

Malott Building  
118 South Meridian Street  
Indianapolis  
Marion County  
Indiana

HABS No. IN-226

HABS  
IND  
49-IND,  
51-

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

**WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Mid-Atlantic Region  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

MALOTT BUILDING  
(Commercial Building)

HABS No. IN-226

HABS  
IND  
49-IND,  
51-

Location: 118 South Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana.

USGS Indianapolis West, Indiana Quadrangle  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:  
16.572/100.4401/810

Significance: Built in 1896, the Malott Building was constructed to house wholesale businesses in Indianapolis' Wholesale District. Established during the Civil War, the Wholesale District served the city and central Indiana until after the Second World War as a source of wholesale products ranging from groceries to tires and millinery. The Malott Building is a contributing structure in the Indianapolis Union Station-Wholesale District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places on July 14, 1982.

Description: The Malott Building is a four-story brick structure with a basement, approximately 20 feet wide and 187.5 feet long. It occupies the middle third of a lot stretching from the sidewalk or the alley. The principal facade is on the east side facing Meridian Street, faced with brick and limestone accents. The first floor has a storefront window system framed with stone piers and an exposed steel lintel. The upper floors are divided into three bays with double-hung, wood-sash windows. Above the third and fourth floor windows are corbel tables. Ornamental brick-work above the fourth floor fenestration includes a blind arcade, a limestone band and a corbeled parapet framed by two ornamental finials and stone coping. The original materials and features of the main facade are intact except for the entrance that was originally recessed.

The west (rear) elevation also has three bays with wood-sash, double-hung windows. The first floor has a service entrance with a double door. The south elevation originally served as a common wall separating the Malott Building into two, parallel, identical commercial spaces. The south wall is solid with no openings. Abutting the structure to the north is the 1896 Schnull & Co. wholesale building.

The interior is unaltered with clear, undivided spaces on all floors except the wooden partition dividing the first floor into east and west halves. Exposed brick walls and open ceilings are found on the fourth floor and basement.

All other walls and ceilings are plastered. Vertical circulation is provided by an enclosed wooden stairwell and freight elevator located at midpoint in the south wall.

History:

The Malott Building was constructed in 1896 as an investment property for Volney T. Malott (1838-1921). It occupies the site of an earlier wholesale building destroyed by fire in 1895. The names of the architect and builder are unknown. Malott was one of the co-founders, original directors and early presidents (1878-82) of Merchants National Bank. He served as president and chairman of the board of directors of Indiana National Bank from 1912 to 1921. Malott served as general manager of the Indianapolis Union Railway Company during the construction of the Union Station in 1888.

The Malott Building's first occupant was a paper wholesaler, the C.P. Lesh Paper Company. By 1909 the Brunswick-Balke-Collender Co. was a tenant and remained until 1918, selling and manufacturing billiard tables and supplies, bowling alleys and bar fixtures. The Central Rubber Supply Co., wholesalers and retailers of automobile tires, rubber goods, clothing, belting, hoses and other specialties, occupied 118 S. Meridian from the early 1920s until the mid-1940s. The last tenant was the P.W. Jackson Company, from the late 1940s until 1988. The company was a wholesaler of beauty and barber shop equipment and supplies. In the mid-1960s the southern half of the Malott Building was demolished, creating a narrow surface parking lot.

Sources:

Bass Photograph #89081-F, dated December 18, 1924, Bass Photo Collection, Indiana Historical Society Library, Indianapolis.

Centre Venture. "Building Descriptions of Circle Centre Mall," Indianapolis, Indiana, February 8, 1988, rev. July 15, 1988 (typewritten, unpublished.)

Deed Books. Marion County Recorder's Office, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1890-1989.

Dunn, Jacob Piat. Greater Indianapolis. 2 Vols. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1910.

Indianapolis News, June 14, 1921.

Polk, R.L. & Company. Indianapolis City Directory. Indianapolis: R.L. Polk & Co., 1896-1987.

