National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only AUG 2 1 1986 received date entered SED 2 2 1986

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OMB No. 1024-0018

Exp. 10-31-84

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

Heier's Hotel

1. Name

historic

and or common				
2. Loca	ition			
street & number	10-18 South Ne	w Jersey Street	N/ <u>/</u>	A not for publication
city, town	Indianapolis	N/A_ vicinity of		
state	Indiana coc	te 018 county	Marion	code 097
3. Clas	sification			
Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public _X_ private both Public Acquisition in process being considered N/A	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture X commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prope	rty		
name	Willis K. Kunz,	Attorney		
street & number	320 N. Meridian	Street, Suite 528		
city, town	Indianapolis	Ŋ∕A₋ vicinity of	state	Indiana 46204
5. Loca	tion of Leg	al Description	on	
courthouse, regis street & number	City-	r Township Tax Asses County Building, Roc . Washington Street		
city, town	India	napolis	state	Indiana
6. Repr	esentation	in Existing	Surveys	,
	Historic Sites an ry 097-297-D0097		ase see Continuatio perty been determined eli	on Sheet P. 7) gible? <u>X</u> yes no
date 1985 .			federalX_ state	e county local
depository for su	rvey records Indiana	Department of Natur	ral Resources	
city, town	Indiana	polis	state	Indiana

7. Description

Condition
excellent
X good

_ fair

		Check one
nt	deteriorated	unaltered
	ruins	\underline{X} altered
	unexposed	

Check one <u>X</u> original site moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Heier's Hotel is located in downtown Indianapolis within the original "Mile Square" boundaries of the city. It is just south of U.S. 40 (Washington Street), the main east/west thoroughfare that is historically known as the National Road. The urban environment of the building has changed greatly since it was erected in 1915-1916 as a combined hotel and commercial structure. All of the 19th-century buildings formerly surrounding it have been demolished. Directly across the street is the 100-unit Inn Towner Motor Inn, constructed in 1959 as the Executive House on the site of a complex of buildings that was linked historically with Heier's Hotel. Adjoining the north wall is the Student Inn, constructed in 1928 as the Eastgate Hotel and known from 1940 until 1968 as the Kirkwood Hotel. Since the erection of the adjoining larger hotel, when passages were cut through all three floors to connect the two structures, Heier's Hotel has been owned and operated in conjunction with the later hotel.

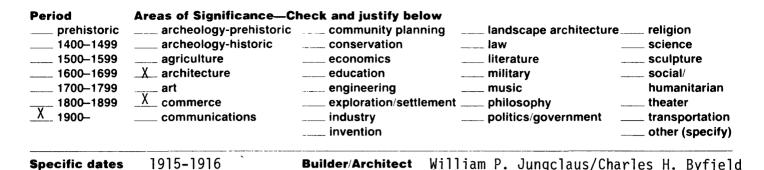
The main facade of the three-story-tall, five-bay-wide building (Photo 1) faces east on South New Jersey Street and is set back approximately 25 feet from the curb. The building's structure, which is completely fireproof, consists of a steel frame with reinforced concrete floors and clay tile partition walls. The facade's principal material is a fine pressed brick, red/orange in color, with deeply raked joints and tinted mortar. Contrasting well with the brick is the terra-cotta ornamentation made locally by the Indianapolis Terra Cotta Company.

The facade's perfectly symmetrical organization into five bays is strongly accentuated vertically by the two-story-tall brick piers that divide the five ground floor storefronts. Consistent with the architect's desire to design a modern building representative of the current stylistic trends of 1915, the facade displays a high ratio of glass to wall surface. The steel structure enabled the storefronts to be nearly all glass, save the poplar wood frame and bases. (At present plywood sections cover the transom lights above the doors. This is the only alteration to this facade and it is a reversible one, since the originals survive intact under the plywood. They remain as seen in Photo 2, taken in 1917, a year after the building's completion.) In the upper two stories, the three-by-six feet, double-hung wood window units are grouped in sets of three, further accentuating the five-bay organization. Originally, the building was designed with an optional additional two stories, which were never built.

