

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received AUG 1 1984
date entered AUG 30 1984

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

1. Name

historic Wilson, Solomon, Building

and/or common Scheerer Building

2. Location

street & number 102 South Wabash St.

N/A not for publication

city, town Wabash

N/A vicinity of

state Indiana

code 018

county Wabash

code 169

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Wabash Marketplace, Inc.

street & number P.O. Box 432

city, town Wabash

N/A vicinity of

state Indiana 46992

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wabash County Recorder

street & number Wabash County Courthouse

city, town Wabash

state Indiana 46992

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980

federal state county local

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources

city, town Indianapolis

state Indiana

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Solomon Wilson Building is an outstanding example of the Second Empire Style. The two-and-one-half story brick building has a stone foundation with limestone coping. The corners of the structure are emphasized by rusticated limestone quoins. Situated at the corner of two busy streets, the Solomon Wilson Building has a chamfered corner with an entrance on the first story, a door and a balcony on the second, and an elaborate dormer window in the attic.

The first floor of the two-bay east facade, facing busy Wabash Street, is dominated by two large display windows separated by an engaged limestone pilaster. (Photo 1.) Above the windows the first and second stories are separated by a denticulated and bracketed wooden cornice. The second story of the east facade contains two segmental arched windows with limestone sills supported by flat blocks, and window hoods and surrounds. A wide wooden entablature is elaborately decorated by cut-out overlays of Eastlake design. (Photo 4.) The cornice is accented with small brackets, while large scroll brackets ornament the corners. The mansard roof contains a small oculus dormer centered in the east side.

The north facade, stretching along Hill Street, is seven bays wide (Photo 2) on the second story, while the first has a store window at the east end and a double door entrance at the west end. A second entrance and window beneath the fifth and sixth upper bays have been added to the ground floor in the 20th century. The original rear entrance has double doors elaborately decorated with Eastlake motifs and provides access to the second floor. The large, single pane transom is surmounted by a limestone surround. (Photo 5.)

The second floor of the north facade is marked by seven regularly spaced segmental arched windows with limestone sills supported by small flat blocks, with window hoods and surrounds identical to the windows on the east. The original wrought iron stair leads to the second floor entrance doorway that is central in the north facade. Wrought iron brackets, also original, support balconies at the chamfered corner and the sixth bay of the north facade.

A wide wooden entablature that wraps around the north and east facade is decorated by cut-out overlays of Eastlake design (Photo 4).

The cornice is accented with small brackets while all the corners and center of the north facade are accented by large scroll brackets.

The mansard roof is sheathed in the original hexagonal imbricated slate. (Photo 4.) The chamfered corner and the center of the north facade contain identical elaborate dormers with round arched windows. These dormers are also covered with the hexagonal imbricated slate. Above the second and sixth bays in the north facade are oculus dormers (Photo 4) identical to the one found in the east facade, that is slightly projecting from the surface of the roof. The crest of the roof is rimmed with a wooden curb.

The interior walls of the building are plaster, while the pressed tin ceilings are in good condition. Painted wood doors and woodwork are original. A rehabilitation has recently been done on the exterior.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1883 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Located across from the southeast corner of the Courthouse Square, the Solomon Wilson Building occupies the busiest, most commercially viable site in Wabash. The uninterrupted use of the building from the time of construction attests to its importance in the commercial area. The building is an unusually intact example of a Second Empire style commercial structure, among the best in the state.

By 1883, Solomon Wilson was important to the Wabash commercial community. As the founder and major stockholder of the Wabash School Furniture Company in 1872, Wilson was a major employer in the area. In 1882 Wilson purchased the former site of Nye Marble Works for a new business block. The Wabash newspapers reported work on the building, "two stories high, surmounted by an elegant mansard roof and expected to cost \$5,000," would begin in the spring of 1883. Continuously occupied since its completion, the first floor of the building was occupied for many years by the Swadley Drugstore. More recently, it has been a small corner grocery. Part of the second floor was used for many years by the Elks, while the office space was occupied by a variety of small businesses.

The Second Empire style, while not a common style in Indiana, was remarkably popular in Wabash. During the last quarter of the 19th century, when most of the present commercial buildings were constructed, many Second Empire commercial blocks were built. Throughout the ensuing years, however, most have been drastically altered through successive remodelings. Today, the Wilson Building is the only small, essentially unaltered commercial Second Empire building remaining.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Wabash Courier - January 27, 1882
Wabash Plain Dealer - January 20, 1882

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Wabash, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	9	9	4	9	0	4	5	1	6	7	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Southwest corner of Main and Wabash, 22' South along Wabash, West 62', North to Main 22', East to Wabash Street 62'.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dorothy G. Dekau & Schuette Mohler & Associates

organization Wabash Marketplace, Inc.

date September 1, 1982

street & number P.O. Box 432 or 450 N. Cass Street

telephone 317/742-0252

city or town Wabash

state Indiana 46992

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature by J. T. Schuette

title Deputy Director, Dept. of Natural Resources

date 7-24-84

For NPS use only

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

date

8/30/84

for Helene Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration