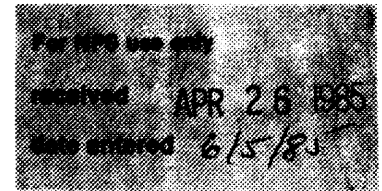


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet Historic Resources of Item number Page 59
Downtown South Bend

The Tower Building
216 W. Washington
141-56344-598
d. 1929

OWNER: Ralph Long, Vice President
Tower Federal Savings & Loan
Association
216 West Washington
South Bend, Indiana 46601

Description:

Photo #71, 73: Building #38

The Tower Building is located on Washington mid-block between Michigan and Lafayette Streets in the West Washington National Register Historic District. The 12-story skyscraper Gothic structure is faced with terra-cotta and marble on the north and east facades, and brick on the south and west facades. The first two floors of the structure are treated as its base. The main entrance on the Washington Street facade, which extends the height of both floors, is a round-arched opening. The doorway has a bronze spandrel topped by Gothic motifs and a diamond paned window in the tripartite round arch of the tympanum. The third floor acts as a transitional floor from the base to the pier-and-spandrel construction of the upper floors with a perpendicular style, false arcaded loggia. The 10th and 11th floors form the capital of the building: gargoyles are located on three corners of the 10th floor, the 11th and 12th floors are set back with chamfered corners, and a crenelated roof tops the building.

Significance:

The 1929 Tower Building was designed by the local firm of Austin and Shambleau and constructed by H. G. Christman & Company. The skyscraper Gothic structure is the only one of its kind in South Bend and was the first building to reach the height limit set by the South Bend building code.

Constructed for the Building and Loan Association, which was the oldest association of its kind in Northern Indiana, the building was originally called the Building and Loan Association. Within a few years, however, the common name of the building, "Tower," had become so widely used that both the building and the Savings and Loan Association names were officially changed to Tower.

The Tower Building is a significant example of the influence of the Chicago Tribune Tower competition. Although the South Bend Tower is not a true skyscraper, the influence of the skyscraper Gothic is readily apparent in the configuration and ornamentation of the structure. The Tower Building remained the tallest building in South Bend until 1969-1970, when the 25-story American National Bank Building was built.

UTM Reference: 16/562200/4613880

Acreeage: Less than one acre

Legal:

48 feet East end Lot 258, Original Plat of South Bend, and
West 1/2 vacated alley east and adjacent
Parcel #18-3006-0171