The division between the second and third floors is marked by a terra cotta, cornice-like projecting element that functions as a stringcourse in that it is the strongest horizontal line of the facade's design. The building's roofline coping, also of terra cotta, is secondary. The major ornamentation occurs above and to the side of the sets of upper floor windows. Once again it is placed symmetrically and serves to further demarcate the bays. Typical of the design of ornament for the top stories of commercial buildings of the mid-19-teens, the terra cotta at the third floor is done in a geometric stylization of a cartouche or shield ornament. This single feature is perhaps the most visually interesting element of the exterior. At second floor level, the terra cotta ornaments that extend from the pier caps up to the stringcourse feature a raised capital "H" that stands for Heier, the name of the architect's client.

The building's south facade on Pearl Street, as well as its west facade on the rear alley, are constructed of a common brick laid in a common bond of five courses of stretchers to one of headers. The north facade, which was originally exposed but is now attached to the structure to the north, is assumed to have been similar to the south side, except for the lack of doors. At the south facade (Photo 3), there are no openings at ground floor level. At grade level are visible two sets of arched lintels of header brick. These occur over basement windows in light wells below sidewalk level. Fire exit doorways leading from

8. Significance



Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Summary

Heier's Hotel is the sole surviving example in Indianapolis of an unusual, early 20thcentury building type: a hotel combined with ground floor commercial storefronts. It is one of only two hotels to survive in a three-block area along East Washington Street that once held one of the city's greatest concentrations of hotels, a factor related historically to the National Road. Heier's Hotel may also be the only surviving hotel built to cater to the middle-class clientele of a vaudeville theater.

Much of the architectural significance of this building derives from the fact that its facade has survived intact to the present day with no significant changes. The current excellent state of preservation attests to the quality of its construction by the William P. Jungclaus firm, one of the most prominent contractors in Indianapolis' history, and the skill of Charles Byfield, a little-known architect of the early 20th century.

The building's political associations do not relate to its early history; they are, however, significant. From 1955 to 1963, the Indiana Democratic Club, the oldest political organization in Indiana, had its headquarters in the building. During this period, the Democratic Party held power over Indianapolis' mayoral office, and leadership of city hall can be directly associated with campaign and support activities that issued from the former Rathskeller of Heier's Hotel.

Commercial Significance

In 1915, when Fred F. Heier decided to erect a new building on South New Jersey and Pearl Streets, he had been operating a saloon or "sample room" at this location for more than 25 years.¹ His business had expanded from a single bar room in 1889 to include interests in imported and domestic wines, liquors, and cigars, as well as in a real estate company. From 1910 on, he operated the European Hotel and Cafe, later renamed the Hoosier Hotel. Apparently his business was doing well enough in 1915 to warrant the construction of a modern, fireproof structure to replace the two 19th century buildings on the site that had been altered to function as a hotel. The new building was expressly designed to accommodate all of Heier's business interests.

One of the chief factors encouraging Heier to invest in a new structure was the steady clientele supplied by the nearby Gayety Theatre, a vaudeville house.² The Gayety's entrance was located just around the corner at 411 East Washington Street. Originally known as the New Unique when it opened in 1905, and then as the Indiana, the Gayety was in business from 1907 on for live entertainment ranging from traveling burlesque shows to local amateur nights.³ Even prize fights and wrestling matches were held here. The theater's auditorium was constructed on the interior portion of the corner lot occupied by the Tremont Hotel. This hotel was actually a complex of 19th century structures that had grown accretively from the original Little's Hotel, one of the city's best-known early lodgings, constructed in 1847 to cater to National Road travelers.⁴ Many of Heier's overnight guests were farmers from eastern Indiana. They traveled to Indianapolis on the interurban lines and wanted to stay in proximity to the theater, which was their main form of entertainment while in town.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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10. Geographical Data

