

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Schmitz Block
other names/site number 003 215 26073

2. Location

street & number 926-930 South Calhoun Street N/A not for publication
city, town Fort Wayne N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Allen code 003 zip code 46802

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Maude Hart for J. M. Fiden
Signature of certifying official
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

6/23/88
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: business

Commerce/Trade: specialty store

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone

walls Stone: limestone

Brick

roof Asphalt

other Glass

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Schmitz Block is located at the northwest corner of Washington and Calhoun Streets in downtown Fort Wayne. Calhoun Street was the principal downtown shopping area from the late nineteenth century until well into this century; today Calhoun Street is a transit mall open only to buses and pedestrians. Most retail activity in the area is dependent upon the office workers who have largely replaced shoppers as the area's primary users. Washington Street, a residential area until about 1910, is today one of the city's main thoroughfares.

The Schmitz Block is a four story Richardsonian Romanesque style commercial building whose L-shaped mass has facades clad entirely in cut limestone. Round rock-faced piers which extend the full height of the building divide the facades into major bays; within this bay structure, floor levels are articulated by various treatments of the spandrel areas (Photo 1). The first floor facades are now concealed behind plywood cladding faced with aggregate concrete; a historic photograph (Photo 2) shows that the first floor once had three storefronts and a stairwell on Calhoun Street, and a rock-faced wall punctuated by a row of high windows on Washington Street. A later view, made in 1918 (Photo 3), shows that by that time large display windows had been added to the first floor of the south elevation. A still later view, from 1947, shows that all bays of the east facade had been remodelled into storefronts by that time (Photo 4). Inspection of the present cladding reveals that both the original first floor piers and some of the later display windows are intact, though concealed (Photo 5). On the second floor, groups of windows are set in smooth ashlar surrounds, and a rockfaced spandrel above them denotes the third floor level. The third floor windows are also set in smooth ashlar surrounds, but the spandrel above them is composed in part by a projecting molding carved in a foliated pattern. The mullions between the windows are treated as groups of colonnettes with plain caps. On the fourth register, single engaged colonnettes are used between the windows, and the flat-topped windows are surmounted by semi-circular lights. The voussoirs of these lights have a smooth finish which contrasts with the adjacent rock faced random masonry. The wall panels are topped above each bay with two courses of staggered dentils. The tops of the major piers have groups of colonnettes with foliated capitals, and the blocks above these caps are flush with a plain frieze. Bull-nosed modillions, each with a different carved face, support a projecting cornice above the frieze. The modillion designs include grotesques, chimeras, lion's heads, and leaf carvings. On the north end of the east facade, the cornice treatment stops short of the end bay, which has a steeply-raked gable with a rock-faced tympanum. A solid parapet wall atop the facades is broken at the front (southeast) corner by an open balustrade with a gooseneck profile, and above the pilasters of the east facade by dies with molded tops.

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The rear walls of the building were originally unobstructed on their upper levels by any adjacent buildings (Photo 6). Segmental-arched windows were used on the upper floors, and a large brick stack still stands at the northwest rear corner of the building, behind the flat-roofed first floor (Photo 7).

The interior of the first floor consists of three large rooms and a smaller north room which was once a stair and elevator lobby. The south and middle store rooms have stamped metal ceilings (Photos 8, 9). The rear wall of the south room has been removed to provide access to the adjacent Blackstone Building. In the middle room, a partially removed ceiling panel reveals that the metal ceilings were installed over painted, beaded wood ceilings (Photo 10). The north store room and the former lobby have been amalgamated into a continuous space which has a modern plaster ceiling (Photo 11) inspection above a modern valance reveals that with the exception of that part of it which was above the display windows, the ceiling of this room was stripped to the joists during the modern construction (Photo 12).

All three upper floors have the same basic arrangement of a central corridor flanked on either side by former office areas; they differ only in the extent of their later alteration. At the north ends of the second and third floors, openings were cut in 1947 to allow expansion into this building by an adjacent department store. Rooms in the north wing were remodelled by the removal of office partitions and installation of drop ceilings, but the hallway area was left largely intact (Photos 13, 14). The fourth floor appears to be unaltered (Photo 15). Each upper floor hallway has a terrazzo floor and a white marble base and wainscote. On the second and third floors, bands of transom windows extend across the tops of the office doorways to admit natural light to the hall; on the fourth floor, similar bands of windows are used between the doorways. The hallway openings are finished with simple architrave moldings along their edges on each level. A platform stair with enclosed upper runs is placed at the southeast corner of the building, where the hallway turns. The stairs have marble treads resting on panelled cast iron risers; the panelled newels and sections of open rail seen on each floor are also made of cast iron (Photo 16).

