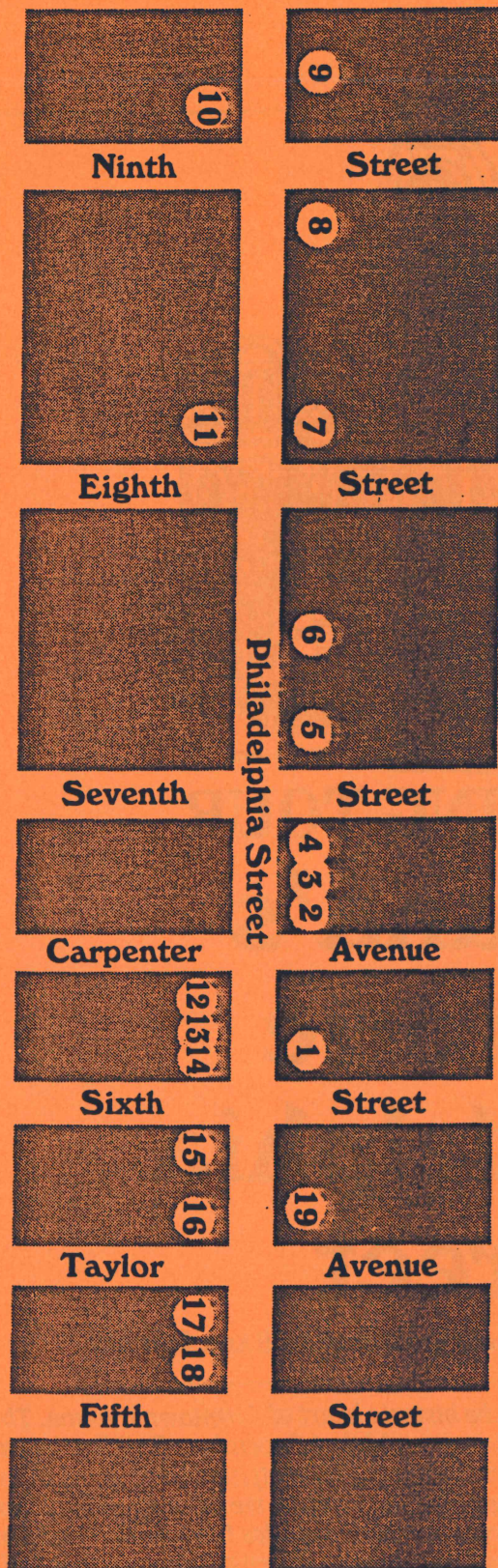




A WALKING TOUR Indiana's Historic Philadelphia Street

Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County

Join us for a leisurely tour through years in the historic heart of downtown Indiana. The Borough of Indiana was laid out in 1806 and lots were sold that December. Building began shortly thereafter. The earliest surviving structure along Philadelphia Street dates from about 1817, now housing Hawk's TV. Within the space of four city blocks we have an architectural record covering nearly fourteen decades. Many of our early facades have been "modernized," thus hiding many original features and architectural details. We trust that your tour will enable you "to see" behind these accretions and gain a greater understanding of our community's rich architectural heritage. Used in conjunction with the walking tour of Indiana's Historic Sixth Street, this tour can provide a clearer picture of Indiana's architectural and business history. We hope that you will return in the future to see what we have been able to accomplish.

