

Indianapolis Architecture



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Authors	Rick A. Ball David M. Bowen, AIA Don R. Claffey, AIA Robert J. Erikson, AIA Cheryl A. Hilbert Lynn C. Hilbert	John A. Houck, AIA J. Mack Huston, AIA James L. Kalleen III James D. Markle Wayne S. Schmidt, AIA, Chairman
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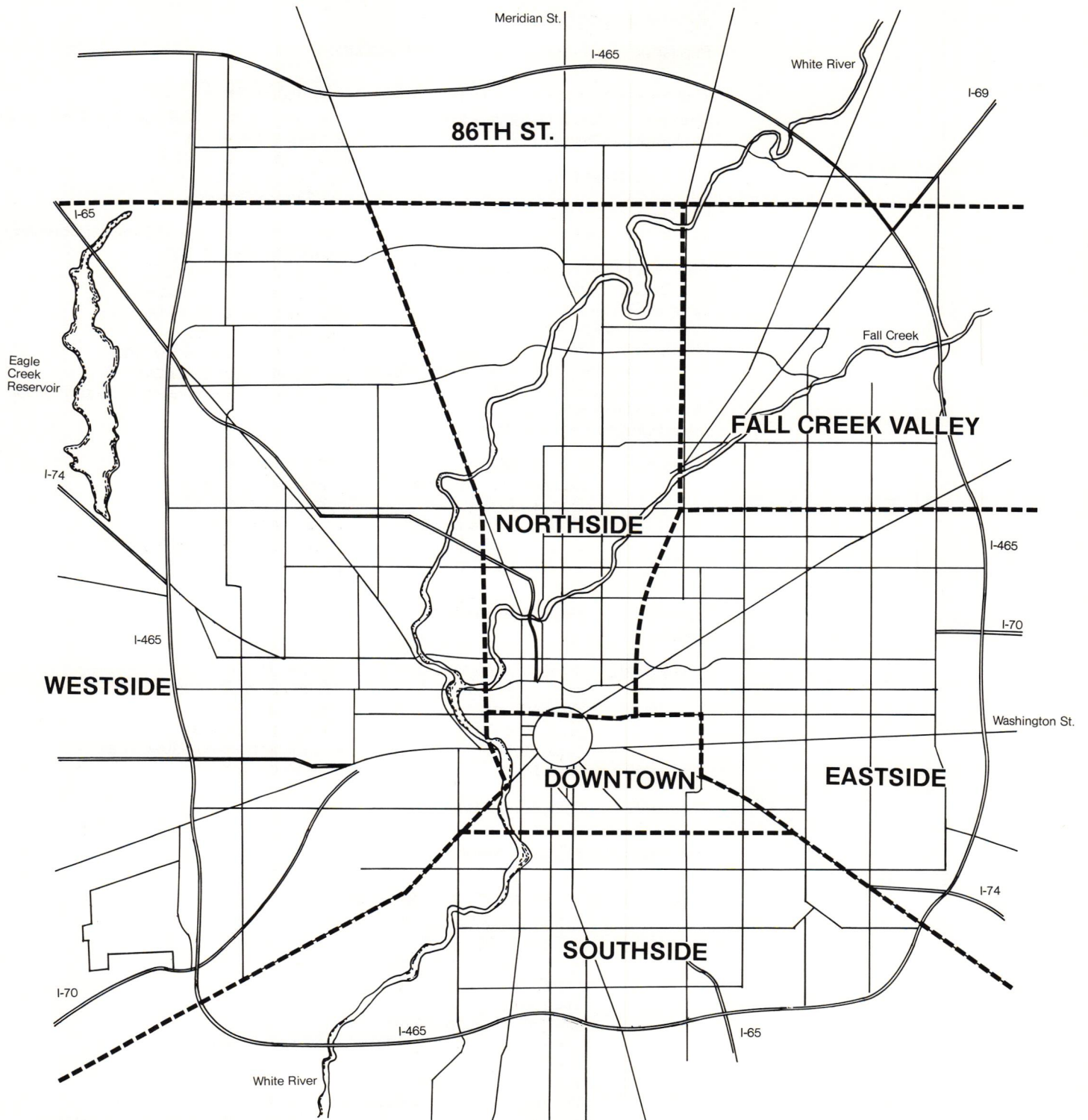
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Preface

