United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic Schollmeyer Building

and/or common 1976-1982 Arsenal Street

2. Location

street & number 1976-1982 Arsenal Street

city, town St. Louis

state Missouri code 29 county City of St. Louis code 510

3. Classification

Category

Ownership

Status

Present Use

__ district

__ public

__ occupied

__ agriculture

X x building(s)

X private

__ unoccupied

X commercial

__ both

__ work in progress

educational

__ site

Public Acquisition

Accessible

entertainment

__ object

Public Acquisition in process

government

__ being considered

industrial

__ NA

__ restricted

military

Present Use

__ yes: restricted

museum

X private residence

__ yes: unrestricted

park

___ work in progress

___ museum

options:

__ occupied

___ restricted

__ unoccupied

___ work in progress

State:

___ public

__ commercial

___ educational

___ entertainment

___ government

___ industrial

___ military

4. Owner of Property

name Jeffrey L. Hicks

street & number 1605 South Ninth Street, P. O. Box 12299

city, town St. Louis

state Missouri 63157

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Louis City Hall

street & number Market Street and Tucker Boulevard

state Missouri 63103

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date 1984

federal X state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Program, Department of Natural Resources

Box 176

state Missouri 65102
7. Description

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Schollmeyer Building is a two-story brick structure with mansard, providing three storefronts on the first floor and two four-room apartments on each of the upper floors. A one-story wing to the east has one additional storefront. The building is located at the southeast corner of Arsenal Street and Illinois Avenue and faces Benton Park across the latter. The angled corner of the building, intended to confront the intersection, seems less effective since this end of Illinois Avenue has been closed and landscaped. In addition to its corner bay, the building has four bays on the park and six on Arsenal. It is given style and character primarily by its mansard and dormers, which display features of the Queen Anne style, notably the double additional dormer at the center of the Arsenal front and single dormer at the corner, both of which are pedimented and framed by ornamental scrolls on flaring sides. Two smaller dormers on Arsenal and one on Illinois are hipped and shingle-clad. The fishscale slate shingles (now painted aqua) also cover the sides of the smaller dormers and the pediments of the larger ones. A large double chimney rises above the first bay on the Illinois side. It has flared scrolled sides like the larger dormers and frames a round-headed window between the two fluted chimney tops. Another fluted chimney rises directly from the apex of the larger Arsenal Street dormer, while more utilitarian chimneys punctuate the parapets at the east and south ends of the building. Another Queen Anne feature is the glazing pattern of the fenestration. All the street windows except the round-headed one have upper sashes of nine panes, the center one being the largest, edged by narrow rectangles, with small squares in the corners. This pattern was continued in the transom windows of the storefronts, with colored glass for the smaller panes. The Arsenal Street dormer windows still display the pattern clearly. On the second floor it is obscured by recent 9-over-6 storm windows, and some sash is missing. The storefronts and the entry to the second floor (at the west edge of the center storefront) have been covered by vertical board siding, but their transoms survive behind. Most east and south windows are a simpler two-over-two. The storefronts are separated by wide brick pilasters on ashlar bases and topped by a metal frieze. A dentilled brick cornice underlines the mansard. The single-story storefront at the east end of the building, although built at approximately the same time, has somewhat different detailing, notably a modillioned cornice formed by wide brackets. To the south is a three-story gallery facing the vacant Lot 2 (in the same ownership as the building). The gallery has five unequal and very simply detailed bays; currently there is no balustrade. A staircase rising through the gallery has a railing supported by closely spaced square balusters. The upper floors have two four-room apartments each.

The building shows the effects of prolonged vacancy and vandalism. The current owners would like to restore it to its original uses and stylish appearance, cleaning the slates and revealing the window patterns.
The Schollmeyer Building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. It is associated with the late nineteenth-century development of the neighborhood around Benton Park, in which it played a key visual role because of its location at the northeast corner of the park. In architecture it marks the transition from the Italianate and mansarded styles characteristic of neighborhood commercial buildings in the period after the Civil War to the Queen Anne style less frequently represented here in this building type. The survival of this building is important to the preservation of the historical ambience of the whole Benton Park area.