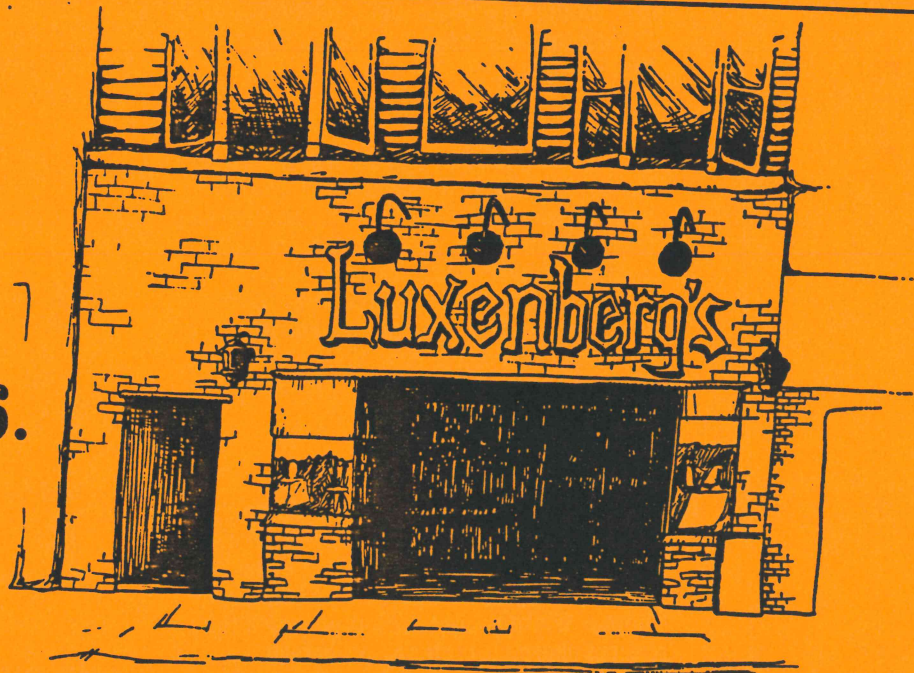


1. 601 Philadelphia Street. Old Courthouse Building, now headquarters of First Commonwealth Financial Corporation, Second Empire style brick structure, with stone quoins, nine bays wide and five deep with Mansard roof and center clock tower. First floor windows have arched lintels and keystones. Second and third floor windows have segmented tops and triangular pediments. Windows are separated by pilasters and Corinthian columns. The tower consists of a podium, belfry and cupola. The building was constructed in 1870 on the site of the first Indiana Courthouse at the cost of \$186,000.00. Architect was J.W. Drum. In 1972, following the construction of a new courthouse, the structure was saved from the wrecking ball by National Bank of the Commonwealth, which took out a 99 year lease with the county. The restoration work, under the direction of Millan Kerr Architects and done by Pevarnik Brothers of Latrobe, is estimated at \$500,000.00. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places. The restoration work received an "excellence in design-extended use" award from the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and Masonry Institute of Western Pennsylvania.

2. 645 Philadelphia Street. Savings and Trust Company, Midtown Office, formerly the Main Office, built in 1909 on the site of the Rowe Building, then the oldest building in Indiana. In 1907 the Rowe Building was the home of the Dreamland Nickelodean and Helena Vogel's Ladies and Children's Wear Shop. The Savings and Trust Company was founded in 1903; its first office was in the A.W. Wilson Building. The first president was John Scott, prominent local attorney.

3. 649 Philadelphia Street. The Atrium, former site of G.C. Murphy Company which closed in 1983. The building was converted in 1984 to three levels of retail shops and offices. The architect was Carol Hickey of Lancaster. Murphys built the store on an empty lot in 1928 and in 1937 razed the Harry Harrison Shoe Shine and the Judge Thomas White Homestead Building, which housed Steiner's Market, to enlarge the store. A basement sales floor was added in 1952, with major renovations made in 1967.

6.



4. 699 Philadelphia Street. Brody Brothers' Department Store, the Indiana branch founded in 1913 by Israel and Hyman Brody, moved to its present location in the J.T. Bell Building after the Star Theatre closed. Eventually the store expanded to include three buildings. In 1920, the Brodys acquired the adjoining brick building and in 1934 bought the White Building, which had formerly housed a clothing store called The Hub. The store was expanded to Gompers Avenue in 1942, taking over the Second United Presbyterian Church. Extensive remodeling was carried out in 1956 and 1960. Today the J.T. Bell Storeroom bears little resemblance to its 1913 appearance.

