

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

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



80

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

**1. Name**

historic ROBERT M. FEUSTEL <sup>House</sup> ~~RESIDENCE~~

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 4101 West Taylor Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Fort Wayne \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district Fourth

state Indiana code 018 county Allen code 003

**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 <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> museum</span>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> park</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> religious</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> scientific</span>
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> transportation</span>
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> other:</span>

**4. Owner of Property**

name Stephen B. and Linda M. Schroeder

street & number 4101 West Taylor Street

city, town Fort Wayne \_\_\_ vicinity of state Indiana

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Allen County Recorder

street & number City-County Building

city, town Fort Wayne \_\_\_ vicinity of state Indiana

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_ vicinity of state

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Robert M. Feustel Residence stands on a wooded site located in the western suburbs of Fort Wayne, Indiana. The English Tudor design is composed of a series of irregularly intersecting two-story hip-roofed masses whose overall configuration follows the crest of a ridge (Photo 1). From West to East these segments contain the library and study, the great room and master bedroom, the entrance vestibule and stairhall, the dining room and kitchen, and the garage and servants' quarters. This articulation of functional groupings is most pronounced on the rear (South) elevation, which embraces the slight depression of the back yard (Photo 2). A modern garage of sympathetic design stands immediately to the East of the mansion (Photo 3).

The design abounds in studied picturesque irregularity, and features such as the placement of polygonal chimney stacks (Photo 4) and diagonal projections (Photo 5) to enrich the junctures of the wings, wall surfaces given textural variety through the use of half-timbering with herringbone brick infill, random ashlar chimney bases, and jutting roof planes covered with thick rusticated slate. The exterior also boasts fine architectural woodwork on the bay windows which punctuate the rear elevation (Photo 6), as well as delicate wrought iron work, such as the balcony over the front door (Photo 7) and the lanterns hung over all of the exterior doors.

Oak and iron are also the principal decorative materials of the interior. The smoothly undulating plaster surfaces of the interior walls are occasionally punctuated by plaster rosettes in low relief, but these features are secondary to the knee-braced hewn oak surrounds of the doorways, the panelled plank doors, and the spindled-front enclosures of the heating radiators, such as seen in the vestibule (Photo 8). Immediately within the vestibule is the open spiral of the main staircase, whose delicately wrought iron rail is the focal point of both floors of the house (Photos 9, 10). Forged iron hardware is used on doors throughout the house (Photo 11), and the steel casement sash are secured by finely cast bronze catches (Photo 12).

The most richly appointed space in the house is the great room in the central bay, directly to the West of the stairhall and vestibule (Photo 13). The walls of this room are completely panelled in oak, and are crowned with a carved frieze (Photo 14). The central fireplace on the North wall is set within a segmental-arched recess which is enriched with carving at the arch and directly above the hearth (Photo 15).

The Elizabethan character of the great room is balanced on the other side of the vestibule by the more classical Jacobean formality of the dining room, whose walls are adorned only by a reeded chair-rail and ovolo frieze and by the use of fluted pilasters at corners and flanking the sunburst mirror of the overmantel (Photo 16).

In contrast with the formality of these public spaces, the other rooms of the house display an almost monastic simplicity. Much of this sense of intimate scale is due to the relatively small sizes of the rooms, their low ceilings, and the fact that the juncture of the continuous mottled plaster planes of wall and ceiling is softened by a diagonal plane, rather than

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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broken by a corner or frieze, and the walls are broken only by the recessed oak enframements of doors and windows (Photo 17). The studied irregularity noted on the exterior is continued in the design of such elements as the library mantelpiece (Photo 18) and contributes to the effect most significantly in the slight level changes which are made between all of the rooms of the first floor and stair landing, and the tunnel-like hallways of the second floor (Photo 10). These devices create a sense of the interior as a sequence of discreet cellular units, and yields a medieval character and human scale which belie the true size and extent of the mansion.

The Robert M. Feustel Residence is remarkably intact, as shown by reference to prints of the original plans which the owner possesses. Only the kitchen and two of the three baths have been significantly altered, and these changes consist for the most part of fixture replacement. One noteworthy change which reflects the later history of the property was the replacement of the three casement sash in the guest bedroom with fixed stained glass panels. These depict a coat of arms flanked by St. Peter and the Virgin Mary; the arms are those of Bishop Leo Pursley, who used the room as his chapel during his twenty-year residence. The Bishop's features were reputedly used for those of St. Peter (Photo 19).

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1927

Builder/Architect Meade & Hamilton, Architects

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Robert M. Feustel Residence takes its name from that of its first owner, a highly prominent local entrepreneur. Mr. Feustel graduated from Purdue University as a civil engineer and became nationally prominent as a consultant for the valuation of properties in the electric railway and utilities industries while working in the U.S. and Canada from 1911 to 1927. When he became chief executive for the Indiana properties of the Insull Group in the latter year, he maintained offices in Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, and Chicago. Mr. Feustel also served variously as President of Indiana Service Corporation, President of Midland United Company, President of the Indiana Railroad Company, General Manager of the Fort Wayne and Lima Railroad Company, President of the State Line Generating Company of Chicago, Chairman of the West Ohio Gas Company of Lima, President of the Public Service Company of Indiana, and President of the Northern Indiana Public Service Company. He also served for several years as Director of the Seventh District of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and as a Trustee of Purdue University. As a leader of the Fort Wayne Commercial Club (now Chamber of Commerce) he was instrumental in persuading a major employer, International Harvester, to locate in Fort Wayne. He also served as President of the Fort Wayne School of Art (now a branch of Indiana University) and its Museum. Mr. Feustel's prominence as a leader of the business community and as a patron of the arts is matched only by the architectural significance of the home designed for him in 1924 by the Cleveland architects Meade and Hamilton. As completed in 1927, the mansion is a fine example of the Tudor designs popular among the well-to-do of the Twenties, particularly in light of its large, intact site and fine architectural detailing. That the property was subsequently bought in 1957 and used as the residence of Bishop Leo Pursley of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for twenty years has only added to the richness of the property's local significance. In sum, the Robert M. Feustel Residence has a high degree of architectural integrity and locally significant commercial and social associations.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Abstract of Title  
 \_\_\_\_\_, "Robert M. Feustel Dies," Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette,  
 May 9, 1932, p. 1.

# 10. Geographical Data

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**  
**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property 1.3 acres  
 Quadrangle name Fort Wayne West Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

**UMT References**

A	<u>16</u>	<u>652060</u>	<u>4547365</u>	B	<u>16</u>	<u>6520010</u>	<u>454731010</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>16</u>	<u>652020</u>	<u>4547265</u>	D	<u>16</u>	<u>6520615</u>	<u>45472810</u>
E				F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

Lots 1-7 and 44 of the Second Crestholme Addition to the City of Fort Wayne, Indiana

**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 Craig Leonard  
 organization Restoration/Preservation/Architecture, Inc. date December, 1979  
 street & number 123 East Wabash Street telephone (219)-824-5759  
 city or town Bluffton state Indiana

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  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 [Signature]  
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date September 15, 1980

**For HCRS use only**  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
For: W. Ray Luce date 11/7/80  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration