RUBUSH & HUNTER PHOTOGRAPHS, 1902–1949

Collection Information

Historical/Biographical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

Janet Schmidt and Dorothy Nicholson
March 2007

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 boxes of photographs, 1 folder color photographs, 3 boxes of OVA size photographs

COLLECTION DATES: 1902–1949

PROVENANCE: Harry E. Hunter, Stuart, FL, 1984
HISTORICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Rubush and Hunter was a successful and well-known Indianapolis architectural firm founded in 1905. The firm designed almost 200 buildings in Indianapolis, Florida and the Midwest. The partnership was noted for the replacement of buildings on Monument Circle in the early 1900’s. Fraternal and social clubs were their early primary clients. In addition, they designed many public buildings, including the Indiana School for the Deaf, the original Coliseum and Livestock Pavilion on the Indiana State Fairgrounds, City Hall, and several schools. Many of their buildings achieved national significance.

The firm was noted for their elaborate theater buildings; still in use in Indianapolis are the Circle Theatre, the Spanish Baroque Indiana Theatre, and the Walker Building; headquarters and factory for Madame C. J. Walker, (including a theater, ballroom, beauty shop, drug store, coffee shop and more). A number of their designs used glazed cream terra cotta. The Art Deco style was favored in many of their structures, including residences and apartment buildings. They were considered to be the most prolific Indianapolis designers of this style.

The partners retired in 1939 and made Florida their home in the 1940s. Earlier in Florida they had designed and built many buildings during the large building boom of the 1920s, including a hotel for Carl G. Fisher in Miami Beach.

Preston C. Rubush was born in Fairfield, Indiana in 1867. He studied at the University of Illinois, enrolling at the Champaign-Urbana Builders’ Course in 1887, worked with James F. Alexander (from Lafayette, Indiana) for two years in Peoria, came to Indianapolis in the 1890s and entered into a partnership with J. H. Scharn in 1893. Scharn retired in 1900 and the firm became known as P.C. Rubush and Co.

Edgar O. Hunter was born in Versailles, Indiana in 1873. The family moved to Indianapolis. Edgar studied architecture at the University of Pennsylvania for two years, graduating in 1896 and returned to Indianapolis in 1897 to work for the firm of Vonnegut and Bohn.

Frank Hunter, younger brother of Edgar and later a prominent Indianapolis residential architect, worked for Preston Rubush briefly and is credited for bringing the two architects together to form the firm of Rubush and Hunter.

Sources:

Indianapolis City Directories: General Collection
**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection contains photographs of some of the commercial buildings and residences designed by the architectural firm of Rubush & Hunter. Many images show construction and excavation sites but most images show just the finished buildings. The photographs were made between 1902 and 1949.

The photographs are arranged in two series. Series 1 contains photographs of commercial buildings and residences designed by Rubush & Hunter. They are arranged alphabetically by the name of the building or client. When the names of contractors, addresses, dates, etc. were found on the verso of the photographs these are listed after the name of the building. Descriptions, names, addresses, and dates supplied by the processor are enclosed in square [ ] brackets. Series 2 appears to be photographs, postcards, and a pamphlet of architectural details and buildings that were used as examples for study by the architects.

**SERIES CONTENTS**

**Series 1: Rubush and Hunter Buildings, 1902–1941**

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Buckingham Apartments
[3409–3417 N. Meridian St., 1909–1910]
[Exterior, angled view showing circular drive and sunken garden area]

Burford residence
[1503 N. Meridian, circa 1910]
[Exterior, all brick, upper and side dormers, full-width front porch]

Carpenters and Joiners Home for the Aged
[Lakeland, Florida, 1926–1927]
[Aerial photo of completed buildings, exterior during construction, interior hall, auditorium, loggia]

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 4

Carpenters and Joiners Home for the Aged
[Lakeland, Florida, 1926–1927]
[Small photos of buildings during construction, interiors, iron gate detail, carved model detail, tree grove]

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 5

Chislett Flat
[1717 Talbot Ave., circa 1910]
[Front exterior, multiunit residential building, all brick, deep porticos with four round columns]

Circle Theatre
[39–45 Monument Pl., 1916]
[Front cream-colored, matte-glazed terra cotta exterior. Wide plate glass storefronts on two floors flank a central entrance, broad copper marquee with tinted cement mural above. Photo shows original lighted clock]

Circle Theatre
[39–45 Monument Pl., 1916]
[Interior, dress circle and balcony seating, decorative plasterwork on ceiling and walls]

Circle Tower
[1–11 E. Market St., 1929]
[Drawing of original project concept, Franklin Building being demolished at site, construction photos, May–December]

Circle Tower
[1–11 E. Market St., 1929]
[Exterior of completed building showing adjacent Circle Theatre and Monument]

Coca-Cola Bottling Works
Cincinnati, Ohio
[Architect, John Henri Deeken]
[Exterior of completed building.]