5. 701-705 Philadelphia Street. Frame and brick storeroom and apartment building, with Victorian chimney pots. Has been owned by the descendants of Summer and Margaret Jack since 1922. Mrs. Jack had inherited the building from her mother Sarah Mitchell who bought the property in 1889 for \$5,000.00 from Mary Lloyd who inherited it in 1881 from Charlotte Banks (b. 1808, widow of William Banks and daughter of William Denniston). This building has housed a dentist's office, Rothstein's (men's clothing), Mayfair (women's clothing), Village Store, Mathew's Card Shop and Card Connection. Half-interest in the property was sold by Mary Jack in 1985 and the building has been extensively remodeled.

6. 717 Philadelphia Street. Luxenberg's Jewelry Store, romanesque brownstone facade, built in 1907, original site of the Bon Ton Department Store. From 1919-1960, Moorhead Brothers (men's clothing) occupied the first floor. The upper floors were used by the Elks Club from 1924 to 1953. The upper stories were gutted by a \$100,000.00 fire in 1956. Since the early 1960's, the main floor has been occupied by jewelry stores, first DeRoy's and now Luxenberg's, which moved in 1969 from 651 Philadelphia Street. The upper floors are now occupied by the Indiana Area Recreation Department.

7. 801 Philadelphia Street. Indiana County Courthouse, built 1970-71 at a cost of \$2.5 million. The architectural firm was Laurie and Green of Harrisburg. Formal dedication was held on May 1, 1971. It is a Neo-Georgian stretcher brick building, seven bays wide with jerkinhead roof. Built on land where Stapleton's Restaurant (1939-1970), formerly the Pennsylvania Railroad Station, and two railroad warehouses originally stood.

8. 845 Philadelphia Street. Indiana Community Center, home of Indiana Free Library, built as a Y.M.C.A. in 1913 by E.M. Lockard, contractor, at a cost of \$30,485.00, which was raised by a campaign chaired by Mr. and Mrs. C.F. Fought. A swimming pool was

later built in the basement for \$700.00. During the depression it was taken over by the borough.

9. 917 Philadelphia Street. Office of Attorney Robert Douglass (Wissel House), two story brick residence, Greek Revival, built around 1870 by John Adam Wissel, a German immigrant, who sold bark to local tanners. Wissel had purchased the property from John Sutor in 1867 and built the house. Attorney Douglass purchased the property in 1977 and restored the house. The first floor now houses law offices.

10. 902 Philadelphia Street. Christ Episcopal Church, first organized in 1831, parishioners used private homes, the courthouse and the Lutheran Church for services. In 1855 Judge Thomas White bought the lots on which the present church is built and presented them to the congregation. A church was built there shortly afterward, and the first resident pastor arrived in 1857. From 1859-1870, the parish had no resident pastor.

12.



On December 9, 1899, the church, valued at \$8,000.00 was destroyed by fire. The present church, built in Neo-Gothic style, was constructed along with a rectory and chapel for Sunday School in 1901. Some of the church vestrymen at the time were Honorable John P. Elkin, Harry White, Jr., and William Banks.

11. 800 Philadelphia Street. Savings and Trust Company, Main Office, Neo-Colonial two-story brick building, three bays wide, built in 1970 on the site of the former Stewart's Hardware. Following the death of Alexander Stewart, Clawson's Variety Store occupied the premises. In 1969, the Indiana County Redevelopment Authority acquired the building, a local landmark, which was demolished to construct the present structure.

12. 636 Philadelphia Street. A.W. Wilson Building, built in 1880 by Andrew W. Wilson and John Sutton, designed by James Drum, made of Philadelphia "pressed" brick, had Indiana's first large display windows. Lot was purchased in 1858 from Ephraim Carpenter. The widow of John Sutton, Sr. purchased the store and formed a partnership with John Steving, B.S. Sloan, and Edward Sutton and reopened the store which now specialized in furniture. In 1907, A.T. Taylor and son, William, plumbers and tanners, purchased the building and renamed it Indiana Hardware. By 1910, Alfred I. Rees was manager and treasurer of Indiana Hardware until his death in 1931. Later managers were Sam Rinn, Jesse Allshouse and August M. Derwart. The motto of the Indiana Hardware was "If it's hardware, we have it." The corporation was dissolved in 1957; Blatt's Hardware moved in that year, when their building was demolished to make room for the new Troutman's Building.

