

STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
INDIANA HISTORIC SITES AND STRUCTURES INVENTORY

Additional Architectural Information

A. NAME Fellwock Auto Company C. NUMBER 82-196-0216

B. ADDRESS 214 NW Fourth Street

D. UTM References 16 449680 4202830

E. Evansville was not yet a city dominated by the private automobile, but the transition from horse driven transportation and electric streetcars to the internal combustion engine was well along by the time Fellwock Auto Company constructed this building in 1922. Perhaps symbolic of its revolutionary role in transportation, the firm sought out an architecture which expressed the New Age. Fellwock's owners found this expression in the Prairie School designs of their architects, Clifford Shopbell & Company. The designer in charge, Edward J. Thole, had developed a facility for using the elements which distinguished the work of Frank Lloyd Wright and other Midwest contemporaries in several of Shopbell's commissions during the period between the First World War and the Great Depression. The rich Sullivanesque ornament visible in the cornice of the Fellwock building was an example of Thole's Prairie School genre.

F. INFORMATION SOURCES American Terra Cotta Index. City Directories.

G. PREPARED BY Douglas L. Stern H. DATE 22 December 1981

D. ADDRESS 214 N. W. Fourth Street

E. TOWN/CITY Evansville

F. QUAD SHEET Evansville South

G. SITE

X STRUCTURE

H.

NHL

NR

HABS

HAER

I. UTM References

CENSUS TRACT #16

42c-2830

STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
INDIANA HISTORIC SITES AND STRUCTURES INVENTORY

1. HISTORIC NAME FELLWOCK AUTO CO.
2. OWNERSHIP: ☒ PUBLIC ☒ PRIVATE

NAME SARAH C. & PAUL C. THOLE
ADDRESS _____

3. LOCATION NOTES DONATION ENL., LOT 170

4. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY: ☒ YES ☐ NO 20-23-4

5. USE PRESENT PAST
Residential (sing.) ☐ ☐
Residential (mult.) ☐ ☐
Commerce ☐ ☐
Industrial ☐ ☐
Agriculture ☐ ☐
Transportation ☐ ☐
Organization ☐ ☐
Military ☐ ☐
Political ☐ ☐
Unknown ☐ ☐
Vacant ☐ ☐
Other AUTO DEALER ☐ ☐

6. CATEGORY
☒ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

7. ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES/RESTRICTED
☐ YES/UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

8. ENDANGERED
☒ NO
YES/BY WHAT _____

9. DATE 1922
10. ARCHITECT/BUILDER
CLIFFORD SHOPBELL

11. PERIODS: ☐ PREHISTORIC ☐ 17TH/18TH CEN. ☐ 1800-1860 ☒ 1861-1890 ☒ 1900-PRESENT

12. AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

<input type="checkbox"/> Archeology-Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Law	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> Archeology-Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Economics	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Exploration/Settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Politics/Government	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	

13. STYLE

☐ Federal
☐ Greek Revival
☐ Gothic Revival
☐ Italianate
☐ Second Empire
☐ Stick Style/Eastlake
☐ Queen Anne
☐ Romanesque Revival
☐ Colonial Revival
☐ Neo-Classical
☐ Bungalow
☐ Vernacular
☒ Other (Specify) PRAIRIE SCHOOL

14. CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR
☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

15. ALTERATIONS

☐ UNALTERED
☒ MINOR
☐ MAJOR

16. SITE INTEGRITY

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

17. OUTBUILDINGS/SECONDARY STRUCTURES

☒ NO
☐ YES

18. IN ESTABLISHED HISTORIC DISTRICT

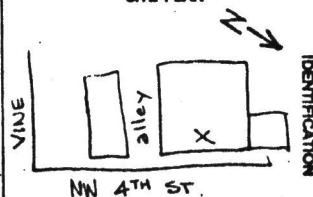
☒ NO
☐ YES/NAME _____

19. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT (NATURAL AND MAN-MADE) DOWNTOWN, ACROSS FROM OLD COUNTY COURTHOUSE. REAR PORTION OF BLDG POSSIBLY AN ADDITION

