



Allen Chapel AME Church, Terre Haute, IN

Verney Pipe Organ Co.
Established 1900 Incorporated 1904
Mason City, Iowa

Some sources date this instrument to 1905, others later. The church was extensively damaged by a tornado and fire that swept through Terre Haute on March 23, 1913 (Easter Sunday.) The sanctuary was rebuilt on the original (1870's) foundation. Historical photos suggest that the chancel was elevated slightly when the church was rebuilt. Examination of these photos also seems to indicate that the Verney organ was in place before 1913, and was slightly modified when the sanctuary was rebuilt, using parts of the original case sides to widen the front of the instrument, but with no interior changes.

The organ is unplayable at present, but is eminently restorable. As the only Verney organ still installed in its original location it should be preserved and cherished.



(Nameplate made by “Whitehead & Hoag Co., Newark, NJ” – also supplied Hinners)

Nameboard (Left to Right)

Tremolo	stored inside organ
Man. to Ped. Coupler	
Violina Bass 4 F ^t .	24 pipes
Liebl. Gedackt Bass 8 F ^t .	24 pipes
Liebl. Gedackt Treble 8 F ^t .	37 pipes
(Nameplate)	
(Open Diapason Bass 8 F ^t .) label missing	24 pipes
1-3 sw, 4-27 façade, 28-61 in front of Swell	
Open Diapason Treble 8 F ^t .	37 pipes
Gamba Treble 8 F ^t .	37 pipes
Octave Coupler	removed, but parts stored inside case
Ped. Bourdon 16 F ^t .	1-15 only
Bellows Signal	

D#28 of Open Diapason (spotted metal) scribed “101 sc.46” and stamped “OPEN D#”

Manual compass 61 notes; pedal compass 27 notes; 4 ranks - 198 pipes

Divided manual stops divide at 24-25

2 unlabeled combination pedals –

Left pedal engages all stops

Right pedal withdraws all but Bourdon, Pedal Coupler, & Lieblich Bass & Treble

The basement still contains a Champion Bellows Forge Co. blower, connected by a belt to a more modern GE electric motor. The wind line from this to the organ has been removed and discarded, and the path this originally took has been sealed. The original reservoir was removed at some point in the past, although the pumping handle and its floor bracket are stored within the organ. A smaller single-rise reservoir is stored within the organ, but there is no conclusive evidence that this was ever actually connected. If it was, the Pedal Bourdon would have always been on, as the ventil for this stop appears to have been integral to the original reservoir.

(photo)

Allen Chapel interior before 1913

(photo)

Allen Chapel interior after 1917

(photo)

Former blower

Information collected by Keith Williams, Service Director of Buzard Pipe Organ Builders, Champaign, Illinois, during onsite inspection June 15, 2009.