

Collection #
P 0707

**DOWNTOWN INDIANAPOLIS SITES AND ARCHITECTURE
PHOTOGRAPHS, CA. 1980–1985**

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Processed by

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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	One cold storage color photographs folder, one photographs folder, 1 envelope of 4x5 polyester negatives
COLLECTION DATES:	1980–1985
PROVENANCE:	Christine Mason, University of Indianapolis; Indianapolis, IN
RESTRICTIONS:	Slides and negatives must be requested in advance and may be viewed by appointment only and with the assistance of library staff. Items listed as being in cold storage need at least four hours to acclimate, so patrons are advised to call ahead of their visit if they wish to view those items to allow for thawing time.
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ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	Indianapolis Architecture by Rick Ball, NA735.I55 I53 1975; Indianapolis Architecture: transformations since 1975 by Mary Ellen Gadski, NA735.I55 I54 1993
ACCESSION NUMBER:	2002.0794X
NOTES:	

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Monument Circle/Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument: Construction was started on the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument on the Circle in 1887. The structure was completed in 1901 and a dedicated opening was held in 1902. The architect for the project was Bruno Schmitz, the stone sculptor Rudolph Schwartz, and the bronze sculptor George T. Brewster.

It stands at 284 feet, six inches above street level. Visitors can take in a view of Indianapolis from within the monument, at a balcony 231 feet above the street. The monument also features a museum below street level. The structure is lit as to remain visible at all times of the day.

The monument was built as a memorial to Civil War veterans. It includes several bronze astragals representing the Army and Navy and several stone statues representing Infantry, Calvary, Artillery, Navy, and War and Peace. Also included around the monument are statues of former governor Oliver P. Morton, former governor James Whitcomb (after whom poet James Whitcomb Riley was named), former governor of Indiana Territory and ninth President of the United States Gen. William Henry Harrison, and Gen. George Rogers Clark.

Indiana World War Memorial: The memorial was conceived in 1920 after the American Legion agreed to make its headquarters in Indianapolis and requested a tribute to the veterans of the First World War. The Citizens Planning Committee chose to have the memorial and surrounding park space on two city blocks between Vermont and North Streets and Meridian and Pennsylvania Streets. All of the buildings on the lots in these two blocks were demolished between 1925 and 1965. These buildings included the Indiana School for the Blind, the Elks Club, the Bobbs-Merrill building, and two churches, among others.

Architects Frank Walker and Harry Weeks from Cleveland, Ohio, were hired in 1923. Their design was influenced by the public library across the street and by the City Beautiful movement, which was a harkening back to classical architecture. Construction on the main Legion building began in 1925. A second building, included in the original designs, was not constructed until 1950. Construction on the memorial began in 1926 when most of the buildings on the premises were demolished. New construction began in 1927, and the cornerstone was laid on July 4 of that year. The majority of the exterior was complete by 1928 but funding slowed and the interior could not be completed until 1931.

The Public Works Administration completed additional work in 1936. The east and west steps, demolition of remaining buildings, and landscaping, along with touch up work on deterioration from previous work, was finally completed in 1965. The memorial grounds were re-landscaped in 1975 and a portion of the property set aside for state flags. The memorial and its buildings are examples of high-style Neoclassical architecture. The Indiana War Memorial and grounds were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1989.

City Market: The Indianapolis City Market was originally platted in 1821 with the rest of the Mile Square. The Market Building and Tomlinson Hall were built in 1886. The market was to house meats and Tomlinson Hall to house produce. Tomlinson Hall was demolished

in 1958, save its western archway. The market building was renovated between 1972 and 1977 and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. It currently houses restaurants and specialty shops.

Block's Department Store: The William H. Block Company Department Store was opened in 1896 and incorporated in 1907. It was originally located on Washington Street between Illinois and Meridian Streets. Its permanent location (pictured in collection) is at the southwest corner of Illinois and Market Streets, constructed in 1911. William H. Block was known for introducing fixed prices that allowed his company profits from small markups. Block's later became a chain in Indiana and Ohio. The Block's name was bought by Allied Stores in 1962. In 1987, the company, including the original downtown location, was sold to Federated Department Stores, known for Lazarus and Bloomingdale's. Lazarus closed the downtown location in 1993. The top seven floors were converted to apartments, now known as The Block, the bottom floor made available for commercial leasing, as of 2018 hosting T.J. Maxx.

Christ Church Cathedral: An original frame, Victorian-style church was built on a plot along Governor's Circle (Monument Circle) in 1838. By 1856, the church had grown and so Christ Church sold the building to the Bethel AME Church, who moved it to Georgia Street. Christ Church then built the current, gothic-style cathedral from 1858 to 1859. A new spire was added from 1869 to 1870. During the World Wars, the cathedral hosted many charity events for military personnel and the Red Cross. The gothic building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

Scottish Rite Cathedral: The Tudor-style cathedral was built in 1929, designed by architect George F. Schreiber, also a member of the church. The building is laid out in multiples of 33, after Jesus Christ's 33 years on earth. The gothic tower in the center sits at 212 feet above ground and houses a 54-bell carillon. The cathedral is the largest Scottish Rite cathedral in the world. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

Indiana State House: The current State House was built in 1888, designed by architect Edwin May, who died soon after completing the design. The location of the State House moved from between Washington and Capitol Streets to between Washington and Ohio Streets. The new structure featured a central dome and rotunda with wings extending to the north, south, east, and west. Between 1946 and 1948, the House and Senate Chambers were removed. The House chambers were rebuilt in 1966, the Senate chambers from 1973 to 1974. In 1998, the General Assembly appropriated \$11 million in funds to restore the State House, which was remodeled many times, to its 1888 interior design.

