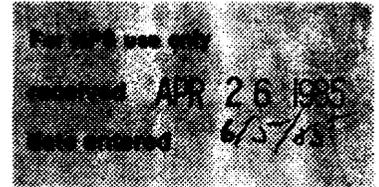


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Historic Resources of
Downtown South Bend

Continuation sheet

Item number

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LaSalle Annex
306 N. Michigan
141-56190-598
d. 1925

OWNER: Jim Gibson
Gibson-Lewis, Inc.
1001 W. 11th Street
Mishawaka, Indiana 46544

Description:

Photo #62; Building #33

The LaSalle Annex sits on the northeast corner of LaSalle and Michigan Streets on the west bank of the St. Joseph River. The irregular plan building, which sites diagonally across from the LaSalle Hotel, is of reinforced concrete, stone, and brick.

The Michigan Street (west) facade is six bays wide. Each bay contains a storefront flanked by brick piers on the first floor and three double-hung, six-over-one windows on both the second and third floors.

The LaSalle Avenue (south) facade is eight bays wide and treated similarly to the Michigan Street facade; however, since the ground slopes toward the river, the LaSalle Avenue side becomes four stories high. As on the west facade, the first level contains store fronts separated by brick piers. The second level, which is on the height of the first floor of the west facade, contains large, plate glass windows, while the upper floors are lighted by double-hung, six-over-one windows. On the east end of the south facade an Italianate tower serves as the main entrance to the building. The doorway is surrounded by a large, two-story, round-arch stone surround with a tripartite window tympanum surmounted by a large keystone. The top floor of the tower contains a round-arched window. Adjoining the end bay is the entrance to the parking garage.

The architectural ornamentation of the structure is fairly simple and consists of a variety of brick bonds on the tower, stone capitals on the brick piers, and two projecting string courses.

Significance:

The LaSalle Annex is located on a site that played a major role in the settlement of South Bend. The site of Alexis Coquillard's trading post which was built in 1823, it is also the location of the first ferry crossing in South Bend (1831), a crossing that would later become the location of the LaSalle Street Bridge.

Built in 1925, the LaSalle Annex was designed by Willard M. Ellwood, a local architect who designed the Hoffman Hotel, erected in 1930 (see #20). The concept of the LaSalle Annex, that of a multi-use building, was unique to South Bend in 1925. The building contained stores, a parking garage, hotel rooms, bachelor apartments, offices, and large recreation facilities which included a roller rink, dance floor, and bowling alley. The hotel also featured a Turkish (Russian) Bath on the river level.

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The LaSalle Annex was built by Jacob Hoffman, manager of the LaSalle Hotel, and L. F. Allardt. Hoffman and Allardt hired local builders and craftsmen to construct and furnish the hotel. These included Hay-Weaver Construction; Kawneer Brothers, suppliers of the storefront; Robert Greening, a painter and decorator; and the General Mercantile Furniture Company.

In addition to being a unique multi-use building, the construction of the LaSalle Annex played a major role in the modern development of the edge of the central business district. Built originally as an annex to the LaSalle Hotel, the structure became the second of three hotels built at the intersection to serve the South Shore station which was located across the street.

The LaSalle Annex, which has had several minor alterations over the years to the storefronts and upper windows, is currently undergoing restoration, and has received preliminary certification from the National Park Service.

UTM Reference: 16/562430/4614240 Acreage: Less than one acre

Legal: Lots 110-111 Original Plat of South Bend
Parcel #18-1003-0113