20. INFORMATION SOURCES TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR, THE AMERICAN TERRA COTTA INDEX

21. PREPARED BY NANCY J. LONG 22. DATE 8/30/77

SITE PLAN




IDENTIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION/DATE

SIGNIFICANCE

DESCRIPTION

1. C RECTANGULAR
2. C 2 STORIES
3. D 4 BAYS
4. C-2 GLAZED WHITE BRICK, STRETCHER BOND. REAR IS RED BRICK, COMM.
5. D
6. B-16 ORNATE PANELS, TERRA COTTA
7. A COVERED DRIVE-THROUGH ON SIDE
8. A UNKNOWN ROOFING
9. J FLAT ROOF
10. D UNKNOWN CHIMNEYS
11. H
12. J NO DORMERS
13. L PARAPET
14. E TILE
15. R NONE
16. I NONE
17. ORNATE CAP ON FRONT PARAPET
18. A FLAT WINDOWS (2ND STORY, 1ST FLOOR LARGE COMMERCIAL SHOW WINDOWS)
19. D-1 VERTICAL JOINT HEADS
20. A PLAIN SIDES
21. C BRICK
22. A PLAIN STONE SILLS
23. E CENTER PANELS TILT
24. 3 SECTIONS OF 16 LIGHTS EACH
25. C NO 3RD FLOOR
26. B-4 MULTIPLE DOORS
27. ALTERED
28. 
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
35. C UNKNOWN

Architectural Information

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

(Downtown Evansville MHA)

Property: Old Fellwook Auto Company
State, County: IN, Vanderburgh
Federal Agency: _____Working No. 5/20/82-1506

Fed. Reg. Date: _____

Date Due: 6-17-82 / 7-4-82Action: ☐ ACCEPT
☒ RETURN 7/1/82
☐ REJECT

photos _____

maps _____

☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appealSubstantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☒ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

This building has strong architectural character as examples of Prairie School design. ~~The~~ theme of Evansville's automobile trade and industry needs fuller development before this example's significance can be ascertained.

Recom. / Criteria Return
Reviewer L. McClelland
Discipline A. Hist
Date 6/30/82
____ see continuation sheetNomination returned for: ☒ technical corrections cited below
☒ substantive reasons discussed below1. Name2. Location3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal Description6. Representation in Existing Surveyshas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no☒ 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

☒ summary paragraph
☒ completeness
☒ clarity
☒ alterations/integrity
☒ dates
☒ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Area of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____

Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☒ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

Please develop contextual framework for evaluating this representative of Evansville's auto servicing and trade of early 20th century. See #29.

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Address of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UNIT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is

☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

Title _____

Date _____

13. Other

- ☒ Maps
- ☒ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
INDIANA HISTORIC SITES AND STRUCTURES INVENTORY

Additional Architectural Information

A. NAME Fellwock Automobile Company C. NUMBER 82-196-00216

B. ADDRESS 214 NW Fourth Street

D. UTM References 16 449680 4202830

E. 19:

The Fellwock Automobile Company produced two buildings within the MRA. The small garage building at 315 Court Street (82-196-0134) was its first, erected by the company a few years after their establishment in 1908. The second building was constructed later as the company was expanding its lines in 1923 and fronts on Fourth Street just around the corner from the first Fellwock building.

The Fellwocks were perfectly suited to the free-wheeling beginnings of the local auto industry. With roots in Evansville's enormous furniture-manufacturing industry, the company was already well-established in the business community and had the mechanical talents and inventive flexibility required for the early days of cars and trucks. Not content to sit back and wait for business to come to it, the firm spent a good deal of its early resources helping the local auto club promote good driving, road construction, and the like. After the opening in 1917 of the Coliseum across Court Street from their first building, the company pushed to organize the first city-wide car show.

The Fellwocks' enterprise was rewarded. In 1910, when the total national car sales totaled 181,000, the Fellwock Company could claim 500. Its reputation for the sale and servicing of "high grade" cars was founded on their representation of Cadillac, Pontiac, Dodge Brothers, and Reos vehicles. By the early Twenties, it was apparent that the company was ready to tap ever-increasing markets for their products and services.