Indianapolis is unique as a city. It is a city located in the geographic center of the state by legislation and established adjacent to an unnavigable river for transportation. It contains more farmland within its borders than any other United States city of comparable size. Indianapolis continues to evolve around a circle designed and surveyed over 150 years ago. This guide to the architecture of Indianapolis examines, in physical terms, the special attributes only Indianapolis possesses: the rivers and creeks which gently flow across the flat prairie surface, the tree-lined vistas radiating from the unique circle, the diversity of neighborhoods which become identifiable to themselves. It considers the often made comment that Indianapolis "is a good place to live and to raise kids."

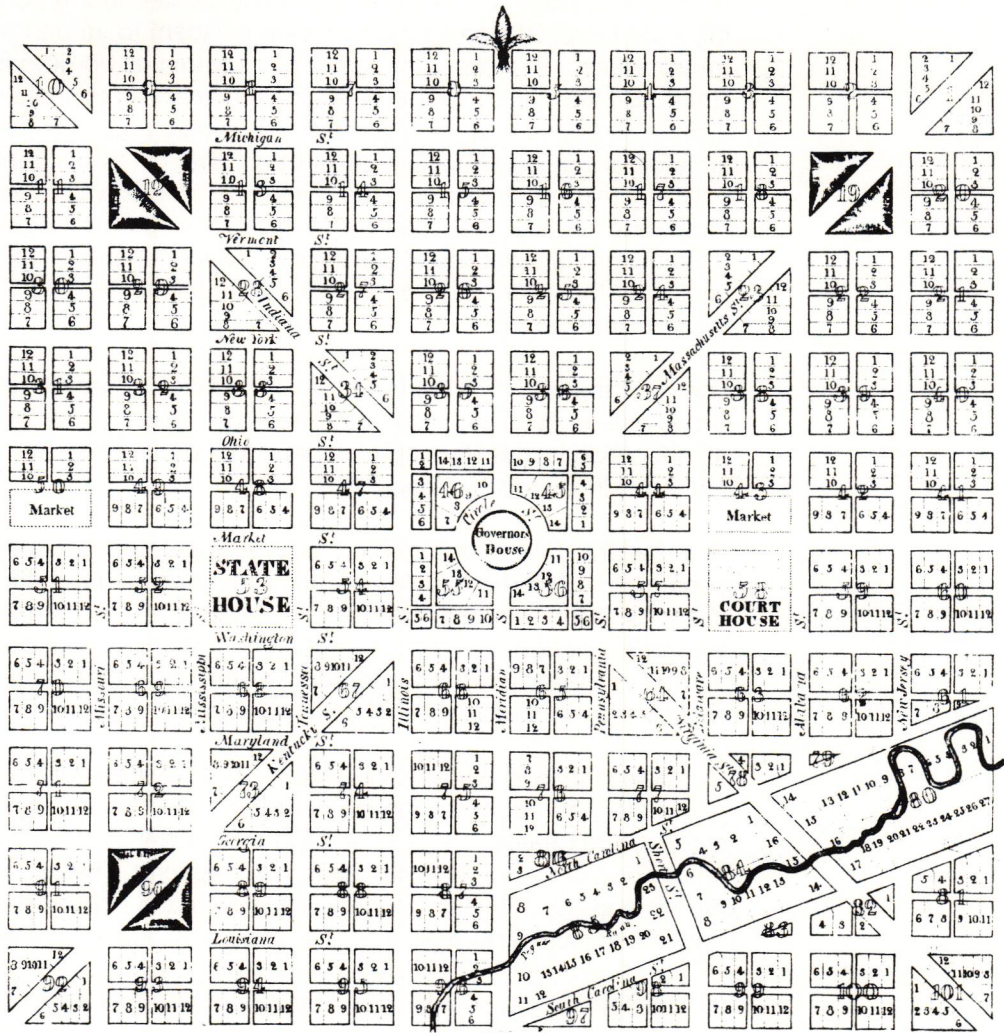
The "guide portion" of the book provides a way of seeing the physical elements which make Indianapolis special. The text material attempts to characterize the neighborhood while the captions provide the facts and sentiments about the individually located landmarks.

