

A. HISTORIC NAME Fellwock Automobile Company Garage B. COUNTY Vanderburgh C. NUMBER 82-196-00134
D. ADDRESS 315 Court Street E. TWP/CITY Pigeon F. QUAD NAME Evansville South
RATING Outstanding Significant/Notable Contributing/Reference Non-Contributing UTM REFERENCES 16 4491640 4202840

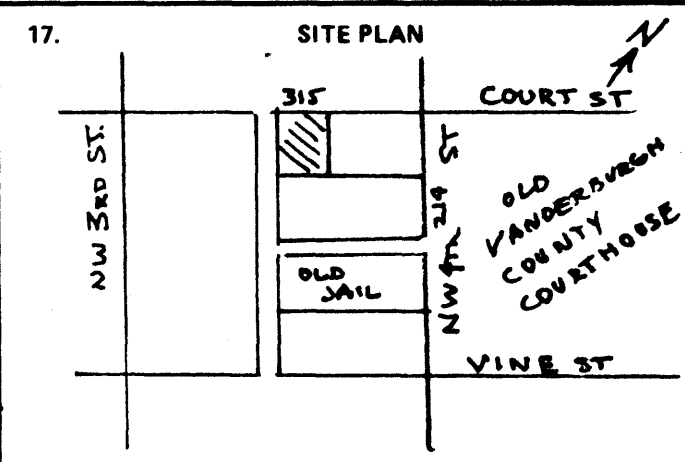
STATE OF INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES INDIANA HISTORIC SITES AND STRUCTURES INVENTORY REVISED 1981

MOUNT CONTACT PRINTS HERE

1. COMMON NAME Glass Specialty
2. OWNERSHIP Public * Private
3. VISIBLE * Yes No
4. PROPERTY'S MAILING ADDRESS Sarah C. & Paul Thole
c/o 214 NW Fourth Street
Evansville, Indiana 47708
5. LOCATION NOTES Rear part Donation Enlargement
lot 169

6. USE PRESENT PAST PRESENT PAST
Residence Military
Govt./Pol. Entertainment
Commerce Scientific
Industrial Religious
Agriculture Park
Transportation Museum
Organization Educational
Other
7. ENDANGERED
 Vacant
 Neglected
 Encroachment
 Other
8. CATEGORY
 District
 Building(s)
 Structure
 Site
 Object
9a. LOCAL LEGAL PROTECTIONS
 Historic District
 Landmark
 Deed Restriction
 Other
9b. SURVEYS
SR NR NHL HABS HAER

10. CONDITION
 Excellent
* Good
 Fair
 Deteriorated
 Ruins
11. BUILDING INTEGRITY
* Unaltered
 Altered
 Moved
Date _____
11a. Specify Alterations
Removals _____
Structural _____
Replacement _____
Additions _____



12. DATE 1908 13. STYLE _____ 14. ARCHITECT/BUILDER Harris & Shopbell
15. DESCRIPTION see below
Inscriptions none Facade Material brick
16. OUTBUILDINGS none

18. ENVIRONMENT commercial; light industrial

19. AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Specify the significance for each area checked
 Aboriginal
 Arts
* Architecture
* Commerce
 Communications
 Community Planning
 Education
 Engineering
 Environs/Neighborhoods
 Exploration/Settlement
 Humanities
 Indian
 Landscape Architecture
 Military
 Politics/Government
 Religion
 Science/Technology
 Social/Ethnicity
 Transportation
 Vernacular/Construction
 Other
15: The Fellwock Auto garage has a frontage of about 50 feet and a depth of about 37½ feet. The side walls of the building are of common red brick while the front wall is faced with dark brown glazed Brazil brick. The parapet, tops of the end piers and the lintels of the narrow central vehicle opening and flanking doubled sets of windows are limestone. Surmounting the entrance is a curve-topped pediment. The building is attached at the rear to the 1923 Fellwock addition which faces NW Fourth Street. The exterior plan of the 1908 garage building appears unchanged and the interior, occupied by a glass specialty business, has been minimally altered. The approximate acreage of the Fellwock garage site is .04 acre.
ATTACH NEGATIVE ENVELOPE HERE

19. See Additional Architectural Information form

20. INFORMATION SOURCES City Directories; Mortgage Records; Deed Records, Pigeon Township Assessor's Plats; Evansville Journal, 24 November 1908, 8 September 1912; Evansville Courier 29 March and 12 April 1908, 6 August 1916 and 7 January 1917.
21. SURVEYOR Douglas L Stern 22. DATE 07 December 1982 (amended)

62 64

**STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
INDIANA HISTORIC SITES AND STRUCTURES INVENTORY**

Additional Architectural Information

A. NAME Fellwock Automobile Company Garage C. NUMBER 82-196-0013A

B. ADDRESS 315 Court Street

D. UTM References 16 449640 4202840

E. This small building at 315 Court Street is significant for its association with the old Fellwock Automobile Manufacturing Company and for its well-preserved state. The company, formed by three Fellwock men--William E., J. Fred and Paul B.--had its roots in the Evansville furniture industry through the manufacture of roll and panel sub-assemblies for furniture and a coupe-top fabrication side line. In 1907 the Fellwocks branched out into automobile sales as "Southern Indiana Distributors for High Grade Cars"--Maxwell, Stoddard-Dayton, Overland and Baker Beauties. An ad in the 1909 City Directory stated that they were "inventors and manufacturers of automobile specialties." By the mid-teens, though, their retail venture commanded their total energies. Over a twenty-two-year operating history, The Fellwock Automobile Company, by its early entrance into auto sales, with good promotions, a well-chosen location across from the county courthouse, and a tradition of offering "high grade cars" (Cadillacs, Pontiacs, Dodge Bros. vehicles and Reos) managed to garner a major portion of the Evansville automobile trade. The demise of the company was concurrent with the on-set of the Great Depression. Their complex on 4th and Court streets consisting of offices, a sales room, a car-storage facility and a garage, however, continued to be occupied by car dealerships into the 1960s.