Malott Building (Commercial Building)  
HABS No. IN-226 (Page 3)

Sanborn Map Company. Insurance Maps of Indianapolis,  
Indiana. Vol.1, New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1914  
and corrected to 1954.

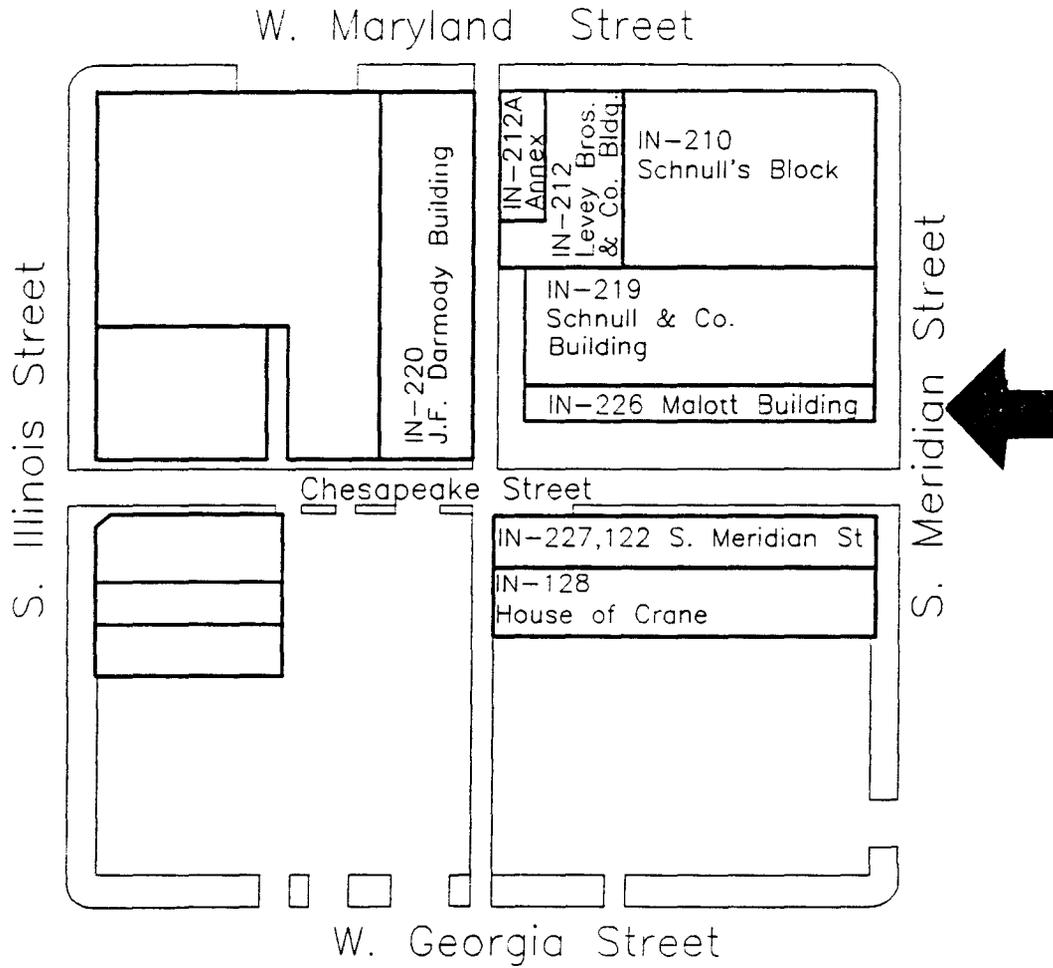
Sanborn-Perris Map Company. Insurance Maps of  
Indianapolis, Indiana. Vol.1, New York:  
Sanborn-Perris Map Company, 1898 and corrected to  
1913.

Historian:

William L. Selm  
Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission  
January 30, 1990

SITE PLAN

Malott Building (Commercial Building)  
HABS No. IN-226 (Page 4)



INDIANAPOLIS, IN.  
CITY SQUARE 75

