

Our County Highway Garage

J. E. BRADY

Wabash County Road Supervisor

Our county highway garage is situated at the northeast edge of the city of Wabash on U. S. 24, about the center of the county. It is bounded on the south by a city street, on the east by U. S. Highway 24, on the north by a contractor's headquarters and the state highway garage. It is easy to get to from any part of the county.

The building was constructed for a tractor factory. The company built one tractor and then went into receivership. It was sold to Wabash County for \$11,500 in May, 1927. The county issued bonds for \$12,000—\$6,000 payable in June, 1928, and \$6,000 in June, 1929.

Eighteen acres were included with the building. Later we sold 3.63 acres to the State Highway Commission for location of a subdistrict garage. We also sold 0.95 acres to an asphalt contractor.

The building sits 150 feet from U. S. 24, a paved highway. The lawn in front of the building is planted in shrubbery. A parking lot 300' x 50', on the south side of the building, is surfaced with crushed rock. A concrete drive on the north side leads to the gas tank and the back lot. In the rear of the building is a crushed-rock-surfaced lot 400' x 300' for storage. The building is 200' long x 100' wide, and is constructed of brick with windows of steel frames on all four sides and with built-up asphalt roof. All except office sections is floored with concrete. The building is divided into the following rooms:

- a. Three office rooms, 16.2' x 19.6'; 13.5' x 19.6'; 7.6' x 19.6'. (Fully equipped and heated.)
- b. Garage or repair room 139.4' x 32.5'. (Storage room with cupboards in one end next to office, 20' x 22'.) Room to park 12 trucks. Doors large enough for snow plows, patrol, drag line, or any equipment we have. This room is equipped with air compressor, work bench, air line for servicing trucks, track for chain hoist, grinding equipment, electric drills, cupboards for mechanic's tools, electric and acetylene welding outfits, oils and greases for trucks and tractors. This room has a toilet and wash room and is heated. At the present time it is being wired and insulated.
- c. Furnace room, 33.5' x 40.8'. Equipped with new boiler and stoker. Storage for car of coal, blacksmith's forge and tools,

work bench and rack for storing blades for all our graders and maintainers.

- d. Main garage room, 67.6' x 200'. Door at each end of building, gas pump in center of room. Driveway through room, 44' wide. A 27.6' space on the other side of driveway for storage. A balcony in this room, 60' x 27.6', for storing of road signs, lumber, cable, fence and repair parts for heavy equipment and small equipment such as pumps and sanders. All equipment, such as graders, patrol, trailers, tractor mowers, concrete mixers, snow plows in winter, sand treated with calcium chloride, tractor with high lift, steel rack, and all other equipment used by county highway department, is stored in this room. We also have parking space for employees' automobiles. This room is not heated.

One janitor and one mechanic are employed full time in this building.

Future improvements include a heavy-duty lift in the garage room, steam-cleaning equipment, new equipment for a garage mechanic, re-wiring of the building and installing of fluorescent lights.