

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

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Continuation sheet Downtown Wabash
Historic District

Item number 7

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stark than the original design, especially with the loss of other decorative elements such as the raised letters, "FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK," which originally extended across the frieze. The architect remains unknown; however, the building's contractor was P. H. McCormick.

26 West Market Street

Photo 15

This structure was built in 1888 by the heirs of Samuel Smith, Jr., who had died in the spring of that year. Smith had purchased the property the previous fall from Mary Newman, proprietor of the Tremont Hotel, no doubt with the intention to build. Construction was coincidental with that of the addition to the new hotel, which was immediately adjacent to the west. For most of its history, the building was associated with businesses centering upon food: groceries, a restaurant, and a meat market. Its first tenant was Arthur B. Sweetser, who operated a grocery here from the time of the building's completion through 1902. That same year, Alvah S. Tilman opened a restaurant and operated here for six years. After 1908 he was followed by the Sundheimer & Meyer meat market, which was operated here by John Sundheimer and Simon Meyer through 1920. During the 1920s, '30s, and '40s, the McNarney Brothers (John and Michael) had a grocery business here.

The small brick structure is two stories high and three bays wide. Its ground floor facade has been completely remodeled within the past 25 years. The upper story, however, remains as built with the exception of the boarding up of the windows. Comparison of the second story with old photos of the Tremont Hotel, which was demolished in 1948, reveals that this building was closely modeled after the large hotel built in stages in 1887 and 1888. The pedimented, sheet-metal hoods of the tall, narrow windows and the building's bracketed sheet-metal cornice are very similar to these same architectural elements of the hotel. The general proportions of the two structures were also similar, although the hotel rose three stories. Because the Tremont Hotel was so prominent in Wabash's history, the survival of this related building takes on greater significance than its survival as a late 19th-century commercial building first indicated.

National Block
2 West ~~Commerce~~ Street

Photo 16
Streetscape V

In 1876 William R. Collins and the First National Bank of Wabash jointly undertook the construction of this large structure which combined the bank's headquarters with four ground floor shops and with numerous offices plus a hall in the upper stories. At the time of its construction, it was the most ambitious building project ever undertaken in Wabash. It also proved to be an architectural trendsetter. Collins (b. 1823) had been a bricklayer

until the close of the Civil War, when he began a very successful ice business that was probably the foundation for this real estate venture. The First National Bank had been organized in 1863 and was under the presidency of Josiah S. Daugherty at the time the decision was made to construct a new bank building. Hezekiah Caldwell (1823-1892), who had been a building contractor in Wabash since 1852 and later was a brick manufacturer, served as the superintendent of construction. Its architect remains unknown.