FRANK E. HAMMER COLLECTION
1928–1930, 1933, N.D.

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3 March 2015

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 OVC Graphics Box

COLLECTION DATES: Drawings, 1928–1930; newspaper article, 1933

PROVENANCE: Drawings purchased from Frank E. Hammer in 1933; newspaper article was gift from him in 1935

RESTRICTIONS: Drawings must be handled with care, touching only on the outside of the edges of the paper and while wearing gloves.

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1933.0102, 1935.0503

NOTES:
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Francis "Frank" E. Hammer, born 24 March 1862, was the fourth son of Isaac Newton Hammer (b. 19 May 1826; d. 26 August 1901) and Charity Wilkinson Hammer (1828–1875). They were Quakers who lived on a farm in the Brown Township of Hancock County, Indiana. After Charity died, Isaac married Mary Macy on 27 April 1876 in Rush County.

On 29 June 1887 in Hancock County, Frank married Flora E. Duncan (b. 14 July 1866; d. 10 September 1949). They had four children: John Newton (1889–1972), Helen (1891–1970), Dorothy (1895–1926), and Donald Lawrence (1896–1969). At the time of the 1900 census, they lived at 2516 N. Pennsylvania Street in Indianapolis, and Frank's occupation was listed as portrait artist. In 1910 the family was living in Cleveland, Ohio, where Frank was an agent for a lecture bureau and his son John was an artist at a printing company.

In 1920 Frank, Flora, and youngest child, Donald, were living back on N. Pennsylvania Street in Indianapolis. Frank's occupation on that year's census record is listed as salesman for a "Specialty Co.," while Donald was working as a salesman for a film company.

By 1930 the Hammers owned their home at 2429 N. Pennsylvania Street in Indianapolis. No occupation is listed for Frank in 1930, but the 1940 census indicates that he was a salesman for a retail paint company. However, it also shows that he did not work in 1939. That census also shows that his education included two years of college. City directories from 1932 and 1937 list his occupation as artist.

A 1933 article in the Indianapolis News mentions that "Mr. Hammer has not devoted his entire career . . . to art but has carried it on more as a hobby" and that "he has taught school, been admitted to the bar, was prosecuting attorney at Greenfield, was a traveling salesman and is now a confectioner." It states that he "has a studio in his home, and after hours at his shop, which is near his home," he works on his sketches and watercolors.

The article mentions that he was a member of the Hoosier Sketching Club that met in the old Circle hall in the southwest segment of what is now Monument Circle in the early 1890s. Artist T.C. Steele did critiques for the club.

Frank died 31 December 1948 in Indianapolis. Frank and Flora are buried in Park Cemetery in Greenfield, Indiana.

Sources:
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of 56 black-and-white drawings created by Frank E. Hammer in 1928–1930. Fifty-three are of buildings and other landmarks throughout Indiana. Three are of landmarks in other states, namely Kentucky, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. The drawings are approximately 15 x 22 inches in size. They were drawn using graphite, ink, and oil crayon. Most of the drawings are signed and most include the year in which they were drawn. There is also a photocopy of a 1933 newspaper article about Frank E. Hammer.
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#1-- Indiana State School for the Blind from Meridian Street [Indianapolis], 1929.
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#2-- Indiana State School for the Blind from Pennsylvania Street [Indianapolis], 1929.
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#3-- Benjamin Harrison residence, Indianapolis, 1928.
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#4-- Camp Robinson, near Canoe Club, Indianapolis, 1928.
OVC Graphics, Box 1, Folder 1

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#6-- Harrison County Courthouse (old capitol at Corydon), n.d., no signature.
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#7-- General Solomon Meredith residence, Cambridge City, 1929.
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#8-- Site of [Martin] Boots cabin (first white settler in Grant County), Marion, 1928.
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#10-- Truman Blackman House (where [in 1818] the commissioners appointed by the legislature of Indiana met to select the county seat of Vigo County), [Terre Haute], 1928.
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#11-- Lew Wallace Study, Crawfordsville, 1929.
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OVC Graphics, Box 1, Folder 2

#13-- The Constitution Elm, Corydon, 1929.
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#14-- Birthplace of Paul Dresser, Terre Haute, 1928.

