



37. Despa House (1863) - 538 Lockerbie St. This attractive brick house was built by Johann Ernst Despa, a painter and active in German-American organizations. Note the ornamental entryway.

36. St. Mary Catholic Church/Marienkirche (1910/12) 317 N. New Jersey St. The parish of St. Mary was founded in 1857 as a German National Parish. Designed by Hermann J. Gaul (1869-1949) of Cologne, this Gothic-Revival church in Indiana limestone was "to bear the stamp of the great cathedral of Cologne." The facade sculpture is by Alexander Sangernebo and the stone work by G. Ittenbach & Co., founded by Gerhard Ittenbach in Königswinter. Note the German-made art-glass windows and the statues of Mary, St. Boniface and St. Henry in the gables.

35. Mode Double Residence (1905) - 417-419 N. College Ave. This brick double residence was built by Michael Mode, proprietor of Michael Mode's Shoes. He was succeeded by his sons in Mode Brothers Shoes.

34. Staub House (1859) - 342 N. College Ave. Alsatian tailor Joseph W. Staub built this imposing house. He arrived in 1854 from Cincinnati to become the city's first merchant tailor.

33. Frederick Simon Bldg. - 330 N. College Ave. The Simons lived above their grocery store built in 1860 with the Italianate facade added in the 1870s.

41. Ruskamp House (1892) and Store (1873) - 711 & 715 Dorman St. The well-preserved Frederick Ruskamp residence (1892) was designed by Vonnegut & Bohn in German Renaissance Revival Style, complete with corner turret and stepped gable. Ruskamp, a Hannover-native, built the Italianate commercial building to the north in 1873 as their grocery store and prior home. Vonnegut & Bohn also designed the nearby wood-frame double residences for Ruskamp.

40. Lieber Cottage (c.1860) - 407-409 N. Park Ave. This Alpine Chalet was built by Düsseldorf Hermann Lieber (1832-1908), founder of the H. Lieber Co. that prospered with picture framing, an art emporium and photography supplies. Lieber, "Father of the German House" and a central figure in local German activities, was also the patron of T.C. Steele and other Indiana artists who studied at Munich's Royal Academy.

39. Spiegel House (1860) - 401 N. Park Ave. Augustus Spiegel was a partner in Spiegel, Thoms & Co., makers and dealers of furniture. The house was enlarged in 1870.

38. Thoms House (1860) - 353 N. Park Ave. Similar to the Staub house, this imposing late Federal Style house was built by Friedrich Thoms.



Das Deutsche Haus-Athenaeum

Wegweiser

A SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF GERMAN-AMERICAN SITES IN INDIANAPOLIS

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1. Athenaeum/Das Deutsche Haus (1893-1898) - 401 E. Michigan St.

Indianapolis' oldest Turnverein (1851) built this fine example of German Renaissance Revival Style. The Turnverein movement came to the US after the failed German Revolution (1848/49). Reflecting the Turner motto, "A sound mind in a sound body," the Vonnegut & Bohn design provided for physical, cultural and social pursuits with a gymnasium, concert hall, auditorium, meeting rooms, Rathskeller and Biergarten. Note the stepped up gables and Jugendstil art-glass. A cultural center for liberal-minded German-Americans and Indianapolitans, the *Deutsche Haus* became the Athenaeum in 1918 (WW I). Today it is the home of the Athenaeum Turners, Damenverein and orchestra, Athenaeum Foundation, Indiana German Heritage Society, Max Kade German-American Center, Maennerchor, YMCA, American Cabaret, and other groups.

2. Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ (1912/13) - 601 N. New Jersey St.

The present church, designed in Gothic Revival Style by D.A. Bohlen & Son, is the third house of worship for this congregation founded as the German United Evangelical Protestant-Lutheran & Reformed Zion Church (1841). The German Reformed Church merged with the Congregationalist Church in 1957 to form the United Church of Christ. Zion's woodcarved altar features "The Lord's Supper" by Alois Lang (b.1871 in Oberammergau), a nephew of Anton Lang who repeatedly played Christ in the Passion Play. Alois also did the statues adorning the pulpit.

3. Turnverein Apartments/Unabhängiger Turnverein (1913/14) 902 N. Meridian St.

Swiss-born Adolf Scherrer (1847-1925) designed this second home of the Independent Turnverein combining German Renaissance Revival and Craftsman Style elements. The sculptured limestone entrance way once had German inscriptions and the now blank shields bore initials of Turner mottos. Complete with swimming pool, gymnasium, Rathskeller and meeting rooms, the Hoosier Athletic Club--another World War I name change--fell on hard times and faded away. It was used by Purdue University (1945/1981) and then reopened as Turnverein Apartments (1985).

