

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Green Block

and/or common Smith Frye Building

2. Location

street & number 109-115 E. Lexington _____ not for publication

city, town Elkhart _____ vicinity of congressional district 3rd

state Indiana code 018 county Elkhart code 039

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
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Osborne, Sieracki & Osborne

street & number 113 Lexington

city, town Elkhart _____ vicinity of state Indiana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Elkhart County Courthouse

street & number Main Street at Lincoln

city, town Goshe n state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date May, 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Green Block faces East Lexington, just off Main Street, in Elkhart's downtown. There is only one block between Main Street and the Elkhart River on the east, and in recent times this area has been given over largely to parking. The Green Block and its neighbor, the DeShone Building (1920), are of few surviving buildings remaining in this area that relate, in period and scale, to Main Street's fabric. (See Photo No. 3).

The Green Block is typical of many commercial buildings built in mid-America near the turn of the century, with its two-story masonry construction, commercial storefronts on the ground floor, and pressed metal ornamentation on the second. This building relates closely to another one on the other side of Main Street, also facing Lexington.

The footings and foundation are of stone, the interior and exterior bearing walls of brick. Facade brick is red, very hard and smooth, with thin "battered" joints. The facade at the ground level is six bays across, with four commercial storefronts and two entrances to upstairs apartments. Storefronts are framed in wood with large panes of glass. Although most have been changed from the original, they appear to be much the same as they were in the 1920's.

The second story features a projecting, pressed metal bay above each storefront, two in the center and one at each corner. The corner bays have conical roofs topped by finials. Ornamentation is roughly Italianate in style, and common for the period.

Above each stairway entrance is an arched opening, set off by a slightly projecting course of stretchers. Doors in the arched openings once led to balconies with pressed metal railings, but the railings have long since vanished. (see Photo No. 2). Two doublehung windows, one at each end next to the corner bays, feature metal lintels and sills. A bracketed metal cornice completes the ensemble, although at one time a sign that said "Green Block" and resembled a balustrade, was centered above the cornice. The built-up roof is pierced by numerous skylights that provide natural light for the second floor apartments.

Interior floors are of pine, and pine wainscoting can be found in the stairways, kitchen and bathrooms. Other woodwork is finished in a stained varnish. Non-bearing interior walls are of wood frame construction and finished with smooth plaster.

Basement floors are brick laid over dirt with no mortar.

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 1895

Builder/Architect A.H. Ellwood

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Green Block is significant as possibly the best-preserved example of late 19th Century pressed metal architecture remaining in Elkhart.

The building was designed in 1895 for Cullen W. Green by A. H. Ellwood. Ellwood's career appears to have taken him to several places in the Midwest, and he and his sons are known to have designed other buildings in Elkhart, Garrett, and Indianapolis, Indiana.

Mr. Green arrived in Elkhart in 1861, and was employed by the Lake Shore and Michigan Railroad Company for about 22 years. He was employed by the Mutual Benefit Association in 1888 when he bought the property at 109-115 East Lexington.

In 1900 Mr. Green passed away, and his wife managed the building until 1916, when it was purchased by Cyrus Frye. The Frye family owned the building until 1978, when it was purchased by its present owners.

Over the years the building has housed numerous business concerns, including an automobile dealership and repair shop, a photo engraving shop, paint store, farm implement company, and motorcycle/bicycle shop. The apartments were used as such until 1949. The present owners are in the process of rehabilitating the building and returning the apartments to use.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Twentieth Century History & Biographical Record of Elkhart County, Indiana. Lewis 1905.
 Portrait and Biographical Memoirs of Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties, Goodspeed 1893
 Standard History of Elkhart County, Indiana, Weaver 1916.
 City Directory, Elkhart, 1903.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.173 acres

Quadrangle name Elkhart, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

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4	6	1	5	2	4	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification Undivided 1/3 interest in part of lots Nos. 54 and 55 Beardsley's first addition to Elkhart, Indiana, here particularly described as follows: A part of lots 54 and 55 as the same are designated in the recorded plat of the first addition of the continuation of the Village of Elkhart in conformity to the original plat,

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David Osborne Terry Hershberger
 organization Owner LeRoy Troyer and Associates date May 11, 1979
415 Lincolnway East
 street & number telephone 219/259-9976
Mishawaka Indiana 46544
 city or town state

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Joseph W. Oland*
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date May 5, 1980

For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	date
Keeper of the National Register	date
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Continuation sheet Major Bibliographical
References

Item number 9

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An Illustrated Historical Atlas of Elkhart County, Indiana. Higgins, Belden & Co., 1874

History of Elkhart County, Indiana. Chapman, 1881

Standard History of Elkhart County, Indiana. Weaver, Abraham, 2 v., 1916

Manual of Elkhart; Butler, George W., Containing portraits of prominent business-
men with sketches of their lives. (1859)

