

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

APR 04 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Schmidt, Clara and Julius, House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 418 East Second St.
city, town Wabasha
state Minnesota code MN county Wabasha code 157 zip code 55981

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked)
Category of Property: building(s) (checked)
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 1 buildings, 1 sites, 1 structures, 1 objects, Total 1

Name of related multiple property listing: Red Brick Houses in Wabasha, MN Associated with Merchant-Tradesmen

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official Nina M. Archabal
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau Minnesota Historical Society

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
entered in the National Register. (checked)
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: Nelson Byrum
Date of Action: 5/15/89

Signature of the Keeper
Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Cementwalls Brick

roof Asphaltother Wooden Porch

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Schmidt House is a wood frame one-and-a-half-story jerkin-roofed dwelling veneered with dark red brick and resting on a cement-plastered native limestone foundation. It is sited on the edge of an open space commonly known as "Schmidt Park" because of its donation by Schmidt's widow to the city.

In plan the house is an "L" with a small, gabled one-story kitchen wing appended to the rear. A one-story sunroom was added to the park side of the house shortly after the turn of the century. For many years this was locally known as the "coffin room" because of its use for Catholic wakes. A full length veranda at the front of the house is original from the frieze up, and displays the building's only brackets; the square piers were replaced at an unknown date.

All of the original fenestration remains. The 1/1 double hung windows are segmental-arched and capped with tin hoods in the form of winged pediments resting on corbeled bosses. An ascending tryptich of small lights elaborated in this fashion marks the lateral staircase. This is the property's most striking feature. Other than the window detailing and the minor brackets noted, the design lacks strong stylistic definition.

The property also contains an early 20th century frame shed behind and detached from the main building; it is considered noncontributing.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1888

Significant Dates
1888

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Schmidt House is a late Italianate brick dwelling remarkable for its tinwork. The appropriate historical context for the Schmidt House is Agricultural Development and Railroad Construction. The construction date alone places it 17 years after the completion of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad line. It is also the last brick house in Wabasha to show significant Italianate detailing. The use of metalwork for ornament, in obvious imitation of carved stone, was at least in commercial applications a familiar late Victorian period device for bringing picturesque detail within the means of the expanding middle class. Schmidt's training in tinwork must have made him particularly receptive to its use on his own house; though the actual execution of the work is more likely attributable to his foreman, Herman Dieterle. Since 1862, Dieterle had distinguished himself regionally both as a master craftsman and as an important contributor to metal working techniques via the trade journals. The Schmidt House's tin ornament is thus expressive of both an unusual local condition and of the larger historic context of evolving building technologies in the Railroad Era.

As the home of a leading hardware dealer, the Schmidt House is also a landmark of the second generation of prosperous Wabasha merchants to build brick houses. Born in Milwaukee of German parents in 1857, Schmidt came to Wabasha as a young boy in 1864. After several years of apprenticeship in tinwork, he entered into a partnership in 1882 with H.H. Jewell, owner of the pioneer hardware business in the city. Schmidt rose rapidly in the business, taking over sole ownership in 1893 and eventually achieving the presidency of the Minnesota Hardware Retailers Association.

The Italianate brick design of the Schmidt House, its striking and personal use of materials, especially the tin window hoods, and the importance of the owner in Wabasha's mercantile class qualify the building for inclusion in the multiple property listing, Red Brick Houses in Wabasha, MN Associated with Merchant-Tradesmen.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Curtiss-Wedge, Franklin, et al. History of Wabasha County. Winona: H.C. Cooper, 1920.

History of Wabasha County... Chicago: H.H. Hill and Co., 1884.

United States census records, 1880.

Wabasha County assessor's records for the City of Wabasha, 1886-1900.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one

UTM References

A

1	5
---	---

5	7	7	4	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	9	1	4	3	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

D

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the northeasterly 152 feet of the westerly 80 feet of Lot 1, Campbell's Addition of the City of Wabasha.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul C. Larson
organization N/A date July 1987
street & number 1181 Raymond telephone 612-641-0915
city or town St. Paul state MN zip code 55108