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	nated property <u>Less</u> e Indianapolis We		re	Quadrang	le scale 1:24000
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Subdivisior	r y description and jus n, part of Lot 1 i ecorded in Plat Bo diana.	n Square 62	in the City	of Indianapol	idensticker et al. is, the plat of corder of Marion
List all states a	and counties for prop	erties overlap	ping state or c	ounty boundaries	
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state		code	county		code
11. For	m Prepare	d By			
name/title	Mary Ellen Gadsk	i, Architec	tural Histor	ian	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
organization	N/A		d	ate	March 28, 1986
street & number	4431 N. Illinois	Street	te	elephone	317/283-5668
city or town	Indianapolis		S	tate	Indiana 46208
12. Sta	te Historic	Prese	rvation	Officer C	ertification
The evaluated sig	nificance of this propert	y within the sta	te is:		
665), I hereby nor according to the		ntion Officer for nclusion in the set forth by the	National Register	and certify that it h	t of 1966 (Public Law 89– as been evaluated
title Indiar	na State Historic	Preservatio	n Officer	date	7-23-86
1 de	only rtify that this property is <i>Correst Sysce</i> National Register	/ E	National Register ntered in the ational Regis		9/22/86
Attest:				date	
Chief of Regis	stration				

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Heier's Hotel

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Page	1
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the interior corridors occur at different locations on the second and third floors. Single double-hung window units similar to those on the main facade illuminate rooms at the south end: two on the second floor and three on the third floor. At the roofline, the terra cotta coping (the same as occurs on the main facade) accentuates the slight rake of the flat roof. No changes have been made to this facade.

Item number

7

The west facade (Photo 4) facing the alley has experienced a few alterations, mainly to its ground floor. Two of the utilitarian rear exits have had their transom windows bricked in, and one of the side windows has also been bricked. All openings on the first floor were formerly of segmental arch form. The second and third floors each have seven windows corresponding to the seven rooms along the west side of the corridor. The double-hung window units are the same as those of the front and side facades.

Although the exteriors of the five storefronts present a unified design, and all spaces are equally long and narrow, the interiors of each of the individual storefronts differed according to their original function (see Photo 2). At Number 10, the northernmost bay, was located Heier's saloon or bar room. The long bar was located along the north wall, and small tables were located throughout. The entrance to the hotel was gained through Number 12. In this storefront was located the front desk for registration and amenities for the guests such as a telephone booth, cigar case, and writing desks. The main stairway to the upper floors, which was of marble, was located along the north wall. Although this stair was removed years ago, the border of the terrazzo floor of the lobby marks its location. The middle storefront contained two doorways, the northernmost (sometimes numbered $12\frac{1}{2}$) leading to a concrete stairway down to the basement Rathskeller. The ground floor space of Number 14 was used as a cafe or dining room. Number 16 was originally occupied as a physician's office, while Number 18 served as the office for a transfer company. These two southernmost storefronts have operable transom-type windows in their bases that illuminate the base-Within the storefronts, lightwells were created by the construction of beaded board ment. boxes that project from the east wall. Number 18 has retained more of its original character than any of the other storefronts, both spatially and in terms of its surviving materials, such as maple floors and quarter-sawn oak woodwork.

The basement Rathskeller is the most interesting space of the building. This cozy subterranean restaurant, modeled on an Old World concept, comprised an L-shaped, open plan room in the southern three bays of the building. The beams and upright members of the steel frame were encased in yellow pine paneling stained to resemble walnut or mahogany (Photo 5). The undersides of the beams were done in beaded board. The walls, of plaster on brick, were divided into panels by dark-stained rails. Within the panels, sayings or proverbs were hand-painted on the walls within floral borders. Along the south wall between the windows was located a gas fireplace. (The present fireplace appears to date to the mid-1950s.) With the onset of Prohibition in 1919, the Rathskeller closed. It was not used again until after the Amendment's repeal. For a short number of years in the mid-1930s, it was a restaurant and tavern.

The Heier Hotel contained approximately 25 guest rooms. The plan of the second and third floors basically consisted of a double-loaded central corridor with seven rooms on each side, with extra rooms at the ends of the corridors. The north part of the second floor was originally designed as a suite of rooms for the living quarters of the Heier family. Six rooms on the second floor and two on the third were considered "deluxe" rooms in that they shared an adjoining bathroom. Most of the guests used communal tubs, toilets and lavatories

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

Heier Hotel

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

	Page	2	
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off the main hall. The fireproof quality of the hotel was made apparent to guests in the exposed concrete floors in their rooms and in the corridors. Only rubber runners down the corridors and area rugs in the rooms softened the spare finish. Along the stairs and landings between floors ran a steel railing with a stylized, geometric balustrade (Photo 6). This is the most interesting decorative element to survive in the interior. In 1928 when the adjoining Hotel Eastgate was built, Heier's Hotel was incorporated and run in tandem with the new hotel. Certain changes in floor plans were necessitated, especially at the north end, where the buildings' corridors were linked. Although some partition walls have been moved, the interior plan of the two upper floors still conveys a good idea of the arrangement of the accommodations provided in a mid-class hotel in Indianapolis 70 years ago.