Personal interview with Smith Frye, 6 Longwood Court, Elkhart, Indiana

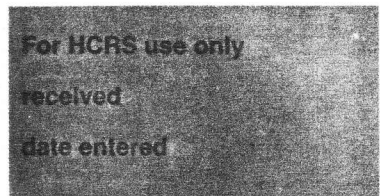
**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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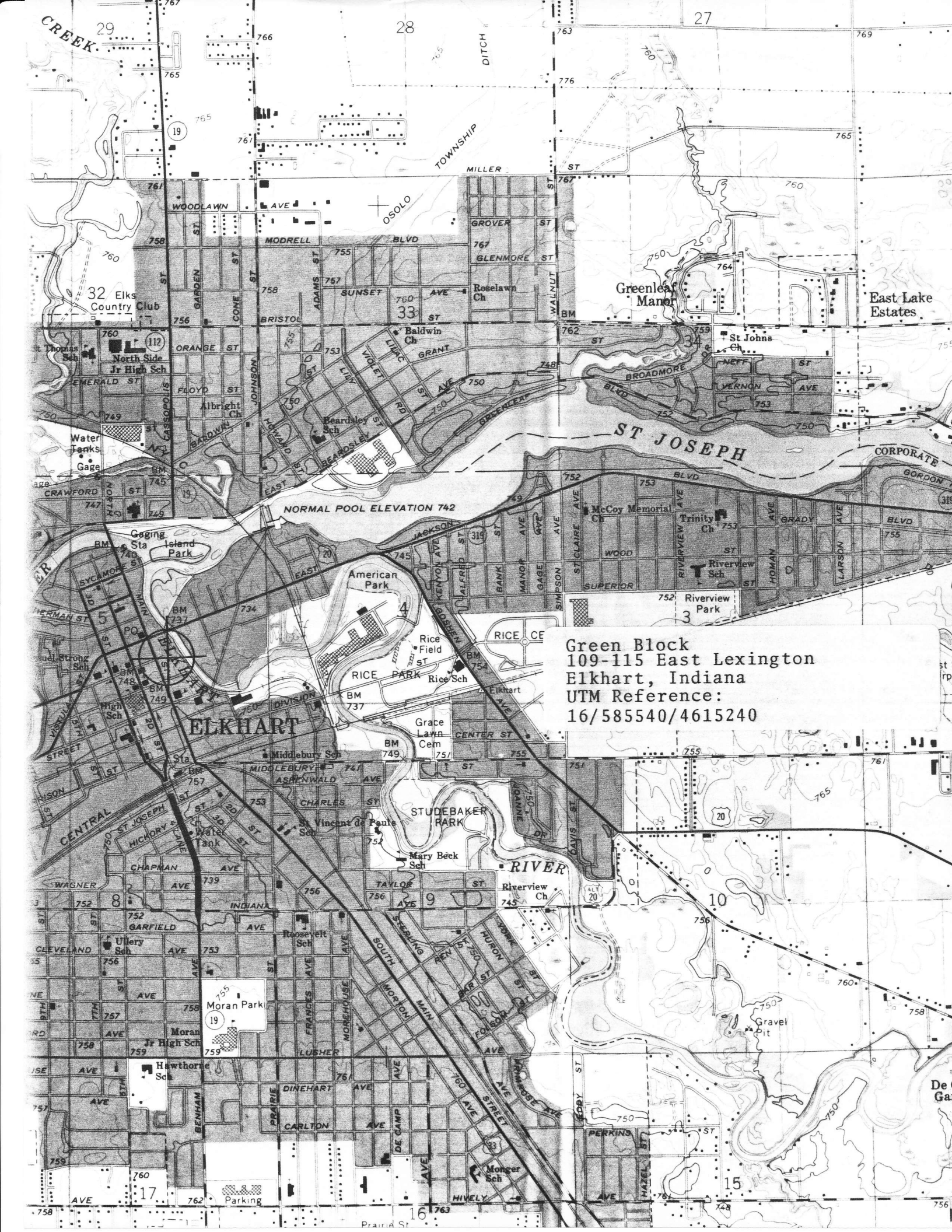
Geographical (Verbal boundary description
Data and justification)
Continuation sheet

Item number 10

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commonly known as Beardsley's First Addition to the Town, now City, of Elkhart, described as follows: Commencing at the northeast corner of said Lot 54; running thence westerly along the north line of said lot 80 ft.; thence southerly, parallel with the eastern line of said lots 94½ ft.; thence easterly, parallel with the north line of said Lot 55, 80 ft. to the eastern line of said Lot 55; then northerly on the eastern line of said Lots 55 and 54, 94½ ft. to the place of beginning, subject to easement.



Green Block
109-115 East Lexington
Elkhart, Indiana
UTM Reference:
16/585540/4615240

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TOWNSHIP

765

32 Elks
Country Club

Greenleaf
Manor

East Lake
Estates

112
North Side
Jr High Sch

St Johns
Ch

Water
Tanks
Gage

ST JOSEPH

CORPORATE

NORMAL POOL ELEVATION 742

Gaging
Sta
Island Park

American
Park

McCoy Memorial
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Trinity
Ch

Riverview
Park

Green Block
109-115 East Lexington
Elkhart, Indiana
UTM Reference:
16/585540/4615240

RICE
PARK

Grace
Lawn
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ELKHART

STUDEBAKER
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RIVER

CENTRAL

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