

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received MAY 27 1982
date entered

1. Name

historic The Marott Hotel

and/or common The Marott Hotel

2. Location

street & number 2625 North Meridian Street N/A not for publication

city, town Indianapolis N/A vicinity of congressional district 10th

state Indiana code 018 county Marion code 097

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Devises of Fred J. Capp, Deceased; 2625 Building Corporation (Indiana)

street & number c/o Robert A. Rose, Klineman, Rose, Wolf and Wallack, 2130 One
Indiana Square

city, town Indianapolis N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46204

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Marion County Recorder

street & number 721 City-County Building

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana 46204

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey Report for Indianapolis Marion County (Indiana) has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September 21, 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Original Condition of the Building. The Marott Hotel was opened on November 25, 1926. It was conceived of as a residence hotel by its owner, businessman George J. Marott. It was designed by W. K. Elridge and was constructed by prolific Indianapolis builder Edgar G. Spink with a north and a south tower of 10 stories each,¹ separated by a one-story structure which contained the lobby and an open air Spanish garden.² The structure of the building is primarily a reinforced concrete frame with plastered clay tile and brick veneer exterior walls. The floor construction is a concrete joist system with reinforced clay tile infill and a two-inch concrete topping. Interior walls were constructed of clay tile units with cement plaster finishes. The hotel was advertised as having 1,000 rooms, divided into 234 apartments.³ The towers were constructed of cherry red brick with ornamental terra cotta and white glazed tile trim.⁴

The interior design of the Marott's first floor main area conveyed an elegance at that time largely reserved for New York or Chicago hotels.⁵ The original lobby was Spanish in design, with rough plaster walls, a beamed ceiling, and tiled floor.⁶ The ballroom and main dining room were Louis XIV in style, with marble columns and pilasters.⁷ Two private dining rooms were available. The women's lounge and the men's lounge were respectively Italian and English in tone.

The hotel was designed to be a contained community. Commercial offerings included the Beauty Craft Shoppe; the Tula Sater Pharmacy, with fountain; and the Black and White Delicatessen. The hotel also offered the city's first auction bridge studio.

The Marott had what were then considered to be all the modern conveniences. 310 telephones were installed, and were controlled by a two-position switchboard. A special 450 kilowatt underground transformer substation was installed to supply electricity to the building. Two 15-ton boilers and a 10-ton heater were used to heat the hotel and to provide hot water. The boilers used a ton of coal daily.⁸

[Continued on Continuation Page 1]

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates November 1926 **Builder/Architect** E. G. Spink

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The design of the Marott Hotel was influenced by the Chicago Commercial Style as is shown by its projected bay windows designed in large part to add floor space and light;¹⁴ and also by the Georgian Revival Period, as evidenced by its arched windows,¹⁵ and the ornamentation at the base of the top of the twin towers.¹⁶ The character of the facade derives from fenestration, of which there was some ornamentation through the use of terra cotta.¹⁷ Combined with the structure's unique twin towers, these features help to make the Marott architecturally significant.

The Marott Hotel contributed greatly to the commercial development of Indianapolis and Indiana in the second quarter of this century. The construction and operation of the structure were in themselves important to the business community.¹⁸ For years adjacent to the Governor's Mansion, the Marott logically was the site for state and local political functions. The hotel held an important position in Indianapolis society, as an abode for important families, as a frequent meeting place for various social, business and professional associations, and as the scene of many socially significant balls and parties throughout the years.¹⁹ The Marott was the premier hotel for visiting statesmen and celebrities, including Winston Churchill, Herbert Hoover, Harold MacMillan, Clark Gable, Helen Hayes, Ethel Barrymore, Maurice Chevalier, Lauren Bacall, Marilyn Monroe, Betty Grable, Beatrice Lilly, Mary Pickford, Ann Miller, Rose and Ted Kennedy, Andre Previn, Count Basie, and Bob Hope.²⁰

George J. Marott's role in the building is historically significant in itself. Marott was born in England in December 1858, and moved with his family to Indianapolis in 1875. In time, Marott built upon his experience in his father's shoe store, and finally established the largest shoe store in the state capital. Profits were used to purchase real

[Continued on Continuation Page 1]

