

FINAL

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRA use only

received

date entered

# **1. Name**

historic FIDELITY TRUST BUILDING

and/or common "J. Pierpont's" Restaurant and Bar

# **2. Location**

street & number 148 East Market Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Indianapolis \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district Eleventh

state Indiana code 018 county Marion code 097

# **3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

# **4. Owner of Property**

name Fidelity Crust, Inc.

street & number 148 East Market Street

city, town Indianapolis \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Indiana 46204

# **5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City-County Building

street & number 200 East Washington Street

city, town Indianapolis \_\_\_\_\_ state Indiana

# **6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Indianapolis and Marion County Survey has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_\_ No ratings made  
yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

date 1977 \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state ☒ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission

city, town Indianapolis \_\_\_\_\_ state Indiana

## 7. Description

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered  
☐ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

#### I. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

**GENERAL:** The Fidelity Trust Building is an eight-story structure consisting of a main banking room and mezzanine (two floors high) surmounted by seven office floors. The building is 39' X 110' and occupies a lot originally 39' X 150' with narrow frontage on Market Street. (40' of the rear lot has been subdivided.) In style the facade is Neo-Classical with ornament reminiscent of Viennese Neo-Classical detailing in period from 1890 to 1914. The architectural treatment is restrained and not sufficiently profuse to warrant the "Beaux Arts" label. Glazed white brick and terra cotta were used in place of stone and was highly prized by owner, architect, and builder for its lavish effects at low costs. The Fidelity Trust Building is a representative example of similar structures which utilized the precedents set forth by the 1893 Chicago Columbia Exposition. Although built 20 years later, this building demonstrates the synthesis of reinforced concrete building technology (noted for its fireproof qualities) and the Sullivanesque idea for a tall building: namely that the first and second floor be devoted to special places and treated as a base; the common rental spaces above are treated as a plain shaft and the upper story is treated as an ornate capital terminated with a large overhanging cornice.

**FACADE:** The facade of the Fidelity Trust is subtle in detail but architectonically interesting in the division of the front into structural bays with expressed piers, spandrels and concentrations of ornament on the shop facade, the attic story and the main floor banking room and lobby. Because the building occupies a lot in mid-block, neither the east, west, or south elevations were treated stylistically. The street facade is divided into three bays expressed by four glazed brick and terra cotta piers which are set on a granite base and extend its full nine story height. The piers are separated by an entablature at the first floor line and a continuously horizontal spandrel above the second story. The main banking floor constitutes the first two levels and is expressed on the exterior by three tall bays once surmounted by an entablature and cornice which was removed. Tenant signs damaged the terra cotta blocks which were replaced in the 1960's with a cementitious material. The shop facade was designed with two entries accentuated by pediments, woodwork, and elegant brass hardware. The west door enters the banking room; the east door provides access to the office floors through the lobby and elevators. The entry to the lobby is accentuated by wide terra cotta enframing with border of acanthus leaf molding. At the top is a denticulated cornice surmounted by a segmental hood containing a garlanded swag in the tympanum. The central bay contains a tall, tri-part window with clerestories above which illuminate the banking room.

**OFFICE BLOCK:** Stories from the third through eighth floor are treated as a uniform unornamented block of office floors. Structural members are articulated by spandrels recessed approximately 4" behind the piers, and windows set back 4" behind the spandrel. This design creates sharp, clean shadow lines which emphasize the careful proportions of window openings. The window openings contain two double hung sash units with single lights. They are made of wood and are original. The side and rear walls are unornamented brick with a parapet topped with red ceramic tile capping. Windows on the side walls are steel, double hung sash units with three lights each. Sills are limestone.

**ATTIC STORY:** The attic story is eloquently distinguished from office floors by its neo-classical ornament. The lower spandrel contains coffered panels with an unadorned medallion topping the piers. Above this is a bead and reel molding surmounted by a squared cornice. Atop each of the four piers are decorative panels inset with bas-relief shields and ornament. A griffin head surmounts the shield which is surrounded by trailing garlands. Below the shield is a Medusa with serpents intertwined in a staff. Overflowing cornucopia are symmetrically placed on each side. Above the panels is an entablature which contains an elaborate frieze enriched with garlanded swags. This is surmounted by a row of dentils supporting molding with incised egg and dart detail. The square cornice at the top is

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supported by large squared modillions. The entire attic story and entablature are executed in glazed white terra cotta which is whole, unbroken and in good condition.

