
NAME: ~~The Baker~~
LOCATION: 310 ~~North Alabama Street~~, 341 Massachusetts Avenue
OWNER: Leo Stenz
ADDRESS: 341 Massachusetts Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

MAP NUMBER: 15

7. DESCRIPTION:

Like the Martens and the Oxford, the Baker (Photo 16 of 42) has two principle street facades. The three-story, ten bay apartment entrance facade faces east on North Alabama Street. The longer twelve bay commercial facade was built fronting Massachusetts Avenue. The architectural style is Classical Revival reminiscent of Queen Anne. The recessed entrance of the east facade has a large scroll keystone with the letter B signifying the original owners John D. and Mary Baker. The facade material is brick with limestone lintels and sills. There are two carved limestone cartouches above the third story windows. Paired, two-story bay windows are placed in the center of the facade. The cornice at the top uses classical swags and modillions. The roof is flat. The Massachusetts Avenue facade was designed for commercial use at the street level. Six large full-story windows are arranged three either side of the central limestone entrance. The upper two stories have continuous limestone bands forming the lintels and sills of the windows. The third floor windows have keystones. The cornice is supported by paired brackets.

8. SIGNIFICANCE:

The Baker is significant for its architecture and commercial/real-estate development role in the history of early twentieth century Indianapolis. This building, as described above in 7. Description, has two facades, each of a different but representative type. The Massachusetts Avenue facade is of the commercial/flat type, while the Alabama Street section was constructed on the "Eastern" flat plan. The Classical Revival facades are among the best in this thematic group. The building materials and quality of construction also rank high. Owners John D. and Mary Baker were listed yearly in the Blue Book "Elite List."

John D. Baker first appears in Polk's City Directory in 1903, the same year he and his family first appear in the Blue Book. Because no occupation was ever listed, Baker most likely was retired. As owner of the property, he applied for a permit on March 20, 1905 to raze the existing frame buildings at 339-345 Massachusetts Avenue and 308-310 North Alabama Street. Two days later a building permit was filed in the name of "Mary Baker et al" for the construction of an apartment valued at \$65,000 on this site. The contractor named for the project was William E. Moore, a small businessman operating in the city during the first ten years of the century. He operated his business firm from a variety of sites, never achieving the success of many of the other small contractors represented in this nomination.

Baker died in October, 1906 leaving his wife and his daughters Mary and Edith financially secure. Mrs. Baker continued to live in the fashionable northside and was listed yearly in the Blue Book. Upon her death in 1919, Mary Baker was buried next to her husband in Crown Hill Cemetery. This building is included in the Massachusetts Avenue Historic District, listed on the National Register.

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle Name: Indianapolis West

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES:

16	572590	4402540
Zone	Easting	Northing

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Parcel 1-01-54312. Lot Ten and Eighty Feet on Massachusetts Avenue x Ninety-five Feet Seven Inches Sub Lot x Thirty-two Feet Southwest Line Part Lot Eleven Also Eighty-eight and One Half Feet x Five Feet Northeast End Lot Nine Square Twenty-three. Key Code 81-022-024.