9. Major Bibliographical References

Indiana Architectural Foundation, Indianapolis Architecture (Indianapolis) 1975), p. 99; Indianapolis Star, Indianapolis News, and Indianapolis Times articles in the Indiana State Library's Marott clipping file; American Biographical Society, Indianapolis Men of Affairs (Paul D. Brown, ed., 1923), p. 413.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property approx. 3 acres

Quadrangle name Indianapolis West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	5	7	2	2	7	0	4	4	0	6	2	3	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at the southeast Corner of Meridian Street and 27th Street; thence east 575'; thence south 38' to the north right-of-way of Fall Creek Parkway, North Drive; thence southwesterly approximately 700' to the east right-of-way of Meridian Street; thence north 439' to the place of beginning.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bruce A. Walker, Attorney-at-Law

organization KLINEMAN, ROSE, WOLF and WALLACK date December 24, 1981

street & number 2130 One Indiana Square telephone (317) 639-4141

city or town Indianapolis state Indiana 46204

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 5-13-82

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 6/25/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

Item 7, Description, continued

Present Physical Appearance. After George J. Marott died in February 1946, the Marott Hotel began its decline from the elegant residence hotel it had been. Early occupancy problems led to an increasing emphasis on the hotel rather than the apartment concept. Subsequent renovations by various owners tended to increase the ratio of transients to residents. The common areas of the building were changed accordingly. The Spanish garden was turned into The Patio, an open air supper club; lawn areas were transformed into parking lots; and a new marquee was added in 1953.⁹ The Reef and the Driftwood dining rooms were added in 1956.¹⁰ A plexiglass bubble roof was installed over The Patio, and a terrazzo floor was installed over the original tile floor in the lobby; and an above-ground swimming pool was built south of the building in 1963.¹¹ In 1966, marble columns in the dining room and ball room were removed and replaced with steel girders.¹² Also, some of the first story windows were bricked in or covered with plywood and gypsum board.¹³

*

*

*

Item 8, Significance, continued

estate; to found Citizens Gas Company, the successor of which still provides natural gas in the community; and local and inter-urban train companies and heating companies in several Indiana towns, which were consolidated into the Indiana Railways and Light Company in 1913. The hotel was constructed on land purchased 30 years earlier, and held for just that purpose. Thus, the Marott Hotel was the culmination of 51 years' work by an individual who contributed greatly to the events of his time, and to the history of Indiana.²¹

Lastly the importance of the Marott as a keystone of the Meridian Street Corridor of Indianapolis cannot be overstated. Its location and height, just north of Fall Creek, with the deteriorated commercial area to the south of Fall Creek, emphasize the structure's continued importance to the City.²² In its style and its prior grandeur, it represented the beginning of one of the most notable and prestigious residential corridors in the Country.

Footnotes

1. See photograph number 1.
2. See photograph number 2.
3. See photograph number 3.

Footnotes Continued

4. See photograph number 4.
5. See photograph number 5.
6. See photograph number 6.
7. See photograph number 7.
8. See Indianapolis Sunday Star, Nov. 21, 1926, pt. 7, p. 9-14; and Indianapolis Star, Nov. 25, 1926, p. 11, c. 1-3 for descriptions of the Marott at the time of its opening.
9. Indianapolis News, Sept. 21, 1953, p. 26.
10. Indianapolis Times, June 20, 1956, p. 21
11. Indianapolis Times, Jan. 29, 1963, p. 1, c. 3-4; June 9, 1963, p. 21, c. 1-2. See photograph number 8.
12. Indianapolis Star, Feb. 17, 1966, p. 52, c. 1-2.
13. See photograph number 9.
14. See photograph number 10.
15. See photographs numbers 11 and 12.
16. See photograph number 13.
17. See photograph number 14.
18. Indianapolis Sunday Star, Nov. 21, 1926, pt. 7, p. 9-14.
19. Indianapolis News, Nov. 21, 1934, p. 7; Indianapolis Times, Jan. 29, 1950, pt. 2.
20. Indianapolis Star, April 30, 1981, p. 14, c. 1.
21. American Biographical Society, Indianapolis Men of Affairs (Paul D. Brown, ed., 1923).
22. See photograph number 15.