

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received FEB 2 1984
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Calvin I. Fletcher House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1031 N. Pennsylvania Street N/A not for publication

city, town Indianapolis N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Marion code 097

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Multiple residence

4. Owner of Property

name Kunz Restorations

street & number 350 E. Washington Street

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

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Marion County Recorder

street & number City-County Building, Room 721

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Indianapolis Historic Preservation
title Commission Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission
City-County Building, Room 1821

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana 46204

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located at 1031 N. Pennsylvania Street, the Calvin I. Fletcher House is a fine example of the Queen Anne Style. Constructed of brick with a stone foundation, the house is basically rectangular in plan with an elaborate hipped gable roof, intersected by gabled wings and hipped dormers.

The main (west) facade is dominated by an eight-sided tower on the southwest corner and a slightly projecting, gabled entry pavilion on the northwest (Photo 1). The double doors, the cantilevered frame box bay centered above, and paired attic windows in the steeply pitched gable end visually balance the north half of the facade against the height of the tower.

Typical of the Queen Ann style, a variety of window shapes are found on the west facade. The windows on the first and second stories have stone sills and lintels, decorated with a floral pattern and an egg and dart motif. The third story of the tower has paired, pointed-arch windows on six of its eight sides, while the projecting box bay has a pair of round arched windows. The attic gable windows are flat and are paired within a single projecting window surround.

The texture of the brick wall surface is enhanced by the stone lintels, and a stone string-course at the sill level of the first and second stories of the tower. The wood shingles and framing of the gable end, box bay and third story of the tower lighten the massive block of the facade.

No major alterations have been made to either of the side elevations (north and south) with the most outstanding feature on each being a bay window. The south facade's two-story bay curves gracefully and is topped with a conical roof and finial. The north facade's rectangular bay is the stairwell window, extending upward from mid-first story to mid-second, capped with a bellcast roof. The north facade also features a projecting gabled wing, two bays wide. The gable end features a three-part window, surrounded by imbricated shingles.

At the east (rear) of the house a frame and concrete block addition was made in the mid-1940s. It was at this time that four apartments were created on the third floor. At the time of the apartment conversion, extensive interior alterations were made. However, most of the original woodwork and parquet floors remain. The parlor still boasts elaborate ceiling plasterwork and the rear stairway is largely intact. The major loss has been the front stairway, removed when the building was used as an office in 1939-40. Two front windows were also bricked in at this time.

The property also contains a large, two-story carriage house of brick and wood. The west (main) facade is dominated by an adapted palladian window and large gable end filled with imbricated shingles. The building measures 33'x 36'.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1895 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (~~None provided~~)

The Calvin I. Fletcher House is important for its association with the Fletcher family, probably the most influential family in Indianapolis' early history, and as one of the few remnants of what was once an affluent, 19th century neighborhood. It is also a good masonry example of the Queen Anne style, with most of its original features intact.

The house is the only residence surviving in what was the original city of Indianapolis, that is associated with the large and prominent Fletcher family.

The Fletcher family was instrumental in the shaping of the financial, legal, educational and social fabric of Indianapolis. Because the Fletchers seemed to have a propensity for using the same names generation after generation, it will greatly facilitate the clarity and simplicity of this discussion to state at the outset that there are three different Calvin Fletchers who will be discussed. We will simply label them as Calvin I, Calvin II, and Calvin III, according to their respective dates of birth.

Calvin I, whose full name was Calvin I. Fletcher, came to Indianapolis in 1821, the same year the city was designated the state capital. Hardly more than a pioneer settlement at the time of his arrival, Calvin Fletcher spent the next 45 years of his life directing the growth of Indianapolis. At the time of his death, he was one of Indianapolis' most prominent and influential men. He was the city's first lawyer and the first state senator of Hancock, Marion, and Hamilton Counties. A strong supporter of public education, he was an important individual in molding our public school system in its formative years. Calvin Fletcher and his brother, Stoughton A. Fletcher, opened a private bank, which ultimately became the American Fletcher National Bank of today. He was also interested in farming; he owned and managed a farm of 1600 acres near Indianapolis. Mr. Fletcher was the head of a family of 11 children, and his children were also influential in shaping Indianapolis' growth.

