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NAME: ~~The~~ Myrtle Fern  
LOCATION: 221 ~~East~~ 9th Street  
OWNER: Benjamin F. Jones  
ADDRESS: State Road 39, Route 6, Box 17, Danville, Indiana 46122

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MAP NUMBER: 34

7. DESCRIPTION:

Although only three bays wide at its main facade, the Myrtle Fern (photo 38 of 42) extends eleven bays to the south from 9th Street. The exterior has a subtle diapered pattern created by the use of a center-scored, salt-glazed brown brick. The recessed central entrance bay is united in composition with the other two bays of the facade by the use of the same segmental arch that occurs over the windows. These arches are unusual in that they are comprised of three rows of half-scored header brick. Some limited use is made of limestone accents like window sills and pier bands. It appears that there was once a stone cornice. As was common of brick commercial buildings in Indianapolis in the 1920's, there are header rectangular panels ornamenting the facade. The beveled glass transom within the basket-handle arch over the doorway is especially distinctive.

8. SIGNIFICANCE:

The architecturally significant Myrtle Fern, an "Eastern" flat, is also significant for its part in the real estate development of Indianapolis.

By 1924 the 200 block of East Pratt (9th) Street was fairly built up with apartment buildings. It was in this block that Edgar G. Spink built three by the year 1923. To build an apartment building here on a large scale or of a more modest size as this example certainly seemed like a good investment. This property belonged to the widow of Henry Thoms, who was the son of a successful furniture manufacturer in the city. Widowed after 1910, Ella Elizabeth Thoms purchased this property in 1915, probably with the aid of brother-in-law Albert H. Thoms, Secretary-Treasurer of the Indianapolis Box Company. In 1925 Mrs. Thoms must have decided to follow in the footsteps of several earlier widows in the neighborhood (see the Sylvania and the Cathcart) to demolish her own home replacing it with an income producing property.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle Name: Indianapolis West

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES:

16	572530	4403350
Zone	Easting	Northing

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Parcel 1-01-60550. North Lowman's Subdivision, Extending Twenty-five Feet South End Lot Twenty-one, Outlot One Hundred Seventy-four. Key Code 81-027-029.