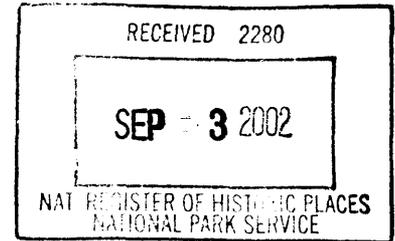


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Schenck, Benjamin, Mansion  
other names/site number Schenck Mansion Bed & Breakfast

**2. Location**

street & number 206 West Turnpike Street N/A  not for publication  
city or town Vevay N/A  vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county Switzerland code 155 zip code 47043

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
*[Signature]* 8.12.02  
Signature of certifying official/Title Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
*[Signature]* Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 10/16/02

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Hotel

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Second Empire

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone

walls BRICK

STONE: Slate

roof METAL: Tin

other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

c. 1872-1876

**Significant Dates**

c. 1874

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Humphries, George P.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Schenck, Benjamin, Mansion  
Name of Property

Switzerland IN  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 667400 4290650  
Zone Easting Northing

3  
Zone Easting Northing

2

4

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tanner Underwood, Architect  
organization Gooden & Ellis Architects, LLP date 11-08-2001  
street & number 111 West Adams Street, Suite 103 telephone 765/289-9155  
city or town Muncie state IN zip code 47305

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Lisa Fisher, Schenck Mansion Bed & Breakfast, LLC; Fisher Real Estate, LLC  
street & number 98 Swanson Road telephone 812/427-2787  
city or town Patriot state IN zip code 47038

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7

Page 1

Benjamin Schenck Mansion  
Switzerland County, Indiana

**Narrative Description**

The Benjamin Franklin Schenck House is a two-story masonry-bearing wall house with a full basement and walk-up attic. It is located partway up on a hillside on the north edge of the town of Vevay, Indiana, which is just north of the Ohio River. The house was designed by architect George P. Humphreys and built in 1874 for Benjamin, his wife, Celestine and their three daughters, Justine, Lillie Corinne, and Eugenia May. It was built in the residential Italianate / Second Empire style.

The house is quite large, with over 8,000 square feet of space. There is a four-story tower with a mansard roof of painted terne-metal, which, with its finial extending some 73 feet above grade. With its siting and tall tower, the building presents an imposing presence and offers commanding views of the town. The plan is irregular and asymmetric, with projecting wings and bays. It is generally more linear than square, at about one hundred feet from front to back, but no more than forty feet wide. It is sited parallel to the slope of the hillside and not with the grid of the town, which makes it appear even larger.

The house has a primary elevation facing toward downtown Vevay, on one of the short facings of the structure. The main entrance is on the side of the house. A forward-projecting gabled section with first floor bay window defines the inside corner of the front porch to the north. The main entry is under the porch, with paired round arched windows above it. This section of the house is the main block, capped by a truncated hip roof. The mansarded tower, with its balconies and groups of round-arched windows, is recessed even slightly further back from the main block front wall. To the north, a further recessed block has another smaller porch, also sheltering an entry directly into a room now called the music room.

The south elevation is perhaps the second most visible view of the house. Here the long expanse of the house is evident. This side is roughly divided into fifths by the mansarded tower and a gabled, projecting section. A balcony / porch, flanked by the tower and gabled section, is defined by these same vertical elements. Windows and doors are generally arranged so that they create symmetry within each section, but the openings are not spaced so as to create an overall "facade". The level of finish, with segmental first floor arches and full round arches of the second floor windows, ceases at the last (westernmost) section. Here, window headers are flat stone lintels.

The north elevation faces the side of the hill, but nonetheless, the architect carried the high level of finish half way back from the front elevation. A forward projecting gabled section with the first floor rectangular bay window roughly divides this elevation in half. The two story kitchen porch with separate metal clad hip roof lines the entire back section of the house west of the gabled section. Windows and doors have plain stone sills and lintels.

The west elevation was a non-public face of the house. It resembles vernacular dwellings of the time period, in particular, the I-house. Windows have plain stone lintels.

The basement is constructed of rough-cut limestone in eight inch courses, which extend two to three feet above grade. Wood casement windows light the basement. These foundation walls are topped by an eight inch smooth-cut limestone watertable with a chamfered top edge. The remainder of the exterior walls are brick, in a subtle blend ranging from light red to salmon. There is a brick beltcourse at the second story, formed by three courses of brick that project slightly from the main plane of the wall.

The windows of the house are tall and narrow. They are wood double-hung with limestone sills and hoods. The

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7

Page 2

Benjamin Schenck Mansion  
Switzerland County, Indiana

stone hoods feature keystones with an incised scroll design. On the primary facades, the first-floor windows have segmental arched tops while the second floor windows have full arched tops. Toward the rear of the house, however, the windows have rectangular tops. On the third floor of the tower there is a grouping of three full-arched windows on two sides. The fourth floor of the tower is lit by round dormer windows.

A pair of raised-panel doors with a single transom fills a segmental arched opening for the front entrance. Other exterior doors are single raised-panel doors with transoms in segmental arched openings. The rear door at the kitchen, however, is in a rectangular opening.

