
NAME: ~~The Oxford~~
LOCATION: 316 ~~East Vermont Street~~
OWNER: J. Anthony and Allen Simmonds
ADDRESS: 801 North Pennsylvania Street, Apt. C, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

MAP NUMBER: 13

7. DESCRIPTION:

The Oxford has two street facades--a six bay entrance facade (Photo 14 of 42) facing East Vermont Street and a larger ten bay facade facing Massachusetts Avenue. Both facades are three stories and built of orange-brown brick and grey limestone. The street level was designed for commercial use. The entrance to the upstairs apartment flats is located on East Vermont Street. Especially distinctive is the semielliptical rusticated voussoir arch with billet molding and crenellated attic. Two Ionic pilasters on plinths frame the double glass door and transoms above. The larger, heavy quarry-faced lintels and smaller smooth sills are limestone. The corbelled brick cornices are similar on both facades. The name OXFORD is carved on a limestone plaque on the East Vermont Street entrance facade.

8. SIGNIFICANCE:

This brick and stone structure located just east of the busy corner of Alabama Street and Massachusetts Avenue is part of the National Register Massachusetts Avenue Commercial District. A commercial/flat building type, it was constructed with commercial spaces on the first floor and eleven "sleeping rooms" on the upper floors. The Oxford is significant for its architecture and its part in the commercial/real estate development of downtown Indianapolis.

Building Permit #1609 was issued on May 22, 1902 to owner Mr. Shellhouse. This authorized construction of a brick and stone flat at 312-314 East Vermont Street valued at \$7,000. The contractor for the project was C. F. Moore. A search of the 1902 Polk City Directory of Indianapolis reveals an entry for Frank Shellhouse, whose business is listed as "real estate, fire insurance, storage all kinds, and dealer in coal and coke." This is probably the Shellhouse referred to on the permit. His father, Conrad H., was also employed at the Shellhouse agency. Frank, who died in 1942, built the city's first fireproof storage warehouse in 1910.

The contractor, C. F. Moore, was first listed in the City Directory as a carpenter in 1888. He developed a healthy business as a small contractor in the closing years of the nineteenth century. The materials and quality of construction of this building are especially good.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle Name: Indianapolis West

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES:

16	572660	4402660
Zone	Easting	Northing

Downtown Apartment Flats Thematic Resources
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Parcel 1-01-84505. Thirty-six Feet on Massachusetts Avenue x 36 Feet on Vermont,
One Hundred Fifty-two Feet Northeast of Southwest Point South Half, Block Nineteen.
Key Code 81-034-015.