
NAME: ~~The Sylvania~~ MAP NUMBER: 20
LOCATION: ~~801 North Pennsylvania Street, 108 East St. Clair Street~~
OWNER: The Sylvania Apartment Company
ADDRESS: 423 Massachusetts Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

7. DESCRIPTION:

The Sylvania (Photo 21 of 42) is two detached, slightly irregularly shaped rectangular buildings constructed of common bond glazed brick and carved grey limestone. Apparently built at the same time, 1906, one five bay symmetrical entrance facade faces west on North Pennsylvania Street; the other seven bay symmetrical entrance facade looks south on St. Clair Street balancing and complementing each other architecturally. These two buildings solidly define the northeast corner of this important intersection. Especially fine are the Renaissance Revival/Free Classic carved grey limestone door and window surrounds. The stylized scroll leaf motif on the exterior limestone is repeated on the newel posts inside. The attics most likely had pressed metal cornices. Classical Revival style hardware and wood trim moldings survive.

8. SIGNIFICANCE:

The "Eastern" flat type Sylvania possesses architectural significance as well as playing an important role in the commercial/real estate development of the city and especially this area of North Pennsylvania Street where it is the third apartment built in what ultimately became a concentration of seven buildings.

In 1900, Mrs. Elizabeth G. Palmer was a widow living in a large Italianate house at the corner of St. Clair and Pennsylvania Streets. The 1900 U.S. Census states that her two unmarried daughters, aged fifty-one and forty-nine, lived with her. A socially prominent family listed in the Blue Book from the time of their arrival in the city in 1895, the Palmer women also had four boarders. Mrs. Palmer must have watched carefully as neighbor Newell Lodge pulled down his family's home and replaced it with an apartment in 1905. The seventy-six-year-old widow followed Lodge's lead the following year. In April of 1906 a permit was obtained to raze her home and the following week William P. Jungclaus Co. (see 8. Significance, page 20) filed for permits to construct two separate brick flats on the property. Each three-story building was to contain six flats with the total value of the two buildings \$23,100. Located a block east of the mansions and fine churches of Meridian Street and just six blocks and a brisk walk or short trolley ride from downtown, the buildings were a desirable address for many years.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle: Indianapolis West

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES:

| | | |
|------|---------|----------|
| 16 | 572320 | 4403260 |
| Zone | Easting | Northing |

Downtown Apartment Flats Thematic Resources
Indianapolis, Indiana

CONTINUATION SHEET

Page 59

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Parcel 1-01-42388. Danforth and Knox Subdivision, Lot Fourteen, Outlot One Hundred Seventy-three. Key Code 81-010-020.