

LEVEY BROTHERS & COMPANY, ANNEX
21-23 West Maryland Street
Indianapolis
Marion County
Indiana

HABS No. IN-212-A

HABS
IND
49-IND,
50A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Northeast Field Area
Chesapeake/Allegheny System Support Office
National Park Service
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

LEVEY BROTHERS & COMPANY, ANNEX HABS No. IN-212-A

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Location: 21-23 West Maryland Street
Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana

USGS Indianapolis West, Indiana Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
16.572040.4401780

Significance: Built in 1900-01, the Levey Brothers & Company Annex was one of several historic buildings in the Indianapolis Wholesale District that represented the printing industry located in that area. Established during the Civil War, the Wholesale District served the city and central Indiana until after the Second World War as a source of wholesale products ranging from groceries to tires and millinery. The Levey Brothers & Company Annex was a contributing structure in the Indianapolis Union Station-Wholesale District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places on July 14, 1982. It was demolished in 1989.

Description: The Levey Brothers & Company Annex was a five-story, brick industrial building facing West Maryland Street. The building had a rectangular plan, abutted on the south and east by the Levey Brothers & Company Building (HABS No. IN-212). It was situated on the southeastern corner of West Maryland and South Bird Streets, the latter being an alley. The building was roughly 36 feet, 8 inches wide and 62 feet deep.

The principal (north) facade was divided into two bays, with each subdivided by mullions into three windows on the second through fifth floors. Brick was used only in the narrow spandrels and paneled parapet. The steel framing was exposed and served as the dividing mullion (separating the two bays) and window lintels. The first floor was divided into four bays by

decorated cast-iron pilasters. The two center windows were blanked by two entry bays. The eastern entrance was intact with its glazed, paneled, double-leaf doors. The western door had a replacement aluminum and glass door, transom and side-lights. These four ground-floor bays all have a common transom band. The second-story windows had been replaced with fixed, aluminum sash windows. The windows of the third, fourth and fifth floors above were double-hung, with wood sashes. The panes of two upper sash windows on the fifth floor had been replaced by metal louvers.

The west facade, facing the alley South Bird Street, was divided into five bays in a manner identical to the main facade, except for the ground floor. This level had no openings, save the steel service door near the south end. A steel fire escape was attached between the first and fifth floors.

The Levey Brothers & Company Annex had a steel structural system supporting brick curtain walls, wooden roof and wooden floors. Interior circulation was served by a wooden stairway running from the basement to the fifth floor, located on the south wall. Another stairway on the north wall connected the first and second floors only. An elevator in the southwest corner of the building reached all floors. The Sanborn map of 1898, corrected to 1913, shows the elevator in its corner location.

The Levey Brothers & Company Annex interior retained almost all of its industrial character. The first floor, which functioned as an office area, had much of its floor surfaces covered with vinyl covering. Other alterations included suspended tile ceilings, wall partitions and wall coverings. The first floor had

some uncovered ceiling areas exposing the corrugated sheet metal ceilings. The other floors were generally unaltered with bare wood floors, painted brick walls, exposed structural elements in the walls, columns and ceilings and the open wooden stairways.

History:

The Levey Brothers & Company Annex was constructed as a part of the printing plant of Levey Brothers & Company Building (HABS No. IN-212). The Levey company, a leading Indianapolis printer, stationer, and blank book manufacturer, was established in Philadelphia in 1848 by William P. Levey. He moved the business to Madison, Indiana and continued in the business until retirement in 1878. Under the leadership of his sons, William M. and Louis H. Levey, the firm moved to Indianapolis in 1883; and by 1885, the firm occupied Elliott's Block, immediately across the street at 14-22 West Maryland (HABS No. IN-60). The company had its own building constructed in 1889-90 at 13-19 West Maryland Street (HABS No. IN-212). This "L" plan, four-story brick building wrapped around a two-story commercial building. This site was cleared after Louis H. Levey purchased the land in 1898, making way for the Annex, constructed in 1900-01. The Levey firm occupied its building and the Annex until 1905, moving to the new quarters at 226-240 West Ohio Street (demolished). The Levey family continued to own the Annex and leased it to a series of tenants related to the printing trades. The Indiana Illustrating Company occupied the space in the Annex as early as 1902. By 1910, the Indiana Electrottype Company occupied the entire building with its engraving, finishing, molding and art departments with offices on the first floor. In 1922 the Patterson Engraving Company was the occupant, but did not survive to the end of the 1920s. Charles A. Patterson, president of the engraving

