

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

 FINAL
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Bitterman Building

AND/OR COMMON

The Old Bitterman Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

200 Main Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Evansville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Indiana

__ VICINITY OF

Eighth

CODE

18

COUNTY

Vanderburgh

CODE

163

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

Hinkebein Corporation

STREET & NUMBER

323 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Evansville

__ VICINITY OF

STATE
Indiana

47208

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
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 LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Indiana State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Natural

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 Old Bitterman building is located at 200 Main Street on the corner where NW Second and Main Streets intersect. (Photo 1) Evansville's earliest commercial and residential district originated in this vicinity, primarily owing to its proximity to the riverfront. Today the site borders on the city's urban renewal area, although the Main Street district is still regarded as one of Evansville's busiest commercial hubs.

Designed in the Italianate style, the Old Bitterman edifice was probably constructed in 1885 when the Bitterman brothers moved their jewelry business to that address. Situated on a corner lot, the building is a three-storied, sharply-defined rectangular block, ten bays in length on the NW Second Street elevation and four bays wide on the main facade. The body was laid in stretcher bond brick of a deep red hue. (Photo 2)

On the second and third floors of the building's facade, a series of flat-headed windows joined by a common cut-stone trim and set into recessed panels enhances the overall wall design. Engaged pilasters and columns flank the 1/1 doublehung lights. The spandrel beneath these two floors is accented by brick rectangles decorated with disc-shaped encaustic tiles. (Photo 3) A corbelled brick pattern appears in the wall just below the parapet entablature. Brackets support the entablature's metal cornice, and flush gable chimneys top the roofline. (Photo 4)

Throughout the years, the Old Bitterman building has been minimally altered; large glass display windows with fixed sashes and a glass entranceway now dominate the main floor of the structure.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
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 c. 1885 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Bitterman building at 200 Main Street is situated in the heart of downtown Evansville, a site which has witnessed a heavy volume of commercial traffic since at least the mid-nineteenth century. The building presently standing derives its name from the Bitterman brothers, Isaac and Adolph, and was probably erected in 1885 when the Bittermans moved their jewelry business there. Since 1897, when they transferred to new quarters, the building has housed a wide variety of businesses, including an "amusement parlor" shortly after the turn of the century.

After 1961, Evansville instituted an urban renewal program which razed a four-block district of older structures near the riverfront. The Old Bitterman Building was one of the few buildings to survive demolition. Still in good condition, owing largely to its fine workmanship, the building is in pristine condition except for minor alterations to the entranceway. The limestone trim which connects the windows and at intervals features decorative carving, along with the unusual disc-shaped encaustic tiling in the wall designs of the spandrel, make the Old Bitterman Building one of the more striking buildings on the downtown walkway and one of the city's finest examples of Italianate architecture.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See continuation sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Evansville South, Ind.-Ky.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1: 24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 449675 4202500

C

E

G

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

F

H

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 and Joan Marchand, Historic Preservation Specialists

ORGANIZATION

Department of Metropolitan Development

DATE December 21, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Room 301, Old Courthouse Center

TELEPHONE

812-426-5487

CITY OR TOWN

Evansville

STATE

Indiana 47708

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

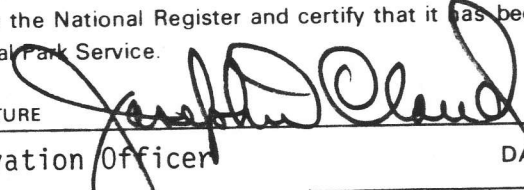
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665) 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 7-11-80

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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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

LOCAL HISTORIES AND ATLASES

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

PERIODICALS

"Bitterman Building Sold to Import Shop." Evansville Courier,
2 July 1968.

Central Library Newspaper Clipping File.

[Frank J. Schlotter obituary.] Evansville Courier, 15 May 1943.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Evansville Illustrated. 9 Parts. Chicago: H. R. Page & Co., 1889;
reprint ed., Evansville: Unigraphic, Inc., and Friends of Willard
Library, 1977.

PRIMARY SOURCE MATERIALS

City of Evansville Building Permits.

Evansville City Directories, 1858+.

Vanderburgh County Deed Indexes and Records.

Vanderburgh County Tax Assessment Books.

