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Form 10-200  
(July 1967)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	INDIANA
COUNTY:	MARION
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	19 1973

1. NAME

COMMON: INDIANAPOLIS PROPYLAEUM *Schmidt John W. House*

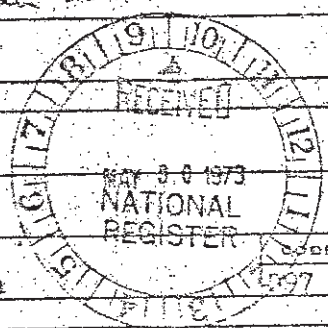
AND/OR HISTORIC: originally "The SCHMIDT-SCHAF HOUSE"

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1410 N. Delaware Street

CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis

STATE: Indiana CODE 46202 COUNTY: Marion



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buildings <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Club <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Women's Club, Civic Cultural &amp; Social</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: INDIANAPOLIS PROPYLAEUM

STREET AND NUMBER: 1410 N. Delaware Street

CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis STATE: Indiana CODE 46202

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Marion County Recorder's Office (Deed Record 598 p. 76-77)

STREET AND NUMBER: City-County Building, Room 721

CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis STATE: Indiana CODE 46204

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Regional Center Plan Work Paper III/ Job 770  
Historic Preservation Survey #1 p. 8 & 9

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Dept. of Metropolitan Development

STREET AND NUMBER: City-County Building

CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis STATE: Indiana CODE 46204

STATE: INDIANA

COUNTY: MARION

ENTRY NUMBER: 10

DATE: 1973

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

REC'D DIRECT & ADOLPH SCHMIDT  
1/15/73 WORK ORDER DRAWINGS



<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Fair		<input type="checkbox"/> Destroyed		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruined		<input type="checkbox"/> Unrecorded	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered						<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered					
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site					

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE  
 The residence and carriage house at 1110 N. Delaware Street were built by John W. Schmidt in 1880-81 of red brick with limestone trim and slate roofs, - in Neo-Jacobean style. Wilbur D. Peat, in his "INDIANA HOUSES OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY", 1962, p. 155, photo p. 175, describes this period of residential architecture as used in the Indiana area in the late nineteenth century. (see copies attached) It is now owned by the Indianapolis Propylaeum. (see folder attached) The irregular, unsymmetrical but compact design of the house, the hip roof with projecting decorative terra cotta gables, and the decorative limestone bandings accentuate the style of architecture.

The residence contains four full floors. The full-sized basement has walls of natural limestone. It includes a suite of rooms with its own outside stairway, occupied by the Portfolio Club. Another outside stairway exits to the west from the other portion of the basement containing many spacious storage rooms.

The main floor has been altered slightly to accommodate the Propylaeum activities. The ample hallway becomes, in one portion, a two story room with an imposing carved oak staircase (see photo). The lovely original reception room with delicate Louis XVI plaster detail (see photo) is now used as a private dining room for the Club. The original music room with cow lighting and restrained plaster ornamentation is across the hall, and both rooms can be closed off with sliding doors. The original library with the bay window, and the adjoining billiard room have been opened up to form present club rooms. The dining room, with a beamed ceiling and built-in sideboard with stained glass cupboards, has a hickory fireplace. A very large kitchen to the northwest has two commodious pantries and leads to a back porch. The separated south west room was originally a playroom for the children, with its own lavatory and toy cupboard, and was later used as an office for the second owner. Four of the original fireplaces still exist.

On the second floor are 8 large bedrooms, and seven baths. Some of these rooms have fireplaces. Part of these rooms are used by members for permanent residence.

A back stairway from the first floor leads to the top floor which has some smaller rooms with a bath, used originally as servants' quarters. The main feature, though, is the lovely large ballroom, typical of the era, used for balls and parties for the young people, suchre parties, large family parties, and receptions, one wedding reception, in particular, for the Schaf daughter's wedding. After the Propylaeum occupancy, the ballroom was used for many years for dancing classes and many present Indianapolis adults can well remember their early training there in dancing and the social graces.

