

Chamber of Commerce Building
627 Cherry
d. 1925

Owner: Harry and Norma Miller
627 Cherry
Terre Haute, Indiana

Description:

Photo #12, Bldg. #158

The Chamber of Commerce Building is a Jacobethan Revival commercial block built in 1925. The building is two stories tall and has a rectangular plan and a flat roof. Originally built to house the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce and other retail activity, the building now contains a variety of enterprises, including a radio station, a Christian Science reading room, and an armed forces recruiting station.

The north facade, facing Cherry Street, contains the bulk of the building's architectural detailing, and features brown brick construction with limestone detailing and a green tile facade roof. This facade contains a total of ten bays; two of these are gabled pavilions containing entry doors leading to staircases to the second floor, while the other eight bays contain individual storefronts. Counting from the west (right), the fourth bay contains the main entry pavilion, which features a double door surmounted by a Tudor arched transom, enframed with limestone. Brass lamps flank this doorway, and a large brass plaque overhead bears the legend, "Chamber of Commerce." Gauged brickwork in a repeating diamond pattern appears between this plaque and the paired windows on the second floor. The gable area contains a diamond-shaped vent framed in stone. The narrower, ninth bay, the location of the second pavilion, contains another entry door in a rounded arch opening enframed in stone, and features a rounded arch attic vent in the gable area. The eight bays containing storefronts are delineated by brick piers, and each features a large display window and an entry door located below a wide stone Tudor arch. On the second floor level, each bay contains three rectangular windows with stone sills. Small piers with foliated capitals separate adjacent windows, while the larger piers separating the bays are capped with molded stone pinnacles, each bearing a cartouche decorated with a fleur-de-lis. The building's end piers feature pinnacles and decorative mock chimney pots, and the two end gables are shaped and feature stone coping.

Significance:

The Chamber of Commerce Building is architecturally significant as an illustration of the Jacobethan Revival style as applied to commercial architecture. Distinctive for its arcade of Tudor arches, projecting piers and pavilions, and sculptured pinnacles, the building is a unique and highly intact local example of its style. The building is well known locally because of its unusual architecture, and because of its former role as the headquarters of the local Chamber of Commerce.

Geographical Data

Acreeage: Less than one acre

UTM Reference: 16/464840/4368510

Boundary: Map #1806-21, Block #432, Parcel #003, #004