A wide overhanging eave has large decorative brackets, executed in sheet metal. A frieze of recessed panels, the soffit, cornice molding, and fascia are similarly executed in sheet metal. There is a built-in box gutter, which lends the roof a flared appearance. The main roof is a steeply pitched (14:12) truncated hip. Each side of the house has a projecting wing that terminates in a gable. The front gable is ornamented with arched fretwork executed in sheet metal, with chamfered corners. The joints in this fretwork are ornamented with spun metal drops. The main roofs are clad in purple slate, with a band of unfading-green slate in the middle of the slope. Within the band of green slate are periodic round details executed in purple slate with red slate piece in the center. Eight brick chimneys with simple stone tops penetrate the roof. On the primary facades, the chimneys are detailed with stone elements, corbelled brick courses, and recessed details in the brick.

The tower roof has the same bracketed cornice and frieze as the rest of the house, but with a true mansard roof of flat-locked terne metal. The lower portion of the roof is convex, and is topped with a sheet metal band with recessed circular details. Cast iron cresting ornaments this band. An upper roof is convex and continues to a peak, and is surmounted by a large fluted finial.

There are two projecting one-story bays and four porches. The front bay has splayed sides, while a second bay is rectangular in plan. The rear porch off the kitchen is two stories tall. Although most of it was demolished by a previous owner, the current owner has recreated it. The remaining porches and the two bays have roofs with decorative railings. These are fabricated from sheet metal and are designed with large circular penetrations. There are two balconies at the second floor of the tower, supported by very large sheet metal brackets with chamfered corners. These also have the sheet-metal railings.

The wood porch columns are square in plan, with chamfered corners. They are visually divided in thirds, with a wider lower pedestal with recessed panels. A large molding tops this register and matches and aligns with the profile of the porch railings. More moldings define the top of the second register. The top register has a scroll-sawn wooden bracket in a stylized leaf pattern. The lower register of the front porch columns had been lost and replaced with a concrete block wall, but has now been restored. The porch floors are generally tongue-and-groove wood, but the front porch floor has been replaced with a concrete slab. Only one of the original porch railings remains, but the balustrade is a simple "X" pattern made from two inch square wooden members. A surviving elevation from the original architect's drawings shows an additional "spear" detail at the intersection of the "X". The same drawing shows the original configuration of the two-story porch. All but one bay of the first story of this porch has been removed. The details are similar to the other porches, but simpler, without the fretwork and additional detail in the balustrade.

On the interior, ceilings are at twelve feet on the first floor and eleven feet on the second floor. Walls are of smooth plaster and have been painted white throughout the house by previous owners. Nearly all of the interior walls are plaster on brick. The ceilings are also smooth plaster, painted white. In some rooms, the walls and/or ceilings have been covered with a layer of drywall, in some cases poorly hung and taped. In the front stair hall, two walls have been stripped to expose the brick. The floors are typically wide planks, four to six inches in

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Benjamin Schenck Mansion  
Switzerland County, Indiana

Section number 7

Page 3

width, and have been painted gray throughout the house. The kitchen and some of the bathroom floors have been covered with vinyl flooring.

Eight-inch wide, deeply profiled casings frame the door and window openings. A twelve-inch tall baseboard is topped by another deeply profiled molding. In two rooms, the original faux-bois finish remains, and the appearance is of quarter-sawn hardwood. The woodwork is actually yellow poplar. In the remaining rooms, the original finish has been covered with white paint. There are no crown moldings in the house, or evidence that they existed. A chair rail and panel molding in the double parlor appear to be comprised of standard lumberyard moldings and appear to be recent additions.

The interior doors have four raised panels with a deeply profiled sticking. The hardware typically consists of a mortised lockset with simple round roses and white ceramic knobs. Each window has a set of narrow wood shutters on the interior with raised panels. These were originally finished to match the woodwork, although most have been painted white. Each window typically has an upper and lower set of shutters, with either four or six panels at each level.

The front stair is "L" shaped in plan. A large hexagonal, tapered newel is made of walnut with burl-walnut veneered panels, and is topped with a broad, squat turned walnut finial. The handrail is also of walnut, but the balusters are turned in oak. The treads and risers have been painted. Fretsawn scrollwork ornaments the stringer and has been painted white. This stair extends to the second floor. A second stairway in the middle of the house is similarly constructed, and extends from the first floor to the attic. Another stair begins near the top of the front stair and also extends to the attic, but is enclosed with no decorative detailing. Yet another stair extends from the kitchen to the second floor, and is also enclosed and utilitarian in design. Finally, a steep stair extends from the third floor of the tower to the fourth floor.

There are thirteen fireplaces, each with a cast-iron mantle. The fireplace openings are small with full arched openings, and the grates suggest that coal was the primary fuel. Some of the mantles show remnants of a faux-bois finish on the panels. There are several similar but distinct designs to the mantles throughout the house. The hearths are of slate, flush with the surrounding floor.

