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NAME: ~~The~~ Wilson  
LOCATION: 643 ~~Fort~~, Wayne Avenue  
OWNER: The Wilson Apartment Company  
ADDRESS: 423 Massachusetts Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

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MAP NUMBER: 19

7. DESCRIPTION:

The Wilson (Photo 20 of 42) is a three-story, T-shaped, eight unit flats building constructed of common bond yellow brick and architectural terra cotta. The symmetric entrance facade faces northwest onto Fort Wayne Avenue. The distinctive exterior architectural features are the five bay Doric order Renaissance Revival terra cotta entrance arcade, the two-story wood frame bay windows, the raised voussoir lintels, and the oval windows in the center of the facade. The sash windows are one over one. The brickwork at the corners imitates quoins. A row of small terra cotta bullseyes are used below the attic. The cornice (probably metal) has been removed (date not determined).

8. SIGNIFICANCE:

The Wilson is significant for its use of numerous distinctive Renaissance Revival motifs derived from the classical vocabulary of architectural design. The five bay yellow terra cotta entrance arcade is strongly reminiscent of Antonio da Sangallo's famous Farnese Palace Courtyard (c. 1541-1550) in Rome. The Wilson is also significant as an investment property of James H. Wilson, vice-president and secretary of the Indianapolis Book and Stationery Company. Wilson, born in 1848 in Wheeling, West Virginia, moved to Indianapolis immediately after the Civil War. He began working in the book publishing business with Bobbs-Merrill Co. In 1905 Wilson, who had achieved financial success, lived in the Old Northside (National Register) and was an active member of Tabernacle Presbyterian Church. Wilson, who retired from business in 1929, died in 1935 and was buried in Crown Hill Cemetery. The Wilson was strategically located only one-half block from fashionable North Pennsylvania Street and has continually contributed to the density and vitality of downtown Indianapolis life.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle Name: Indianapolis West

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES:

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|------|---------|----------|
| 16   | 572390  | 4403030  |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Parcel 1-01-62728. East Frazee's Subdivision, Fifty-four Feet on Fort Wayne Avenue, Thirty-four and Three Tenths Feet Northeast Line, Thirty-two Feet Southwest Line, Southwest Part, Lot One, Outlot Four. Key Code 81-012-025.