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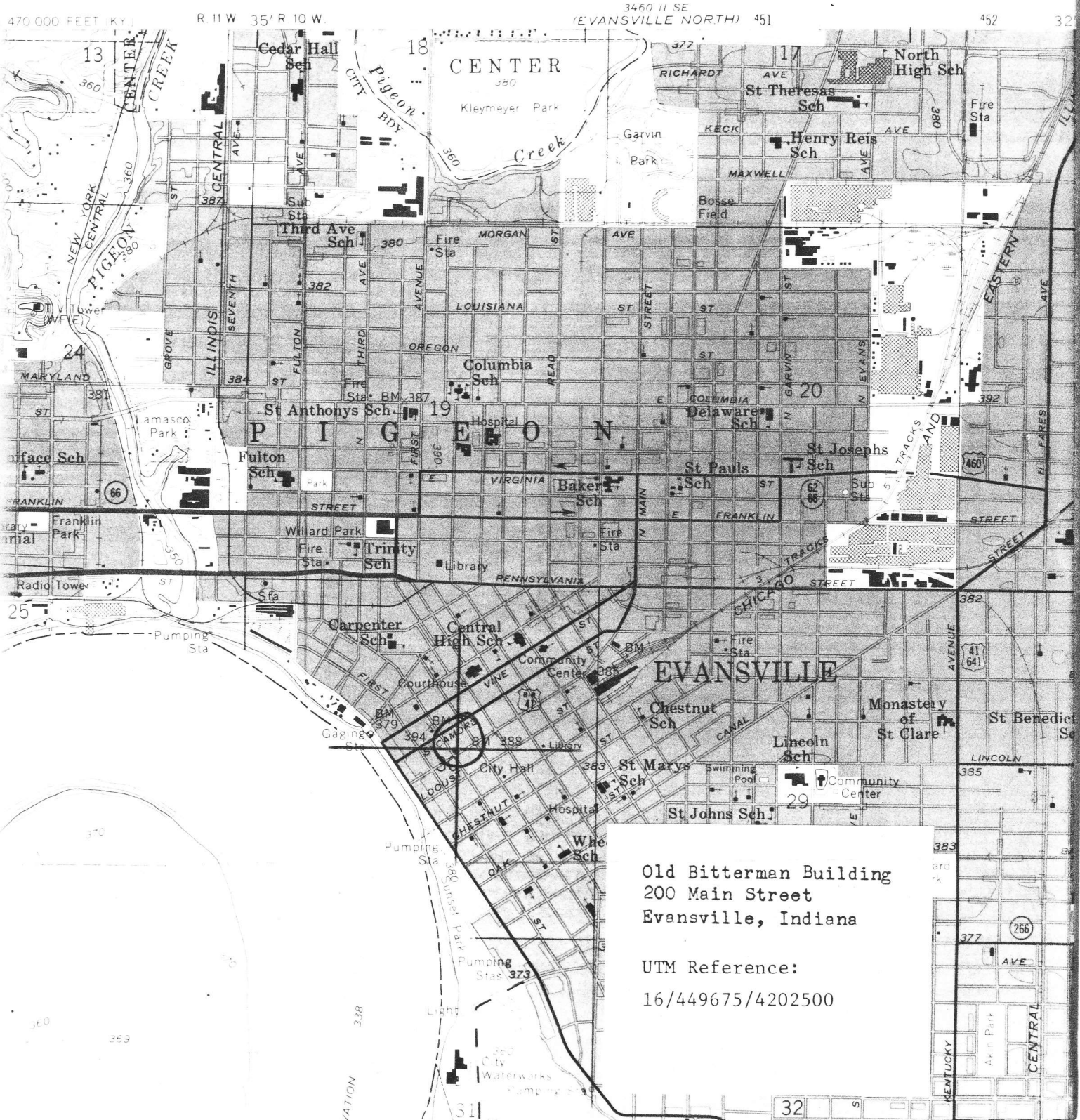
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Sub Lot #1 of Old Plan # 109: commencing at the southeast corner of lot 109, running 18.75 feet parallel with Main Street; thence along the line separating Sub #1 from Sub #2 90 feet; thence at right angles to Second Street; thence southeast to the point of beginning.

STATE OF INDIANA
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

STATE OF KENTUCKY
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Old Bitterman Building
200 Main Street
Evansville, Indiana

UTM Reference:
16/449675/4202500