INTERIOR: The main floor is divided into a banking room and a lobby for office floors, each with its own entrance. The banking room contains four bays and is approximately 22' high and 24' wide and 70' long with openings at the rear and side to a mezzanine. Walls are plaster with marble wainscoting and mahogany trim. Some interior doors are plated with bronze sheeting and hardware. Of outstanding importance is the ornamental plaster ceiling which is divided into four sections by large box beams supported by pilasters. (These appear to cover structural elements.) Each ceiling within the structural bay is divided into 24 coffers with a rosette set in the center and surrounded by moldings with the acanthus leaf pattern. The cove detail is treated like an entablature with block like modillions supporting the ceiling. Below this is a cornice with an ogee profile and frieze. The frieze is divided into large panels decorated with bas-relief floral swags and urns with fruit. The frieze extends along the top of the walls and across the box beam on the sides. Where beams and pilasters intersect, three panels are set atop the pilasters as capitals. The side panels feature a griffin, (fabled monster of classical mythology with the head and wings of an eagle and body of a lion). Panels facing into the banking room contain two matched griffins symmetrically placed between the symbol of the bank--the Star of David. The mezzanine is less interesting architecturally and overlooks the larger room from the rear. The railing is cast iron with an elongated urn pattern for the balustrade. Woodwork in the form of shelving with some leaded glass casements is placed along the east elevation.

ADAPTIVE USE: The entire banking room and mezzanine are adaptively used as the restaurant, "J. Pierpont's", completed in 1978. Interior alterations are minimal consisting of several raised platforms, one used for the drinking area. The large mahogany bar and back with mirrors is not original. Alterations are elegant and restrained, consisting of brass rails, oak parquet floors and contemporary furnishings which enhance the plaster ceilings and lend to the ambiance of this bankers luncheon place and after dinner bistro.

LOBBY: The original interior details of lobby remain intact with handsome marble walls and floors. Floors are set with alternating blocks of white and salmon pink tiles (6" square). Walls are a continuous marble surface divided into panels. The cove at the ceiling consists of a highly decorative cornice and architrave made of an acanthus leaf patterned molding atop a bead and reel detail. The box cornice exhibits an Oriental swastika on the soffit. Marble sheeting is also used for the stair risers, treads, and wainscot. Handrails are brass. Because of earlier remodelings none of the original light fixtures are utilized in either the banking room or the lobby. Fixtures used are period reproductions.

TYPICAL FLOORS - THREE THROUGH EIGHT: In layout, the upper floors are an irregular ell shape with approximately 3,583 square feet. Some interior features are intact; however, they have been successively remodeled over the last 55 years and are unoccupied at the present time. Future plans call for renovation of these areas for rental office space. In the hallways near the elevator and stair shaft are remnants of original interior features like ceramic tile flooring, partitions with marble wainscoting and glazed interior windows, and mahogany doors and trim. The existing elevators are non-operable. An open stairway runs the entire height of five stories open to the hallway. It is of interest for its metal, fireproof construction and simple iron balustrade. The remaining space is divided by various types of non-load bearing partitions from various remodelings. Windows open on the east, west, and north elevations overlook light shafts or alleys.

## II. HISTORY

Built in 1915 by the Fidelity Trust Company, the Fidelity Trust Building was proof that the newest bank in Indianapolis already had become a successful enterprise. Under the



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Leadership of President William M. Fogarty, the Fidelity Trust Company had opened for business on June 3, 1909 in a small storeroom at 156 East Market Street. In only five years time, they were ready to erect their own eight story office building. The five story, 40 year old Hartford Block, once the tallest building in Indianapolis, was razed and construction began in 1914. An undated photograph of the first bank office shows a drawing of the new building, proudly displayed in the window. Rubush and Hunter were the architects. The Fidelity Trust Company moved to their new quarters at 148 East Market Street on October 28, 1915. A modest announcement in the Indianapolis Morning Star assured their customers that they would remain open their usual hours.