Most of the hallway features noted above probably belong to a remodeling done by the building's second owner, William F. Noll, sometime after he bought the property in 1912. However, the detailing to be seen in the offices themselves is more likely to be original. This includes the use of high baseboards topped with beaded caps and window casings trimmed with beaded casing and bullseye head blocks (Photo 17). The doors between the offices are leaves with four molded panels (Photo 18); similar doors with two panels beneath a single glass light are used for the office entrances.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1888

Significant Dates

c.1912

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder

Kendrick, Frank B.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Schmitz Block is primarily of local architectural significance as one of the largest extant local commercial examples of the Richardsonian Romanesque style; it is also one of the few remaining works of Frank B. Kendrick, a local architect. Though the Richardsonian mode provided most of the architectural vocabulary popular for Fort Wayne commercial structures of the late nineteenth century, few of them were built with facades made entirely of cut stone, and of those fewer still have survived to this day. Among the largest examples, other than the Schmitz Block, were the Pixley-Long Block (1886, Wing & Mahurin, architects; demolished 1929), and the Odd Fellows Block (1890, Frank Kendrick, architect; demolished 1949). The only other commercial design by Kendrick to survive is his 1891 Louis Mohr Block, a two story building. Kendrick was a native of Philadelphia; he began his architectural career in that city in the office of Bruce Price in 1869. By 1879 Kendrick had moved west to Fort Wayne after stays in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and at Selm and Springfield in Ohio. In 1880, he started a contracting firm with Alfred Shrimpton; after 1888, Kendrick resumed his architectural practice. Though he left for Ohio briefly in 1891, Kendrick had by then designed the Mohr Block. He apparently left Fort Wayne permanently for Crown Point, Indiana, about 1901. During his years in Fort Wayne, the city's architectural scene was dominated by the firm Wing and Mahurin; Kendrick is notable as the only other local architect, especially during the late 1880's and early 1890's, whose commercial work matched the scale and sophistication, if not the volume, of that other firm.

Kendrick's client for the Schmitz Block was Henrietta Schmitz, who had the building erected as a monument to her deceased husband, Dr. Charles Schmitz. Dr. Schmitz and his wife were German immigrants who came to Fort Wayne in 1837; the doctor was one of the city's first physicians. In 1839, Dr. Schmitz purchased the entire quarter block which includes this site. Though Dr. Schmitz built his residence here in 1840, in 1866 he subdivided the site and began to erect storefronts on it as rental properties. Despite warnings by friends that the land was too far south of downtown to support such a large commercial building profitably, Mrs. schmitz had this structure begun within a year after her husband's death. The Schmitz' children continued to own most of the quarter block until 1912, when they sold it to William F. Noll. Noll was a prominent businessman who had made his fortune mass-producing a cough syrup

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developed by his pharmacist father. Noll later opened the country's first factory to produce a cosmetic, nail polish. A variety of commercial tenants used the stores and offices in what was then re-named the Noll Block, including Hutner's Paris, which used parts of the upper floors after 1947, and Nobbson, a women's clothing store which opened in the Noll Block in 1935 and had grown to occupy the entire first floor before it relocated to a suburban mall in 1979.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Books

Griswold, B. J., Builders of Greater Fort Wayne. Fort Wayne: Archer Printing Company, 1926.

The Valley of the Upper Maumee River. R. S. Robertson, editor. Madison, Wisconsin: Brant & Fuller, 1889.

Newspapers (In chronological order)

'John Riedel occupies former Kendrick office in Schmitz Block', (untitled article). Fort Wayne Daily Sentinel. November 4, 1891, n.p.

'Mrs. Frank Kendrick joins husband in Salem, Ohio,' (untitled article). Fort Wayne Daily Sentinel. November 5, 1891, n.p.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less Than One Acre

UTM References

A

1	6
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6	5	6	3	2	0
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4	5	4	8	8	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

All of Lots 1, 2, and 3 and the south 70 feet of a former alley, all in the Schmitz Subdivision of Lots 454, 455, and 456 of Hanna's Addition to the City of Fort Wayne.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This constitutes the historic boundary of the property

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Craig Leonard, Historic Preservation Consultant
organization _____ date December 1987
street & number 521 West Market Street telephone (2M) 824-4010
city or town Bluffton state Indiana zip code 46714

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"Fine Improvements for Packard Store." Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette. March 6, 1907,
p. 5.

