
NAME: ~~The~~ Grover
LOCATION: 615 ~~North~~ Pennsylvania Street
OWNER: Elvin Chapman
ADDRESS: 615 North Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

MAP NUMBER: 24

7. DESCRIPTION:

The Grover (Photo 27 of 42) is one of the apartment buildings occupying the east side of North Pennsylvania Street near the center of downtown Indianapolis. This I-shaped building is contiguous to the modern building immediately to the north. The south facade faces a narrow alley. The three-story apartment building is constructed of red brick. The main facade is divided into eight bays. The central two bays contain a recessed entrance portal characterized by an elliptical transom, narrow side lights, and a limestone voussoir arch crowned by rowlocks. Directly above the entrance on the second and third stories are pairs of one over one windows with limestone lintels and sills which are flush with the brick wall surface. The flanking bays use triple windows instead of pairs. The second and third story bay windows are trimmed by a cornice with dentils along the upper edge. At the top of the facade is a limestone frieze with large dentils above which is a limestone balustrade. The southernmost section is missing.

8. SIGNIFICANCE:

Late in 1912 Arthur B. Grover purchased the property at 615 North Pennsylvania Street, razed the existing frame structure, and on the 27th of December applied for a permit to construct this enlarged "Eastern" flat type building on the site. Valued at \$20,000 the building has significance in architecture as well as contributing to the real estate development of downtown Indianapolis.

A native Hoosier born in Terre Haute in 1867, Grover was graduated from Harvard. He married the granddaughter of Indiana Governor (1837-1840) David Wallace and niece of Civil War General Lew Wallace, builder of the city's first fashionable apartment, the Blacherne (see 8. Significance, page 15). Grover was actively involved in the Indianapolis construction industry as president of the Harrison Construction Company and in the sale of real estate as a partner in Grover and Layman. Grover was a specialist in subdivision work which he handled in various cities. (Indiana and Indianans, Vol. 3)

In 1914 the building was filled with mostly young, single white-collar workers. One resident, Ray Harroun, a mechanical engineer, was the winner of the first Indianapolis 500-Mile Race. Harroun, one of only twelve drivers that completed the race (forty began), won \$14,000 for his six hour and forty-two minute drive. He won the race without the aid of a riding mechanic, standard for the day, utilizing the first rear-view mirror which he designed himself.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle Name: Indianapolis West

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

Downtown Apartment Flats Thematic Resources
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UTM REFERENCES:

16 572310 4403030

Zone Easting Northing

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Parcel 1-01-14672. Moses F. Adamson Subdivision, Lot Three, Outlot Four. Key Code 81-012-007.