

Citizens' Trust Company Building  
19-21 S. Sixth Street  
d. 1921

Owner: Sunset Harbor, Inc.  
19 S. Sixth Street  
Terre Haute, Indiana

Description:

Photo #16, Bldg. #237

The Citizens' Trust Company Building is a large, Chicago-style building located in downtown Terre Haute. A rectangular plan structure twelve stories in height, the building is constructed of brick with stone and terra cotta detailing. Its builders unabashedly proclaimed it "Terre Haute's most elite office building" when it was completed in 1921, and the structure still houses the offices of some of the city's most important businessmen.

The first two stories of the building are faced with smooth stone ashlar. On the east (main) facade, the ground floor originally contained a large round-arched entry bay flanked by flat-headed windows and roundels. A later remodeling has resulted in the present arrangement, featuring a wide, two-story, flat-headed center bay containing the main entry, flanked by two similar but much narrower bays containing secondary entrances. Art Deco grillwork is used in these openings over the doorways. A molded terra cotta cornice separates these first two floors from the brick third story which, in both the east and the north facades, features rectangular, three-over-three, double-hung windows separated by large terra cotta panels decorated with a diamond motif. Two molded terra cotta belt courses appear over the third floor. Floors four through ten are identical with three-over-three, double-hung windows in each bay. A belt course of molded terra cotta appears over the tenth floor. On floors eleven and twelve, the areas between the windows are treated as pilasters, with terra cotta bases and capitals that visually support an arcade of compound arches over the twelfth floor, rounded-arch windows. Terra cotta roundels appear in the spandrel areas, and the surmounting classical entablature features terra cotta architrave molding, modillions, palmette antefixae, and a projecting cornice.

Significance:

The Citizens' Trust Building is architecturally significant as a good local example of an early 20th century skyscraper office building. Twelve stories in height, it continues to be Terre Haute's tallest building, a title it has claimed since its completion in January, 1922. Now called the Sycamore Building, it currently houses a variety of professional offices.

When constructed, this building housed the main offices of one of Terre Haute's largest banks, the Citizens' Trust Company. It was completed in only eleven months at a cost of \$138,000, and featured two, high-speed elevators and an immense steel vault. Built of brick around a skeletal steel frame, with stone and terra cotta ornamentation, the building is an excellent example of the Neo-Classic design, as adapted to high-rise buildings in the early 20th century.

Geographical Data

Acreage: Less than one acre

UTM Reference: 16/464720/4368360

Boundary: Map #1806-21, Block #476, Parcel #017