FOGARTY: An original founder of the trust company, Fogarty was a Horatio Alger hero, come to life. Arriving in Indianapolis as a child, he rose from newsboy and messenger to telegraph operator and ultimately to banker. Deeply involved in Democratic Party politics, he served as county chairman of the party, treasurer of the Democratic State Committee and City Clerk. Fogarty frequently contributed verse to the local newspapers and a volume of his poems was published. He retired from the Fidelity Trust Company in 1923 to begin a career as an attorney.

DEVELOPMENT: Occupying the basement, ground floor, and mezzanine of their new building, the Fidelity Trust Company steadily grew in assets. The upper seven stories were rented to various tenants including lawyers, insurance and real estate agents, and the Women's Home Companion Reading Club. Other real estate holdings of the Fidelity included lots in Emerson Heights which were being marketed the week the bank occupied its offices. By their tenth anniversary, the Fidelity Trust Company had grown from \$100,000 to \$1,500,00 in capital. In 1923, Fogarty was succeeded by James McNulty, his vice president. Timothy P. Sexton, originally the assistant secretary-treasurer, replaced McNulty in 1930. Like Fogarty, McNulty and Sexton were also influential in the local Democratic Party. Sexton's successor, Frank E. McKinney, was the final president of the bank.

MCKINNEY: Like his predecessors, Frank McKinney was a self-made man. The son of an Indianapolis fireman, McKinney worked at several banks before going to Fidelity Trust. In 1934 he was given the opportunity of buying the controlling interest of the company for \$100,000. His method of raising the capital is now legendary. McKinney successfully campaigned for the office of Marion County treasurer in 1934, although he did not take office until January 1, 1936. Aside from being the highest paid public office in the State, the treasurer's post entitled McKinney to fees for collecting delinquent taxes. During 1935, McKinney negotiated a loan on the strength of his elective job. Having purchased major interest in the Fidelity, McKinney was named president. Starting January 1, 1936, he held two full-time jobs as bank president and county treasurer. Delinquent tax payments reached an all-time high during his four year tenure as treasurer, and he was able to pay off the loan. Refusing any further terms of office, he devoted his attention to other lucrative private enterprises, but remained influential in Democratic Party circles. In 1950, McKinney was National Party Chairman of the Democratic Party, a post he held for one year. Under McKinney's guidance, the Fidelity grew from the smallest bank in town to the largest. Mergers with several local banks in the 1940s and 1950s gave the Fidelity Trust Company, and later the Fidelity Bank and Trust Company, 15 branches in the County. The bank's prosperous history culminated in 1959 when Fidelity Bank and Trust consolidated with American Fletcher National Bank. Although the Fidelity named ceased to exist, it continued in spirit with Frank McKinney serving as Chairman of the Board of American Fletcher National Bank.

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BUILDING HISTORY: A casualty of its early success was the handsome Neo-Classical building the Fidelity Trust had erected in 1915. Needing more space, the bank moved across Market Street to a larger building in 1937. The original building was renamed the 148 East Market Street Building. The Indiana State Employment Service rented the first six floors of the building. Over the next 25 years, the building housed many County and State offices including the Department of Public Welfare, County Liquor Board, Board of Health, and the County Coroner. Juvenile and Criminal courts were also held there and the building became known as the Marion County Court House Annex. Upon completion of the new City-County facility in 1963, the county office moved and the building went vacant. Before its rescue in 1977, the Fidelity Trust Building twice escaped major alterations. The neighboring Peoples State Bank bought the building in 1954 and announced plans to extend their banking and trust facilities into the Fidelity Building as soon as the county's lease expired in 1964. In 1972, a consortium of local businessmen proposed gutting the building and converting it into a condominium office building. Not only would the inside have been altered, but a modern curtain-wall of steel and glass was proposed to cover the facade. Fortunately, Indianapolis was not ready for condominium office space at that time and the Fidelity Trust Building remained vacant until 1977 when a group of businessmen more sympathetic to its grace and style decided to renovate the first floor and mezzanine for use as a restaurant.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1914-1915 **Builder/Architect** Rubush and Hunter, Architects