The Court Street wing of the old Fellwock building (see also State Form 82-196-00216) is believed to have been erected in 1908 as the garage department for the new auto company. During either a 1912 or a 1916 expansion program undertaken by the Fellwocks, the present facade of the Court Street elevation was remodeled using Brazil brown glazed brick and limestone trimmings. The plan comprising a narrow vehicular opening flanked by sets of large windows is unchanged.

F. INFORMATION SOURCES City Directories; Mortgage Records; Deed Records; Pigeon

Township Assessor's Plats; Evansville Courier, 29 March and 12 April 1908,
6 August 1916 and 7 January 1917; Evansville Journal, 8 September 1912.

G. PREPARED BY Joan C. Marshand

H. DATE 4 February 1982

FEB 23 1982

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Additional Architectural Information

A. NAME Fellwock Automobile Company Garage **C. NUMBER** 82-196-00134
B. ADDRESS 315 Court Street
D. UTM References 1,6 4,4,9,6,4,0 4,2,0,2,8,4,0

E. The Fellwock Automobile Company produced two buildings within the MRA. The small building on Court was its first, erected by the new company in 1908. The second building was constructed later near the peak of the company's profitability in 1923 and fronts on Fourth Street just around the corner from the first Fellwock building (82-196-0216). The two are interconnected and, although separated by time and architectural style, should be considered a unit.

The company which was responsible for the Court Street structure was formed at the turn of the century. Its development was typical of the infant auto industry in that the founders--William E., J. Fred, and Paul B. Fellwock--originally came from a different, but allied industry. In the case of the Fellwocks, the business which launched them into the auto industry was furniture making. The Fellwock's were first manufacturers of roll and sub-panel assemblies for furniture with an automobile-based sideline in which they fabricated coupe tops. Even during their furniture-manufacturing days, the Fellwocks billed themselves as "inventors and manufacturers" of other "automobile specialties."

The Fellwocks Court Street building was the first constructed in Evansville especially for the purpose of selling, storing, and servicing motor-powered vehicles. The Fellwocks' entrepreneurial spirit was strong, for they soon outstripped their competitors and were able to boast by 1907 that they were "Southern Indiana Distributors for High Grade Cars." That same year they made plans to build their auto facility on Court, engaging the services of the local architectural firm of William J. Harris and Clifford Shopbell for the design. The garage was built the next year. Conceived well before there was anything even approaching an automobile aesthetic, Harris & Shopbell's Court Street building for the Fellwocks was a relatively unprepossessing effort which was vaguely Arts and Crafts in appearance. The facade of dark glazed brick and limestone trim--virtually unchanged over the years--is an example of the firm's transition from Beaux Arts classicism to the more progressive styles which came to be their stock in trade, namely the Prairie and Chicago Schools. (The garage was one of the last designs produced by Harris & Shopbell before Harris's death in 1910.) The ahistorical ornament of the Fellwock garage on Court Street summoned a new and modern image for the auto company, an image which they were eager to establish in contradistinction to the buggy makers and tinkers still about in the community. As important, perhaps, as architectural image was the revolutionary aspect of a building planned and erected expressly for the automobile.

F. INFORMATION SOURCES _____

G. PREPARED BY Douglas L Stern **H. DATE** 07 December 1982

FEB 23 1984

From: Remy, Richard. WHO'S WHO & WHY. Evansville:

The author, c. 1907.

P. B. FELLWOCK

P. B. Fellwock was born in 1866 on a farm near the hamlet of St. Paul, Fayette County, Ill. He wielded the ax and shoved the plow until sixteen years old. Then began clerking in a country store, and followed this for four years.

Twenty finds him absorbing a commercial course at the Northern Indiana Normal School, Valparaiso, Ind. In February, 1887, he struck Evansville dead broke, but the possessor of a good appetite and full of anxiety to work. The next four years were put in as a traveling salesman for F. J. Scholz, the marble man. Tired of road life he in 1891 accepted a minor position with the Karges Furniture Co., and a year later was promoted to head bookkeeper, which position he held for thirteen years.

Mr. Fellwock is a pioneer in the automobile sport, in 1900 he began with a three-wheeler, in 1905 he, with his two brothers, Will and Fred, organized the Fellwock Auto and Manufacturing Co. Their factory builds veneered rolls and automobile tonneaus, tops, turn-tables, and other specialties, that they ship all over the country, from Maine to Mexico. At their up-town store they exhibit such a variety of cars as has never before been attempted in Evansville. Their garage is the largest and best equipped in Southern Indiana. Mr. Fellwock is a director in the Commercial Bank, and also manager of the Bockstege Furniture Co. It goes without saying that he is a very busy man, but never too busy to serve his many friends with a first-class automobile or a good table.

