

FINAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED	

**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 Skora Building

AND/OR COMMON Budlock Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 101-103 N.W. Second Street/206-210-214 Sycamore Street

CITY, TOWN Evansville VICINITY OF Eighth

STATE Indiana CODE 18 COUNTY Vanderburgh CODE T63

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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Orrion Kattman, Sr. and Orrion Kattman, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER 225 S.E. Seventh Street

CITY, TOWN Evansville VICINITY OF Indiana STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Vanderburgh County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER City-County Administration Building

CITY, TOWN Evansville STATE Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

DATE 1978 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Indiana Department of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN Indianapolis STATE Indiana

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated on the northernmost corner of N.W. Second and Sycamore Streets (101-103 N.W. Second Street and 206-210-214 Sycamore Street), the Skora Building is located one block northwest of Evansville's principal banking and commercial district. Traditionally, the Skora Building has adjoined neighboring structures. At present, the edifice abuts an automobile agency located on Second Street.

A two-storied brick rectangular block with multiple storefront entrances, the Skora Building falls just short of the height of a three-storied edifice. The facades facing both Second and Sycamore Streets were made of limestone, while the common wall and the alleyside of the building were constructed of stretcher bond red brick.

The N.W. Second Street facade is three bays wide. Shallow pilasters with battered bases divide the bays. One of the more outstanding features of the building is the grouping of narrow double-hung sashes, four to a series with 1/1 lights, each separated by pilaster strips. Volutes, which substitute for keystones, accent each window grouping. The lights on both stories are separated by spandrels sheathed with what is believed to be glazed brick; the brick has since been covered with multi-layers of paint. The Sycamore Street facade, eleven bays in length, is identical in design to the one facing N.W. Second Street.

The building is capped with a fine-veined limestone attic which consists of a paneled rail and short piers spaced at intervals along the attic. The piers formed a platform for globular lights; similar fixtures also were attached to the pilasters dividing the first-story bays. Modillions made of galvanized iron embellish the metal cornice. Randomly-placed discs on the frieze once separated the lettering and dates of the advertising for the Evansville Gas and Electric Light Company, the building's first occupant. Each of the letters and numbers was illuminated by several small light bulbs.

A few largely sympathetic alterations to the Skora Building have occurred in its sixty-eight year history. When erected in 1911, the building was seven bays in length; two years later, an addition extended it four more bays. The addition identically matched the stylized classical design of the original block. Over the years, the globular lights disappeared, as did the standards to which they were attached. The lettering on the frieze was also removed, probably in about 1939, when the utilities company transferred to new quarters. The storefront has been only minimally altered, most likely after 1945 when the building underwent interior renovation for the new occupants. The N.W. Second Street entranceway was originally centrally positioned, but now has been blocked in; two entranceways now flank the central bay on this elevation. On the Sycamore Street storefront, two minor entranceways have been added and the position of a third one slightly altered. In addition the windows on four bays have been blocked in on the Second story. The first floor now employs a large quantity of glass block; it is used to fill in bays and to serve as spandrels. The limestone facade has also been painted several times, most recently pale green.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1911-1913 BUILDER/ARCHITECT James G. Wills

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The second decade of the twentieth century ushered in an era of dynamic economic growth in Evansville under its progressive mayor, Benjamin Bosse (1914-1922). Consequently, many commercial buildings were erected during this period, which served as a tremendous boost to Evansville's civic pride.

Construction on the Skora Building at N.W. Second and Sycamore Streets commenced in 1911 and was completed in 1913. The site at N.W. Second and Sycamore Streets was occupied by the Parsons-Scoville Company, a wholesale grocery enterprise, prior to the construction of the Skora Building. In 1909, ownership of the property was transferred to Philip Skora, a prominent realtor after whom the present building is named. A major fire in 1911 destroyed the old edifice which was now occupied by the Evansville Gas and Electric Light Company; by the end of that year, the building which presently stands at the site had been erected. A number of small utility companies existed at the turn of the century, but through subsequent mergers over the years, the Evansville Gas and Electric Light Company (now the Southern Indiana Gas and Electric Company) emerged as southern Indiana's leading utility company. A local newspaper proudly hailed Evansville as the "city of lights;" indeed, after the installation of eighty-four luxalabra street lamps in an eight-block area in Main Street in 1911, Evansville was regarded as one of the best-illuminated cities in the nation.

