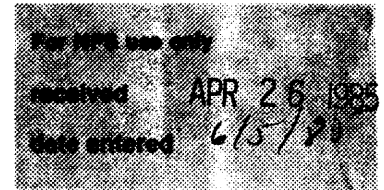


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Historic Resources of

Continuation sheet Downtown South Bend

Item number

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Knights of Pythias Lodge
224 W. Jefferson
141-56112-598
d. 1922

OWNER: Mr. Peter Helmschrott
Helmschrott Management Service
224 W. Jefferson
South Bend, Indiana 46601

Description:

Photo #22; Building #12

The Knights of Pythias Building is located at the southeast corner of Jefferson and Lafayette Streets. The seven-story brick commercial structure with terra-cotta trim has classical revival elements.

The main, or north, facade and the east facade of the building are each five bays wide, the two end bays projecting slightly above the first floor. The first floor of the main facade is of terra-cotta blocks and now contains modern storefronts. The upper floors are of brick with terra-cotta string courses separating the sixth and seventh floors.

The seventh floor windows differ from the simple one-over-one, double-hung paired windows of the lower floors in that they are multi-paned casements with elaborate terra-cotta trim. The three center windows of the seventh floor have dentiled cornices in contrast to the two end windows, which are topped by pediments and urns and have wide panels decorated with classical foliage.

A wide terra-cotta cornice line with a denticulated frieze projects above the seventh floor windows. The parapet roof line has a terra-cotta cap.

Significance:

Built in 1922, the Knights of Pythias Building was designed by W. W. Schneider and N. Roy Shambleau, prominent local architects. Upon its completion, the South Bend Knights of Pythias Building was reportedly the largest lodge building in the "supreme domain," as well as the largest lodge building in South Bend. The Crusade Lodge occupied the upper two floors, only, and leased the first five floors as office space. Among the tenants of the lower floors were the District Prohibition Office and the Federal Court. In 1935, the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company foreclosed on a \$120,000 bond and remained owners of the building until 1943.

The Knights of Pythias Building is an excellent example of a blend of a Chicago School structure with classical revival elements applied. The tripartite construction of base, shaft, capital is easily distinguished. The first floor, or base, is of terra-cotta blocks with large display windows; the middle five floors, or shaft, is simple with few details; and the seventh floor, or capital, of the building is much more elaborate with the use of terra-cotta trim and applied forms.

The only change to the exterior of the building is the replacement of all the original window frames with aluminum, except for the seventh floor windows, which are original. The majority of the original interior features are gone due to various renovations over the years.

UTM Reference: 16/562180/4613710

Acreage: Less than one acre

Legal:

West 1/2 of Lot 270 and North 1/2 of West 1/2 of Lot 269 Original
Plat of South Bend

Parcel #18-3007-0216