The "historical view" deals with the development of the physical environment beginning with the original decision of the placement of the capitol to the changes which are occurring today. What happened to cause the fashionable area to move north? Why does a "belt railroad" extend around only three sides of the city? What are the future ramifications of a "belt highway" that continues around the entire city and will soon penetrate the downtown?

Our goal is that, in the end, an awareness of architecture will occur. The fabric of our city and our buildings, good or bad, affects our very lives. Responsive architecture, pleasant spaces and fun places will not divert a national energy crisis nor calm a riot, but they can uplift the spirit. They can enhance our moods and our activities. Unplanned growth and happenstance buildings can only cause chaos and confusion. They can only deflate and degrade our activities.

Indianapolis is at a critical point in its life. It can recognize that a city is for its people or it can think only in terms of moving automobiles. It can consider the choice of retaining the precious green corn belt or it can believe that progress is only the horizontal expansion of roads, sewers and buildings.

Enjoy this book. It is the collective thoughts and experiences of twelve people committed to the improvement of the physical environment, both the preservation of the God-given elements and the development of the architecture.

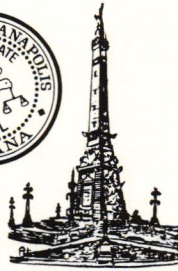


Notes.
 Washington Street is 120 feet wide.
 Circle is 30 feet wide.
 North & South Carolina Streets are 60 feet wide.
 Alleys are 30 x 15 feet wide.
 Regular lots about 30 feet alley in general, and have 67 1/2 feet front by 195 feet depth, contain 1 acre.
 Irregular lots generally contain 1 acre.

PLAT
 OF THE TOWN
 OF
INDIANAPOLIS.

Engraved & Published by H. Platt, Columbus, Ohio, Dec., 1821.

Notes.
 The shaded squares No. 12, 19 & 90, are reserved for religious purposes.
 Every lot unnumbered 1, 3 & 9, are reserved for some future sale.
 Squares 45, 46, 53, 56, are called, together, "Governors Square".
 Where River is a mile west of the west line of the town.



CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS

RICHARD G. LUGAR, MAYOR

Much as people are likely to derive impressions of individuals they meet through personal appearances, a City is apt to be distinguished by its architecture. I share with the individuals responsible for this publication an enthusiasm for providing both residents and visitors with a handy tool whereby they can learn about our City. Regardless of the section or building or neighborhood that is being viewed, each is a valuable contributor to the impression our City creates in total. Both the quaint stores of Broad Ripple and the expansive new shops in the Washington Square Shopping Center are Indianapolis....exemplifying the best of the old and new.

The City of Indianapolis provides a pleasant combination of historic architectural styles and impressive contemporary architectural achievements. We are determined to preserve fine buildings such as our Union Station and the City Market. At the same time, however, our City is enjoying a prosperity that encourages new construction such as the Convention Center and the Market Square Arena.

The economy of the City, cited by the U.S. Council on Municipal Performance (May 11, 1974) as the healthiest in the Nation, has been a stimulus for new construction totaling over \$374,843,660.00 for the 1973 year alone. The number of building permits has tripled from 13,000 in 1968 to 38,976 in 1973.

We point to these trends with pride and a sense of optimism. The Guide to Indianapolis Architecture is an excellent and timely publication which acknowledges the architectural achievements of our City. I urge you to use this Guidebook and discover Indianapolis.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Lugar
Mayor

RGL:ts