

Carr's Hall  
329-333 Walnut Street  
d. 1857

Owner: Paul & Mildred Trotzke  
333 Walnut Street  
Terre Haute, IN 47807

Description:

Photo #1, Bldg. #28

Carr's Hall, one of Terre Haute's oldest buildings, is a two-story brick commercial structure located at the southwest corner of Fourth and Walnut Streets. The building is Italianate in design and has a rectangular plan and a flat roof. The main (north) facade, which faces Walnut Street, contains the majority of the building's decorative elements. Most significant of these is the cast-iron storefront on the ground floor of this facade, which is highlighted by square pilasters with elaborate foliated capitals. The second floor level of this facade is composed of six equal bays, each containing an identical two-over-two, double-hung window. These windows have cast-iron sills and elaborate pedimented window surrounds with label stops. Over each of these windows, just below the frieze area, is a foliated, cast-iron attic vent. Surmounting the vents is a narrow frieze decorated with dentils and elaborate brackets which support the projecting cornice.

The east facade, which faces Fourth Street, lacks the detailing found on the north side of the building. Both levels on the east facade were originally comprised of nine equal-sized bays, each containing a rectangular door or window, with simple cast-iron sills and lintels. Many of these have been filled in with brick, as have all of the window openings in the west facade. The other major exterior alteration to the building is located in the northwest corner, where structural repair work was done at the expense of one ground floor pilaster and one second-floor window hood.

Significance:

Carr's Hall is significant architecturally as a good representative example of a brick commercial structure with cast-iron detailing—an important type in Terre Haute's heritage. The building is also significant for its historical use as a meeting place for various religious, social, and cultural groups since the mid-19th century.

The building was constructed in 1857 by Moses Carr, who used the ground floor as a grocery and drygoods store. The large hall on the second floor was quickly rented by Walker Hegeman, who, in December, 1857, opened it as Terre Haute's first theater. Competition with a second theater, opened less than a year later, caused both establishments to close by March, 1859. In later years the hall was used by a succession of different religious groups, prior to their constructing their own churches, and it was also the site of various social events.

Architecturally, the building is an early example of the Italianate style, and features elaborate window moldings and a large decorative cornice. Unlike many later commercial buildings in the city, the main facade of Carr's Hall has been spared extensive storefront remodelings and retains its original cast-iron pilasters. The building is thought to be the oldest commercial structure remaining in the city.

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Building #28, Continued

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Geographical Data

Acreeage: Less than one acre

UTM Reference: 16/464500/4368180

Boundary: Block 461, Parcel 012, Map #1806-21