Benton Park itself was laid out in 1866 on the site of a former cemetery. It was first called simply "City Park" and was later named for Thomas Hart Benton, Missouri's distinguished Senator who had died in 1858. The surrounding neighborhood, part of the St. Louis Commons, was first platted in the 1850's but developed slowly because of many sinkholes and caverns, which are seen as ponds in Compton & Dry's Pictorial St. Louis of 1875. Just east of the park was a cave named for Ezra English, a brewer who used it to store his beer. He sold it to the St. Louis Cultivated Mushroom Company, who used it to raise mushrooms. In the fall of 1888 the company, led by E. Henry Vortriede, opened a street (first called Wisconsin, later Illinois) along the east edge of the park and sold the lots facing it as the Benton Park Addition. By the following summer fashionable houses were going up all along the street, and at the corner of Arsenal Christian Schollmeyer was building this structure. He was a commission merchant in partnership with Philip and Gustav Hassendeubel. Born in 1847, he lived with his wife and two children at 3143 South Jefferson Avenue on the west side of the Park. He later acquired a second investment property nearby, at the northeast corner of Arsenal and Wisconsin. The Schollmeyer Building remained in family ownership for at least a decade following Christian's death in 1925. It attracted neighborhood services to its commercial spaces and skilled laborers to its apartments. In one typical year, the storefronts were occupied by a shoe repair, a beauty shop, and an upholsterer, with a grocery at the corner, while one resident was chief engineer for a photographic supply manufacturer.

The Queen Anne style in this country is most often associated with large and picturesque frame houses. As it originated in England in the 1860's and 1870's, however, it was predominantly a style of brick, drawing its inspiration from the northern Renaissance, the later seventeenth century in England, Japan, indeed from almost any source except the Gothic. The Queen Anne movement was one of the first to consciously imitate vernacular sources, the buildings of ordinary people, instead of the high style, and its vernacular reflection in the Schollmeyer Building seems particularly appropriate. The dormers, with their shaped surrounds, the double chimney with its unconventional central window, the patterning of the windows (which will come out vividly in the restoration), the classicizing divisions between the storefronts, all are characteristic of the Queen Anne style. Traditions die slowly in vernacular architecture, however, and features of the older Italianate and mansarded
styles are still apparent in the Schollmeyer Building, most notably the mansard itself, but also the cornices of the main block and the one-story wing.

Benton Park reached its zenith in the years immediately after the Schollmeyer Building was constructed. Like Lafayette Park to the north, Benton Park never fully recovered from the effects of the cyclone of 1896, and a further decline set in after World War I. Within the past few years, however, the attractive qualities of the area have once again been recognized, and some renovation has taken place. Restoration of the Schollmeyer Building in its highly visible location would be a boost to the whole neighborhood.

Notes


3. St. Louis Building Department, permit 15028, July 16, 1889.

4. Information about Christian Schollmeyer comes from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, February 20, 1925; St. Louis Probate Court, file 61325; and city directories.

5. Gould's St. Louis City Directory (St. Louis: Polk-Gould Directory Co., 1930

Major Bibliographical References


10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: .22 acre

Quadrangle name: "Cahokia, Ill.-Mo."

Quadrangle scale: 1: 24,000

UTM References

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>742090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Verbal boundary description and justification: Lots 1 and 2, Block 2054, City of St. Louis (Benton Park Addition).

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state</th>
<th>code</th>
<th>county</th>
<th>code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>City of St. Louis</td>
<td>510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: 1. Esley Hamilton

organization: __________________________
date: May 1984

street & number: 169 Ursula Avenue
telephone: (314) 727-0428

city or town: University City

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:

John Karel, Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Parks & Historic Preservation
date: 7/24/84

For NPS use only

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


2. Jim Denny, Chief, Survey and Registration
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City

May 1984
(314) 751-4096
Missouri 65102
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF MISSOURI
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND WATER RESOURCES

SCHOLLMEYER BUILDING
1976-1982 Arsenal Street
St. Louis, Missouri

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Scale: 1: 24,000
"Cahokia, Ill.-Mo." Quadrangle
1954 (rev. 1974)

UTM REFERENCES
A. 15/742090/4275600

SCALE: 1: 24,000

ST LOUIS

U.S. Geological Survey

Cahokia, I11.-Mo. Quadrangle
1954 (rev. 1974)

UTM REFERENCES
A. 15/742090/4275600

SCALE: 1: 24,000

ST LOUIS
SCHOLLMEYER BUILDING
1976-1982 Arsenal Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63118

Photog.: Esley Hamilton, May 1984
Neg. Loc.: 1169 Ursula Avenue
University City, MO 63130

View of north front (Arsenal Street)
from northeast
SCHOLLMEYER BUILDING 2 of 4
1976-1982 Arsenal Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63118

Photog.: Esley Hamilton, May 1984
Neg. Loc.: 1169 Ursula Avenue
University City, MO 63130

View of north and west fronts from northwest
SCHOLLMEYER BUILDING  3 of 4
1976-1982 Arsenal Street
St. Louis, Missouri  63118

Photog.: Esley Hamilton, May 1984
Neg. Loc.: 1169 Ursula Avenue
University City, MO 63130

View of west front (Illinois Avenue)
from west
SCHOLLMEYER BUILDING  4 of 4
1976-1982 Arsenal Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63118

Photog.: Esley Hamilton, May 1984
Neg. Loc.: 1169 Ursula Avenue
University City, MO 63130

View of south galleries from southeast