In 1913, an addition to the Skora Building enlarged it four bays. The Sieffert Electric Company leased the addition from the Evansville Gas and Electric Light Company from 1913 to 1918. Established in 1910 by brothers Frank and Leo Sieffert, the Company was already well-known for its installation of electrical wiring in several of Evansville's factories and businesses. Local newspapers publicized the company's grand opening; one reporter described the addition as a handsome structure and noted its "striking displays of electric chandeliers," which he felt made the building one of the "showplaces of the Midwest."

The Skora Building retains most of its original appearance; the only exceptions are the minimal alterations to the storefronts. Devoid of excessive ornamentation, the building appears to be a functional, solidly-constructed structure; at the same time, its neo-classical features lend it a certain aesthetic charm. Architect James G. Wills, who resided in Evansville from approximately 1900 to 1912, seems to have been primarily concerned with constructing the building as fireproof as possible. Contractor for the building was Chris Kanzler & Son.

Located in the once densely-commercial riverfront area, the Skora Building is one of just a few older structures left standing after an urban renewal project was initiated in 1961. The principal goal of the project was to rid Evansville

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

UTM REFERENCES

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

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1	6
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4	2	0	2	6	7	0
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Patricia K. Sides, Historic Preservation Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Department of Metropolitan Development

DATE

October 2, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Room 308, City-County Administration Building

TELEPHONE

812/426-5487

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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of urban blight and hence to revitalize the district with new buildings. Another survivor of urban renewal which merits mention here is the Old Post Office, Court-house, and Customs House building located across from the Skora Building on N.W. Second Street. Designed by William A. Potter, this Ruskinian Gothic edifice (1874-1879) was listed in the National Register in 1971.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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LOCAL HISTORIES AND ATLASES

The Book of Evansville -- Illustrated. Evansville: Business Men's Association,
c. 1986.

Corporate History. Southern Indiana Gas and Electric Company, 20 March 1959.

Griffing's Atlas of Vanderburgh County, Indiana. Philadelphia, D.J. Lake & Co.,
1880; reprint ed., Evansville: Unigraphic, Inc. and Friends of Willard
Library, 1975.

PERIODICALS

"Electric Company in New Quarters." Evansville Journal-News, 28 September 1913.

"Fine Office For Gas Company." Evansville Courier, 24 March 1911

"Fire Takes Gas Company Office and the Golden Cigar Company."
Evansville Journal-News, 22 February 1911.

"Hundreds Visit Sieffert Store." Evansville Courier, 1 October 1913.

"Main Street is Real White Way." Evansville Courier, 31 December 1911

"Public Service Company Is Lighting Up City." Evansville Courier 31 December 1911.

"Sieffert Company Opens October 1." Evansville Courier, 28 September 1913.

"Some of the New Buildings Erected During 1911." Evansville Courier,
31 December 1911.

"Sycamore and Second Building Lease Negotiated." Evansville Courier,
4 December, 1945.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Art Work of Evansville, Ind. 9 parts. Chicago: Gravure Illustration
Co., 1901; reprint ed., Evansville: Unigraphic, Inc., and Friends
of Willard Library, 1977.

Central Library File and Newspaper Clipping File

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PRIMARY SOURCE MATERIALS

City of Evansville Building Permits, 1912.

Evansville City Directories, 1858+.

Vanderburgh County Deed Indexes and Records.

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Commencing at the corner of Second and Sycamore Streets and running thence along Second Street toward Vine Street $37\frac{1}{2}$ feet thence at right angles toward Third Street 150 feet thence at right angles to Sycamore Street $37\frac{1}{2}$ feet and thence 150 feet to the place of beginning.