"New Exclusive Women's Ready-to-Wear Store." Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette.
September 8, 1935, page 25.

"Paris Store Completes First Step in Expansion." Fort Wayne News-Sentinel.
August 11, 1947, page 11.

Kevin Leininger. "Historic Battle Building." Fort Wayne News-Sentinel.
February 2, 1987, page 3A.

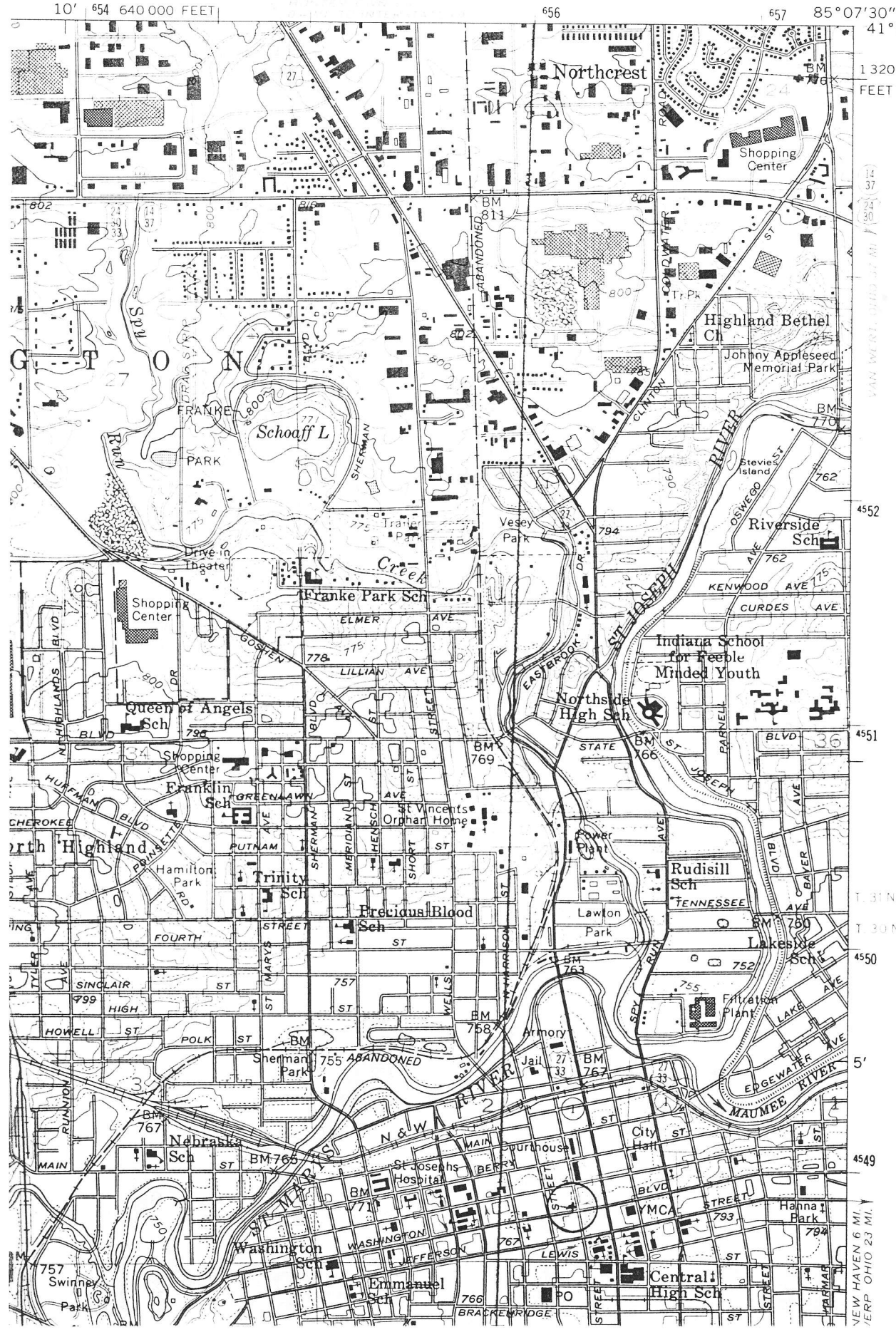
Unpublished Manuscripts

"Henrietta Schmitz, A Pioneer Woman of Fort Wayne, Indiana." Typescript of
reminiscences by Mrs. William Douglass, daughter of Henrietta Schmitz,
1935. Collection Allen County Historical Society.

SCHMITZ

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