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Future of old Herron School of Art Buildings.

The three major buildings that comprise the campus at 16th St. and Pennsylvania St. are on the Historic Register. They can not be torn down and the exteriors must be historically restored regardless of the the use to which the buildings will be put.

The original Herron Museum of Art which opened in 1907 is the oldest of the three. It occupies the site of the c.1825 Talbott House, also known as Tinker Place, which was the home and studio of T. C. Steele. For a few years preceding its destruction to make way for the Museum, it was used both as a fledgling art school and as a gallery.

Now that Herron is about to move to the IUPUI campus, the Museum building could be easily renovated for its original purpose. In view of its historic associations, it could house a major collection of Indiana Art. The Indiana State Museum owns such a collection but, owing to the paucity of gallery space within the building on the canal, almost all the collection remains in storage. What would be more appropriate than to refurbish the Herron Museum building for the Indiana State Museum to house their collection of Indiana Art?

Since the middle of the 19th century, Indiana has produced many distinguished artists. We are justly proud of the "Hoosier School" artists yet, sadly, we have failed to create a suitable place to exhibit their work. Surely, the old 'Vonnegut & Bohn' Herron Museum building is the answer.

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The other two buildings, immediately to the north of the Museum building, were purpose built for the art school. The larger, and earlier, one was designed by Paul Phillippe Cret of Philadelphia in 1928. Fesler Hall, designed by Evans Woollen III in 1958, is connected to the earlier building. Both buildings consist, mainly, of classrooms and studios and, with minimal alteration, could be rented to artists and craftsmen of all types.

(signed) A. Ian Fraser