
NAME: ~~The~~ Savoy
LOCATION: 36 ~~West~~ Vermont Street
OWNER: Paul Tipps, General Partner, Savoy-Hoosier Associates
ADDRESS: 3038 North Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33306

MAP NUMBER: 5

7. DESCRIPTION:

Six stories high above a raised basement, the Savoy Apartment Building (Photo 5 of 42) rises to a height of seventy-four feet. Faced with buff-colored brick, the majority of decorative detailing of the main Vermont Street facade--the window lintels, the foundation, and the entryway arch--is of rock faced limestone construction popular during the 1890s. The symmetrical facade of three bays corresponds to the internal firewalls that divide the building longitudinally. Originally there were twelve flats--two per floor with one to either side of the central stairway corridor. At the second through fourth floors, the oriels of the east and west bays contain diagonally placed rectangular windows and terminate in metal cornices. Above these oriels there are triple windows on the fifth and sixth floors. Those of the top floor are arched and enframed in a Romanesque Revival manner. A bracketed metal cornice above a dentil frieze completes the architectural design.

8. SIGNIFICANCE:

The Savoy is important historically as being among the first generation of apartment buildings in Indianapolis. It was constructed in 1897-1898 for \$60,000 by the Home Investment Company, a partnership which included among others Benjamin Nysewander, an attorney, and Sarah P. Thornburgh, the proprietor of the Oriental Hotel. Due to an interruption in the building's erection, its construction history is well documented by a series of mechanics liens filed in February of 1898. Providers of materials included the Jonesboro Brickworks, John J. Johnson, who was a local brick manufacturer, and the Foster Lumber Company. The carpentry was done by partners William W. Penhorwood and James McClimom. The general contractor, Peter C. Weyenburg, had been active in the construction trades in Indianapolis since his arrival in the city in 1887 after years of construction experience throughout the West. He was particularly knowledgeable about cement work which he had learned in Denver, Colorado during that city's boom years.

Architect Thomas A. Winterrowd's solution to the incorporation of flats into a multi-story building was one that became common in later years of apartment building. To either side of a central hallway ran two flats per floor through the entire length of the building. The exterior symmetry of the three-bay-wide facade helps to express this internal arrangement. The flats were generous in size, being five or six rooms each. At the time, Winterrowd himself was a participant in the new life style of apartment living by residing in Emmett Flats. Called in his obituary in 1925, "one of the pioneer architects of Indianapolis," Winterrowd primarily designed domestic residences but was especially known for two of his theaters, the Alhambra and the Orpheum, both of which were razed more than 50 years ago. Active in practice in Indianapolis from 1890 until 1925, he was succeeded by his architect son, Victor H. Winterrowd.

Adding to the historical significance of the building are some of its early tenants

CONTINUATION SHEET

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who were prominent in the community. Lewis Brown, Ph.D., rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church for thirty-five years, was a resident of the Savoy for nearly twenty-five. According to his obituary, Reverend Brown was "known to thousands of persons throughout the state and city." An active Mason and Scottish Rite member, Brown was the founder of St. Margaret's Guild, an eleemosynary institution that continues its charitable works today. Another locally important tenant was attorney James E. Deery who served as City Judge from 1914 to 1918, City Attorney from 1930 to 1934, Corporation Counsel from 1935 to 1937, and City Controller from 1939 to 1943. Other tenants of note included John H. Emrich of the Emrich Furniture Company, Jacob B. Weber, president of the White Swan Distilling Company, and Pearson Mendenhall, president of the Marion County Realty Company. Mendenhall was also an officer of the Gibraltar Realty Company which in 1926 sold the Savoy to Dr. Goethe Link.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle Name: Indianapolis West

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES:

16	572040	4402680
Zone	Easting	Northing

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Parcel 10-42372. Eighty Feet South Line by Eighty-two and a half Feet Southwest Corner, Block Fifteen. Fifty Feet South Line by Eighty-two and a half Feet East of Fifty Feet South West Corner, Block Fifteen. Key Code 80-005-009.