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NAME: ~~The~~ Blacherne  
LOCATION: 402 ~~North~~ Meridian Street  
OWNER: Paul Tipps, General Partner, Blacherne Associates  
ADDRESS: 3038 North Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33306

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MAP NUMBER: 3

#### 7. DESCRIPTION:

At the northwest corner of North Meridian and West Vermont Streets stands the Blacherne (Photo 3 of 42 ), a large seven-story apartment building constructed of red pressed brick resting on a quarry face limestone foundation. The principle east and south facades are accented by stone lintels and sills and one-over-one rectangular sash windows. The structure is six bays wide on Meridian Street where the street entrance occurs and fifteen bays wide on the Vermont Street side. The building's most distinctive feature is the use of two circular projecting bays of three windows each that are located at the southeast and southwest Vermont Street corners. These tourelle-like corner projections extended from the second through the seventh story have wide corbeled bases of limestone carved in intricate foliar mozarabic-like patterns enwreathing human and animal heads and a plaque with the name BLACHERNE. Four segmental curved projecting bays on similiarly carved corbeled bases with paired one-over-one sash windows occur at the second through the sixth floor levels. One bay is asymmetrically placed on the Meridian Street facade. The other three are used on the Vermont Street side. The Meridian Street entrance is based on the idea of a medieval Romanesque portal. A large semicircular quarry face limestone arch with a lion's head keystone rests solidly on two squat limestone colonettes. Recessed firestair courts on the south facade rise the full height of seven stories and terminate in semicircular arches of guaged brick voussoirs and stone hood moldings. Above the banded seventh floor which is the only story lacking stone lintels, a metal modillion cornice projects below a plain brick parapet wall.

#### 8. SIGNIFICANCE:

Built in 1895, the Blacherne was Indianapolis' first "modern" flat structure. Possessing significance in the areas of architecture and commercial/real estate development, the Blacherne is the earliest example in this nomination of the multi-level apartment type unusual in Indianapolis during this time period. Because the larger, multi-storied buildings required an elevator as well as a large capital investment, few investors in the city were able to afford such an undertaking. There are, however, three early examples of this building type constructed in the city prior to World War I--the Blacherne, the Rink, and the Savoy. One investor, nevertheless, possessed the sophistication as well as the capital to undertake such a project. Lew Wallace, author, diplomat, and soldier, was by 1895 a figure of national importance. A brilliant general in the Civil War, the ambitious and talented Hoosier penned Ben Hur (1880) with critical and financial success. Indianapolis newspapers, heralding the construction of the Blacherne, stated that the building was financed with the profits from this early Christian epic. The name Blacherne was taken from another of Wallace's novels, The Prince of India (1893). Written during Wallace's stay in Constantinople as U.S. Minister to Turkey, Constantine's Palace--the Blacherne--is the setting for much of the story. Upon

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his retirement from public life in 1894, Wallace returned to his native Indiana, constructed the Blacherne, and divided his remaining years between his home in Crawfordsville and his apartment at the Blacherne itself. Born in Brookville in 1827, the son of Indiana governor David Wallace, Lew served the United States in the Mexican and Civil Wars, was governor of the territory of New Mexico, and later was appointed minister to Turkey. One of the most widely read and honored authors of his age, Wallace died in Crawfordsville in 1905.

The Blacherne immediately became one of the most fashionable addresses in the city. A large building containing fifty-eight apartments, the Blacherne was quickly occupied by the city's elite citizenry. The Indianapolis Blue Book, the social register of the city's most wealthy and socially prominent residents published yearly, listed forty-nine families of status residing at the Blacherne in its first year of occupancy. The building continued to be a fashionable address into the mid-twentieth century. Purchased from General Wallace's heirs by Edgar G. Spink (see 8. Significance, page 19), the apartment was operated in conjunction with the neighboring Spink Arms Hotel built in 1921.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle Name: Indianapolis West

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES:

16	572110	4402670
Zone	Easting	Northing

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Parcel 101-1099886. Sixty-one Feet by Two Hundred Two and a half Feet, Begin South East Corner, Square Fifteen. Key Code 80-005-011-01.