An extensive veranda with circular corner and limestone balustrade shelters the East front and a portion of the south side. A most unusual front entrance double door (see photo) with bronze tree design greets guests. The expected tower is a square one on the North toward the rear of the house, and the usual porte cochere is to the South side.

On the Southwest corner of the property is the two-story carriage house

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Indianapolis Property

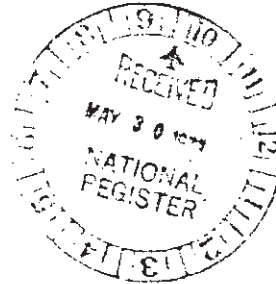
Indiana (State)

Marion County

Continuation of Section 7 - Description

which is of particularly nice design. It has been remodeled, and converted into one space for an artist's studio, and also three apartments.

The grounds - an acre and a quarter, - are bounded against Delaware Street to the east, and 14th Street to the south with a low wrought iron fence, and contain trees of various kinds and sizes, plantings and appropriate shrubs. Cement walkways, a paved drive way through the porte cochere and a large paved parking area to the north of the building (which does not show in photo) are included. The property extends 270'-10" on Delaware Street, and 202' on 14th Street. It includes lot #10 - 60 front feet - of Wajen's 3rd Addition, at the north, and 203' 10" from the Common Council & County Commissioners Subdivision (to the corner of 14th Street). It is all in the E $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sect. 36, Twp. 16 N. Range 3 E, as shown on the City of Indianapolis Plat Book 75-4 (copy attached).



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

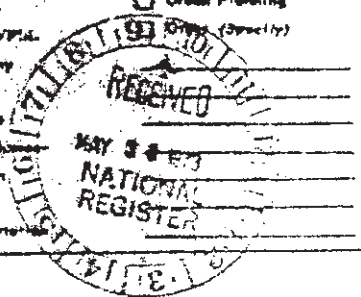
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE: (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Thought/Institution	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This application concerns the residence and carriage house, known formerly as the "Schmidt-Schaf House", at 1410 N. Delaware Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, which are the only outstanding examples of the elaborate late 19th Century Neo-Jacobean style of architecture in our city. Section #7, Description, points out that these premises have been converted into a Club house for the Indianapolis Propylaeum. This organization purchased the property in 1923, and has preserved it to the best of its ability for these last fifty years. It is the present hope that preservation can be continued because of the historical significance as a representative of an era of art and architecture. This is important because of the rapidly dwindling number of prominent older homes in the community.

As a matter of record, the land on which these buildings were built is in part of the E1/4 of Section 26, Twp. 16 N, Range 2E, the West half of which was transferred from the U.S. in 1821, to John Carr and Samuel Booker, and the East half to John Lyon.

This residence and Carriage house were built in 1870-91 by John W. Schmidt, and the story of the Schmidt family is one of a typically successful German heritage. John W. Schmidt's father, Christian Friedrich Schmidt had come from Germany mid-century, married in Cincinnati, then on to Indianapolis around 1858, where, in a German-born community on the near South-side, he began a brewery business. His C. F. Schmidt Brewing Company prospered and grew, and later, after his death in 1871 was merged with two other brewing Companies to become the Indianapolis Brewing Company. Very successful real estate holdings enlarged the estate he passed on to his family, including his widow Caroline Fieber Schmidt, and his sons, John W. and Edward.

In 1885, John W. Schmidt, born 1856, the older son, married Miss Lily Schudel (who had been adopted when she was 7 years old by his mother). He built her a beautiful home on a prominent corner, at that time, 397 S. Alabama (N. E. corner of McCarty Street) across the street from the brewery. This house was of red brick, limestone trim, very pretentious, and in a style and design quite similar to the subject of this application. (see attached photo).

However, times were changing! The South Side, across from the brewery, became less desirable than the rapidly favored, popular and fashionable North Side of Indianapolis. So, to please his aspiring young wife...