Calvin I's third born, Calvin Fletcher (Calvin II) was a pioneer in the agricultural field. He was the first fish commissioner of the state, an originator of various agricultural and horticultural societies, and he introduced some of the first threshing, reaping and mowing machines in this section of the state. This Calvin Fletcher was behind the construction of the first turnpike roads in Marion County, and was associated with the building of the Indianapolis & Vincennes Railroad. Interestingly, he went to California, where he effected platting and the subdivision of the City of Pasadena. In 1874, he and his family took an extended European trip, and his children studied abroad. Calvin Fletcher acquired an extensive farm in Owen County; his home in Spencer, Indiana, is still standing today. Calvin's wife, Emily Beeler Fletcher, was a remarkable woman herself. During the Civil War she worked as a nurse at the front. She was also a founder of the Home for Aged and Friendless Women in Indianapolis.

It was the third Calvin Fletcher (Calvin Ingram Fletcher) who built the house at 1031 N. Pennsylvania. He was born in 1859 and was a doctor by profession. He attended the Indiana Medical College (presently Indiana University Medical School) and studied at clinics in London and Paris. Perhaps Mr. Fletcher is best known not for his work in the medical field, but for his avid and fanatic interest in traveling and photography. He was said to have visited almost every country in the world, going on extensive tours of the Orient, South

9. Major Bibliographical References

Dunn, Jacob Platt, Assoc. Ed. Memorial Record of Distinguished Men of Indianapolis and Indiana. The Lewis Putnam Co.: Chicago, 1912

Fletcher, Calvin I. Our Silent Friends. Private publication by Nellie Webb Fletcher.

Thornbrough, Gayle, ed. The Diary of Calvin Fletcher, Vol. I. 1817-1838. Indiana Historical Society: Indianapolis, 1972

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Indianapolis West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6
---	---

5	7	2	3	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	4	0	3	6	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

B

--	--

--	--	--	--

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

C

--	--

--	--	--	--

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

D

--	--

--	--	--	--

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

E

--	--

--	--	--	--

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

F

--	--

--	--	--	--

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

G

--	--

--	--	--	--

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

H

--	--

--	--	--	--

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

Verbal boundary description and justification 15' off the North side of Lot 8 and 35' off the South side of Lot 9 in A. L. Roaches' Second Subdivision of part of the West 1/2 of the South West 1/4 of Section 36, Township 16 North, Range 3 East in the City of Indianapolis, as per plat thereof, recorded in Plat Book 7 page 115, in the office of the Recorder of Marion

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries County, Indiana.

state	N/A	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah Kunz Goodman

organization Kunz Restorations date 11-17-83

street & number 359 E. Washington Street telephone 317/639-2764

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 1-24-83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

3/1/84


Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Calvin I. Fletcher House Item number 8 Page 1

and Central America, and the polar regions. He took volumes of photos during his travels and apparently went to any lengths to get pictures of rare and marvelous sights. At the time of his death, he is said to have had 40,000 photographs in his private collection. During his lifetime, articles were written by several Indianapolis newspapers about his exciting trips.

Mr. Fletcher's death was no less eventful than his life--while exploring the Blackfoot Glacier in Glacier National Park he was killed in a snow-slide. Calvin Fletcher seemed to have inherited his relatives' interest in farming--after his death his second wife, Nellie Webb Fletcher, published a volume which contained some of his pictures and an essay titled "Our Silent Friends" (the plant world) which he had read before the Medical Society of Indianapolis. The most interesting element of this volume is the pictures which Mr. Fletcher took of his home and gardens. Today they present an excellent historical record of the house between 1895 and 1913.

The Fletcher family was quite obviously a family of wealth and cultural influence in Indianapolis, and they had, at one time, several elegant homes in downtown Indianapolis. Today, Calvin I. Fletcher's home is the only downtown residence which stands as a reminder of this family and their influence on Indianapolis.

The house is located in an area that was, at the turn of the century, one of the most sought-after and lovely residential areas in Indianapolis. Photos taken in the first third of the 19th century are evidence of the fact that many other lovely and stately homes lined Pennsylvania Street. Unfortunately, the construction of I-65 severed the relationship between the Fletcher Home and its neighbors to the north. Today the house is especially visible because of its isolation, next to the highway ramp.