Only one historical light fixture remains in the house, a gas sconce in the dining room. Remaining light fixtures are an assortment of modern replacements and ceiling fans. There are two forced air furnaces and ductwork in the basement which serve the first floor. There is no central heating system for the remainder of the house.

There are five bathrooms in the house, and they appear to be original. One has been converted to a laundry room, but the five copper-clad tin-lined tubs remain in the house. One, which is still in place, has had a paneled wood surround added. Two of the tubs retain their original walnut skirting. No original waterclosets remain, and only one cast-iron lavatory may be from the original construction of the house. The kitchen has no original fixtures, hand has a modern stainless steel sink and a commercial range.

In general, the house has had neither additions nor significant alterations other than the loss of the two-story porch and the covering of original finishes with paint and other coatings. The condition is generally fair, but deferred maintenance left the gutters and roof leaking which caused some damage and decay of plaster and rotting of wood which has now been repaired. The home still appears very much as first constructed and one can easily imagine its former grandeur.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Benjamin Schenck Mansion  
Switzerland County, Indiana

Section number 8

Page 1

The town of Vevay and Switzerland County were settled by French-Swiss immigrants in the early 1800's. In 1817, Daniel Von Buren, Fredrick Louis Thiebaud, Jean Jacque Philip Schenck, and their families, from the Canton of Neuchatel, Switzerland, were among the early settlers. The families included six-year-old Ulysses P. Schenck and eight-year-old Justine Thiebaud. After several years of farming in Vevay, the Schenck family followed Von Buren's widow, Marianne to Shippingport, Kentucky. A canal was under construction around the falls at Louisville, and the families established a store to provide goods to the canal workers and boatmen.

At the age of nineteen, Ulysses Schenck left the family business and established a store on the opposite side of the Ohio, at New Albany, Indiana. On September 30, 1830, he married Justine Thiebaud. By 1832, Ulysses' business had done so well that he was able to buy out his father's store. The elder Schenck bought a farm near Vevay and returned to Switzerland County. In the 1860's, after the death of his wife, he moved to Vevay, where he died in 1872.

Ulysses and Justine remained in New Albany, where, despite a total loss to flooding in 1832, their business prospered. However, they began buying property in Vevay in 1834, and with the Panic of 1837, moved back to Switzerland County. The panic allowed the couple to purchase real estate at reduced prices, and they acquired farms in every township of Switzerland County. Ulysses built a large store in Vevay and began to amass a fortune. In addition to farming and merchandising, he also sold insurance. By 1846, Ulysses had gone into partnership with his brother Julius, who was a steamboat captain. Together they expanded a fleet of flatboats and steamboats, and shipped merchandise and crops from the farms up and down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Among the products was Indiana hay. The Mormon Hay Press, invented in 1834, compressed the hay into bales that could easily be transported. By the late 1840's, the Schencks were shipping so much hay that Ulysses became known throughout the Ohio and Mississippi River valleys as the "Hay King." By the early fifties, with construction of the railroad at Madison, Indiana, Schenck goods were being marketed in the Indiana interior as well, reaching Indianapolis, Noblesville, and Shelbyville. In 1859, Schenck established a new steamboat company, the Cincinnati-New Orleans Express Line, which flourished until interrupted by the Civil War. During the war, with his steamboats appropriated by the union army, U. P. Schenck built four brick buildings in Vevay

Meanwhile, Ulysses and Justine had eleven children. Among these were sons Benjamin Franklin Schenck, born in 1834 and Andrew Jackson Schenck, born in 1842. In 1864, Andrew joined his father's business, which was renamed U. P. Schenck and Son. B. F. Schenck joined the business sometime thereafter. Also in 1864, the First National Bank of Vevay was established, with U.P. Schenck as president. After the Civil War, Schenck and Sons continued in the mercantile and shipping businesses. In 1872, U. P. also became involved in the Union Furniture Company in Vevay, which made goods for foreign markets. Furniture was shipped aboard Schenck steamers to New Orleans and on to Mexico.

It was into this growing empire that Benjamin Franklin Schenck was born on November 3, 1834, in Louisville, Kentucky. Like his brothers George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Andrew Jackson, he was named for one of his patriotic father's heroes. He attended Franklin College where his father was a trustee, and is listed as a sophomore in 1854. He attended law school in Poughkeepsie, New York, and was admitted to the bar in Vevay. He apparently never practiced law, however, but instead joined his father's business.

While relatively little has been written about B. F. Schenck, compared to his father, he evidently shared his father's business acumen. In addition to his involvement in the family business, B. F. purchased the Vevay "Weekly News" which he edited for several years. In partnership with John Henry, he owned a mill for the production of printing ink, which was shipped to Cincinnati, Louisville and St. Louis. In 1872, the business expanded into the bookbinding business. The ink mill continued past Schenck's death in 1877.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Benjamin Schenck Mansion  
Switzerland County, Indiana

Section number 8

Page 2

On September 11, 1861, Benjamin Franklin Schenck married Miss Celestine McCullouch in Louisville, Kentucky. Celestine was born in Vevay on March 14, 1840, but later moved with her parents to Bowling Green, Kentucky, and then Louisville. The couple had three daughters: Justine, Lillie Corinne, and Eugenia May.

