

**Collection #  
DVD 1478–1482**

**TERRE HAUTE HOUSE HOTEL  
PHOTOGRAPHS, 2005**

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Processed by

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

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 5 master DVDs, 5 user DVDs

COLLECTION DATES: 2005

PROVENANCE: James T. Hehman, Terre Haute, Indiana

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Terre Haute House, *With the Compliments of the Management*, GT3811.T37 W5 1960

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2006.0403

NOTES:

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

In 1838, Chauncey Rose decided to build a hotel in the middle of downtown Terre Haute located on what is now 7th Street and Wabash Avenue. He named it Prairie House and had high hopes for its success. Success did not come, and after three years, Rose was forced to close the hotel. In 1849, Rose decided to give it another try and reopened. A few years later, he changed the name of the hotel to Terre Haute House.

The hotel fared better this time around thanks in part to J. Richard Beste. Beste had planned on a single evening stay with his family, but fell ill and extended their stay for nearly three months. He later wrote about his stay in his book, *The Wabash: or, Adventures of an English gentleman's family in the interior of America*, which helped to bring in more business.

Rose, tired of the hotel business, decided to sell the hotel in 1866. The hotel had changed owners several times until it was purchased by Crawford Fairbanks in the early 1920s. The building by that point was older, and the new owners intended to demolish it to make way for a new building with luxury at the forefront. This new building was designed by architect William Earl Russ. Opening day was 6 July 1928.

After several years of success, the hotel once again hit a decline. In 1959, Tony Hulman of Indianapolis Speedway fame purchased the hotel with the intent to revive it. He managed to keep it going for about a decade until the hotel closed for good in 1970.

Despite years of numerous attempts from various groups to renovate the building, it was demolished in 2005. The location is now home to a Hilton Garden Inn.

### Sources:

Terre Haute House, *With the Compliments of the Management*, GT3811.T37 W5 1960

Whitaker, Sigur E. *Tony Hulman: The Man Who Saved the Indianapolis Motor Speedway*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Publishers, 2014.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Each of the CD-Rs in this collection contains photographs taken by James T. Hehman of the demolition of Terre Haute House Hotel in Terre Haute, Indiana, in 2005.

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