company, had served as an officer of the Indiana Electrottype Company. The Annex sat vacant throughout the 1930s and 1940s. By 1950, the Annex had several tenants occupying the different floors. Campbell Circular Advertising Company was a tenant in 1950 and purchased the Annex in 1960 from the Levey estate. The Campbell Company, a printer and a jewelry maker, occupied the building until 1986 when the building became vacant. The Annex was demolished in 1989.

Historic views of the Annex can be found in the documentation for the Levey Brothers & Company Building (HABS No. IN-212).

Sources:

Bass Photograph Collection. Indiana Historical Society Library, Indianapolis.

Centre Venture. "Building Descriptions of Circle Centre Mall," Indianapolis, Indiana, February 8, 1988, rev. July 15, 1988 (typewritten, unpublished).

Deed Books. Marion County Recorder's Office, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Hyman, Max R., ed. Handbook of Indianapolis, an Outline History and Description of the Capital of Indiana. Indianapolis: M.R. Hyman Co., 1907.

_____. Journal Handbook of Indianapolis. Indianapolis: The Indianapolis Journal, 1902.

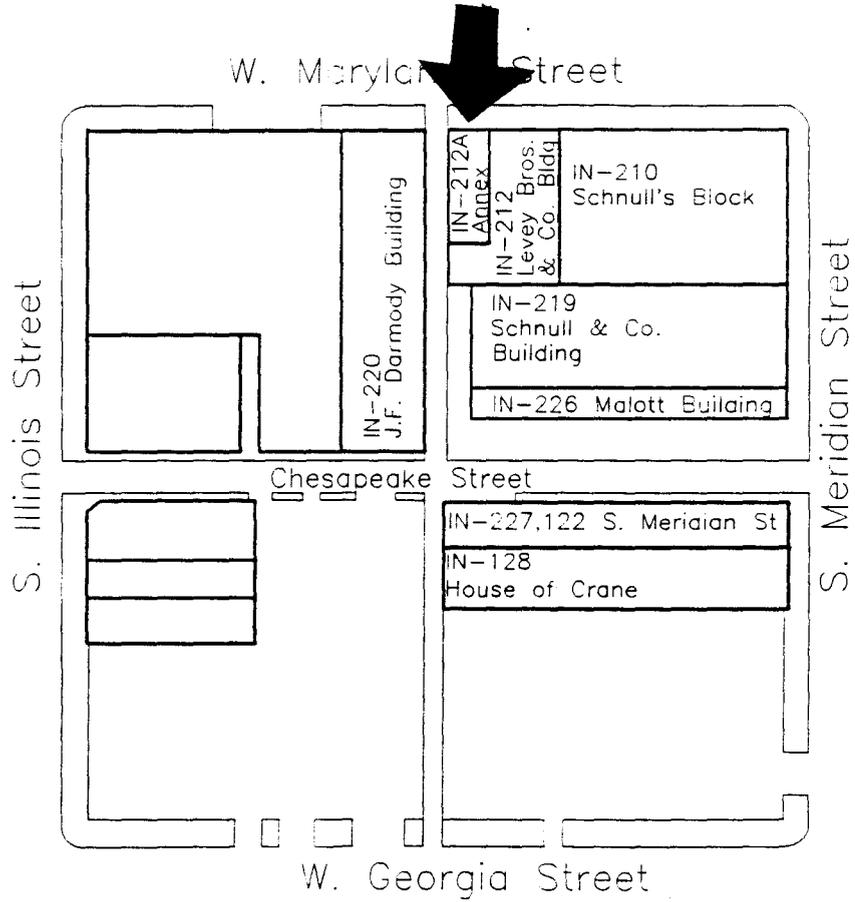
Polk, R.L. & Company. Indianapolis City Directory. Indianapolis: R.L. Polk & Co., 1885-1987.