Coca-Cola Bottling Plant
Greencastle, Indiana, June 30, 1949

[Exteriors]

Coca-Cola Bottling Plant
Lafayette, Indiana

[Front of building]

Coca-Cola Bottling Works
Muncie, Indiana, January 24, 1936
[Side exterior showing men, delivery trucks]

Coca-Cola Bottling Co.
South Bend, Indiana
[Photo features Studebaker truck]

Coca-Cola Bottling Co.
South Bend, Indiana
[Photo features Model J15 Standard Series Truck, special bottler's body built for Coca-Cola]

Coca-Cola Plant
Wooster, Ohio; 1937
[Residence torn down for construction site, construction photos]

Craig Residence
[3312 Washington Blvd., circa 1910]
[Stucco exterior with wood timber trim on porch, arched gable on upper story]

J. Duncan Double House
[1312 N. Alabama St., circa 1910]
[Front and side exterior, 3-story, wood]

Eberhardt Residence
[533 Downey Ave., circa 1910]
[Exterior, 2-story, wood and stucco]

E. S. Elston Residence
[address unknown, circa 1910]
[Exterior, 2-story brick and stucco, detached garages]

Evans Flat
[540–544 Massachusetts Ave., circa 1910]
[Exterior, 3-story Flemish Revival-style with curved gables, street level stores]

Fidelity Trust Co. Bank Building
[142–148 Market St., 1914]
[9-story glazed white brick with terra cotta detailing, narrow three-bay building]
Flamingo Hotel  
Miami Beach, Florida [1919–1920]  
[Exterior of hotel]

Fletcher American National Bank  
[S.E. corner, Penn. & Market St., 1919]  
[Exterior corner view showing front and side, 3-story stone, detached pillars at front entrance, balustrade detail over front entrance and at top of building. Second photo showing side of bank and building adjacent with parked cars in center of street]

Garfield Park Shelter House, Garfield Park  
[700 Raymond St., 1919–1922]  
[Architect’s rendering]

Gay Residence  
[4210 N. Meridian, circa 1910]  
[Brick and half-timber 2-story, tile roof, side sun room, curved front walk]

Fred Gill Residence  
[address unknown, circa 1910]  
[2-story brick with timbered front porch, round stone balls on porch pillars, central entrance]

Guaranty Building  
[24–32 Monument Pl., 1922–1923]  
[Limestone exterior, first two floors storefronts. Interior arcade with marble floor and walls. Eight stories of office space with vitreous tile floors and marble wainscoting above. Façade matches curve of Monument Circle along one side with five bays of paired windows on each façade]

Fred Hoke residence  
[3445 Washington Blvd., circa 1910]  
[Front exterior, 2-story, 3 bay, stucco finished with central recessed entrance, side portico, tile roof]

Fred Hoke residence  
[3445 Washington Blvd., circa 1910]  
[Exterior, 2-story, 3 bay, stucco finished with central recessed entrance, side portico, tile roof]

Hollywood Bank and Hotel Building  
[Beginning construction, June, July]

Hollywood Beach Hotel  
[Hollywood, Florida, 1925–1926]  
[Interior of children’s dining room, photocopy of 1984 article of hotel renovation to vacation suites]
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<td>1200 E. 42nd St., 1906–1911</td>
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<td>Indiana State School for the Deaf</td>
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Indiana State School for the Deaf
[1200 E. 42nd St., 1906–1911]
[Exterior, main dining hall, one of two dormitories]

Indiana State School for the Deaf
[1200 E. 42nd St., 1906–1911]
[Exterior, one of two dormitories]

Indiana State School for the Deaf
[1200 E. 42nd St., 1906–1911]
[Residence, exterior, brick 2-story, interior of power house]

Indiana Theatre
[136 W. Washington St., 1926–1927]
[Interiors: fountain, grand stairway, hallways, entrance to women’s lounge, women’s lounge]

Indiana Theatre
[136 W. Washington St., 1926–1927]
[Exterior of building. Interiors; organ, stage and orchestra pit, seating. Included is an image of a different organ built by same builder who installed the one in the Indiana Theatre. Photo of a Maas Neimeyer Co. 1920 theatre fixture]

Indianapolis, Indiana Buildings [bound book]:
American Central Life Insurance Co.
Indianapolis City Hall
Masonic Temple
Circle Tower Building
Columbia Club
Illinois Building
Indiana Theatre
Hume Mansur Building

Indianapolis City Hall
[202–218 N. Alabama St., 1907–1910]
[Exterior, Renaissance Revival/Beaux Arts style, interior central rotunda in main lobby]

Indianapolis City Hall
[202–218 N. Alabama St., 1907–1910]
[Exterior, angled view, 3-story stone, two photos, one with cars, older view with horse and buggy in front]

