
NAME: ~~The Cathcart~~
LOCATION: 103 ~~East 9th Street~~
OWNER: Marilyn M. Wilson
ADDRESS: 846 Middle Drive, Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, Indiana 46201

MAP NUMBER: 23

7. DESCRIPTION:

Located on the southeast corner of 9th and Pennsylvania Streets, the Cathcart (Photo 26 of 42), is surrounded by residential structures to the east and north and is contiguous to the Lodge on the south. The main facade of the building faces north on 9th Street. The entire structure is constructed of deep red brick and grey limestone. The main facade of three stories is divided into seven bays. The basement windows have protective but decorative iron bars. A brick stringcourse above the basement windows wraps around the entire building. Each window of the building has a limestone sill and a multi-light transom. A limestone stringcourse (broken at the central bay) runs beneath the third story windows. A limestone frieze with egg and dart molding stops just below the top of the building.

The central bay of the north facade contains the entrance of double glass doors, side lights, and arched transom. Two brick piers with limestone blocks support knee braces and an arched green tile roof. Above the entrance are three multi-light windows with transoms, stone sills and brick hoods accented with stone. The upper story window is enclosed by a recessed brick and limestone arch with a limestone sill. Within the arch are three narrow windows with two multi-light transoms on top. The detailing is reminiscent of the Arts and Crafts or Craftsman style.

8. SIGNIFICANCE:

The Cathcart is an architecturally outstanding example of the "Eastern" flat type apartment that was a significant part of the commercial/real estate development of Indianapolis. Unfortunately for the authors of National Register Nominations few original owners and occupants of buildings wrote books about their lives and buildings. The Cathcarts were a delightful exception. Charlotte Cathcart, youngest daughter of the original owner and herself a later owner of the apartment, penned a small but informative personal history titled Indianapolis From Our Old Corner. In the last year of her life Miss Cathcart wrote of memories of her family life and the Indianapolis of the 1890's through her departure for France in 1917.

Pink, as she was known to family and friends, explains that despite the warnings of all advisors her newly widowed mother, Alice Morrison Cathcart, decided to raze the long-time family home and construct an apartment. Mrs. Cathcart had obviously been impressed with the success of the enterprise entered into by neighbors C. Newell Lodge (owner of the Lodge) and Elizabeth Palmer (owner of the Sylvania). Applying for a building permit in January, 1909, Alice Cathcart chose as contractor Joel T. Elliott. The three-story brick building at the corner of Pennsylvania and Pratt (now 9th) Streets was valued at \$22,000. Containing twelve flats and two small basement apartments, the building was home to Mrs. Cathcart until her death in 1936 and home for Pink until her death in August of 1964.

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The Robert Weir Cathcarts had been at the center of Indianapolis society since their marriage in 1870. For a wedding present the bride's father, a former treasurer of the state, gave the couple a cottage at the corner of Pennsylvania and Pratt Streets. The location became the site of the Cathcart in 1909. Robert W. Cathcart, a partner in Cathcart and Clelland Bookstore located on Washington Street, was a successful and respected businessman. The Cathcart became an extremely desirable address and the descendants of Robert W. Cathcart retained ownership until 1980.

Joel T. Elliott, the Cathcart's builder, came to Indianapolis in 1887 and immediately opened a contracting and building firm. Typical of the small contractors in the city he mostly constructed private residences.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle Name: Indianapolis West

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES:

16	572320	4403340
Zone	Easting	Northing

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Parcel 1-01-11977. Danford and Knox Subdivision, Lot Twenty-two, Outlot One Hundred Seventy-three. Key Code 81-010-012.