

The Kansas City, Kansan, September 29, 1985: p 7A

Church corners concluded

(Editor's note: This is the 25th in a series of "then and now" articles on places and things of interest in Kansas City, Kan., compiled by area historian Margaret Landis in observance of the 100th birthday of KCK in 1986. Much of the information has appeared in past editions of The Kansan.)

(Transcriptions are presented without changes except to improve readability.)

After exploring the four "church lot" corners of Huron Place, we conclude the series within a series of "then and now" articles by centering on the half-acre triangular parcel of land which includes the northwest corner of Huron Place.

One of the buildings in the triangular plot is the former Elks Club building, 905 N. 7th Street, built in 1922-24 as the city's "first true skyscraper," and now known as the Huron Building. Other building: Federal Reserve Life Insurance Building (Arrowhead Building) and the Getty Building.

As was explained in a previous article, the half-acre of land was given by Hiram M. Northrup and his wife, Margaret Northrup, in 1857 for the Methodist Episcopal Church south building. The Northrups received the land in their Wyandotte Allotment.

When the Methodist Episcopal Church South moved from the northwest corner of Huron Place (7th Street and Minnesota) to its [resent location on the northeast corner of 7th Street and State Avenue in 1886, the old church site was sold for commercial use. The "church lot" also has been used by the Banking Trust Company, the Peoples National Bank and the Security National Bank.

Elks Club

The Elks Benevolent and Charitable Associations of KCK purchased the property on Jan. 21, 1920 to erect a 12-story building. The architect was W.S. Frank; engineer, J.T. Craven Engineering Co.; and contractor, Kiel and Davis, all of St. Louis.

The Elks Club Building was completed March 1924. It was "The city's first true skyscraper..." The ground floor was used for shops; 2nd through the 8th floors, leased for office space; and the top four floors, tenanted by the Elks Lodge (9th floor, recreational



The Elks Club, 905 N. 7th, was built in 1922-24 as the city's first true skyscraper. Today it is called the Huron Building. The picture postcard is from the files of Joseph Firestone.

facilities, designated the "Billiard Floor;" 10th floor, "Lodge Floor" with ballroom; 11th floor, "mezzanine Floor; and 12th Floor, the "Roof Garden.")

The building was completed and ready for use by April 1924. Many physicians, lawyers, and businessmen moved to the new building. among the tenants was the WLBF Radio Station ("Where Listeners Become Friends"). The radio station was later moved to *The Kansan Building* and became KCKN. Today the station is KFKF.

Soon after the building was completed, financial problems developed. A petition was filed in district court for foreclosure and the building sold at a sheriff's sale.

The building was remodeled during the 1930s. The exterior was modernized in 1950. Other remodeling was done when Sun Savings was the owner.

In 1982 the building was purchased by Steve Summers, a local Realtor.

The Huron Building was accepted to the National Register of Historic Places July 5, 1984.

South of 7th Street

The remainder of the triangular parcel was occupied by The Federal Reserve Life Insurance Building and the Getty Building. Between the Elks Club (now the Huron Building) and the Federal Reserve Life Insurance Building (now the Arrowhead Building) are three small structures. There are two one-story brick buildings with a two-story building in the center.

Federal Reserve life Insurance Building

The federal Reserve Life Insurance Building was built in 1922-23 of dark mottled face brick and limestone trim, having six floors and a penthouse. This building also has been known as The Bennett Building, the Siebers Building and now the Arrowhead Building, 825 N. 7th -- at Armstrong.

Getty Building

South of the Federal Reserve Life Insurance Building is the Getty Building, a three-story brick building built about 1923 by local attorney James F. Getty.

The Small Triangle

In the 1920s and 1930s the small triangle was occupied by a gasoline station. This was replaced by a one-story wooden frame building that was used for a lunch room that had a counter with six stools.

Historic District

The Huron Place Historic District covers 6th Street to 7th Street, Minnesota Avenue to Anne Avenue (includes the old City Hall and Fire Headquarters).