

Collection #  
P 0550

**FRANK E. HAMMER COLLECTION  
1928–1930, 1933, N.D.**

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Processed by

Barbara Quigley  
3 March 2015

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 OVC Graphics Box

COLLECTION DATES: Drawings, 1928–1930; newspaper article, 1933

PROVENANCE: Drawings purchased from Frank E. Hammer in 1933; newspaper article was gift from him in 1935

RESTRICTIONS: Drawings must be handled with care, touching only on the outside of the edges of the paper and while wearing gloves.

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1933.0102, 1935.0503

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Francis "Frank" E. Hammer, born 24 March 1862, was the fourth son of Isaac Newton Hammer (b. 19 May 1826; d. 26 August 1901) and Charity Wilkinson Hammer (1828–1875). They were Quakers who lived on a farm in the Brown Township of Hancock County, Indiana. After Charity died, Isaac married Mary Macy on 27 April 1876 in Rush County.

On 29 June 1887 in Hancock County, Frank married Flora E. Duncan (b. 14 July 1866; d. 10 September 1949). They had four children: John Newton (1889–1972), Helen (1891–1970), Dorothy (1895–1926), and Donald Lawrence (1896–1969). At the time of the 1900 census, they lived at 2516 N. Pennsylvania Street in Indianapolis, and Frank's occupation was listed as portrait artist. In 1910 the family was living in Cleveland, Ohio, where Frank was an agent for a lecture bureau and his son John was an artist at a printing company.

In 1920 Frank, Flora, and youngest child, Donald, were living back on N. Pennsylvania Street in Indianapolis. Frank's occupation on that year's census record is listed as salesman for a "Specialty Co.," while Donald was working as a salesman for a film company.

By 1930 the Hammers owned their home at 2429 N. Pennsylvania Street in Indianapolis. No occupation is listed for Frank in 1930, but the 1940 census indicates that he was a salesman for a retail paint company. However, it also shows that he did not work in 1939. That census also shows that his education included two years of college. City directories from 1932 and 1937 list his occupation as artist.

A 1933 article in the *Indianapolis News* mentions that "Mr. Hammer has not devoted his entire career . . . to art but has carried it on more as a hobby" and that "he has taught school, been admitted to the bar, was prosecuting attorney at Greenfield, was a traveling salesman and is now a confectioner." It states that he "has a studio in his home, and after hours at his shop, which is near his home," he works on his sketches and watercolors.

The article mentions that he was a member of the Hoosier Sketching Club that met in the old Circle hall in the southwest segment of what is now Monument Circle in the early 1890s. Artist T.C. Steele did critiques for the club.

Frank died 31 December 1948 in Indianapolis. Frank and Flora are buried in Park Cemetery in Greenfield, Indiana.

Sources:

Indiana Find A Grave Index, 1800–2012 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com>). Accessed 3 March 2015.

Indiana Marriage Collection, 1800–1941 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com>). Accessed 3 March 2015.

Indiana Select Marriages, 1780–1992 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com>). Accessed 3 March 2015.

*Indianapolis News*. "All Around the Town." March 27, 1933, p. 2[?]. Photocopy of article in collection.

U.S. Census, 1870, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, and 1940 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com>). Accessed 3 March 2015.

U.S. City Directories, 1821–1989 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com>). Accessed 3 March 2015.

U.S. Find A Grave Index, 1600s–Current (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com>). Accessed 3 March 2015.

U.S. Quaker Meeting Records, 1681–1935 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com>). Accessed 3 March 2015.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection consists of 56 black-and-white drawings created by Frank E. Hammer in 1928–1930. Fifty-three are of buildings and other landmarks throughout Indiana. Three are of landmarks in other states, namely Kentucky, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. The drawings are approximately 15 x 22 inches in size. They were drawn using graphite, ink, and oil crayon. Most of the drawings are signed and most include the year in which they were drawn. There is also a photocopy of a 1933 newspaper article about Frank E. Hammer.

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- #16-- Locust Grove (last home of George Rogers Clark) [Louisville, Kentucky], 1928. OVC Graphics, Box 1, Folder 2
- #17-- Captain Samuel C. Vance homestead, Lawrenceburg, 1929. Notes on list of artworks: "Built by Capt. Samuel C. Vance in 1818. Laid out town of Lawrenceburg 1802. Was on staff of Gen. Anthony Wayne. Named town after his wife. Gov. Albert G. Porter was raised in this house for many years owned by Mr. Owen Tousey. Porter, nephew of Mrs. Tousey." OVC Graphics, Box 1, Folder 2
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#53-- Site of Fort Wayne, 1928 [shows an old Spanish cannon on a stone pedestal with trees around it].

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#54-- Lanier House, Madison, 1929 [seen from the front].

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#55-- Lanier House, Madison, 1929 [seen from the side through trees].

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#56-- Robert Owens' Laboratory, New Harmony, 1929 [appears to be the David Dale Owens Geology Laboratory].

OVC Graphics, Box 1,  
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Photocopy of newspaper article about Frank E. Hammer from the "All Around the Town" column, *Indianapolis News*, 27 March 1933, [p. 2?].

OVC Graphics, Box 1, on  
top of folders of drawings

## CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:  
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P 0550).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.