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

State	Indiana
County	Marion
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
201 13 1973	

(Number all entries)

Continuation of Section 8 - Significance

W. Schmidt in turn, five years later, in January and February, 1890, bought the city lots on the Northwest corner of Delaware Street and 5th Street (now 11th Street). By 1891, the Polk City Directory lists the Schmidts at that address. So, the house, in many ways duplicating their first house on the South Side of town, must have been built very quickly, and probably by the same architect and builders. The name of the architect is, so far, uncertain.

John W. Schmidt remained president of the merged Indianapolis Brewing Company for only a few more years before retiring to look after his other interests.

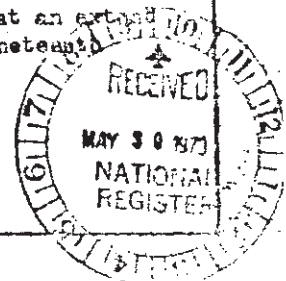
Life was good in those days, and fortune seemed to favor the Schmidt family of four children. They enjoyed the home, to the fullest, for twelve years, moving, then, to another home a block south. After a short intermediate sale, the property was purchased by Joseph C. Schaf, his wife, Josephine, and her sister, Madeleine Haus. Plans which had been submitted by a New York designer and architect, Henry Behrens, (who had done some designing in the Claypool hotel), were completed, adding extensively to the interior beauty of the home furnishings.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Schaf, too, was a president of another brewery, - the American Brewing Company in Indianapolis, certainly exemplifying an affluence in that business at that time. Indianapolis has no breweries now.

The Schafs had two children, a boy and a girl, who grew up happily in this home. One of the happy events was the wedding of the daughter, Alice, in the parlor (reception room), after descending the beautifully decorated stairway.

This was a lovely and gracious home, enjoyed by two fine families in a time of wondrous living, with many servants, happy times for children, parties and balls, carriages and teams of fine horses, and plenty of everything, - a time long past, but needing to be remembered.

The present owner, the 85 year old Indianapolis Propylaeum, is a woman's organization of around 400 members, conducting a program of cultural, civic and social activities. It is interesting to note that the Indianapolis Propylaeum was organized in 1888 - very near the time that the Schmidts built this lovely home. The Club is striving to maintain, to as great an extent as possible, the gracious atmosphere of the era of the late nineteenth Century in this appropriate background.



**V. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

"Indians Houses of the Nineteenth Century" p. 155 & plates 2475 (copies attached)  
 - Milbur D. Peat, 1962

"Taxing Inventory of Indiana History" p. 14 Indianapolis Star Magazine  
 March 4, 1973

"Art Guide to Indiana" p. 17 Bulletin of Extension Div. Indiana University  
 (copy attached)

"Art Work of Indianapolis", p. 5 1908. Published by Cassire Illustration Co.

"The Indianapolis Pnylaeum, 1888-1938" p. 39-59 (61 page booklet)  
 - Caroline Dunn and Charlotte Jones Dunn

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

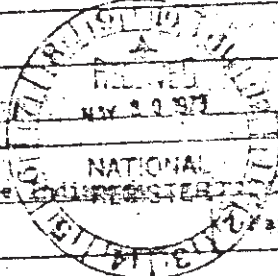
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES	
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	.	.	39° 47' 13.19"	86° 09' 15.43"
NE	.	.		
SE	.	.		
SW	.	.		

UTM  
 16/5724  
 4464100  
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/4 (one and one-quarter)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	ACRES
only in Indiana	15	only in Marion County	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	ACRES
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	ACRES
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	ACRES



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Miss Dorothy G. Walker, Board member of the Indianapolis Promyaeum

ORGANIZATION: Indianapolis Promyaeum

STREET AND NUMBER: 1410 N. Delaware Street

CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis STATE: Indiana CODE: 45272

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Joseph P. [Signature]  
 Title: Indiana State Liaison Officer  
 Date: May 24, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Robert M. Utsey  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/19/73

ATTEST: [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6 14 73