples of the Italianate (15 S. 5th Street, 30-34 W. 6th Street), 19th century commercial (526-528 W. Wabash) and Spanish Colonial Revival styles (20-26 N. 6th).

The only non-contributing elements located in this district are one parking lot and one Italianate structure that has suffered significant alterations. Several other buildings in the district have been remodeled to a lesser degree, but in most cases these were ground floor storefront alterations that could be reversed. As the city's largest and most diverse collection of 19th century commercial architecture, this district remains one of Terre Haute's most important cultural resources.

Geographical Data

Acreage: Approximately 6

Quad: Terre Haute, Indiana 1:24000

UTM References: A 16/464520/4368530
B 16/464800/4368530
C 16/464800/4368370
D 16/464520/4368360

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the northeast corner of the property located at 21-35 N. Sixth Street (247); proceeding south along the east property line of this property to the alley between Cherry Street and Wabash Avenue; then west along the northern edge of this alley to the north extension of the east property line of the property located at 526-528 Wabash (139); then south along this line to Wabash Avenue (thus excluding the building at 530 Wabash Avenue); then west along the north edge of Wabash Avenue to Fifth Street; then south along the western curblineline of Fifth Street to the alley between Wabash and Ohio Street; then west along the north edge of this alley to the alley located between Fourth and Fifth Streets; then north along the eastern edge of this alley to Wabash Avenue; then west along the northern curblineline of Wabash Avenue to Fourth Street;

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then north along the eastern curblin of Fourth Street to the alley located between Cherry Street and Wabash Avenue; then east along the southern edge of this alley across Fifth to the alley located between Fifth and Sixth Streets; then north along the eastern edge of this alley to Cherry Street; then east along the south curblin of Cherry Street to the north extension of the east property line of the property located at 31-35 N. Sixth Street; then south along this line to the point of beginning.

West Wabash District Building Inventory

<u>Building Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Building Name</u>
83	417-419 Wabash	
84	421-423 Wabash	Cook, Bell, and Bauermeister Bl.
85	425 Wabash	
86	429 Wabash	
87	431 Wabash	
125	400-406 Wabash	
126	408 Wabash	
127	410 Wabash	
128	412 Wabash	
129	416 Wabash	
130	418 Wabash	
131	420 Wabash	
132	422-424 Wabash	Intrusion
133	426-428 Wabash	White Block
134	508-510 Wabash	
135	512-514 Wabash	
136	518-520 Wabash	Albrecht Building
137	522 Wabash	
138	524 Wabash	
139	526 Wabash	Blumberg Building
223	431 Wabash	
238	20-26 N. 6th	Chanticleer Building
239	32-34 N. 6th	Koopman Building
247	21-35 N. 6th	Hotel Deming
	500 Wabash	Parking Lot (Intrusion)