#15-- William Henry Harrison residence, Vincennes, 1929.

#16-- Locust Grove (last home of George Rogers Clark) [Louisville, Kentucky], 1928.


#18-- Governor Oliver Morton residence, Centerville, 1928.

#19-- Edward Eggleston birthplace, Vevay, 1929.

#20-- Tippecanoe battleground, 1928 [shows a cannon and monument among trees].

#21-- Nancy Hanks Lincoln burial place [Lincoln City, Spencer County], 1929.

#22-- Levi Coffin home, Fountain City, 1930.

#23-- William Conner residence, Noblesville, 1929.


#25-- Lockerbie Street [Indianapolis], 1929. Quote by James Whitcomb Riley in lower left corner of drawing: "Such a dear street it is nestled away from the noise of the city and heat of the day."
#26-- The Old Swimmin' Hole [Greenfield, Hancock County], 1929. James Whitcomb Riley's poem about this site is quoted in the lower right corner of the drawing: "Oh the old swimmin'-hole when I last saw the place The scenes was all changed like the change in my face."

#27-- The Granary at New Harmony, 1929.

#28-- The Fauntleroy Home, New Harmony, 1929.

#29-- Spiceland Academy, Spiceland [Henry County], 1928.

#30-- Knightstown Academy [Knightstown, Henry County], 1930.

#31-- First Baptist Church, Brookville [Franklin County], 1929.

#32-- Second Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis, 1929.

#33-- First Baptist Church, Indianapolis, 1929.

#34-- Vinton House (hotel), Cambridge City [Wayne County], 1929.

#35-- John I. Morrison home, Knightstown [Henry County], 1930.

#36-- Burial place of William Henry Harrison, North Bend, Ohio, 1929.

#37-- "High Water Mark, Gettysburg, PA" written in lower left corner of drawing, 1929.

#38-- James Whitcomb Riley residence, Greenfield [Hancock County], 1929.

#39-- Site of Fort Harrison, Terre Haute, 1928 [shows a large granite boulder and trees].
#40-- Markle Mill (5 miles northeast of Terre Haute on Otter Creek), 1928. [In the drawing the sign on the mill says: Indiana's Oldest Mill / 1816 / C D Hansel / Flour Mill Feed & Grain.]

#41-- Wilkinson Mill (last of the old water mills on Blue River; T.B. Wilkinson of Knightstown; about 1 mile north of Knightstown on Blue River), 1928.

#42-- James Whitcomb Riley's grave at Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis, 1929.

#43-- Laughery Creek, 1929 [shows trees and water].

#44-- St. Anne Shell Chapel at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, 1928.

#45-- Governor Noah Noble residence, Brookville, n.d., no signature.

#46-- New Harmony Community House, rear view, 1929.

#47-- Fort Ouiatenon, 1929 [shows trees and what appears to be a stone marker to indicate the site of the fort].

#48-- Prophet's Rock, Tippecanoe battleground, 1929.

#49-- Lincoln marker (printed on marker: Spencer County Memorial to Abraham Lincoln who lived on this spot from 1816–1830), 1929.

#50-- Treaty Tree at Vincennes [last of a grove of walnut trees under which Indiana Territorial Governor William Henry Harrison and Shawnee Chief Tecumseh had their famous meeting in 1810], 1929.

#51-- Jacob Whetzel house, Waverly [Morgan County], 1929.

#52-- Halfway House, Putnamville, 1928.
#53-- Site of Fort Wayne, 1928 [shows an old Spanish cannon on a stone pedestal with trees around it].

#54-- Lanier House, Madison, 1929 [seen from the front].

#55-- Lanier House, Madison, 1929 [seen from the side through trees].

#56-- Robert Owens' Laboratory, New Harmony, 1929 [appears to be the David Dale Owens Geology Laboratory].

Photocopy of newspaper article about Frank E. Hammer from the "All Around the Town" column, *Indianapolis News*, 27 March 1933, [p. 2?].

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OVG Graphics, Box 1, Folder 6

OVG Graphics, Box 1, Folder 6

OVG Graphics, Box 1, Folder 6

OVG Graphics, Box 1, Folder 6

OVG Graphics, Box 1, on top of folders of drawings
CATALOGING INFORMATION

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3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.

4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P 0550).

5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.