Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The A. J. Schwartz house, which is designed in the Renaissance style, is a T-shaped, two-story building with a basement and an attic. It faces north and is approximately 40 feet long and 40 feet deep with an overall height of 30 feet.

The exterior walls are constructed of common brick laid in a running bond pattern and are presently painted a pale yellow. Limestone trim is used to enhance the window and door openings. The brick walls rest on a simple stone base

The roof form is a slightly curved mansard terminating in a flat roof. A small hip roof is used over the rear portion of the building. The mansard roof and the hip roof are covered with wood shingles which have angled exposed portions giving a scalloped look to the roof surface. The roof is separated from the walls below by a projecting cornice supported on a series of closely spaced brackets. Elaborate coupled brackets are used to emphasize the corners.

Windows on the first floor have simple smooth cut stone sills and shallow arched heads. The head stone is smooth cut and projects partly down each side. Second floor windows have semicircular arched heads and simple sills. The attic floor windows which project through the mansard roof also have semicircular arched heads. The main entrance is a simple rectangular opening with a canopy roof. Directly above the entrance the second floor windows are paired and at the attic the central window is flanked by two smaller windows. A frame bay is built on the rear of the house at the first floor.

The exterior of the Schwartz house, except for the front porch canopy, is believed to be basically unaltered. A frame porch with Greek style pillars, which was not original, was removed when the house was restored and the present coppersheeted entrance way was installed. Originally the roof was metal, and the present owner hopes some day to restore that.



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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The A. J. Schwartz house was built in 1875 for Alphonse J. Schwartz, who came to Kansas from Pennsylvania in the 1860's. Schwartz was prominent in Salina's commercial affairs, erecting a number of business blocks and engaging in a number of enterprises, most notably in the hardware business.

Early in 1875 Schwartz began plans to build a three-story brick home for his new bride, Aggie Geis Schwartz. George Krueger, a prominent Salina contractor and architect, was chosen to construct the residence, and a Mr. Keeler received the contract for the brick work. Local newspapers followed the construction of the Schwartz house with interest, reporting the excavation and foundation work in April and the completion of the first floor brick work in On July 15, 1875, the Saline County Journal stated, "Mr. A. J. Schwartz's residence is to be 'topped off' with a French roof--the first roof of the Frenchy order in Salina." The same newspaper on November 11, 1875, informed its readers that Schwartz was installing gas and water pipes even though the city had neither gas nor water works because he expected Salina soon to have these conveniences and he didn't want the plaster work of his new house disturbed. The house was evidently ready for occupancy by late 1875 or early 1876.

Schwartz died within ten years after the house was built, but his family continued to live there for a time after his death. Later occupants of the house built a white railed porch with Greekstyle pillars on the front. In the early 1900's, a fireplace was added and a knob and tube electrical system was installed. In the mid-1940's the structure was converted into apartments by adding two frame wings, thus changing the original "T-shape" floor plan.

The present owner, Salina architect Ronald Richmond, purchased the house in 1967 to restore it to its original style and condition. Besides replacing 7,500 soft sand bricks, Richmond removed the frame additions, replaced the front porch with a copper-sheeted entrance way, restored original doorknobs and other hardware, and modernized the electrical system. After completing restoration processes in 1968, Richmond established his architectural offices in the home.

The A. J. Schwartz house is an extremely well-preserved example of a Kansas residence designed in the Renaissance influence style

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Form 10-300a (Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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COUNTY	
Saline	
FOR NPS USE C	NLY
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(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. of architecture. Because the present owner felt restoration of this house would preserve a part of his community's past, the Schwartz house now stands in as excellent condition as it did in the late 19th century.

The house is important to the architectural heritage of Salina since it boasts the city's first Mansard roof.

9. Saline County <u>Journal</u> (Salina), January 14, February 18, April 22, June 3, July 15, November 11, 1875; January 11, 1877. Schmiedeler, John, "Early Salina Home Restored," Salina <u>Journal</u>, March 24, 1968.