On February 2, 1872, B. F. Schenck purchased 32.77 acres of land on the north edge of Vevay from F. L. Grisard. In December of that year, his father purchased an adjoining tract of 32.5 acres from P. L. Dufour, which B. F. subsequently obtained from his father in 1875. It is presumed that construction of the mansion began shortly after the property was acquired in 1872. According to Schenck's obituary, by November of 1874, B. F. was in failing health, so the family went to Florida for the winter. On July 24, 1875, he left the firm of U. P. Schenck and Sons, and in the fall again returned to Florida. He spent the summer of 1876 in Vevay, in "the magnificent residence he had lately finished." In the fall, he returned to Florida. On April 24, 1877, at the age of 42, he died in Jacksonville, Florida. Of the eleven children of U.P. and Justine Schenck, only two, Andrew and Ulysses, Jr. survived their parents.

The May 3, 1877 *Vevay Reveille* contains a lengthy and effusive obituary and resolutions of the Masonic Lodge where Schenck was a member and of the First National Bank of Vevay where he was a director. From these, it is clear that B. F. Schenck was a greatly loved and respected member of the community. He is described as a man of "fine personal appearance, active in his habits, sprightly and spicy in conversation, upright, prompt, accommodating and genial in all his business relations." He was "not only a superior salesman, but possessed the ability to manage successfully a large business." He is further described as generous, religious, and a devoted husband and father.

Some authors have suggested that in building the mansion, Schenck was competing with Charles Alfred Thiebaud, who built a home at about the same time. They further say that both men died before completing construction of their homes. It is suggested that the race to build the finest home in Vevay cost each man his health and exhausted their finances. The Schenck mansion is reported to have cost over \$67,000.

After B. F. Schenck's death, it is believed that his widow and children remained in the mansion for some time. Celestine died in Louisville, Kentucky, December 23, 1885. A map of the town from 1883 shows the mansion property belonging to the "heirs of B. F. Schenck." Little is known about the use of the property for the next several decades. Some authors have suggested that it was used, or perhaps only proposed as an orphanage. County records indicate various transfers of the property among the three daughters in 1902, 1904, and 1905.

In 1923, Schenck's three daughters donated the mansion and 65 acres to the Indiana Baptist Convention as a memorial to their parents, to be used as a conference and study center and retreat. The deed requires that the Baptist Convention preserve the appearance of the house, and that they make numerous repairs. The required repairs suggest that the home was in need of masonry pointing, roof repairs, and painting. The deed further requires that the house be equipped with electric lights, running water, and a heating plant, which suggests that it was lacking these amenities at the time.

The deed further mentions a tenant house, stable, barns and "other outhouses." It requires that the tenant house be preserved as "one of the oldest buildings at Vevay." An August 1960 article in the *Reveille* by Julie Le Clerc Knox maintains that this cottage was built by Jean Francois Dufour and that he died in it in 1850. Surprisingly, the 1883 map of Vevay does not show the cottage.

The Mansion was dedicated as the Schenck Memorial Home on June 15, 1924. The brochure from the ceremony indicates that the Baptist Convention had plans to plant fruit trees, grape vines, and strawberries, and to cultivate the entire site to raise funds for maintenance. The Reverend and Mrs. C. J. Casey were in charge of the home.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Benjamin Schenck Mansion  
Switzerland County, Indiana

Section number 8

Page 3

---

They lived in the Mansion until 1928. Their daughter, Ruth was married to Frank Reynolds in the house on Easter Sunday, 1924.

On December 27, 1928, ownership of the mansion and grounds is returned to the heirs. Again, it is not known what use was made of the house for several years. On March 15, 1945, the mansion was sold to Clarence Wiseman and his wife Lula. The Wisemans lived in the house and also used it as a clubhouse for the Switzerland County Saddle Club. At the foot of the hill below the mansion, there is presently a mobile home park, arranged around an oval drive. This drive was a quarter-mile horse track during the Saddle Club's use of the property.

On October 19, 1966, ownership of the mansion went to Major T. and Ruth E. Jester. The Jesters sold most of the acreage, retaining six plus acres with the mansion. They, in turn, sold the mansion to Burrell Farnsley on February 4, 1972. Farnsley's father was once the mayor of Louisville, Kentucky. By now, the house was in poor condition and Farnsley began restoration efforts.

In 1982, Farnsley sold the mansion to his friend Mark Miles. Miles had fallen in love with the mansion, and Farnsley offered to sell it to him at his 25<sup>th</sup> birthday party. Miles continued restoration efforts. Some of these were misguided, as it was Miles who demolished most of the two-story porch at the kitchen entry. He is likely responsible for some shoddy drywall repairs and for painting over most of the original faux-finish on the woodwork. Miles lived part-time in the house, and had a caretaker named John Tedesco.

In the fall of 1998, Jerry and Lisa Fisher, the present owners, purchased the mansion with the intention of restoring it and putting it to use as a bed and breakfast inn. The restoration was completed on October 25, 2000.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Benjamin Schenck Mansion  
Switzerland County, Indiana

Section number **Section 9** Page 1

---

**Bibliography**

*An Atlas of Switzerland and Ohio Counties, Indiana.* Philadelphia: D. J. Lake & Co., 1883.

Auditor's Office, Switzerland County, Indiana. Vevay Transfer books.

"B. F. Schenck, Esq." *Vevay Reveille*, 3 May 1877.

Bailey, Rosemary. "Vevay, Indiana - A Tiny Christmas Star." Undated pamphlet. Switzerland County Historical Society, Vevay, Indiana.

Beach, Carolyn Danner. *Turn to the River.* Vevay: Self-published, 1987.

"Benjamin Franklin Schenck Mansion, Vevay Indiana." anonymous house tour pamphlet, Switzerland County Historical Society, Vevay, Indiana.

Cavinder, Fred D. "Lovely Young Ghost Makes Old Mansion Lively." *Indianapolis Star*, 17 July 1985.

*Catalog of the Officers and Students of Franklin College, 1853-4.* Franklin: Star of Hope, 1854.

Crawford, Eleanor, Office of the Registrar, Franklin College. Letter to Mrs. Corinne S. Dahman. 18 Mar. 1927. .  
Switzerland County Public Library, Vevay, Indiana.

Dahman, Corinne Schenck. "Childhood Memories of Vevay." *Indiana Magazine of History.* Ed. William O. Lynch. XXXI, 2. June 1935.

"Death of Benj. F. Schenck." *Vevay Reveille*, 26 April 1877.

Dinsmore, Carlos M. "The Schenck Memorial Home, Vevay, Indiana - Dedicated June 15, 1924." Indianapolis: The Indiana Baptist Convention.

"Funeral of B. F. Schenck." *Vevay Reveille*, 3 May 1877.

Grisard, F. L. "First National Bank of Vevay." *Vevay Reveille*, 3 May 1877.

Hall of Switzerland Lodge No. 122, F. & A. M. "In Memoriam." *Vevay Reveille*, 3 May 1877.

*History of Switzerland County.* 1885. Mt. Vernon, Indiana: Windmill Publications, 1993.

Humphries: "B.F. Schenck evidently hired architects George Humphries to design his house. One elevation drawing of the house under Humphries' name survives. Humphries practiced in the Cincinnati area from 1869 to 1880. He was a partner of the Cincinnati architect William Walter for a brief time, and also may have been involved in some capacity in the Cincinnati Music Hall project (1875-1878) under the architects of record, Hannaford & Proctor. Humphries designed the High Victorian Gothic opera house in Lebanon, Ohio in 1877. He lived for a short time in a house on Garrard Street in Covington, Kentucky, which he designed for Jonathan Hearne. (information on Humphries from: Langsam, Walter. "A Biographical Dictionary of Architects Who Worked in the Greater Cincinnati Area before World War II," unpublished paper prepared for the Isaiah Rogers / Ohio Valley Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1996.)

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. *Switzerland County Interim Report.* 1980.

James, Michelle. "Favorite Saves: Dream Comes True in House's Restoration." *Indiana Preservationist*, May-June 2000.

Knox, Julie LeClerc. "Local Historic Landmarks." *Vevay Reveille*, 28 July and 18 Aug. 1960.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Benjamin Schenck Mansion  
Switzerland County, Indiana

Section number **Section 9** Page **2**

---

"A Mansion of 40 Rooms, Vevay, Indiana." Postcard #11699. Bloomington, Illinois: S. U. Williams Photoette.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Knopf, 1996.

"Mrs. C. H. Schenck." Undocumented newspaper obituary, Switzerland County Historical Society, Vevay, Indiana.

"Old Ink Mill Still Stands Below Vevay." Anonymous, undated paper, Switzerland County Public Library, Vevay, Indiana.

"Schenck - The Eleven Children of Ulysses Philip Schenck and Justine Thiebaud Schenck." Anonymous, undated document, Switzerland County Historical Society collection.

"Schenck & Henry, Manufacturers of Cylinder, News, Book, and Card Printing Inks." Undocumented newspaper ad, Switzerland County Historical Society collection.

Schenck, Benjamin F. "Last Will and Testament." 14 May 1877. Switzerland County Historical Society, Vevay, Indiana.

Schenck, Justine. "Last Will and Testament." 20 Feb. 1889. Switzerland County Historical Society, Vevay, Indiana.

"Schenck Empire Ended Due to Untimely Death of Ulysses' Son Ben." *Vevay Reveille*. Souvenir Edition. Undated clipping, Switzerland County Historical Society, Vevay, Indiana.

Schenck, Ulysses P. "Last Will and Testament." 29 Nov. 1887. Switzerland County Historical Society, Vevay, Indiana.

Wallis, Don. "Memories of a Mansion." *Vevay Reveille*, 7 May 1994.

Warranty Deed. Zook, Dahman, and Eddy to the Indiana Baptist Convention. Feb. 1923. Switzerland County Public Library, Vevay, Indiana.

Wood, Henry. "Vevay's Historic Homes." *Indianapolis Star Magazine*. Undated clipping. Collection of Lisa Fisher, Vevay, Indiana.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form  
Benjamin Schenck Mansion  
Switzerland County, Indiana

Benjamin Schenck Mansion  
Switzerland County, Indiana

Section number Additional Documentation - Photographs Page 1

The following information applies to all enclosed photographs:

1. Benjamin Schenck Mansion
2. Switzerland County, Indiana
3. William P. Morgan
4. February 24, 2001
5. Negatives are located with the photographer at 1205 West North Street, Muncie, Indiana 47303

The following information applies to each photograph individually:

6. Exterior view toward north
7. Photo 1
  
6. Exterior view toward north (closer)
7. Photo 2
  
6. Exterior view toward east
7. Photo 3
  
6. Exterior view toward south
7. Photo 4
  
6. Exterior view toward west
7. Photo 5
  
6. Exterior view toward southwest, upper gable
7. Photo 6
  
6. Exterior view toward southwest, porches
7. Photo 7
  
6. Exterior view toward southwest, two-story porch
7. Photo 8
  
6. Interior view of the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Front Parlor looking east
7. Photo 9
  
6. Interior view of the fireplace in the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Front Parlor looking south
7. Photo 10
  
6. Interior view of the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Rear Parlor through the Front Parlor looking west
7. Photo 11
  
6. Interior view of the stairway in the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Entry Hall looking northwest
7. Photo 12

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

<u>Section number</u>	<u>Additional Documentation - Photographs</u>	<u>Page 2</u>	<u>Benjamin Schenck Mansion Switzerland County, Indiana</u>
6.	Exterior view inside the Porch looking east		
7.	Photo 13		
6.	Interior view of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Dining Room looking southwest		
7.	Photo 14		
6.	Interior view of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Kitchen looking northeast		
7.	Photo 15		
6.	Interior view of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Southeast Bedroom looking southeast		
7.	Photo 16		
6.	Interior view of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Southeast Bathroom looking west		
7.	Photo 17		
6.	Interior view of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Second Stair looking northwest		
7.	Photo 18		
6.	Interior view of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Rear Hallway looking west		
7.	Photo 19		
6.	Interior view of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Tower Room looking southeast		
7.	Photo 20		
6.	Interior view of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Northwest Attic looking southwest		
7.	Photo 21		

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Benjamin Schenck Mansion  
Switzerland County, Indiana

Section number 10

Page 1

---

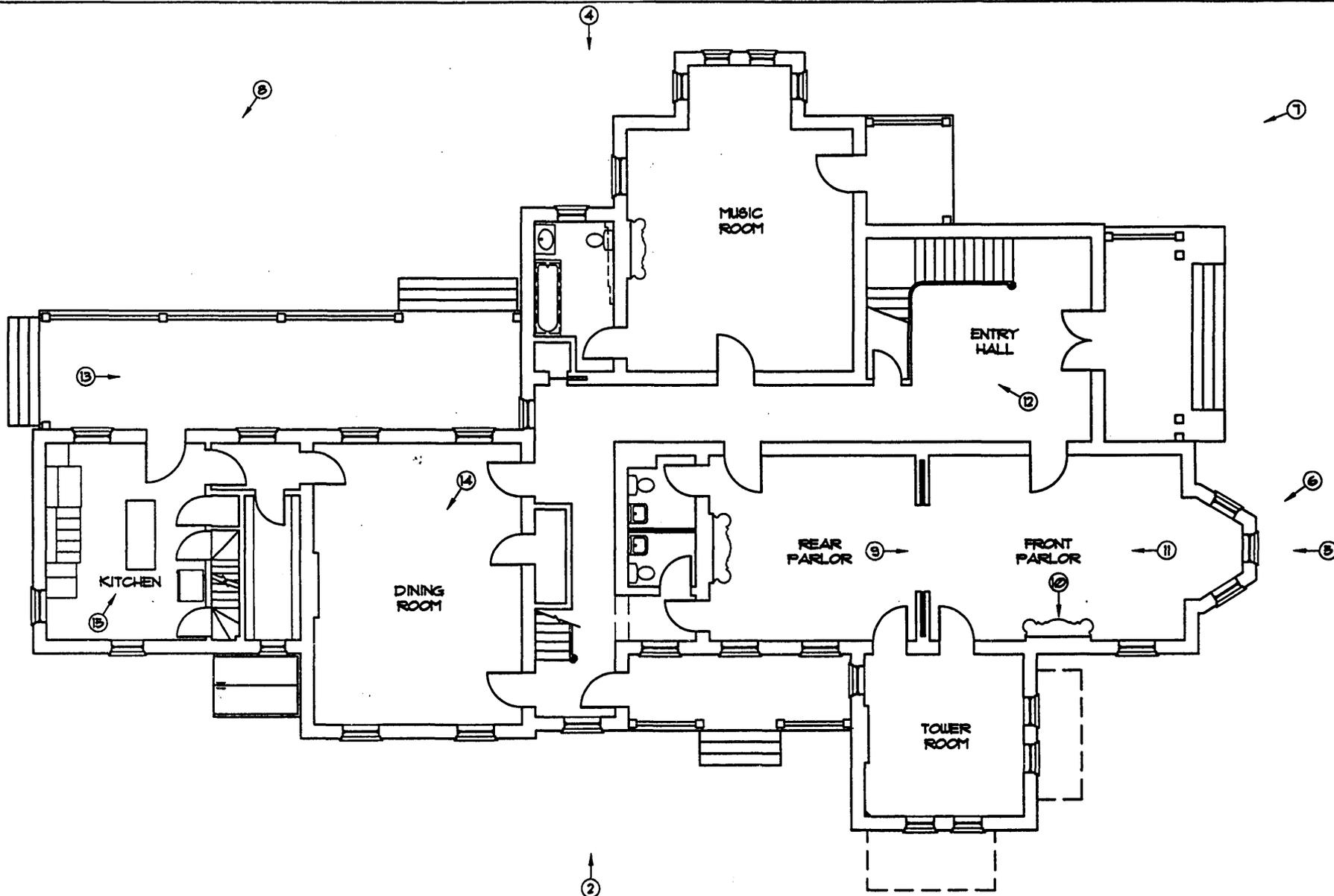
**Verbal Boundary Description:**

Because the orientation of the Schneck Mansion is not orthogonal with compass directions, we consider the southern elevation to be that on which the main entrance door is accessed from the porch. The following boundary is based on these established directions.

The north boundary is a line parallel to yet 30' north of the northernmost wall of the Schenck Mansion, the south boundary is a line parallel to yet 70' south of the southernmost wall of the Schenck Mansion, the east boundary is a line parallel to yet 25' east of the easternmost wall of the Schenck Mansion, and the west boundary is a line parallel to yet 50' west of the westernmost wall of the Schenck Mansion.

**Boundary Justification**

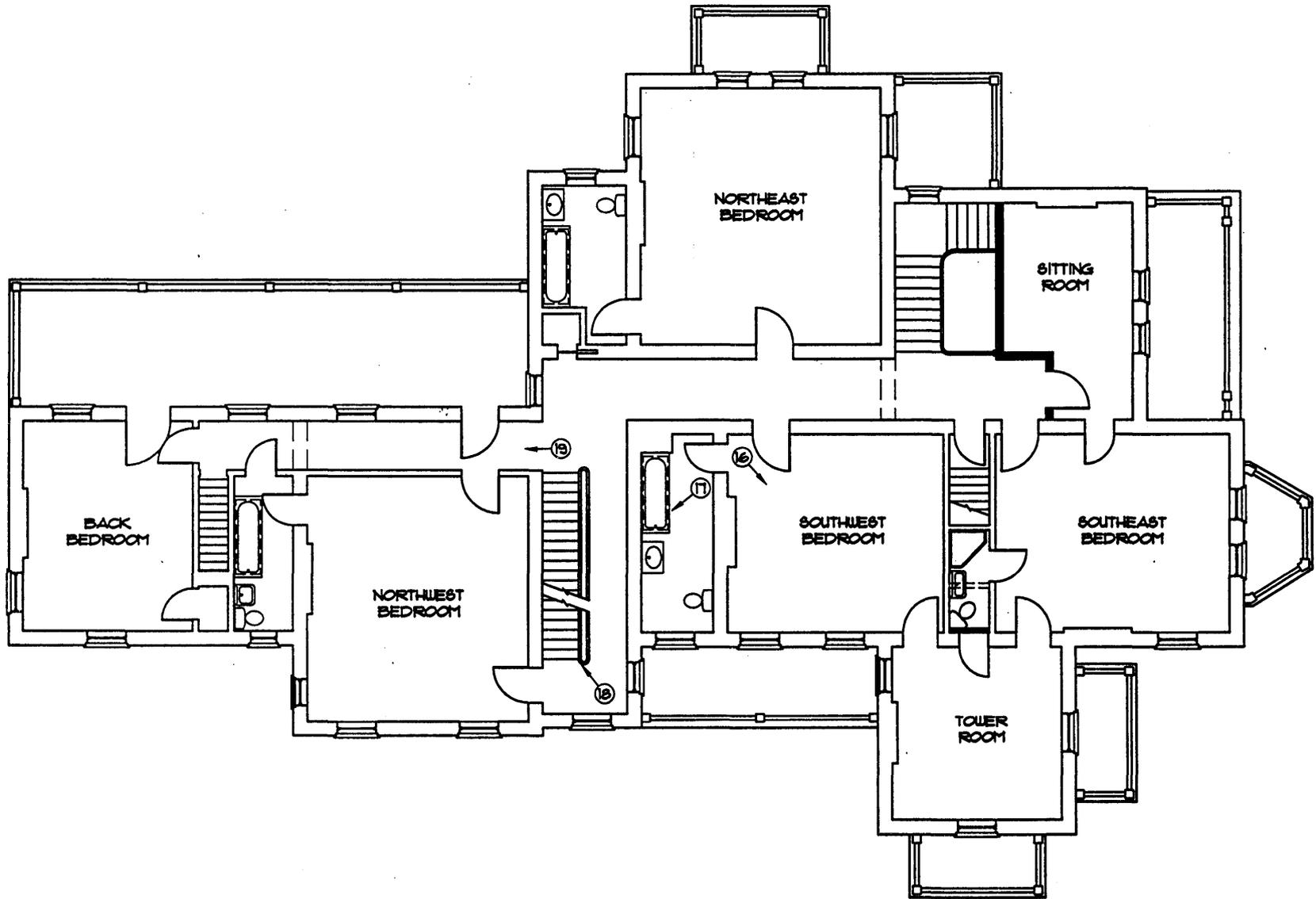
Because the orientation of the Schneck Mansion is not orthogonal with compass directions and also is not parallel with established property lines, we have established the boundaries are the greatest possible distance without touching property lines, except on the west where there is a significant rise along the side of the parking area and drive.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

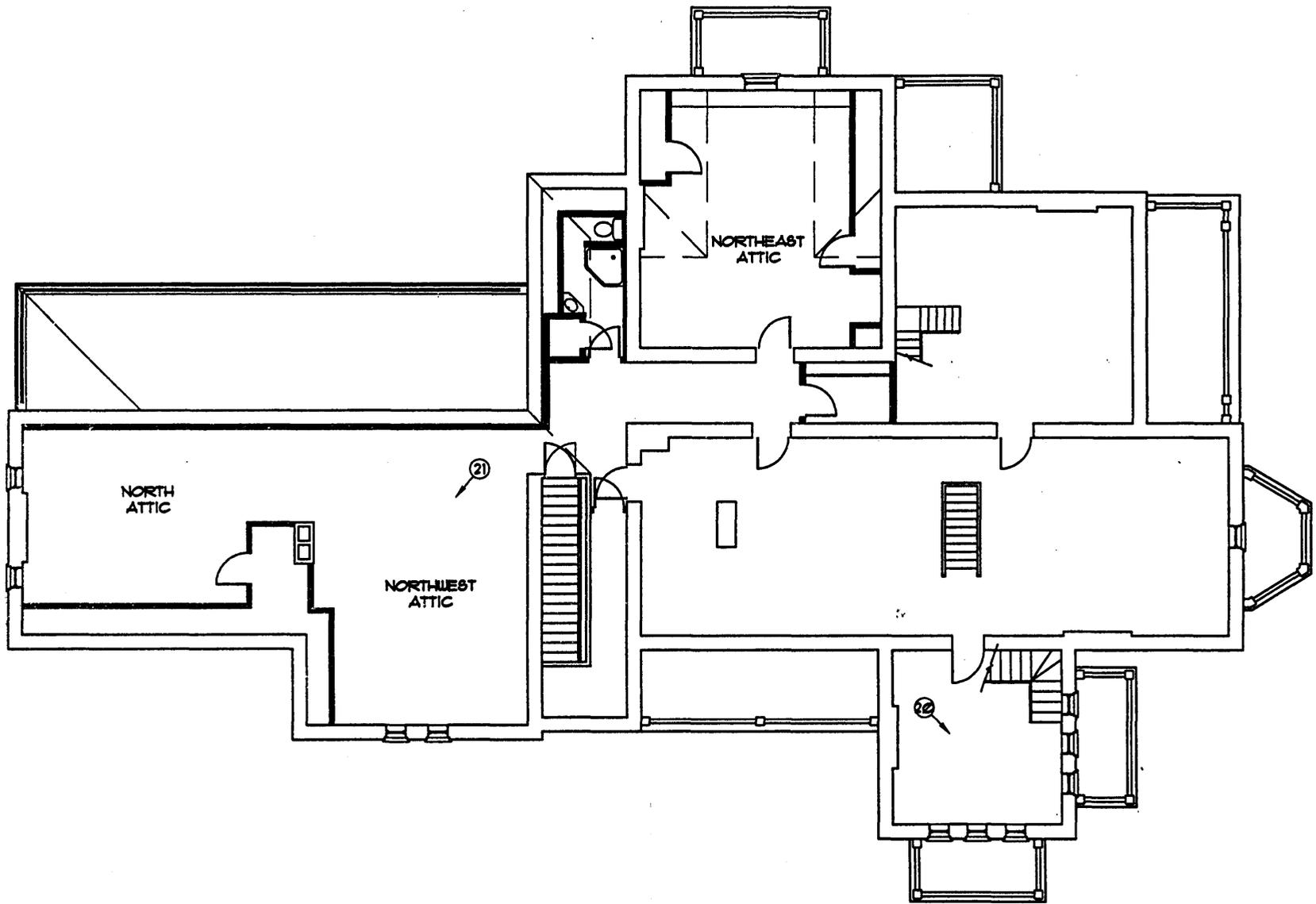


SCHENCK MANSION, VEYAY, INDIANA



SECOND FLOOR PLAN





THIRD FLOOR PLAN

