

"This is the building now known as Memorial Hall on the southside of the public square. The land on which it now stands was bought in two parcels, the eastern thirty-two feet for \$1000 and the western sixteen feet for \$500."
- A. R. Markle, 1939

November 13, 1834:
The earliest document on record for the Terre Haute Branch of the Second State Bank of Indiana: James Farrington, first cashier, signed a \$20,000 bond, along with Dennis Denting, John Barry, Curtis Gilbert, Gantroy Rose, and Clarence Warren.



"The Old State Bank building served its day, and served it well; and now stands as a venerable landmark of early village days."

- History of Terre Haute 1816-1840
Blackford Condit

Our Earliest Ancestor

This building, known today as GAR Memorial Hall, was built on the south side of Ohio Street in 1832 to house the Terre Haute Branch of the State Bank of Indiana, which opened in 1834 and is the earliest ancestor of Terre Haute First National Bank. The building later

37 KESLER BUILDING*—219 Ohio Street. Built as a branch of the SECOND STATE BANK OF INDIANA between 1834 and 1836, Terre Haute's oldest commercial building has seen a variety of uses since 1867. Before it became MEMORIAL HALL early in this century, this Greek Revival structure with columns was the Palace of Music operated by Lorenz Kussner. The Kussner family lived on the second floor. According to legend, Amalia Kussner—the world's foremost miniature portrait painter—sketched street scenes from its second story window as a youth. At the turn of the century, it was an antique shop. In 1910 it became headquarters for the Grand Army of the Republic. In 1921-22, baker Jerry Fitzgerald spearheaded financing of its renovation and rear expansion. Art glass portraits of 17 noteworthy Terre Haute citizens are installed in the ceiling dome.



