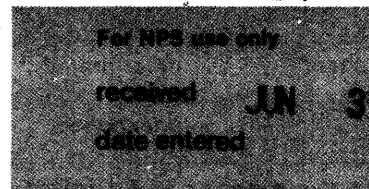


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Marian Apartments

and/or common Marian Flats

2. Location

street & number 615 North Street N/A not for publication

city, town Lafayette N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Indiana code 018 county Tippecanoe code 157

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Barry N. and Michelin D. Newton

street & number 212 South Ninth Street

city, town Lafayette N/A vicinity of state Indiana 47901

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Tippecanoe County Courthouse

street & number 2nd and Columbia Streets

city, town Lafayette state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of Historic Places  
title Lafayette, Indiana has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no

date 1976 \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county  local

depository for survey records Lafayette Redevelopment Commission

city, town Lafayette state Indiana

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Marian Apartments building is a three-story structure located in a brick-paved street near the downtown area of Lafayette, Indiana. The building is constructed of brick and features a limestone foundation, wood and limestone exterior detailing, and a flat roof with a low parapet wall. Constructed in 1907 to attract upper-class tenants, the Marian, while similar to fine apartment blocks found in larger cities, is thought to be the only one of its kind in Lafayette.

The building is basically rectangular in plan, and features a symmetrical main (north) facade with a tripartite design. On the ground floor level, the wide center section includes the main entryway, which is enframed by quoins and a lintel of rusticated, rock-faced limestone. The entry door, itself, is flanked by leaded glass sidelights and surmounted by a large, rectangular, leaded glass transom. On the upper two stories, this center section features a large, polygonal bay which projects out to the north, with its outer edge supported by two square brick piers. The second floor of this bay is constructed of brick, with the corner piers treated to resemble pilasters. A similar pilaster, this one of wood, appears in the center of this bay, and together these elements support a plain frieze and a cyma recta cornice. Fenestration on this level of the bay consists of large paired casement windows, surmounted by four-over-four transoms. The upper story of this bay, while constructed of wood, is almost identical in design to the level below. The center pilaster here is replaced by a tall, narrow, multipaned window, and the corner piers are decorated with applied, wooden pilasters. The wide overhanging eaves are supported by scroll-cut brackets and modillions.

The narrow units which flank this center section are identical in design, each featuring a polygonal, three-story bay. Double-hung windows surmounted by four-over-four transoms, similar in appearance to the windows employed in the center section, are used throughout these bays. Narrow, limestone belt courses form the window sills, while on the first two floors much wider belt courses form the lintels. A similar wide belt course above the third floor level serves as the building's frieze, and carries a row of small dentils just below the large, overhanging cyma recta cornice. This facade terminates with a low parapet wall with a cap.

The east and west facades are constructed of brick and feature double-hung, one-over-one windows in segmental arched openings. Each of these facades also contains a frame, three story, polygonal bay, with rectangular windows. Additions have been made to the rear of the structure; the south facade thus is covered with a combination of metal and vertical wood siding. A projecting stair tower, covered with wooden clapboarding, was added in 1940.

The interior of the building retains many of its original decorative elements. The main entryway features marble steps and wainscoting, and a decorative mosaic tile floor. Several of the rooms contain built-in cabinets with leaded and beveled glass doors. Most of the original woodwork remains intact, as does the skylit main stairway.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1907

**Builder/Architect** Oliver W. Pierce, Jr.

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Marion Apartments building is significant as an example of a luxurious, finely-crafted, turn-of-the-century apartment house, a rare type for this small, Midwestern city. Constructed in 1907, it was patterned after similar structures built in much larger urban centers during this era, and features the fine materials and quality craftsmanship normally found in elegant residences of the period. Although such apartment buildings were common in large, metropolitan areas, this is thought to be the only one of its kind and quality remaining in Lafayette.

The Marian Apartments were constructed by Oliver W. Pierce, Jr., who named them after his young daughter. Reflecting the early 20th century trend for the wealthy to live near the urban center, the Marian was originally designed as a six-unit apartment complex, with each of the large units including quarters for the tenants' domestic servants. Early residents included a bank president, a doctor, brewery president, and others of local prominence. By 1947, such large quarters were no longer financially viable. Accordingly, each unit was divided into two, providing the twelve-unit configuration which currently exists. The owner has recently made major improvements to the structure, preserving its historic character and quality.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Lafayette Redevelopment Commission, Inventory of Historic Places, Lafayette, Indiana, 1976

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Lafayette, West, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	6	5	0	9	3	5	0	4	4	7	4	2	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Lot numbered four (4) in Pifer and Spencer's Addition to the Town (now City) of Lafayette, Indiana. Also sixteen and one-half (16½) feet in width off of the entire length of the East side of the East half of lot numbered five (5) in Pifer and Spencer's Addition to the Town (now City) of Lafayette.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barry N. Newton

organization N/A date 12-1-81

street & number 212 South Ninth Street telephone 317/472-4229

city or town Lafayette state Indiana 47901

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature A. M. Kidenon

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 5-12-83

**For NPS use only**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

A. M. Kidenon 6/30/83  
 Keoper of the National Register      Entered in the National Register      date

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration