

Elliott's Block  
(L. S. Ayres Company Warehouse Annex)  
(now Cornelius Printing Company)  
14-22 West Maryland Street  
Indianapolis  
Marion County  
Indiana

HABS No. IND-60

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. IND-60

ELLIOTT'S BLOCK  
(L. S. AYRES COMPANY WAREHOUSE ANNEX)  
(NOW CORNELIUS PRINTING COMPANY)

Location: 14-22 West Maryland Street, Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana.

Present Owner: Mr. Riley Adams, 5870 Sunset Lane, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Present Use: Warehouse and office space.

Statement of Significance: This High Victorian Italiante commercial structure is an excellent example of a late 19th. century commercial building. The brick facade is accentuated by stone, sheet metal, and cast iron architectural detailing.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Dates of erection: Probably 1875. Calvin A. Elliott owned the property at this time, and jointly with others named Elliott he had owned the land since 1854. (See "Original and subsequent owners" following). The city directory published in 1876 was the first to list Elliott's Block, and its address is given as 18-24 West Maryland Street (Swartz and Co.'s Indianapolis City Directory, 1876, Indianapolis, 1876). Listing in this issue of the directory would imply that construction had probably taken place in 1875. Listing for the building continues through and includes the issue of the directory published in 1904 (R. L. Polk & Co.'s Indianapolis Directory for 1904, Indianapolis, 1904). There are no subsequent listings. The directory published in 1891 clarifies the street numbering, stating that the numbers on the block in which the building stands go from No. 1 at South Meridian Street on the east to No. 50 commencing at the next block, after Illinois Street on the west. The street number is the same in that issue as it was in 1876, and it seems appropriate to the building's position near the middle of the block. (R. L. Polk & Co.'s.... for 1891). This information seems sufficient to establish the name of the building and the date of its construction within a year.
2. Architect: Not known.

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3. Original and subsequent owners: The lot, on which the two buildings stand, is rectangular in shape and is located at the northwest corner of South Meridian Street and West Maryland Street. The frontage on South Meridian Street is 49'-6" and that on West Maryland Street totals 202'-6", which is cut into two parts: the east part is 120' long, then a ten foot wide alley intervenes, and the west part is 72'-6". Elliott's Block stands on the west part of the lot.

1854 Warranty Deed, January 27, 1854, recorded January 27, 1854 in Deed Record Town Lots 1, p. 428.  
Thomas H. Sharpe and wife Elizabeth C. Sharpe  
to  
Christopher C. Elliott, and  
Calvin A. Elliott.  
Lot 12 in Square 66, except 15 feet off the north side heretofore deeded to James VanBlaricum.

1854 Party Wall Agreement, May 10, 1854, recorded July 15, 1862 in Mortgage Record MM, p. 33.  
Christopher C. Elliott and  
Calvin A. Elliott (signs C. C. Elliott)  
and  
James VanBlaricum.

The party wall agreement reduced the size of the Elliott's property by deeding 6" along the north property line to VanBlaricum. The agreement indicates that the Elliotts intended to build a brick building on the east 120 feet of the lot and granted VanBlaricum use of the north side of the wall as a party wall.

1854 Christopher C. Elliott died intestate August 16, 1854.

1860 Dedication, July 16, 1860, recorded July 26, 1860  
Mortgage Record JJ, page 236.  
Lewis W. Hasselman  
Almus E. Vinton  
John H. Vajen  
John Fishback  
Calvin A. Elliott.

An alley is dedicated which cuts the Elliotts' lot into two parts. Commencing 120' west of the southeast corner of Lot 12; thence north through Lots 12,

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11 and 10 to Pearl Street; thence west 10 feet; thence south through Lots 12, 11 and 10 to Maryland Street; thence east 10 feet to place of beginning. Alley is for use of respective property owners.

- 1860- Note: The records show that Calvin A. Elliott bought  
1870 Christopher's half ownership of Lot 12 from Christopher's heirs from 1860 to 1870, although it appears that three heirs of the many are not represented, a fact that was never contested.
- 1876 Deed August 29, 1876, recorded September 7, 1876 in Deed Record Town Lots 101, p. 276.  
Calvin A. Elliott  
to  
John C. New, in Trust.  
Lot 12 less 15 feet off the north side. Much other realty also.
- 1878 Sheriff's Deed September 14, 1878, recorded September 16, 1878 in Deed Record Town Lots 118, p. 39.  
John T. Pressly, Sheriff of Marion County  
to  
Howard Cale.  
Lot 12 less 15 off the north side. Deed gives several judgments rendered in Marion County. Superior Court September 5 & 6, 1876; property levied on and sold as the property of Calvin A. Elliott.
- 1878 Quit Claim Deed, December 7, 1878, recorded December 28, 1878 in Deed Record Town Lots 120, p. 292.  
Howard Cale, Trustee  
to  
Moody Currier.  
  
This deed contains a long recital of the grantor's trust.
- 1880 Warranty Deed, May 15, 1880, recorded June 9, 1880 in Deed Record Town Lots 134 Instrument No. 3512.  
Calvin A. Elliott  
to  
The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co.
- 1880 Warranty Deed August 11, 1880, recorded September 10, 1880 in Deed Record Town Lots 136 Instrument No. 4998.

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The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co.  
to  
Daniel Stewart and Thomas G. Barry.

1880 Tax Deed September 20, 1880, recorded September 21,  
1880 in Deed Record Town Lots 136, Instrument No.  
5139.

John C. New, Trustee  
to  
The Northwestern Life Insurance Co.

1883 Warranty Deed January 20, 1883, recorded January 20,  
1883 in Deed Record Town Lots 157, Instrument No. 1904.

Thomas G. Barry and Sarah B. Barry  
to  
Daniel Stewart.

1971 The present owner of the land is the Daniel Stewart  
Realty Company according to records in the Assessor's  
office.

4. Original plan and construction: The original uses of the building are not known. It would appear to have been stores on the ground floor and loft space above.
5. Alterations and additions: A commercial building of this type is frequently changed and altered. Knowledge of the different uses to which it has been put is relevant. During the occupancy by the Daniel Stewart firm, the building was used as a glass warehouse until 1902, when this function was moved to another warehouse. Daniel Stewart's business had been founded as "a retail and wholesale drug and glass store in 1840" in Greensburg, Indiana. At the time it was customary to sell flat glass in drug stores. The drug and glass businesses were separated into two companies in 1908. ("Stewart-Carey dates back to 1840," Indianapolis Star, December 30, 1951, Sec. 2, p. 3). The other building on the lot, the one on the larger parcel fronting on South Meridian Street, was used as a drug warehouse and for drug sales. Reilly Adams, now president of Stewart-Carey, Inc., successor firm to Daniel Stewart Co., is quoted as saying that Elliott's Block was originally called the Daniel Stewart Building and was built about 1875 by Stewart to house his glass operations. (Charles Vaughan, "Place of Business," Indianapolis News, December 18, 1963, p. 48). The evidence presented herein indicates otherwise, including Dunn's giving 1881 as the date

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on which the Stewart firm moved to the Meridian and Maryland Street location (Jacob Piatt Dunn, Greater Indianapolis, Chicago 1910, p. 925). Presently the building is leased by the L. S. Ayres Co., a large department store which occupies most of the buildings of this city block, and is used for alterations, storage, marking and opening of goods. In the fall of 1963 the building was sand-blasted and painted black, white, and gray. At the walled-in street-level openings between the columns and piers, oil paintings were mounted depicting Christmas scenes of long ago (Charles Vaughan, "Place of Business," Indianapolis News, December 16, 1963). These walls are now painted a solid color.

A good idea of the relationship of Elliott's Block to the L. S. Ayres Buildings around it can be obtained from the photograph in Architecture and Design, Vol. XIX, March 1955, which features the work of Indianapolis contractor William P. Jungclaus Company.

The blocking course at the third floor presently has a flat piece of sheet metal across the center portion. Possibly the words "Elliott's Block" lie behind the metal.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Calvin A. Elliott was born in Anderson County, Kentucky, on May 2, 1822. He moved at age 20 to Lincoln County Missouri, and from there went to California during the Gold Rush in 1849. He stayed three years, accumulating money successfully and returning to settle in Indianapolis in 1852, where he bought out the Smith and Hanna wholesale liquor business, which was located at the northeast corner of Washington and Pennsylvania Streets. He then bought the property on the northwest corner of West Maryland and South Meridian Streets, where he conducted business for many years. He married Martha Wright of Louisiana in 1855 and had one child, W. W. Elliott, who was a wholesale liquor dealer at 23 South Tennessee Street (John H. B. Nowland, Prominent Citizens of 1876, Indianapolis, 1877, pp. 336, 337).

Daniel Stewart was born in Greensburg, Indiana, February 3, 1824. His mother was Mary Hendricks Stewart, a cousin of Thomas A. Hendricks who was elected vice president in 1834. Daniel was in the drug business for most of his business career, except for a few years in the daguerreotype business. He established a wholesale and retail drug business in 1863 at 40 East Washington Street with Stephen Morgan and Thomas G. Barry as partners. The partners

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successively withdrew until the firm was only Daniel Stewart in 1885. In 1896 it was incorporated as Daniel Stewart and Company.

In 1881 the business moved to the new block at the corner of Meridian and Maryland Streets. Stewart retired from the firm in 1883. The business involved the handling of drugs, paints, and plate glass. On May 18, 1858 he married Martha Tarkington (Jacob Piatt Dunn, Greater Indianapolis, Chicago, 1910, pp. 924, 925). His firm was the antecedent of the present Stewart-Carey Corporations which manufacture glass and other building materials.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Deed Record Town Lots 1, 101, 118, 120, 134, 136, 157, in County Recorder's Office, City-County Building, Indianapolis.

Mortgage Record JJ, MM, in County Recorder's Office, City-County Building, Indianapolis.

b. Secondary and published sources:

Architecture and Design, Vol. XIX, March 1955. Issue on William P. Jungclaus Co., Contractors.

Dunn, Jacob Piatt. Greater Indianapolis. Chicago, 1910.

Nowland, John H. B. Prominent Citizens of 1876. Indianapolis, 1877.

R. L. Polk & Co.'s Indianapolis City Directory for 1891. Indianapolis, 1891.

R. L. Polk.....for 1904. Indianapolis, 1904.

"Stewart-Carey Dates Back to 1840," Indianapolis Star, December 30, 1951, Sec. 2, p. 3.

Swartz and Co.'s Indianapolis City Directory, 1876, ending March 1877. Indianapolis, 1876.

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Vaughan, Charles. "Place of Business," Indianapolis News,  
December 16, 1963.

Vaughan, Charles. "Place of Business," Indianapolis News,  
December 18, 1963, p. 48.

2. Likely sources not yet investigated: The blocking course at the third floor may have the original name of the building concealed under sheet metal.

Reily Adams, Chairman of the Board of Stewart-Carey, Inc., Indianapolis, may have historic photographs of the building.

Prepared by Wesley I. Shank  
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Iowa State University  
National Park Service  
August 1971

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The facade is an excellent example of a late 19th Century commercial building. The facade is well detailed and nicely proportioned, with a rich expression of cast iron, brick, stone and sheet metal.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent

### B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Rectangular, 72'-6" frontage on Maryland Street (nine bays); three stories plus basement.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Analysis of facade: The facade is visually divided by vertical cast-iron-faced masonry piers at the extremities and at the outer 1/4 points. These piers are painted white and project about 2'-6" from the facade. They also project above the cornice at the top of the building where they are terminated by pointed sheet metal-faced caps. Thus the major rhythm horizontally is a, b, a, 2 bays, then 5 bays then 2 bays. On the

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first floor freestanding round cast-iron columns and engaged columns at the masonry piers carry iron beams which span from pier to pier. The column caps also of cast iron, are of a foliate type, with impost blocks which curve as they intersect the beam, creating an arcaded effect. The former openings between the columns are now covered with plywood panels painted grey. The cast-iron columns, caps, imposts and beams are painted black. The second floor line is defined by the iron beam. The continuous stone window sill line is broken by the vertical piers at the outer 1/4 points and at the corners of the building. The second-story windows have semi-circular stone heads and stone jambs. The sashes are modern double-hung aluminum rectangular units. The lunettes above the rectangular windows are plywood. Stone window frames are painted white and the wall surface of brick is painted grey. The third story also has double-hung windows set in stone surrounds. Here, however, the sills are not continuous and the heads of the openings are segmental stone arches. The stone work is painted white. The brick work is painted grey. The deep and very plastic entablature is of sheet metal and painted grey. Above is a brick parapet wall with a sheet metal cornice. The roof slope has been modified so that the felts have been laid to the apex of the sheet metal cornice. The over-all condition of the fabric is good.

C. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The building is located in an urban area on the north side of Maryland Street, thus the facade is the south elevation of the building. The building is connected on the east to a six-story building. To the north is Pearl Street and to the west a parking lot.

Prepared by David R. Hermansen  
Project Supervisor  
Ball State University  
National Park Service  
August 1970

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared as part of a cooperatively financed project in 1970 between the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana and the Historic American Buildings Survey.

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The project was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Professor of Architecture, David R. Hermansen (Ball State University) was the project supervisor. Student architects Kathleen Hoeft (University of Oregon), Lannis Kirkland (Auburn University), Ronald J. Lake (Ball State University), and Phillip Wisley (Ball State University) provided the measured documentation. The architectural history was written by Associate Professor of Architecture Wesley I. Shank. Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer, provided the photographic documentation. This material was edited for HABS by Candace Reed in 1977.