Item number

7

Heier's new facility offered accommodations that were quite modern in contrast to the old Tremont Hotel and its contemporaries. The building was a marked departure from the hotels built at the turn of the century with brick bearing walls, small windows, wood joists and wood floors. Heier's Hotel structure was of reinforced concrete and steel, rendering it fireproof and enabling generous fenestration. Accommodations were both safe and affordable to the middle-class traveler.

The greatest period of prosperity for Heier's Hotel was limited to a brief number of years from the completion of its construction in March, 1916, until the 18th Amendment (Prohibition) became law in January, 1920. Heier had to close both his ground floor bar room and the Rathskeller, and hotel business declined accordingly. Up until the time that bids were examined for construction of the hotel in 1915, a five-story structure had been designed with a three-story building as the alternate. When business declined, Heier was, no doubt, relieved that he had decided to scale down the building to three stories.

A combined hotel/commercial building was an unusual building type in the early 20th century. Because of Heier's diversified business interests, he wanted one structure that answered all of his needs and, at the same time, provided him with leasable real estate. In the wake of Prohibition, when the saloon was closed and the cafe lost business, he was able to rent the ground floor storefronts to various commercial tenants. During the 1920s, a number of transfer company offices located in the building due to its proximity to the railroad freight houses directly south of Pearl Street⁵.

Of the 84 hotels listed in the Indianapolis city directoryfor 1917⁶, Heier's Hotel is the only surviving hotel building of its type, i.e., a combined hotel/commercial structure. There existed a few other examples of this type in the city--the Majestic Hotel on South Illinois Street perhaps being the closest example in terms of its size and scale--but they have been demolished over the years.⁷ Other hotels that served middle to low income clients still stand, but most were much larger (six to 12 stories, such as the Haugh, or the Spink and Meeker near Union Station); or have been substantially altered (the Barton or Concordia); or they were not originally built as hotels (the Braden, the Lavern, and the Kaiserhof).

Heier's Hotel is located in an area that formerly contained one of the city's largest concentrations of hotels. This concentration undoubtedly dated back to the National Road days, when the greatest influx of travelers came in to the city from the east along the road. (With the advent of passenger rail transport and the construction of the first Union Station in 1853, the area around the station naturally developed as another hub for hotels.) When Heier's Hotel was constructed in 1915-16, there were at least another 12 hotels located within a three-block area along Washington Street. Of these, only one survives to the present day, further underscoring the significance of Heier's Hotel as an unaltered survivor.

Architectural Significance

The hotel is one of the few surviving works designed by architect Charles H. Byfield (1873-1935)⁸ during the first 10 years of his independent practice. A resident of Indianapolis since 1888, Byfield was employed with Samuel Brubaker in the design and construction of the Century Building in 1900 (36 South Pennsylvania Street). He then worked for the prominent firm of Rubush and Hunter for seven years before opening his own office in 1907. His practice encompassed many building types: commercial structures, apartments, industrial buildings and institutional buildings, especially schools. One of his best-known projects

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

Heier's Hotel

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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is the Wulsin Building (222 E. Ohio Street), an eight-story office building designed in 1912. Contemporary with Heier's Hotel were two buildings related by housing themes: the Davlan Apartments of 1915, a large, six-story structure at 430 Massachusetts Avenue (also known as the Hoosier Apartments), and the Hotel Williams of 1916, located at the corner of Senate Avenue and Washington Street (now demolished). During the 1920s, Byfield specialized in the design of school buildings in Indianapolis and across the state. Among the numerous schools he did in Marion County, two of his best were School 76 at College Avenue, 30th Street, and Fall Creek Parkway, constructed in 1923, and School 85, 322 S. Arlington Avenue, constructed in 1927.

