
NAME: ~~The~~ Emelie MAP NUMBER: 12
LOCATION: 326-330 ~~North~~ Senate Avenue, 301-303 ~~West~~ Vermont Street
OWNER: Ruth Reid
ADDRESS: 326 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

7. DESCRIPTION:

Limestone inscriptions on the east facade commemorate the EMELIE, ERECTED BY FRED SCHMID, 1902. The L-shaped, three-story commercial/flats building occupies the southwest corner of North Senate Avenue and West Vermont Street. Indiana Avenue cuts diagonally through this intersection. The shorter ten bay facade faces east; the longer thirteen bay facade looks north up Indiana and Senate Avenues. Built of red brick and grey limestone in the German Renaissance Revival style, the Emelie has especially fine decorative detailing (swags, roundels, floral cartouches, strip pilasters, and other classical revival motifs). The original fenestration on the ground level has been altered by recent commercial activity. The upper two stories are intact. The one over one windows are set into recessed wall panels. The attic level is missing its metal cornice (photo 13 of 42).

8. SIGNIFICANCE:

The Emelie is significant in the areas of architecture and commerce. Its name is derived from the German spelling of the name Amelia and here honors the wife of owner/builder Frederick Schmid. Mr. Schmid was born in Württemberg, Germany and came to the United States in 1852, stopping for a year in New York before arriving in Indianapolis. He married Emelie Pfaefflin in 1853 and engaged in the grocery business with her brother Theodore. By 1872 Fred was secretary of the Indianapolis Manufacturer's and Carpenter's Union, a lumberyard specializing in "doors, windows, brackets and moulding (sic)...dressed and sawed wood to order." By 1897 according to Hyman's Handbook of Indianapolis (p. 345) it had become the city's "largest manufacturer of finished lumber" employing from fifty to seventy-five men.

Schmid was a central figure in the operation of the German-English Independent School in the city. Founded in 1856, it operated on the principle that children must be instructed in the German language and that the young student must be taught "without religious embellishment to detract" (Our Old School, p. 10)--something which Schmid and others felt was impossible in the public schools. All four of Schmid's children graduated from the school, and Schmid served as treasurer of the institution for four years.

In 1902, the 74-year-old Schmid obtained a building permit for the construction of an apartment/flat building at the southwest corner of Senate Avenue and Vermont Street. For the construction of the \$25,000 commercial/flat type building he employed the German Brandt Brothers (see 8. Significance, page 20) as contractors. Ready for occupancy in late 1902 the building had twelve flats on the upper two stories and two commercial spaces and four apartments on the street level.

In March, 1905, after fifty-two years of marriage, Frederick Schmid was widowed. Just three months later Schmid was buried next to his wife, Emelie, in Crown Hill Cemetery.

Downtown Apartment Flats Thematic Resources
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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle Name: Indianapolis West

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES:

16	571650	4402640
Zone	Easting	Northing

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Parcel 1-01-36308. H. L. Elsworth Subdivision, Lot Sixteen, Block Twenty-nine.
Key Code 80-033-021.