Indianapolis Salvage Corps Station
[NW Corner New York and Adelaide Sts., 1919]
[Front exterior, 2-story brick]

Kahn [Edward] Residence
[2108 N. Jersey St., circa 1908]
[Front exterior, Classical Revival style, 2-story red brick with 2 side porches, tile roof]
Kirkhoff Double House
[address unknown, circa 1910]
[Street front exterior, 2-story wood, roof dormer]

Knights of Pythias Castle Hall
[228–230 E. Ohio St., 1905–1906]
[Street and alley exteriors, castle-like façade, with polygonal towers, battlements, Tudor-arched arcades. Storefronts and office space on first two floors. Fifth floor hall. First of numerous fraternal buildings designed by firm]

Levey Bros & Co., Printers and Lithographers
[201–213 N. Senate Ave., 1905]
[Printing plant, front and side exterior, 2-story, red brick, paired windows, classical detailing]

Levey Mausoleum
[Crown Hill Cemetery, 3402 Boulevard Pl., circa 1910]
[Exterior, stone with four Doric columns]

Lowe’s State Theater
[35 N. Pennsylvania St., 1920–1921]
[Clearing of site]

Clark E. Mallery residence
[4160 Washington Blvd., 1919]
[Construction site, finished residence, interiors]

The Marietta Building
[368 Massachusetts Ave., circa 1910]
[2 ½ story brick with store fronts on street level and apartments on upper floors. Marott Department Store adjacent]

Masonic Temple
[535 N. Illinois St., 1905–1907]
[Exterior]

Masonic Temple
[535 N. Illinois St., 1905–1907]
[Exterior, corner view showing front and side]

Meridian Auto Co. Building
[724–730 N. Meridian St., circa 1915]
[Exterior with fluted Doric attached columns]

Meridian Life Building
[307–315 N. Pennsylvania St., circa 1910]
[Front, partial side view. Brick and stone facing with entrance canopy. Indianapolis Star Building adjacent on corner]
Moffet Residence
[3424 N. Central Ave., circa 1910]
[Front exterior, 3 story wood with side portico, arched front dormers]

Murat Temple (addition)
[608 N. New Jersey St., 1922]
[Exterior of building, interiors; part of frieze for Egyptian Room, end of main foyer, main social room, part of frieze, chandelier and columns at side of Proscenium Arch of stage]

Murat Temple (addition)
[608 N. New Jersey St., 1922]
[Exterior and side of building. Elaborate exterior with corner towers, front entrance. Bretzman photo]

Murat Temple (addition)
[608 N. New Jersey St., 1922]
[Exterior details for side entrance, Bretzman photo]

Murat Temple (addition)
[608 N. New Jersey St., 1922]
[Interiors, Bretzman photo]

Murat Temple (addition)
[608 N. New Jersey St., 1922]
[Interiors, lower floors, Bretzman photo]

Murat Temple (addition)
[608 N. New Jersey St., 1922]
[Interiors, lobby area, stairs, Bretzman photo]

Murat Temple (addition)
[608 N. New Jersey St., 1922]
[Interiors, Egyptian room, Bretzman photo]

Murat Temple (addition)
[608 N. New Jersey St., 1922]
[Interiors, lower floor in dining mode, Bretzman photo]

Occidental Building
[41–49 W. Washington Street, 1914]
[8-story stone, divided into two distinct sections. Lower 4 stories clad in glazed terra cotta, upper four floors added later]

Odd Fellow Office Building
[102–106 E. Washington St., 1906–1908]
[Exterior corner view, two interiors of auditorium on top floor. Indianapolis’ first skyscraper. Tallest building until 1909. Two stories of showrooms and storefronts, third floor with triple recessed windows,
Odd Fellow Office Building
[102–106 E. Washington St., 1906–1908]
[Interior of IOOF Lodge Hall]

Olin Wilmeth Building
[720–722 N. Meridian St., 1922]
[Exterior, front and side, Lincoln car dealership, large front windows on all floors, broad white pilasters capped with decorative upper work. Frieze with company name]

Pearson Piano Co.
[128–130 N. Pennsylvania Ave., circa 1910]
[Interior of piano showroom]

Reserve Loan Life Insurance Building
[429 N. Pennsylvania St., 1924]
[Photo of molds for decorative terra cotta architectural details and cartouches]

Miss [Ida] Rowley residence
[2515 N. College Ave., circa 1910]
[2-story brick and stucco with front porch and upper dormer]

P.C. Rubush residence
[2729 N. College Ave., circa 1910]
[2-story stone and stucco, timbered upper story, partial front porch, front stone tower feature]

Sacks Bros:
[306–310 Indiana Ave., 1940–1941]
Philip Weisenberg, architect
[Exterior views]