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Fidelity Trust Building is considered architecturally and historically significant as a physical artifact related to commerce, economic, and governmental activity in Indianapolis and Marion County, during its transition from a town to a city in the early 20th Century. Historically the building is evidence of a successful banking enterprise which survived the 1930's Depression and played a formative role in making of the State's largest bank, American Fletcher National Bank. It was associated with major political and entrepreneurial figures of the period; among these Fogarty, McNulty, and Sexton in early years and the McKinney Family--all of whom were and still are active in the Democratic Party and economic arenas of the City and State. (See Description II, History.) Architecturally, the building is a good example of its style and type; i.e. Neo-Classicism applied to the design of a row-type, high-rise structure. More importantly, the Fidelity Trust Building is an early work of the prolific and nationally recognized firm of Rubush and Hunter. Preston C. Rubush and Edgar O. Hunter, native to Indiana, formed a partnership in 1904 at Indianapolis that designed most of major civic or institutional landmarks of the period from 1904 to 1935. Although the Fidelity Trust Building is not one of these, it is contemporary with their major Neo-classical projects: among them, Masonic Temple (1906), City Hall (1910), Hume Mansur Building (1911), Circle Theater (1916) and others. The firm is noted nationally for the Indiana Theater (1927), Circle Tower Building (Art Deco, 1930), and Coca-Cola Bottling Company (art Deco, 1931) and other projects for bottling companies through the United States. Most of their 20th century projects are considered masterpieces and are listed in the Indiana Catalogue of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The Fidelity Trust Building exhibits high integrity in design, although there have been minor alterations. It is one of the few remaining glazed brick and terra cotta office buildings which remains intact. The attic story and cornice, which are of special architectural merit, have not been removed, damaged, or covered. In addition, the building was a major contributing element to the banking avenue which existed along Market Street in the early 20th century. Of the ten to fifteen banking establishments whose facades lined this avenue, most have merged or closed, and their original buildings were demolished or extensively remodeled. As urban development continues to alter the central business district of Indianapolis, (Two entire city blocks are scheduled for demolition in the next 18 months), this building will become an increasingly rare example of the multi-storied office structure in the Neo-Classical style which gave the city its dense urban character in the early 20th century.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Indianapolis Morning Star, January 2, 1916, Page 18; and October 28, 1915, page 1  
History of Greater Indianapolis, Volume I, 1910, Page 356  
Indianapolis Star, "Fidelity Trust Being Restored", Section 4, December 4, 1977, page 1  
Indiana Business and Industry, September 1959, page 4, (McKinney involvement)  
Indiana Biographical Series, Volume 16, page 56, W. M. Fogarty Obituary

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/10 of an acre

Quadrangle name Indianapolis West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	6
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5	7	2	3	9	0
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4	4	0	2	2	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Suzanne Robblee and Bruce E. Lynch

organization Private Consultants

date November 17, 1979

street & number 37 East 38th Street

telephone (317) 923-9990

city or town Indianapolis,

state Indiana 46208

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

     national      state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 12, 1980

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



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Verbal Boundary

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Part of Lots 5 and 6 in Square 44 in the City of Indianapolis described as follows:

Commencing at the Southwest corner of the said Lot 6; thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East (assumed bearing) along the South Line of the said Lot 6 a distance of 61.90 feet to the Place of beginning; thence North 00 degrees 00 minutes 55 seconds West Parallel with the West Line of the said Lot 6 a distance of 110.00 feet; thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East parallel with the South Line of said Lots 5 and 6 a distance of 39.23 feet; thence South 00 degrees 05 minutes 17 seconds West 110.00 feet to a point on the South line of said Lot 5 which lies 39.03 feet East of the Place of Beginning; thence South 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West along the South Line of said Lots 5 and 6 a distance of 39.03 feet to the Place of Beginning.



V

FIDELITY TRUST BLDG  
148 EAST MARKET ST  
INDIANAPOLIS

Fidelity Trust Building  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
UTM Reference:  
16/572390/4402200

4403



(BEECH GROVE)  
3763 II NE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface  
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface  
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

INDIANAPOLIS WEST, IND.  
N3945—W8607.5/7.5

NAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
RESOURCES, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204  
AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

1967

AMS 3763 I SW—SERIES V851