4. Scottish Rite Cathedral (1927/29) - 650 N. Meridian St.

George F. Schreiber's Tudor Gothic-style landmark is rich in Masonic symbolism. The basic measurement of 33 ft. and multiples thereof resembles the Masonic 33 Degrees and Christ's lifespan. Exquisite, carved woodwork and a 2,500-lb. crystal chandelier are two of the many attractions of the interior. Schreiber (1875-1950) was born and educated in Aachen.

5. Indiana State Soldiers' & Sailors' Monument (1888/1901) Monument Circle

This Civil War monument was designed by Berlin architect Bruno Schmitz (1858-1916), winner of the state's international competition. The limestone sculptures are by Vienna-born Rudolf Schwarz (1865-1912) who also designed and made Civil War memorials in Indiana and Dayton, OH. Schmitz remained in Germany and became its leading monument designer, e.g. Deutsches Eck/Koblenz, Völkerschlachtsdenkmal, Kyffhäuser. The bronze Army Astragal sculptural band above the base is by Nicolaus Geiger (1849-1897), also of Berlin. Annually the monument turns into the "world's largest Christmas tree."

6. Indiana State Capital (1880-1888)

Edwin May (1823-1880) was the winner of the state design competition for this state house. After his premature death, his chief draftsman, Adolf Scherrer (1847-1925) became the supervising architect and completed the construction drawings. The sculpture atop the south portico depicting Indians, pioneers, farmers and a blacksmith is by German-born Hermann C. Mueller (1854-1941). The statehouse was restored in 1988 in observance of its centennial.

7. INDIANAPOLIS WHOLESALE DISTRICT

It was born in 1863 when two Westphalian immigrants, August and Henry Schnull, built the first wholesale house, Schnull's Block, the southwest corner of S. Meridian and W. Maryland Sts. The Schnulls built additional commercial buildings and also founded Merchants National Bank (1865). August returned to Germany and Henry won the epithet "Father of the Wholesale District." German-American names are associated with many of the district's surviving buildings.

8. Omni Severin Hotel (1912/13) - 40 W. Jackson St.

Another Vonnegut & Bohn design. Enlarged and reopened in 1990, the hotel retained the historic name, after Henry Severin, Jr., son of an immigrant merchant.

9. Louis G. Deschler Co. Bldg. (1906/07) - 135 S. Illinois St.

This flagship of Deschler's wholesale and retail cigar and tobacco firm was designed by Adolf Scherrer in the German Renaissance Style.

10. Reinhardt Bldg. (1864) - 133 S. Illinois St.

Built by owner-occupant Peter Joseph Reinhardt, a locksmith.

11. Hampton Inn/Big Four Bldg. (1929/30) - 105 S. Meridian St.

Originally designed by D.A. Bohlen & Son, with ornamentation by Alexander Sangernebo, as office building for the Big Four Railroad. It opened as a hotel in 1996.

12. Century Bldg. (1901) - 36 S. Pennsylvania St.

Constructed for investors led by John W. & Edward Schmidt, sons of the brewer Christian F. Schmidt, the Century was designed to house the large presses of multiple printing companies.

13. Majestic Bldg. (1894/95) - 47 S. Pennsylvania St.

The city's first skyscraper and tallest building until 1913. Designed by D.A. Bohlen & Son for the Indianapolis Gas Co.

14. Schrader Bldg. (1910) - 101-105 S. Pennsylvania St.

A D.A. Bohlen & Son Romanesque Revival design for Schraders' wholesale grocery firm. The builder was William P. Jungclaus, the city's leading contractor.

15. Slippery Noodle Inn/Germania House (1863/64) - 372 S. Meridian St.

Originally built as a hotel and tavern, this was first named Concordia House.

16. Rusch Bldg. (1867/68) - 234-247 S. Meridian St.

This first-generation wholesale house was an investment of Westphalia-born Frederick P. Rusch.

17. Hibben, Hollweg & Co. Bldg. (1911/12) - 141/143 S. Meridian St.

Designed by Vonnegut & Bohn, this is the largest of the historic wholesale buildings. Louis Hollweg founded the dry goods firm with Hibben in the 1890s, but had already established his reputation as a wholesaler of china and glassware.

18. Schnull-Rothschild Bldg. (1866/67) - 122 S. Meridian St.

Built for Henry Schnull, it housed a variety of wholesale businesses over time. When it was demolished, the facade was dismantled, reconstructed and integrated into the Circle Centre Mall.

19. Vajen's Exchange Block (1872) - 200 Block S. Meridian St.

Hardware merchant, John H. Vajen (1828-1917) of Bremen, had a spectacular building on 124-126 N. Pennsylvania St. housing retail shops and a grain exchange. It had a three-story cast-iron Italianate facade. The building was demolished in 1980 to make way for the Bank One Tower. Of the block's 13 bays 11 were integrated into the Circle Centre Mall (1994).

