

Star Building
601-603 Ohio Street
d. 1912

Owner: Charles Newlin
601-603 Ohio Street
Terre Haute, IN 47807

Description:

Photo #2, Bldg. #45

The Star Building, located at the southwest corner of Sixth and Ohio Streets, is a four-story brick structure with limestone and terra cotta detailing. Constructed in 1912 to house the city's morning newspaper, the Terre Haute Star, the building exhibits some of the design elements normally associated with Chicago School architecture.

The Star Building is rectangular in plan, and features a continuous stone foundation. The main (north) facade, facing Ohio Street, is divided into three bays by brick piers which extend from the foundation wall to the roof. These piers feature limestone bases, terra cotta ornamentation just above the first floor level, and decorative brick and terra cotta detailing just below the cornice. The easternmost ground floor bay contains the main entry; all upper story bays in this facade contain large windows with terra cotta sills. A large cyma recta molding of terra cotta appears between the first and second floor, and a pressed metal, flush cornice is used to crown the building. The cornice features decorative rounded arches containing stylized pendants over each pier. The seven-bay western facade, facing Sixth Street, is similar in composition to the north facade with the exception of doorway location. Within the last few years, a metal awning was added over the first floor at the northwest corner of the building, sheltering modified windows, but no other exterior alterations have been made.

Significance:

The Star Building is historically significant as the home of one of the city's most influential newspapers, the Terre Haute Star. The Star is the descendant of Terre Haute's first daily, the Wabash Daily Express, which commenced publication on May 12, 1851. The paper was later purchased by George F. McCulloch, a wealthy Indianapolis traction magnate and promoter. McCulloch, who already owned two other newspapers, the Indianapolis Star and the Muncie Star, renamed the paper the Terre Haute Morning Star. John C. Shaffer purchased the Morning Star in 1903 and changed the paper's name to the Terre Haute Star. In 1912 Shaffer constructed this building to house the newspaper's operations, mounting the presses so that they could be viewed by the public through one of the Sixth Street windows. The paper remained in this building until 1937, when the Tribune Publishing Company purchased the Star, and moved the operation to the Tribune Building at 721 Wabash Avenue. The Star Building now houses a real estate agency and the local Indiana State Employment Security Division office.

Geographical Data

Acreage: Less than one acre

UTM Reference: 16/464760/4368280

Boundary: Map #1806-21, Block #479, Parcel #001