Item number

8

Byfield is not well known today among early 20th century architectural firms in Indianapolis, perhaps because knowledge tends to accumulate for the large firms that produced monumental, high-style buildings. However, the contributions of sole practitioners such as Byfield to the city's architecture were, nonetheless, significant. In his case, the number of build-ings he produced was substantial in relation to the size of the office; and individual, distinctive design solutions were realized in most examples of his work. Heier's Hotel represents a building of quality that was attuned to the latest architectural trends in 1915 in terms of its structure, its construction materials, and stylistic vocabulary. (See Item 7, Description.)

The William P. Jungclaus Company, perhaps the most prominent construction firm in the history of Indianapolis, with origins dating to 1875, was the general contractor for the building.⁹ Jungclaus was known for the high quality of his construction projects and had made his reputation in the early 20th century with buildings such as the 1905 Old City Hall (202 N. Alabama Street) and the 1906 Masonic Temple (525 N. Illinois Street). (Both of these buildings were designed by Rubush and Hunter, and it is possible that Byfield was well acquainted with Jungclaus through his work for this architectural firm.) The Jungclaus Company produced all of its own millwork for its construction projects at its site on Massachusetts Avenue. The \$40,000 assessed construction value quoted in the original building permit would equate to approximately \$400,000 today, using conversion tables to factor 1915 dollars. The current excellent state of preservation of the building, despite years of marginal use and minimal maintenance, attests to the quality of the original construction.

Much of the architectural significance of this building derives from the fact that its facade has survived intact to the present day. No significant changes have been made in over 70 years, as a comparison of Photos 1 and 2 will prove. (As explained in Item 7, plywood insets currently cover the original transoms of the storefronts, which survive intact underneath.) Down to the smallest details, such as the hardware for window awnings and transom chains, the exterior has preserved its original elements and materials. The survival of the original configuration of the storefronts is perhaps most remarkable. There are very few commercial buildings in Indianapolis constructed during the 19-teens that have remained essentially as built. The significance of the Heier Hotel's intact facade is heightened by the fact that it is the sole surviving example of a unique, early 20th-century building type: a small hotel combined with ground floor commercial units.

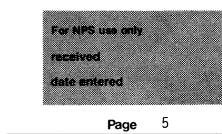
Political History

Although the building's political associations do not relate to its early history, they add an item of significance that should be considered in evaluating the building's overall historic significance. From 1955 to 1963, the former Rathskeller of Heier's Hotel served as the headquarters of the Indiana Democratic Club, the oldest political organization in the State of Indiana, chartered in February 1901.¹⁰

Heier's Hotel

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



8

The club's occupancy in the building coincided with the years that the Kirkwood Hotel (which incorporated Heier's Hotel) was owned by Dr. Otto A. Noland, publisher of the newspaper, <u>The Indiana Democrat</u>. In August, 1955, at about the time the club moved to the quarters here, Noland incorporated the newspaper for the purpose of distributing its ownership throughout the membership of the Democratic Party in Indiana. The goal of the strong, politically active Board of Directors was to increase the paper's circulation to 100,000 subscribers, making it one of the state's largest newspapers. Its offices were located on the first floor of the Kirkwood Hotel. The paper, of course, served as a vehicle to further the political causes of the party.

Item number

The first political activities of the Indiana Democratic Club while in the building focused on the campaign of Phil Bayt, Democratic candidate for mayor of Indianapolis in 1955. The club was the scene of numerous meetings among politicians to plot campaign strategy.¹¹ Bayt had been defeated by Republican Alex Clark in 1951 after a short term as incumbent in the mayor's office. This time Bayt was successful in his bid, partially due to the more liberal swing in general in the country's politics at this time, but also partially due to the fact that the Democratic organization was functioning so well. It is believed that he made his acceptance speech in the club on the night of the November election. Bayt held office from January 1, 1956, to January 1, 1959, at which time he resigned and Charles Boswell was appointed to fill his term. Boswell ran for mayor and in November, 1959, was elected to office in his own right, again supported by the activists of the Democratic Club. In August, 1962, when Boswell resigned, he was replaced by Democrat Albert Losche. Thus, eight years of City Hall's leadership by the Democratic Party can be directly associated with support activities that emanated from the building.

