



Long-Graf House Historic District

History

The Long-Graf House Historic District consists of a single property, located at 1945 East Elm Street in New Albany's Uptown neighborhood. It was designated as a local historic district in 2009 at the owners' request, due to its architectural and industrial significance.

The home at 1945 East Elm was constructed in 1892 in the Queen Anne style. It displays the architectural detailing characteristic of that style, including fishscale shingles in the front gable, a spindlework frieze on the second floor porch and Queen Anne windows. It maintains excellent integrity, and is one of the more intact high style examples of the Queen Anne style in the city. It was rated "outstanding" in the 1994 *City of New Albany Interim Report*, meaning that it is likely eligible

for individual inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

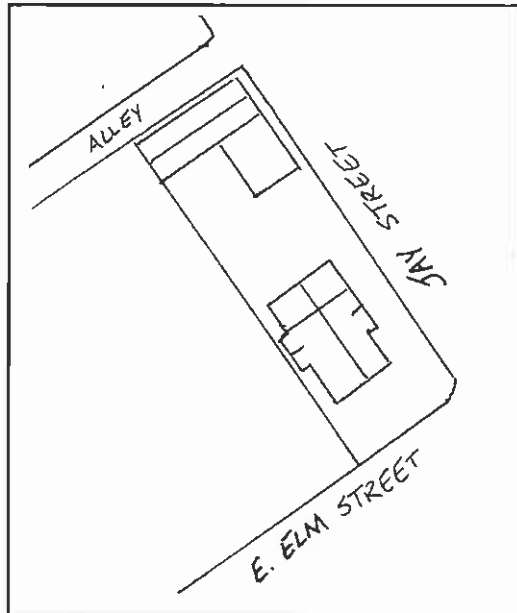
The lot on which the home is located was purchased by Clara Long on November 21, 1891. The building permit, which was signed by Clara Long, is dated December 5, 1891 and the building's cost was \$2200. She and her husband James sold the home on February 9, 1900 to Sarah and John Vaughn and Allie Jones.

The Jacob Graf family purchased the property from the Vaughns and Jones on September 20, 1904. The property stayed in the Graf family until October 22, 1976. The property then quickly passed through two other owners before Ken and Sherry Brock purchased the property in 1978. The Brocks remained in the home until 2008, and initiated its local historic district designation to ensure its protection.

The structure on the alley at the rear of the property is also significant. It housed the J. Graf Crupper Co., which operated here from 1904 until 1964 manufacturing cruppers, which are a component of a horse harness. Graf, a native of Switzerland, had begun his business in Charlestown, Indiana. Son Oscar Graf also worked in the business, which closed upon the younger Graf's death.

Products from the facility were distributed around the world, and at one point the company had a virtual monopoly on the market. In later years, as the market for cruppers diminished, the major product manufactured here became grip handles. The advertisement at right shows the facility as it appeared in 1908.

Map



Plant J. Graf Crupper Company.

J. GRAF CRUPPER COMPANY.

Not the least of our important industrial institutions is the J. Graf Crupper Co., manufacturing cruppers for harness makers. This business was established by Mr. Jacob Graf in a small way in 1889, and by well-directed effort and straightforward business methods he has developed a trade which extends to all parts of the United States. The factory is exceptionally well equipped from a mechanical standpoint, having every device and appliance which could in any way contribute towards the proper manufacture and prompt distribution of the products; gives employment to ten men, and about \$1,500 is distributed annually in wages. Three salesmen represent the factory in various parts of the country, and the business has grown to substantial and consequent proportions. Nearly all of the various mechanical devices were originated and built by Mr. Graf, who is an expert mechanic.