G. M. Sanborn Building
[309–311 N. Illinois St., 1913]
[3-story brick, street store space, fancy brickwork, decorative tile partial roof]

Sander & Recker Building
[42 S. Meridian St., ca. 1915]
[Furniture company on lower floor, five upper stories, red brick, corner view]

Saulter residence
[2710 Sutherland Ave., circa 1910]
[Exterior, 2 ½ -story, brick and stucco, timbered, upper triple-window dormers, slate tile roof, terraces on either side of front entrance]

School 22 [Nebraska Cropsey School]
S. Illinois and Kansas St., 1920

School 22 [Nebraska Cropsey School]
[Red brick, corner view]

School 66 [Henry P. Colburn School]
500 E. 38th St., 1914
[3-story, red brick]

Smith Double House
[address unknown, circa 1910]
[2 ½ story, brick, stucco, timbered with upper
dormers. Stone decorative balls on pillars]

Mrs. Smith residence
[1600 N. Pennsylvania St., circa 1910]
[Exterior, corner view, wood frame with stucco front porch]

D. Sommers Building
[143–149 W. Washington St., 1909]
[The city’s first glazed terra cotta building, first floor with large plate glass windows, second story encircled by a band of terra cotta, upper seven floors topped by arched windows. Considered firm’s most significant early commercial building]

Stalnaker residence
[2037 N. Illinois St., circa 1910]
[Front exterior, 3-story, shake, front timbered porch roof, brick chimney and porch wall]

Edward Stout residence and garage
[3810 Washington Blvd., 1911]
[Exterior, brick, 2-story, corner band of windows. Deeply recessed entrance trimmed with free-standing columns and balustraded patio area. Low-hipped roof with a broad overhang. Prairie School influence in design]

Harry C. Stutz Factory (and additions)
[1002 N. Capitol Ave., 1914, 1917, 1920]
[Four brick buildings connected by overhead walkways. Symmetrical facades face east to Capitol Avenue with central entrances]

Harry C. Stutz Factory Machine Shop
[Corner of Senate and tenth Streets, 1917]
[Exterior with high parapet that blocked a sawtooth roof, brick, cast stone, terra cotta trim]

Tichnor residence
[3522 N. Central Ave., circa 1910]
[Exterior, 2 ½ stories, frame, full-width front porch, wide recessed entrance, curved drive to back]

Frank J. Vinson residence
[859 West Dr., Woodruff Place, 1902–1903]
[Exterior, angled view, wood, 2 ½ story with dormers. First floor front and side bay windows. Covered porch]

Walker residence
[3363 Washington Blvd., circa 1910]
[Front and side exterior, 2 story brick with side porch, timbered roof]

Wasson, H. P., Building (remodeling)
[4–14 S. Meridian St., 1936–1937]
[Beginning construction site, exterior of finished building, Meridian Street entrance, Washington Street entrance]

Wasson, H. P., Building (remodeling)
[4–14 S. Meridian St., 1936–1937]
[Construction photos, 7/23/36 to 4/9/37]

Wehking residence
[3505 Washington Blvd., circa 1910]
[Front exterior view of brick 1 ½ story arts & crafts style home]

Fred B. Whitlock residence
[812 West Dr., Woodruff Place, circa 1905]


CONTENTS

Joseph Horne Co. Dept. Store
[Examples of lighting fixtures and book showing lighting in Horne Dept. Store, Pittsburg, Pa.]

Mrs. H. Woolen
Palagio Che DaVizzi
Italy
[Interiors]

Pick Wick Theatre
Park Ridge, Illinois
Hough organ lift

Roosevelt Building
[Vonnegut & Bohn design, built in 1922, photographed 8/10/42 for Wege Marble & Tile Co.]
[Views of building with details of exterior damage]

Jerry O. Stockton Radio Service
New Castle, Indiana
[Exterior of service station]

Taylor Motor Co.
New Castle, Indiana
Exterior, 3/18/36

Yvette Leo
New York, NY
[Interior of children’s barber shop]

Newsletter #73
[Photograph for newsletter]

Postcards:
Blackstone Hotel, Chicago, Ill.
Equitable Building, New York
Hotel Ansley: Lobby, Convention Hall, Italian Café, and College Rathskeller, Atlanta, Ga.
Trianon Ballroom. Chicago
Masonic Temple, Urbana, Oh.
William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh
Weldon Hotel Sun Parlor, Greenfield, Mass.

Decorative Arts:
Pamphlet: *English Church Woodwork: a study in craftsmanship during the Mediaeval period, A.D. 1250–1550*, n.d.
[Photos of decorative arts examples, models of wood or plaster décor, illuminated key type and door locks]

Decorative Arts:
[Photographs of small safe, tapestries, chairs, hall lantern]

Room Interiors: unidentified

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**CATALOGING INFORMATION**

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:


2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.

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

4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P0174).

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