Notes:

- The first reference in the Indianapolis city directories to Fred Heier was in 1889, at which time both his home and his saloon were located at 18 S. New Jersey Street. Two adjoining, 19th century buildings (12-14 and 16-18) were demolished to make way for the new building.
- 2. Interview with Fred Breidenbach (b. 1912), grandson of Fred Heier, March 5, 1986. Mr. Breidenbach lived in the hotel with his family until 1925 and provided much detailed information on the operation of the hotel, the original floor plan, and the general early history of the building.
- 3. Gene Gladson, <u>Indianapolis from A to Z</u>, 1st. rev. ed. (Indianapolis, Gladson Publications, 1976), p. 96. In 1933, the Gayety became the Paramount Theatre and was operated as a movie theatre only until the building was razed in 1955.
- 4. "Three-story luxury motel to be located downtown", <u>Indianapolis Star</u>, January 11, 1959, section 3, p. 1. The Executive House Motel was constructed in 1959 on the former site of the Tremont Hotel and Gayety Theater.
- 5. On April 4, 1934, Fred Heier was in his transfer company office at No. 12 when an assailant shot and killed him following an argument over 25 cents. This Depression era scenario was chronicled in a front-page article: "Man Slain In Clash Over 25 Cents," Indianapolis Star, April 5, 1934.

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Expires 10-31-87

Continuation sheet	Heier's Hotel	Item number	8	Paç	je	6

- 6. The year 1917 was the first year that Heier's Hotel was listed, due to the time lag factor in the publication of new businesses.
- 7. In addition to the city directory listings, background information on hotels consulted in formulating conclusions on the Heier Hotel's status as a survivor include the following: <u>The Baist Real Estate Atlas of Indianapolis</u>, 1916; the Bass Photograph Collection; the Sanborn Map Company's <u>Insurance Maps of Indianapolis</u>, 1898 corrected to 1913, vol. 3.
- 8. Information on Charles Byfield has been derived from the following sources: his obituary in the <u>Indianapolis Star</u>, May 15, 1935, p. 3; <u>Indiana: 150 Years of American Development</u>, ed. by Charles Roll (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1931), 3:24; <u>A Book of Indiana</u>, ed. by Kin Hubbard (Indianapolis: Indiana Biographical Association, 1929), p. 148; Indiana Historical Society's Architectural Indexing System (ARCHIE); interviews with Charles H. Byfield, Jr., March 12 and 19, 1986.
- 9. The 1915 Record of Building Permits for the City of Indianapolis named the William P. Jungclaus Company as contractor for a new building at the northwest corner of New Jersey and Pearl Streets. (See entry for application No. 3482, July 22, 1915, City Microfilm Division). In the offices of the Jungclaus-Campbell Company, 825 Massa-chusetts Avenue, Indianapolis, survives the original, five page estimate of the building's construction cost (including the names of subcontractors and suppliers and complete figures on material take-offs).
- 10. "Indiana Club Pays Honor to Harry Truman" <u>Indiana Democrat</u>, September 1, 1955. (Newspaper on microfilm, Indiana Division, Indiana State Library.)
- Interview of James Noland, federal court judge, by Willis K. Kunz, August 8, 1985. Memo 1, File K3(62), office of Kunz and Kunz, Attorneys.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

Continuation sheet	Heier's Hotel	Item number	6 and 9	Page 7
Baist's Real Est	ate Atlas of Indianapolis.	Philadelphia:	G. Wm. Baist,	1916, 1927, 1941.
	Collection. Notebooks: "H Company, Indianapolis, Ind		s" and "Hotels	Miscellaneous."
	Indianapolis Theatres from <i>I</i> lications, 1976.	<u>to Z</u> . 1st rev	v. ed. Indianap	olis, Indiana:
	. Newspaper on microfilm t te Library.	in the collection	on of the India	na Division,
Indianapolis Cit	y Directories, 1889=1956.	Central Librar	y, Indianapolis	, Indiana.
<u>Indianapolis Sta</u>	<u>r</u> . Obituary for Charles By	vfield, May 15,	1935.	
"	Three-story luxury motel to	be located dow	wntown." Janua	ry, 1959.
"	Man Slain In Clash Over 25	Cents." April	5, 1934.	
Breidenbach, Fre	d. Interview. March 5, 19	986		
Noland, James.	Interview. August 8, 1985.			

Item number 6

A request for a determination of eligibility was made by the Federal Highway Administration. The property was determined eligible on June 11, 1986.