

# Long-Graf House Historic District

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. Subsequent owners, including Jameson Bledsoe and Chad and Marcia Steele, have completed extensive rehabilitation work on the house to return it to its former glory.



*The elevated lot on which the Long-Graf House sits is an important component of its character.*

At the time of its designation, the property contained another significant structure, a large outbuilding at the alley. This building housed the J. Graf Crupper Co., which operated here from 1904 until 1964. Cruppers are a component of a horse harness that fits under the horse's tail, preventing the harness from sliding forward. 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. The factory, which had been minimally maintained for years and was in very poor condition, was torn down in 2009.

Products from the J. Graf Crupper Factory 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 below shows the facility as it appeared in 1908.



*The crupper factory shortly before its demolition, in October 2009*

