

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FINAL

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**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
Ridgway Building

AND/OR COMMON
Ridgway Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
313-315 Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Evansville

STATE
Indiana

VICINITY OF

COUNTY
Vanderburgh

CODE
163

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Charles L. & Leslie Berger
Sydney L. & Sadelle Berger

M. Dwight Cooper
Phillip B. Simpson

STREET & NUMBER
313 Main Street
315 Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Evansville

STATE
Indiana

VICINITY OF

47708

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Vanderburgh County Recorder

STREET & NUMBER
City-County Building

CITY, TOWN
Evansville

STATE
Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

DATE
1978

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Indiana State Historic Preservation Office, Dept. of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN
Indianapolis

STATE
Indiana

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

The Ridgway Building is located at 313-315 Main Street in the heart of downtown Evansville. Formerly a busy thoroughfare, Main Street today is closed to traffic and features planters, trees and fountains. A plexiglas canopy is suspended above the first stories of most buildings the entire length of the walkway.

Although the Ridgway Building's first floor has undergone the same kind of unsympathetic "modernization" as have most others on the street, its round-arched facade above the canopy appears much as it did at the turn of the century. This facade, with its buff brick arches and pale orange terra cotta ornamentation, was probably part of a remodeling project begun, according to building permits, in 1895. A photograph of 315 Main at approximately this time shows a cast iron storefront, part of which is still visible on the alley side. Three and a half stories high, the facade is consistent in scale with the rest of the block. The red brick body of the building has stone sills and lintels, although a later rear addition to the building on the left (315 Main) has segmentally arched windows.

The facade is four bays wide, each arched bay $2\frac{1}{2}$ stories high and separated by buff brick piers. Each pier rests on a terra cotta base and ends with a squarish foliated capital, from which springs the buff brick arch. An unusual feature of these piers and arches is their subtle polychromy with rounded brick edges, giving the entire facade a very smooth, plastic appearance.

Windows are a full bay wide, with doublehung wooden sash. Spandrels are of terra cotta, with small tiles bearing a simple diaper work pattern. This pattern is continued in the spandrels above the terra cotta archivolt. Three brick pilasters -- in the center and at each corner -- stand the height of the parapet and rest on foliated terra cotta bases that grow from the intersection of the arches. A terra cotta frieze is surmounted by a molded terra cotta cornice and a short brick parapet with terra cotta coping.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1895

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ridgway Building is significant as a superior example of late nineteenth century commercial architecture, and one of few on Main Street retaining its early appearance. Its name comes from the Ridgway Optical Company, which has occupied the building since 1922.

The building, actually two buildings with a common wall and facade, was probably built around 1860. Its owners at that time were Frederick W. Brinkmeyer, who operated a foundry and stove works with a salesroom at this location, and Charles Keller, whose gun and sporting goods business operated at this address continuously until circa 1893.

In 1895 building permits were issued for both properties to "add to and remodel store." It is believed that the facade and an addition to the rear of 315 Main were built at this time. The Book of Evansville -- Illustrated, published circa 1896, includes a photograph of 315 Main showing its present facade.

Evansville's Main Street, once lined with rows of elaborate store facades, has been the victim of much remodeling and rebuilding. As on Main Streets everywhere, windows have been altered or bricked in, and architectural details removed or covered by modern materials. The Ridgway Building, however, has survived into the present day with its upper facade nearly intact, and as such stands as a rare reminder of yesterday's Main Street.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Evansville South, Ind

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 4497910 4202540
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nancy J. Long, Historic Preservation Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Department of Metropolitan Development

STREET & NUMBER

Room 308, City-County Administration Bldg.

CITY OR TOWN

Evansville

DATE

June 20, 1979

TELEPHONE

812/426-5487

STATE

Indiana

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

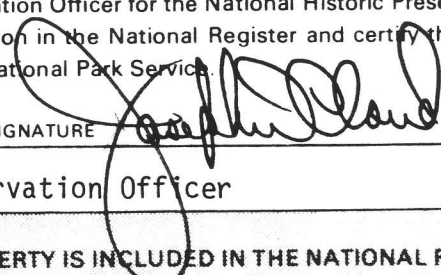
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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 State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 11-15-79

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

HR-8-300A
11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

The Book of Evansville--Illustrated. Evansville:
Business Men's Association, Manufacturer's
Association, Furniture Association, c. 1896.

City of Evansville Building Permits, 1895.

Evansville City Directories, 1858+.