In 1923, the Fellwocks were ready to expand. They selected a site on Fourth Street for their new building, connected in an L-shaped manner to their first building and across Fourth Street from the Vanderburgh County Courthouse. The Fellwocks turned to the successor of the firm of Harris & Shopbell (designers of their 1908 building on Court Street), architects Clifford Shopbell and Company, for the design of their new sales and showroom facility. By the early Twenties, Shopbell & Company had the Evansville and regional architectural market nearly cornered. With the aid of one of their chief designers, Edward J. Thole, Shopbell & Company was producing buildings of nearly every type, increasingly in this period in the progressive styles associated with the Prairie and Chicago Schools. The design for the new Fellwock building was handled by Thole and represents the finest expression locally of the architecture of Louis

F. INFORMATION SOURCES _____

G. PREPARED BY Douglas L Stern H. DATE 07 December 1982

FEB 23 1984

Additional Architectural Information

Page 2

Sullivan. The green terra cotta pendants and contrasting white-glazed brick of the rectilinear facade is directly out of Sullivan's genre and presents the zenith of the Thole's Prairie School work.

Together with the garage on Court, the Fellwock building on Fourth forms one of the finest complexes locally associated with the early auto industry and illustrates the passage of one firm from the transitional Arts and Crafts of 1908 to a full-blown Prairie School example of 1923. Except for certain minor, reversible changes to the interior of the buildings made over the years, the level of integrity remains exceedingly high and the essential character of the buildings completely undiminished.

P. B. FELLWOCK

P. B. Fellwock was born in 1866 on a farm near the hamlet of St. Paul, Fayette County, Ill. He wielded the ax and shoved the plow until sixteen years old. Then began clerking in a country store, and followed this for four years.

Twenty finds him absorbing a commercial course at the Northern Indiana Normal School, Valparaiso, Ind. In February, 1887, he struck Evansville dead broke, but the possessor of a good appetite and full of anxiety to work. The next four years were put in as a traveling salesman for F. J. Scholz, the marble man. Tired of road life he in 1891 accepted a minor position with the Karges Furniture Co., and a year later was promoted to head bookkeeper, which position he held for thirteen years.

Mr. Fellwock is a pioneer in the automobile sport, in 1900 he began with a three-wheeler, in 1906 he, with his two brothers, Will and Fred, organized the Fellwock Auto and Manufacturing Co. Their factory builds veneered rolls and automobile tonneaus, tops, turn-tables, and other specialties, that they ship all over the country, from Maine to Mexico. At their up-town store they exhibit such a variety of cars as has never before been attempted in Evansville. Their garage is the largest and best equipped in Southern Indiana. Mr. Fellwock is a director in the Commercial Bank, and also manager of the Bockstege Furniture Co. It goes without saying that he is a very busy man, but never too busy to serve his many friends with a first-class automobile or a good table.

From: Remy, Richard. WHO'S WHO & WHY. Evansville:
The author, c. 1907.



010
A. HISTORIC NAME Fellwock Automobile Company B. COUNTY Vanderburgh C. NUMBER 82-196-00216
D. ADDRESS 214 NW Fourth Street E. TWP/CITY Pigeon F. QUAD NAME Evansville South
RATING ☐ Outstanding ☒ Significant/Notable ☐ Contributing/Reference ☐ Non-Contributing UTM REFERENCES 16 449680 4202830

