

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

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

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

FINAL

For HCRS use only

received _____

date entered _____

1. Name

historic Hose House #12

and/or common Bassemier's Gas Grills, Inc.

2. Location

street & number 1409 First Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Evansville N/A vicinity of congressional district Eight

state Indiana code 018 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
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name John E. and Doris Bassemier

street & number 1409 First Avenue

city, town Evansville N/A vicinity of state Indiana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Vanderburgh County Recorder's Office

street & number City-County Administration Complex

city, town Evansville state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1980 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	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed				

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Old Hose House #12 is situated on the southeast corner at the intersection of First Avenue and West Eichel Street. Since its construction in 1908, the Hose House has attended to the fire-fighting needs of a densely-populated residential and manufacturing district. Although in recent years the old company transferred to new headquarters in Evansville's northernmost suburbs, the industrial-residential environment of the region located just north of the city's central business district has remained essentially unchanged.

Two stories in height, the main body of Hose House #12 is rectangular in plan, although the campanile projecting from the southern wall of the structure produces an overall asymmetrical scheme. The building's main facade--the short side of the rectangle--faces First Avenue and is approximately three bays in length; the Eichel Street facade contains six bays. The entire structure is laid in a red stretcher bond brick pattern.

The edifice lacks external embellishment; it is plain in wall design and well-suited for the function that it was built to serve. Virtually the only exceptions to this utilitarian style are the two limestone plinth blocks at the base of the round-arched entranceway on the building's main facade through which the fire apparatus passed. Inscription stones with the date (1908) the building was erected further accent the exterior wall design. A narrow undecorated stone belt course encircles the main and northern facades, also helping to relieve the plainness of the walls. All the windows are flat-headed and have plain surrounds; both the lintel and sills are trimmed with plain limestone. The lights are 1/1 doublehung sashes and are slightly recessed. A flush chimney is perched on the northern wall of the building, and the parapet roof features the same narrow course of plain limestone.

Rising from the building's southernmost wall is a tower which once sheltered the fire house's alarm bell. The tower is slightly set back from the main body of the structure and features an attractive compound arch which culminates in the belfry. The parapet roofline is identical to the one on the Hose House's main body, but it is crowned with a saddleback roof which covered the alarm bell until all bells were removed citywide in 1936.

Only minor alterations have been made on old Hose House #12. Alterations were probably made after 1974 when a privately-owned firm moved into the premises. The round-arched entranceway now contains a single-leaf glass door flanked on either side by glass display windows; all are flat-headed, and the tympanum has been blocked in with green plywood. The same plywood was also used to completely block in large windows and to shorten other ones. The only bay in the building's rear is a window which was apparently originally a door. However, a recessed Dutch door on the north wall, formerly the exterior opening for loading of the hay which was stored in the upstairs rear, remains unchanged.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1908

Builder Architect Scarborough & Davies/Harris & Shopbell

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Hose House #12 is located at 1409 First Avenue on the southeast corner where First Avenue intersects with West Eichel Street. This site was selected due to a petition presented to the Evansville Board of Public Safety in 1907 by a group of manufacturers who operated plants along the Belt Railroad (situated just a few feet north of the hose house.) Inadequate fire protection in that particular section of the city, the area just north of Evansville's downtown commercial district, was cited as the chief reason for the construction of a new hose house. James Scarborough and Charles Davies, two former bricklayers who had incorporated to become one of the city's most prominent contracting companies (1905-1929), were awarded the building contract. In September of 1908 construction was completed, and Hose House #12 was formally dedicated.

Evansville's earliest industries developed along Pigeon Creek, and by the beginning of the twentieth century, the city was rapidly expanding to the north, primarily along the First Avenue route transverse to Pigeon Creek. A coal mine, sawmills, foundries, and other businesses, including Igleheart Mills (now a division of General Mills), one of Evansville's oldest firms (1856), attracted many of the city's inhabitants to this area as residents. The Fifth Ward evolved into a densely-populated residential district by the turn of the century. Smaller businesses, such as saloons and restaurants, were also built at that time. Thus, the construction of a new hose house which would serve the burgeoning needs of the Fifth Ward was deemed urgent.

The most striking architectural feature of Hose House #12 is the offset brick and limestone campanile with its compound arch, perhaps the only hose company ever constructed in Evansville which employed this type of plan. The former arched entranceway, which complements the belfry's arch, is still conspicuously evident although it has since been largely converted into a modern entrance (see photos). Other than this change, Hose House #12 has been only minimally altered. Even the inscription stones, indicating 1908 as the year of construction, have been left intact in spite of the fact that since 1974, the building has been occupied by a private-owned business. Plain but solidly constructed, the former Hose House is still structurally sound, reflecting the fine craftsmanship of its time.

Hose House #12 is also considered significant because it represents the closing of an era in Evansville's history--that is, it was one of the last fire stations erected, as the arched entranceway will verify, which had originally been designed for horse-drawn fire engines. Harris & Shopbell, one of the city's most distinguished firms, designed the hose house.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See continuation sheet.)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Evansville South

Quadrangle scale 24,000

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Hose House #12 is situated in the Eichel & Loewenthal Enlargement, First Addition, Block 11, Lots 1 and 2. It is bounded on the west by First Avenue; on the north by Eichel St. and West Florida St.; and on the south by the property line between Lots 2 and 3 of the Block 11, Eichel & Loewenthal Enlargement.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia K. Sides, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization Department of Metropolitan Development

date 6 March 1981

street & number Room 301, Old Courthouse

telephone 812/426-5487

city or town Evansville

state Indiana

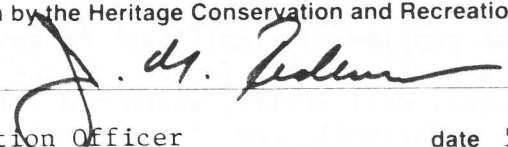
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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



title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5-7-82

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 2

LOCAL HISTORIES AND ATLASES

Gilbert, Frank M. History of the City of Evansville and of Vanderburgh County, Indiana. 2 vols. Chicago: Pioneer Publishing Co., 1910.

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

An Illustrated Plat Book of Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties, Indiana. Evansville: Tillman & Fuller Publishing Co., 1889; reprint ed., Evansville: Unigraphic, Inc., and Friends of Willard Library, 1975.

PERIODICALS

"Fire Apparatus All Motorized". The Evansville Courier, 6 February 1921.

"Hose House Passing: End of Era." The Evansville Courier, 17 December 1973.

"March of Progress Brings Doom to Old Bells at 10 Hose Houses." The Evansville Courier, 9 August 1936.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

(See above: The Evansville Courier, 17 December 1973.)

PRIMARY SOURCE MATERIALS

Central Library Newspaper Clipping File

City of Evansville Annual Reports, 1908.

Evansville City Directories, 1858+.

Vanderburgh County Deed Indexes and Records.

STATE OF INDIANA
A DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

STATE OF KENTUCKY
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Hose House #12
1409 First Avenue
Evansville, Indiana

UTM Reference:
16/449570/4204780