
NAME: ~~The Alameda~~
LOCATION: 37 ~~West St.~~ Clair Street
OWNER: Donald E. Shaw
ADDRESS: 1350 East 116th Street, Carmel, Indiana 46032

MAP NUMBER: 33

7. DESCRIPTION:

The Alameda (Photo 37 of 42) on the southeast corner of West St. Clair and North Illinois Streets combines commercial space at the street level and apartments on the upper floors. There are three storefronts on Illinois Street including the one-story extension of the building to the south. There are four storefronts on St. Clair Street to either side of the canopied entrance to the apartments. The corner has been used as a diner since the 1930's. The facade of rough-cast buff brick is enlivened by the distinctive decorative treatment of the spandrels in which dark brown headers are recessed in the basketweave brickwork. Along the Illinois Street facade, vertical concrete banding adds further interest to the spandrels.

8. SIGNIFICANCE:

This commercial/flat type building is significant for its architecture and its role in real estate development. Located just a block west of Meridian, it was conveniently situated in the fast growing Indianapolis of the 1920's. The name Alameda does not appear in the City Directory, so it seems likely that the name is taken from the Spanish word meaning "poplar grove" or "avenue." Because the building permit records for the early 1920's are incomplete, no builder has yet been located for the Alameda which first appears in the City Directory of 1925. Another apartment building named Alameda was located on Massachusetts Avenue dating to the early part of the century. It is not known if the buildings originally had the same owner. Designed with twenty-four units on the two upper stories, the Alameda's small flats were occupied for the most part by single workers, retirees, and widows. The four commercial spaces on the building's ground floor have been let to a variety of businesses. The Airliner, a 1930's style diner reminiscent of Edward Hopper's "Nighthawk's," occupied the commercial space in the northwest corner of the building until very recently. The Alameda is the only example of the commercial/flat building type found in this nomination, that was built after 1920.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle Name: Indianapolis West

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES:

16	572010	4403240
Zone	Easting	Northing

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Parcel 1-01-54487. Brown and Morrison's Subdivision, Sixty-six Feet Six Inches North End Lot Seven, Outlot Thirty-five, Lot Eight, Outlot Thirty-five. Key Code 80-08-001.