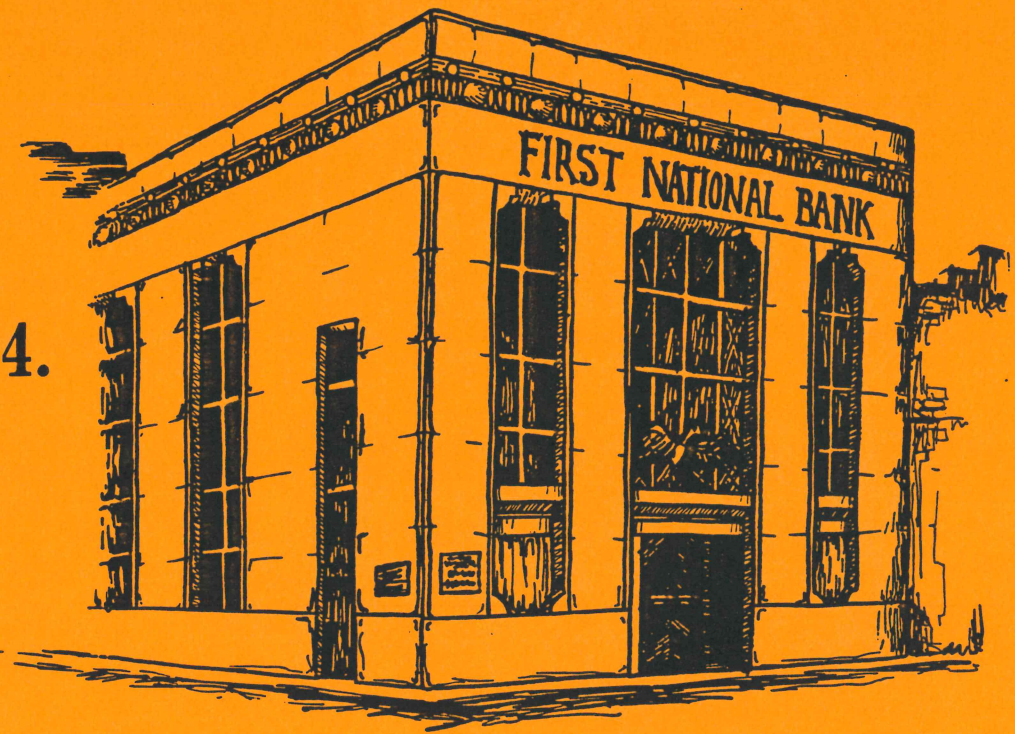
13. 630-632 Philadelphia Street. Rend Brothers' Building, constructed in 1895, three story brick building, with decorated lintels and capitals, has been used as a grocery store, billiards parlor, Singer Sewing Center, B.F. Goodrich Store, Indiana Floral, Larry's Shoes and Billie Jo Jeans. Following a fire May 5, 1985, the facade of the building was cleaned.

14. 600 Philadelphia Street. National Bank of the Commonwealth, Neo-Greco-Roman design with Doric columns, bronze window frames, decorated pediment. Opened on this site on April 9, 1934 as a reorganization of the First National Bank (1864-1934), the bank had previously been Hogue and Company (1858-1864). The bank had purchased the corner lots in 1921 which had housed the Loughry Store, Grand Theatre, Sloan Bros., the Federal Baking Company, and Tomb and Walker Restaurant. Plans were made to construct a new bank when the five year leases for the bakery and restaurant were up. On the rear of that lot, the Miller-Sutton Company (20 South 6th Street) erected a four story brick building for their automobile dealership, which later became McGill Motors. Today it houses shops and apartments.

