
NAME: ~~The~~ Alexandra MAP NUMBER: 9
LOCATION: 402-416 North New Jersey Street, 332-336 East Vermont Street
OWNER: The Lockerbie Court Apartment Company
ADDRESS: 423 Massachusetts Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

7. DESCRIPTION:

The Alexandra (Photo 10 of 42), renamed Lockerbie Court by the present owners, is a three-story, L-shaped, red brick and gray limestone apartment building on a raised basement. The principal facade faces east on North New Jersey Street with five Georgian Revival style limestone pediment entrances symmetrically arranged. Distinctive are the six three-story projecting polygonal bays grouped as pairs either side of the south, central, and north entrances. The six-over-one windows have limestone lintels and sills with keystones used in the lintels of the polygonal bays. The east and south facades terminate in a corbeled brick decorated cornice. The south facade uses two three-story polygonal bays. Unusual is the full-story carriage entrance leading into the west court. Faded lettering (date not determined) on the west wall at the roof line advertises "ALEXANDRA APARTMENT." The west court is remarkable for Indianapolis in its use of three-story wooden galleries. The light wells contain stairs leading to the second and third levels. Each apartment unit has its own rear entrance.

8. SIGNIFICANCE:

The historical name of this apartment, significant for its architecture and its contribution to the city's commercial/real estate development, was the Alexandra. First listed in the Indianapolis City Directory of 1902, this apartment is an enlarged "Eastern" flat type. The large three-story building has multiple entrances with two flats per floor at each. The construction of the Alexandra coincided with the international interest in the death of England's long-reigning Queen Victoria and the coronation on August 9, 1902 (postponed from June 26, 1902 because of the King's illness) of Edward VII and his much beloved Alexandra (married March 10, 1863). Newspaper and popular coverage of the event was widespread and interest was keen even in Indianapolis. It is logical therefore to assume that the owner chose the name Alexandra for this newly completed apartment block to lend an air of "international" elegance to the property.

Building activity began on March 25, 1901 when the Indianapolis Recking (sic) Company obtained a \$100 permit from the city to raze two frame building, one located at 334 East Vermont Street and the other at 414 North New Jersey Street. The 1899 Indianapolis Baist's Real Estate Map shows two frame structures at these locations. From 1900 to 1902 this city block was the site of considerable commercial building activity including several apartment blocks. On March 28, 1901, just three days after obtaining a wrecking permit, a building permit was issued to Catherine M. Lewis to construct a three-story brick and stone flat valued at \$50,000 (Permit #6934). No contractor's name was given.

Mrs. Lewis was the widow of Tompkins A. Lewis, owner of a flouring mill in the 1870's. She continued to live in the family home at 528 North Meridian Street after her husband's death in 1886. An early member of the Art Association, she

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and her children Catherine, Charles and Clarence were yearly listed in the city's Blue Book. Mrs. Lewis lived only three years after purchasing the Alexandra building permit. She died in October, 1904 and is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle Name: Indianapolis West

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES:

16	572750	4402660
Zone	Easting	Northing

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Parcel 1-01-33895. Commencing at the Northwest Corner of Vermont and New Jersey Streets, North One Hundred Eighty Feet Four Inches, West One Hundred Ten Feet, South Ninety-eight Feet Four Inches, West Twenty-one Feet Six Inches, South Eighty-two Feet, East One Hundred Thirty-one Feet Five and One Half Inches, South East One-Four, Block Nineteen. Key Code 81-034-020.