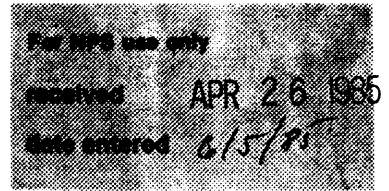


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Historic Resources of

Continuation sheet Downtown South Bend

Item number

Page 16

Commercial Building
226 W. Colfax
141-56044-598
d. 1922

Owner: Mr. Joseph Szalay
226 W. Colfax
South Bend, Indiana 46601

Description:

Photo #11; Building #6

The small, two-story commercial structure is flanked by the seven-story I & M Building (Building #4) on the east and the three-story Berteling Building (Building #7) on the west. The red brick building has cream color terra-cotta trim. A large decorative panel of Sullivan-esque design dominates the cornice line with its terra-cotta cap. Four double-hung windows have a unifying terra-cotta band directly under the sills and a second band above the windows.

Significance:

This small commercial structure at 226 W. Colfax was built in 1921-1922 for two sisters, Edythe J. and Gertrude J. Brown. Edythe J. Brown was a local educator who began her teaching career in 1896 in South Bend. She was later principal of Franklin, Coquillard, Kaley, and Marquette Schools and served as president of the National Education Association, Elementary Division, in 1936. In 1920 she wrote the Story of South Bend, a small, 78-page book that was used to teach local history in the schools. One of South Bend's grade schools was later named for her.

The building was designed by Walter W. Schneider, a local architect who had moved to South Bend in 1896 after beginning his career in Chicago with the well-known Chicago school architect, Richard Schmidt. The influences of Schneider's early training in the Chicago school of architecture are apparent in the treatment of the windows and the terra-cotta trim. Although the small commercial structure is similar in size and scale to other commercial buildings in South Bend, it is unique because of the large, Sullivan-esque terra-cotta panel that dominates the front (north) facade, the only example of this kind of detailing in the city.

Several small commercial enterprises have occupied this structure which has been well-maintained. The building has retained most of its integrity, both interior and exterior, with changes only in the display window and entrance, possibly in the 1960's.

UTM Reference: 16/562170/4614040

Acreeage: Less than one acre

Legal:

Lot 6 and 21' midpoint Lot 4 Knoblock's Sub of Original plat
245-246

Parcel #18-1012-0470