20. Ko-We-Ba Bldg. (1909) - 102-106 S. Delaware St.
The "Ko" and the "Ba" represent the names of Kothe and Bauer, partners in the wholesale grocery business.

21. Ko-We-Ba Bldg. II (1920) - 240-260 Virginia Ave.
As Ko-We-Ba prospered it built a larger facility. Note the name above doorway.

22. Immanuel Church (1894) - 412 E. Prospect St.
German Protestants founded this Evangelical Reformed Church in 1880. The present *Rundbogenstil*-designed church has a distinctive bell tower and a number of German inscriptions.

23. Southside Turners Hall/Südseite Turnverein (1900) 306 E. Prospect Ave.

The Southside Turnverein (1893) had Vonnegut & Bohn design this German Renaissance Revival hall complete with gymnasium, meeting rooms and Rathskeller. The heraldic pediment sculpture with a shield bearing the portrait of Turnvater Jahn is by Rudolf Schwarz. The Turners are no longer occupants. Note German inscription on steps.

24. Sacred Heart Catholic Church/Herz Jesu Kirche - 1530 S. Union St.

This southside parish was founded in 1875. The first building, designed by Adrian Wewer, O.F.M., served as a home for the Franciscan priests and friars, parish school, and church. The Gothic Revival Style church (1883/85) and the twin spires (1891) are also by Friar Wewer, who later designed the Benedictine Archabbey church of St. Meinrad in southwest Indiana. Sacred Heart's magnificent interior is intact with wooden gothic altars, statuary, art-glass windows, and a polychromatic ceiling and wall paint scheme. The parish complex once included a German parish school, girls school and high school.

25. CEMETERIES

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, 435 W. Troy Ave.;
Hebrew Cemetery, 20 W. Kelly St.;
Concordia Lutheran Cemetery, 2703 S. Meridian St.
Many German-speaking immigrants are buried in these southside cemeteries. German inscriptions are found on

stones, esp. at St. Joseph Cemetery, with its attractive mortuary chapel (1874). The Irish Catholics used the nearby Holy Cross Cemetery. North of the Catholic cemetery is the Hebrew Congregation Cemetery. This congregation was largely founded by German-speaking Jews (1856). Inscriptions in nearby Concordia Lutheran Cemetery, founded by St. Paul German Evangelical Lutheran Church (1879), offer lots of information.

26. Pleasant Run Children's Home/Deutsches Allgemeines Protestantisches Waisenhaus (1871/72) - 1404 S. State St.

After the Civil War, Indianapolis Germans followed the Cincinnati example by forming the German General Protestant Orphanage Association (1867). D.A. Bohlen's design exhibits German Gothic details. The home was self-sufficient with gardens, orchard, dairy barns, livestock and bakery. Renamed to General Protestant Orphans' Home and later Pleasant Run Children's Home, it served as an orphanage until 1981 and is now a substance abuse center.

27. City Market (1886) - 222 E. Market St.

Hannover-born Diedrich A. Bohlen designed this market house for the City in the round arch style (*Rundbogenstil*), popular in Germany for markets, train stations and other institutional buildings. Adjacent is an archway ruins, a surviving fragment of Tomlinson Hall, designed in tandem with the Market by Bohlen, the founding father of America's oldest continuing architectural firm.

28. LOCKERBIE SQUARE/GERMANTOWN

This area began to develop in 1850 when Janet McOuat, a Scotswoman, created Lockerbie Street. German immigrants filled up the blocks to the south with their cottages and gardens. An 1849 newspaper, *The Locomotive*, described "Germantown" as a four-block area bound by College Ave., New York, Market and East Sts. With the encroachment of industrial buildings, interstates and parking lots, old Germantown vanished. Lockerbie Square succeeded it as the cradle of German Indianapolis.

29. Warren Tate House - 228 N. East St.

Indianapolis-born Charles G. Mueller designed this imposing German Renaissance Revival house.

30. William Kuhn Bakery - 302-304 N. East St.

Constructed during the Civil War, Württemberger William Kuhn operated his *Bäckerei* here and lived above it. It later was named "Marburg Apartments."

31. Lockerbie Square United Methodist Church - Erste Deutsche Evangelische Kirche (1881/83) - 237 N. East St.

This congregation was formed in 1853. "Germantown" had a number of other German Protestant churches. The present one was designed by D.A. Bohlen in *Rundbogenstil*. Features include polychromatic brickwork (black-red-gold) and limestone accents. G.I. Ittenbach & Co. did the stone work. The interior remains unaltered from a 1928 remodeling. The German cornerstone inscription fell victim to WW I.

32. Nicholas Hofmeister Bldg. (1863/64) - 656-660 E. New York St.

This Italianate commercial building was first constructed by Hofmeister, then enlarged in the 1870s and 1890s. Hofmeister lived above his grocery store.

Sectional Map of Indianapolis - 1998
-A self-guided tour of German-American sites in Indianapolis -