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

Vanderburgh County Deed Indexes and Records.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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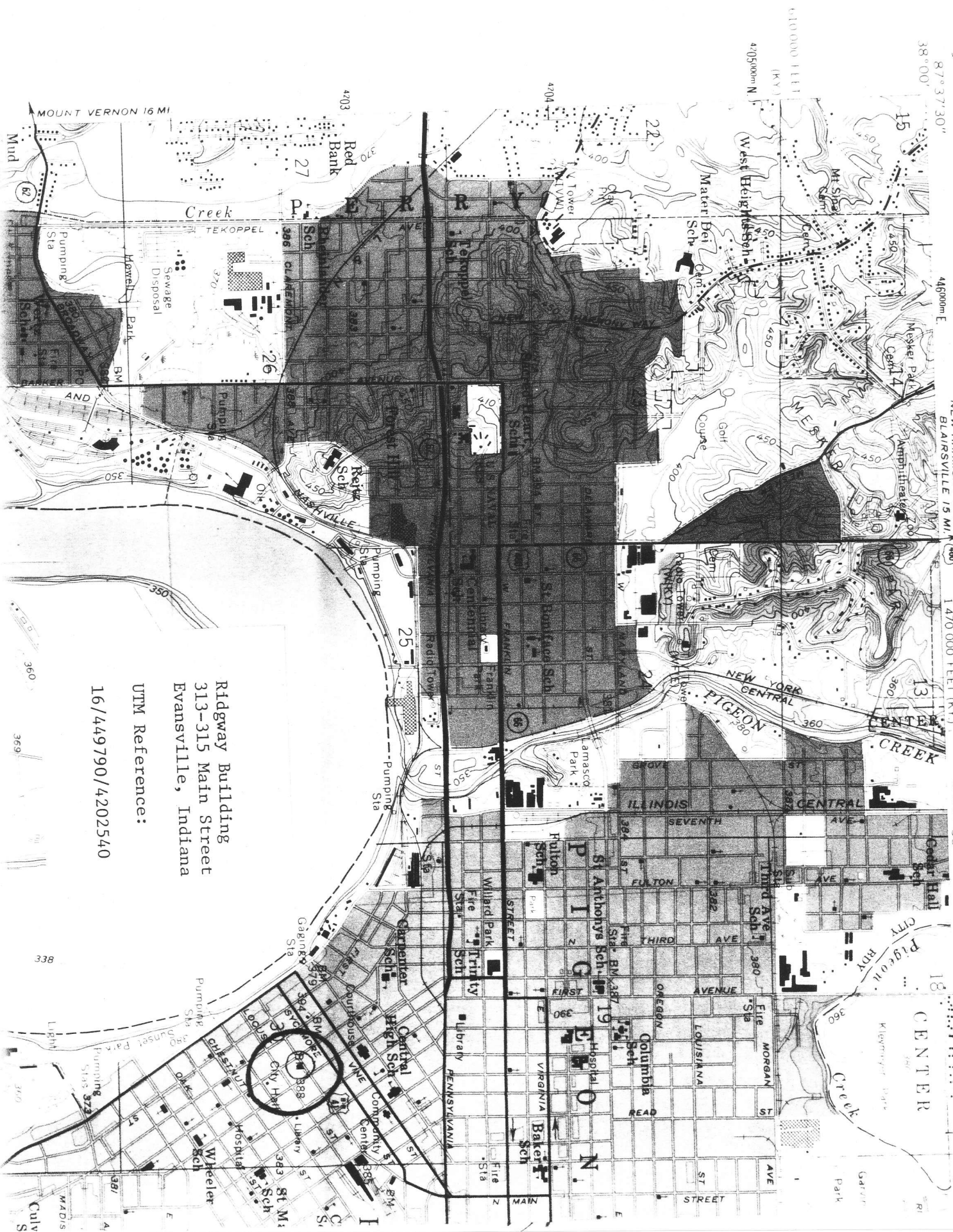
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Commencing at the northernmost corner of the east quarter of the Public Square; thence running in a southeasterly direction along the alley way for 144 feet; thence running in a southwesterly direction along another alley way for 37½ feet; thence in a northwesterly direction along the property line for 144 feet; thence in a northeasterly direction for 37½ feet to the place of beginning.



Ridgway Building
313-315 Main Street
Evansville, Indiana
UTM Reference:
16/449790/4202540

38° 00' N

469000 E

NEW HARMONY 27 MI
BLAIRSVILLE 15 MI

1 470 000 FEET (KY)

R 11 W 35° R 10 W

EVANSVILLE

610000 E (KY)

4705000 N

MOUNT VERNON 16 MI

Mud Creek

TEKOPPEL
Sewage Disposal
Pumping Sta

AND
Pumping Sta

350
360
369

360
369

360
369

338

360
369

MADIS
Culv S