

Schenkel & Sons

Founded: 1890

Location: [Originally home of Peter Schenkel ?—1803 Franklin Avenue, Fort Wayne]; 1811 Franklin Avenue (home of William P. Schenkel; he had at least one other at 1745 Franklin Avenue); 1212 Putnam Street (1940–45); 1120 St. Mary's Avenue (1946–)

Peter Schenkel began working as a mason and stone contractor in Fort Wayne in 1890. He helped build the stone bridges for the Interurban Railroad and buildings such as the Randall Hotel and Precious Blood Church. Peter Schenkel died in February 1926, and his son William P. Schenkel carried on his stone contracting business. Gradually, William's four sons—William F., Norbert J., H. Joseph, and Cletus P.—joined him. The family business became William P. Schenkel & Sons in 1941. (In 1965 this was shortened to Schenkel & Sons.) By 1940 Schenkel had established an office at 1212 Putnam; between 1945 and 1946 the firm moved to 1120 St. Mary's Avenue.

By the 1990s Cletus P. Schenkel, Jr., the great-grandson of Peter Schenkel, headed the company, which had become a general contractor, working on buildings from the planning stage through site selection and financing to the actual construction. Over the years the Schenkels built the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Allen County Public Library, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne State Development Center, and buildings for the Dana Corporation, General Electric, Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company, and WPTA-TV.