One Monument Circle: This is the first address on Monument Circle. It is home to the Indianapolis Power and Light Company and the Old National Bank headquarters.

RCA Dome: The Indianapolis Colts played in the RCA Dome (or Hoosier Dome) from 1984 until 2007, when it was demolished. They have played in Lucas Oil Stadium since 2008. The venue also hosted the NFL Scouting Combine from 1986 until 2007.

The U.S.S.R. boycotted the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles after the U.S. had boycotted the 1980 Olympics in Moscow. Peace was made in 1985 in Indianapolis at the RCA Dome.

Indianapolis Union Station was built in 1853. The station was in heavy use for decades, serving up to 200 trains and thousands of people per day.

To accommodate the increasing number of travelers, Union Station's original depot was replaced in 1888 by a three-story Romanesque-Revival style structure known today as the Grand Hall. Union Station was one of the earliest attempts by a major American city to unite the passenger and express freight services of several competing railroad companies in a single convenient downtown terminal.

In its original form, Union Station had a large iron train shed at street level. By the early 1900s, the surface level train traffic was getting seriously entangled with growing vehicle traffic in the downtown area. The solution was to create an extensive new grade-separated right-of-way through downtown. As part of this project, the original iron train shed was replaced with a larger, poured concrete shed in 1916. The new shed offered twelve passenger tracks and two freight and express tracks. This combination of the 1888 hall with the 1922 train shed survives today.

As rail travel declined through the 20th century, Union Station during the 1960s and 1970s suffered. By 1979, the building had become a municipal eyesore, largely vacant and serving only a few trains a day.

In 1982, inspired by the success of adaptive reuse projects for train stations in cities like Boston and Baltimore, the city government stepped in and decided to try a similar project for Union Station. A local developer began a \$50 million renovation project that turned the facility into a festival marketplace. The renovated Union Station opened its doors in 1986.

The Grand Hall became the entrance to the complex, housing an upscale restaurant on the former concourse floor. The eastern half of the shed became a festival marketplace, with specialty stores, bars, and a food court, while the western half was converted into a hotel. Four tracks at the north and south ends were retained, and stocked with old Pullman cars, rebuilt with completely new interiors containing two rooms each.

Faced with declining patronage and continued high maintenance costs, city officials shuttered the mall venture in 1996. Since then, the city has struggled to find paying tenants for the various parts of the property. The festival marketplace was replaced by a go-kart track, which is no longer in operation. The hotel is still in business, named Crowne Plaza. The Grand Hall is essentially vacant, used as a ballroom floor for special events at the hotel. When not in use for an event, the building is locked and empty.

Sources:

"Indiana State Soldiers and Sailors Monument." Indianapolis: Allied Printing, 1943.

Available in IHS general collection [pam F 534.I55 S815 1943]

Castle, Emily. "Union Station Indianapolis, Indiana Collection, 1882–1996." Collection Guide. Indiana Historical Society, 2006.

Barrows, Robert G., and David J. Bodenhamer, eds. *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. Indiana University Press: Indianapolis, IN, 1994.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains seventeen color photographs and sixteen black and white photographs.

Photographs are in the order below:

Color Photographs

- One reflected image of the One Monument Circle building
- Two reflected images of the Christ Church Cathedral
- Three photographs of light decoration on the Blocks department store building
- One split photograph of aerial views of Monument Circle and the Indiana World War Memorial
- Three photographs of the trolley on Monument Circle, with monument in background
- One photograph of an aerial view of the buildings around the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument
- Three photographs of the Indiana Statehouse
- Two photographs of an external view of the City Market building

Black and White Photographs

- One reversed photograph of an aerial view of the RCA Dome and surrounding downtown area – view looking east from southwest side at the intersection of White River, Interstate 70, and Kentucky Avenue
- One photograph of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument – view from N Meridian St
- One photograph of cyclists on N Pennsylvania St in front of the North square of the Indiana World War Memorial
- Two photographs of a statue of a train conductor with a briefcase at Union Station mall
- Two photographs of the exterior of the City Market/Market Square building with Axia Technology building in background.
- One photograph of the interior of the City Market building
- One photograph of the Indianapolis Museum of Art on W 38th St
- One photograph of the Scottish Rite Cathedral on N Meridian St – view from across the North square of the Indiana World War Memorial
- Three photographs of the flags in the North square of the Indiana World War Memorial
- One photograph of the Indiana National Bank building [demolished] and Christ Church Cathedral
- Two photographs of downtown Indianapolis from a distance – view from I-70 looking north toward downtown Indianapolis with Babe-Denny Neighborhood in foreground

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Color photographs, ca. 1985 [Old National Bank,
Christ Church cathedral, Blocks Department Store,
Monument Circle, Statehouse, City Market]

Photographs, ca. 1980–1985

Aerial view of downtown, ca. 1980–1985 [matches
first photo in photographs folder]

CONTAINER

Cold Storage Color
Photographs,

Folder 1 of 1

Photographs,

Folder 1 of 1

4x5 Polyester Negatives,
Envelope 1 of 1