STATE OF INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES INDIANA HISTORIC SITES AND STRUCTURES INVENTORY

REVISED
1981

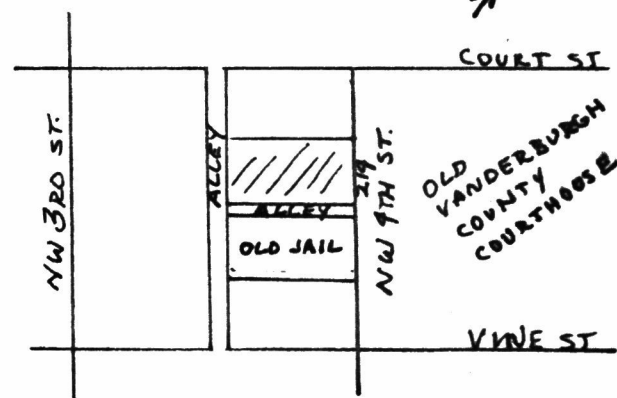
MOUNT CONTACT PRINTS HERE

1. COMMON NAME <u>Martin Tile & Floor</u>	4. PROPERTY'S MAILING ADDRESS <u>Sarah C. & Paul Thole</u> <u>c/o 214 NW Fourth Street</u> <u>Evansville, Indiana 47708</u>	5. LOCATION NOTES <u>Donation Enlargement lot 170</u>
2. OWNERSHIP <u>Public</u> * Private		
3. VISIBLE * Yes No		

6. USE	PRESENT	PAST		PRESENT	PAST	7. ENDANGERED	8. CATEGORY	9a. LOCAL LEGAL PROTECTIONS
Residence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/> Historic District
Govt./Pol.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Neglected	* <input type="checkbox"/> Building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Landmark
Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Encroachment	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Deed Restriction
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religious	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Object	
Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Museum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Organization	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Educational	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Other				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
						9b. SURVEYS		
						SR <input type="checkbox"/> NR <input type="checkbox"/> NHL <input type="checkbox"/> HABS <input type="checkbox"/> HAER <input type="checkbox"/>		

10. CONDITION <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent * <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	11. BUILDING INTEGRITY <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered * <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved Date <input type="text"/>	11a. Specify Alterations Removals <input type="text"/> Structural <input type="text"/> Replacement <u>Ground floor facade windows</u> Additions <input type="text"/>
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12. DATE <u>1923</u>	13. STYLE <u>Prairie</u>	14. ARCHITECT/BUILDER <u>Shopbell & Co.</u>
15. DESCRIPTION <u>See below</u>		
Inscriptions <input type="checkbox"/> Facade Material <u>glazed brick / terra cotta</u>		
16. OUTBUILDINGS <u>none</u>		

17. SITE PLAN 	18. ENVIRONMENT <u>commercial</u>
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19. AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Specify the significance for each area checked

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	15: Number 214 NW 4th Street is a two-story building, roughly 75 feet wide	ATTACH NEGATIVE ENVELOPE HERE
<input type="checkbox"/> Arts	by 150 feet long. The body of the structure is common brick. The facade	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	is faced with glazed white brick and ornamented with Sullivanesque terra	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	cotta pendants. The ground level of the facade is taken up by a wide drive-in and large	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	plate glass display windows. The building is very little changed on the exterior since its	
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning	completion in 1923. On the interior, minor changes have occurred, but the former auto	
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	display room is now a retail tile outlet business and former car repair and storage areas are	
<input type="checkbox"/> Environs/Neighborhoods	used for rental parking. A service elevator connects the basement, first, and second floors.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Exploration/Settlement	The clear-span second floor is unimproved and is skylit. At the rear, the building is joined	
<input type="checkbox"/> Humanities	to a one-story brick building, erected in 1908 by the Fellwicks (82-196-0134). The	
<input type="checkbox"/> Indian	acreage of the Fellwick Automobile Company site is approximately .3 acre.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture		
<input type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Politics/Government		
<input type="checkbox"/> Religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> Science/Technology		
<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Ethnicity		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation		
<input type="checkbox"/> Vernacular/Construction		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		

19. See Additional Architectural Information form

20. INFORMATION SOURCES Deed Records; Mortgages; City Directories; Evansville Courier, 15 October 1922, 25 February & 18 March 1923

21. SURVEYOR

Douglas L. Stern

22. DATE 07 December 1982

(amended)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Old Fellwock Auto Company (Downtown Evansville MRA)
Vanderburgh County
INDIANA

Substantive Review

Working No. 5/20/82-1506
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85
Date Due: 4/8/84
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 4/6/84
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- ☒ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal

☒ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria Accept/ARC
Reviewer ARC
Discipline ARC
Date 4.6.84
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- ☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair
- ☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



DOWNTOWN EVANSVILLE RESOURCES
Vanderburgh County, Indiana
N. Long, DMD 1977

view northwest of
#35 214 N.W. Fourth Street
Old Fell wock Auto Co.

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000186