
NAME: ~~The~~ Colonial

MAP NUMBER: 8

LOCATION: 126 ~~East~~ Vermont Street, 402-408 ~~North~~ Delaware Street

OWNER: James T. & Mary R. Schrage

ADDRESS: 1738 Sweet Gum Drive, Indianapolis, Indiana 46260

7. DESCRIPTION:

The Colonial (Photo 9 of 42) is a three-story, eight by ten bay, yellow brick and cream colored terra cotta apartment building on the northwest corner of East Vermont and North Delaware Streets. The historic Bass photograph (Photo 6 of 44) of 1900 shows landscape features such as trees and grass parterres no longer remaining on the site. Some of the fine details in the bay windows and cornice have been lost. There are three principle entrance doorways. Two face North Delaware Street; one faces East Vermont Street. The double glass doors have Federal-like sunburst transom lights. The terra cotta arches are set within pediments. The exceptionally fine terra cotta work includes numerous paterae set in the flanking pilasters, triglyphs, scroll keystones, and bead and reel molding that are Classical Revival in style. There are two large medallion-size rosettes either side of the pediments. The first story is raised on a half basement. Two string courses divide the facade. Most of the windows were six and eight light sash. Especially distinctive are the terra cotta keystones and corner block lintels with Greek meander. The second and third stories use polygonal bay windows (now altered). The brickwork at the corners imitates quoins. The third story (see Photo 8 of 42) once had a metal cornice of large modillions. A small brick parapet hides the flat roof. The overall rectangular shape suggested by the Vermont and Delaware facades is broken on the northwest corner by irregular light well set backs. The facade material here is common bond (sixth row headers) red brick. The window openings are double rowlock segmental arches with smooth limestone sills.

8. SIGNIFICANCE:

This large apartment building at the corner of Delaware and Vermont Streets is typical of the fashionable flats that were popular with the younger members of Indianapolis society. Included in the 1910 Blue Book's list of fashionable apartments, eight of the twelve flats in the Colonial were occupied by couples and bachelors who were included in the "elite list." With significance in the areas of architecture and commerce/real estate development, the building was constructed on the enlarged "Eastern" flat plan with two flats per floor within each entrance.

Mrs. Catherine Francis Zener built the Colonial as an investment less than a year after the death of her husband Robert. The Zener's had come to the city in 1886 and Robert quickly established a thriving insurance business. Son Clarence M. continued his father's business and probably aided his mother in the management of the flats until his death in 1906. Mrs. Zener employed John A. Schumaker (see 8. Significance, page 20) to construct the \$37,000 flat in February of 1900.

By 1916 Volney Thomas Malott was owner of the Colonial, applying for a permit to construct fire escapes in October of that year. Malott had long been important to the growth of the city. Among his numerous achievements is the founding of

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Merchant's National Bank which is today the oldest banking institution in the city. Malott served as a director or president of railroads including the Chicago and Western and the Monon Line. He served as President of Indiana National Bank from 1882 to 1912 and with John Holliday founded Union Trust Company in 1893. Married to the sister of David Macy, president and director of several Indiana railroads, Malott and his family were long at the center of Indianapolis business and society.

The third owner of the building was John S. Spann Company (see 8. Significance, page 19) who purchased the flats sometime after 1925.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle Name: Indianapolis West

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES:

16	572430	4402670
Zone	Easting	Northing

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Parcel 81014012000. Henderson's Subdivision, Square Seventeen, One Hundred Twenty-five Feet East End Lot Ten, One Hundred Twenty-five Feet East End Lot Eleven, One Hundred Twenty-five Feet East End Lot Twelve. Key Code 81-014-012.