Sanborn Map Company. Insurance Maps of Indianapolis, Indiana. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1914 and 1914 corrected to 1954.

Sanborn-Perris Map Company. Insurance Maps of Indianapolis, Indiana. New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Company, 1898 and 1898 corrected to 1913.

Historian: William L. Selm
Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission
March 1992

SITE PLAN



INDIANAPOLIS, IN.
CITY SQUARE 75

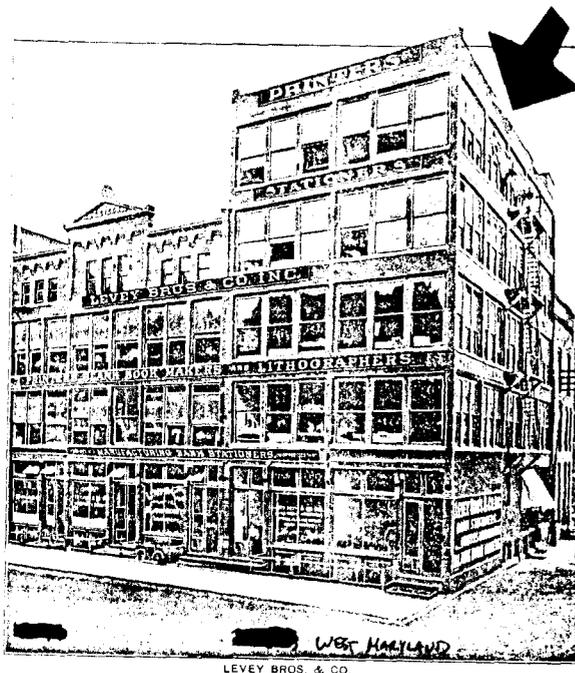
City of Indianapolis, Div. of Planning, 1991



SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Source: Hyman, Max R. Journal Handbook of Indianapolis.
Indianapolis: The Indianapolis Journal.
1902.

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Levey Bros. & Co. (Inc.)—This business was founded in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1848, by William P. Levey, who continued it until 1878, when he retired and the business was established in Indianapolis under the name of Levey Bros. & Co., which is the present style. Since 1878 three moves have been made, each time to newer and larger buildings to keep up with the constantly increasing demand for Levey goods. In the beginning, the business was comparatively small and was necessarily local and confined principally to the state of Indiana; but as the country developed and the facilities for business increased, full advantage was taken of every favorable opportunity to extend and increase the trade with the banks of America. The building of the business to its present magnitude has not been an easy task, since they

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have not had, all these years, the entire field to themselves. The marvelous growth was not an accident, neither was it the result of luck, and it was certainly not of monopoly. The business has not only held its own, but it has grown enormously and kept pace with the rapid strides that other interests of the country have made all these years, until today they occupy a foremost position in the manufacture of bank goods. The result has been achieved in the face of steadily increasing competition, and is due to the close and watchful attention required to grasp the enormous details of the business, and to the ability necessary to direct the application of mechanical inventions in manufacturing. All this has made it possible to extend the business from a local to a national one; and now there is not a bank in the United States but is familiar with the name of "Levey," and thousands can testify to the satisfaction of their dealings with them. The mercantile printing, engraving, lithographing and binding department of this company is one of the largest in the state of Indiana and the middle west.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Source: Polk, R. L. & Company. Indianapolis City Directory. Indianapolis: R. L. Polk & Co., 1914.

