
NAME: ~~The~~ Martens
LOCATION: 348-356 Indiana Avenue
OWNER: Ruth Reid
ADDRESS: 326 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

MAP NUMBER: 7

7. DESCRIPTION:

The Martens (Photo 7 of 42) is located on the triangular-shaped block created by the intersection of Indiana and North Senate Avenues and has two principle facades. The larger nineteen bay facade was built on the west side of Indiana Avenue with six commercial shops facing the street. There are two stories of flats above the shops. The name MARTENS is carved in limestone in the center of the attic. Distinctive are the two-story projecting bays with recessed swag panels. The lintels and sills are limestone. Cast-iron pilaster posts and supporting "I" beam framing survive on the first story street level. Classical Revival style details include the four limestone and brick oculus windows accented with quarry face keystones and the recessed panel pilaster-like attic finials. The smaller Senate Avenue eight bay facade has a wide limestone semicircular arch entrance supported on recessed panel pilasters. All three stories were planned as flats. Only slightly projecting bays are used. The lintels and sills are limestone. A small solid limestone lunette arch in the attic repeats the motif from the east facade.

8. SIGNIFICANCE:

The Martens is one of the earliest large, multi-unit (18) flats in this thematic group. Architecturally significant, each of the two street facades of this apartment building represents a different flat type, both qualifying the structure for inclusion in this nomination. The Indiana Avenue facade is of the commercial/flat type, while the Senate Street facade is of the "Eastern" type with three stories, each divided into two flats. The Martens first appears in the Indianapolis City Directory in 1900. The Building Permit Indexes for 1897-99 (the actual permit records have not survived) show Herman E. Martens obtained two building permits, one valued at \$20,000 and the other at \$8,000. In 1900 he obtained a third permit to construct a \$60,000 brick flat at the corner of Meridian and Michigan Streets. It seems safe to assume that the c.1898 permits were issued for the Martens.

After Herman Martens' death in February of 1904, ownership of the building continued in the family under several sons and a daughter until 1924 by which time all had either died or left the city. The family business, run by Herman, Jr. after his father's retirement, was located just south of the Monument Circle at 18-20 North Meridian Street. Schleicher & Martens were listed as dealers in carpets, draperies and wallpaper in the City Directory of 1898. Martens was representative of the many German immigrants to the city prior to the Civil War. Ambitious and hard-working people, they became successful businessmen and productive citizens in Indianapolis.

Downtown Apartment Flats Thematic Resources
Indianapolis, Indiana

CONTINUATION SHEET

Page 34

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle Name: Indianapolis West

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES:

16	571690	4402610
Zone	Easting	Northing

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Parcel 1-01-12345. Ninety-two Feet Three Inches on Indiana Avenue x Forty Feet Five Inches on Senate Avenue South Part Lot Twelve, Square 28. Key Code 80-022-002.