15. 574 Philadelphia Street. Penn Furniture Company, formerly the site of one of Indiana's most prestigious hotels. The Indiana House, or Indiana Hotel, was first opened in 1869 by Mrs. E.A. Clements. The hotel was modernized in 1906 by encasing the building in brick and adding a fifth story. The hotel was destroyed by a \$250,000.00 fire on February 7, 1962. The upper stories were demolished by Kovalchick Salvage, and Penn Furniture opened on November 11, 1962, using the first floor of the former hotel and the five story adjoining building which formerly housed the Henry Steving Furniture Store.

16. 550 Philadelphia Street. Manos Theatre Building, opened in 1924 as the Ritz Theatre, seated 600, had a mezzanine, lounge, balcony and a \$45,000.000 Robert Morton Organ. In 1925, it was bought by Mrs. Adda Elkin, who also owned the Indiana Theatre. Both theatres were purchased by Manos Enterprises in 1935. The Ritz was remodeled and used as the Manos Theatre until 1980. The building was sold to Randy Rapach in 1982, and the front has been remodeled to include several shops. Prior to 1924, it had been the site of the two-story brick home of the Clements Family.

14.



17. 532 Philadelphia Street. American Legion Building, a three story brick hotel, Federal vernacular with recessed entrance, 7 bays wide on Lot 31, which was purchased on 1807 for \$76.00 at a public sale by John Huey who sold the lot and all appurtenances in 1819 to William Caldwell. In 1837 the property, now housing a two story brick tavern, was conveyed to Philip Gallaher. It was sold numerous times between 1837 and 1943 when it was acquired by the American Legion Home Association. Included in its sale in 1865 was a large frame stable (Lot 10), housing 150 horses. Prior to becoming home of the American Legion, it was variously known as the Black Horse Inn, the Detwiler, Sweeney, and Central Hotel. At some time in the late 19th Century the third story was added. The old hotel has recently undergone some restoration; the bricks have been cleaned and the window frames and trim painted.

18. 530 Philadelphia Street. Alexander W. Taylor House (Hawk's TV), stone house with quoins, stuccoed, built by John Lucas between 1807 and 1831, perhaps 1817, believed to be the oldest structure in Indiana. Original cost of Lot #32 was \$51.50. A.W. Taylor, lawyer and congressmen, purchased the house and property in 1846 from the Johnston estate for \$700.00. A wooden addition, housing the library, was added, and an iron fence once surrounded the property. Following Taylor's death in 1893, his wife and daughters, Fannie, Isabella and Caroline lived there until their deaths. In 1950, after Isabella's death, the house was sold to Cree and Charles Hawk.

19. 555 Philadelphia Street. Law office of Robert Marcus, Esq., formerly office of H.P. Griffith, dentist, two story brick building in Queen Anne style, constructed in 1892, has inlaid parquet floors. Dr. Griffith died in 1956, leaving the property to his daughter. It was purchased by Robert Marcus in 1982, and restoration work was completed in July 1982 by Vinton and Idzotic Contractors.

18.



Research compiled by: University of Pennsylvania Penn Questers: Glenda Risinger, Diann Richko, Rebecca Ben-Zvi, Claudine Riban

Indiana Senior High School Chapter, Student Historians of Pennsylvania: Jeffrey Rinkus, Gladys Trimble, Daniel Ling, David Bem, Gregory Marsh, Rebecca Ben-Zvi, Jeffrey Johnson, Kenneth Fruehstorfer, Jane Bellish, Cathy Park

Sponsor: Denise Weber

Consultants: Mrs. Claire Weaver, Mrs. Margaret Derwart, Mrs. Lawrence Stadtmiller, Mr. William Wolford, Dr. Royce E. Walters

Illustrations: Mark Valenti

Layout: Dr. Leslie Gottardi

Published with funds from an Academic Excellence Grant provided by the Indiana Area School District

Indiana, Pennsylvania
1986