

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 27 1979
DATE ENTERED	JAN 3 1980

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

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
313-315 Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Evansville

STATE
Indiana

--- VICINITY OF
CODE 18

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY
Vanderburgh

CODE
163

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:

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 47708
	--- VICINITY OF	

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

--- FEDERAL STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

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

CITY, TOWN
Indianapolis

STATE
Indiana

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 2½ 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

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Evansville South, Ind

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6	4	4	9	7	9	0	4	2	0	2	5	4	0
ZONE	EASTING				NORTHING									

B

ZONE	EASTING				NORTHING									

C

ZONE	EASTING				NORTHING									

D

ZONE	EASTING				NORTHING									

E

ZONE	EASTING				NORTHING									

F

ZONE	EASTING				NORTHING									

G

ZONE	EASTING				NORTHING									

H

ZONE	EASTING				NORTHING									

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

DATE

Department of Metropolitan Development

June 20, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Room 308, City-County Administration Bldg.

812/426-5487

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Evansville

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 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 1-3-80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: William H. Bralman

DATE 1-2-79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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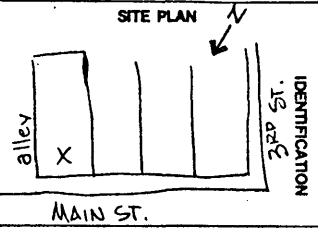
ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

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.

A. NAME RIDGWAY
 B. COUNTY Vanderburgh
 C. NUMBER 89-84
 D. ADDRESS 313-315 Main Street
 E. TOWN/CITY Evansville
 F. QUAD SHEET Evansville South
 G. SITE X STRUCTURE
 H. NHL X NR
 I. UTM Reference 49790 422570

STATE OF INDIANA
 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 INDIANA HISTORIC SITES AND STRUCTURES INVENTORY

1. HISTORIC NAME RIDGWAY BLDG.
 2. OWNERSHIP: PUBLIC PRIVATE
 NAME UNIV. OF EVANSVILLE, CITIZEN'S NAT'L BANK
 ADDRESS (SADOKS MANN)
 3. LOCATION NOTES 20-22-70
 4. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY: YES NO



5. USE PRESENT PAST 6. CATEGORY 8. ENDANGERED
 Residential (sing.) DISTRICT YES/NO
 Residential (mult.) BUILDING(S)
 Commerce STRUCTURE
 Industrial SITE
 Agriculture OBJECT
 Transportation
 Organization
 Military
 Political
 Unknown
 Vacant
 Other DRYMETERIST

7. ACCESSIBLE 9. DATE reworked 1895
 YES/RESTRICTED
 YES/UNRESTRICTED
 NO 10. ARCHITECT/BUILDER

11. PERIODS: PREHISTORIC 17TH/18TH GEN. 1800-1860 1861-1899 1900-PRESENT

12. AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

<input type="checkbox"/> Archeology-Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Law	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> Archeology-Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Economics	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Exploration/Settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Politics/Government	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	


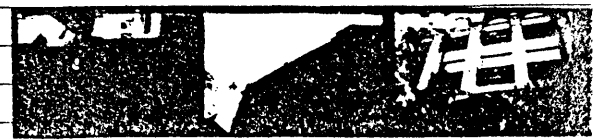
13. STYLE 14. CONDITION 16. SITE INTEGRITY
 Federal EXCELLENT ORIGINAL SITE
 Greek Revival GOOD MOVED DATE
 Gothic Revival FAIR
 Italianate DETERIORATED
 Second Empire RUINS NO
 Stick Style/Eastlake UNEXPOSED YES
 Queen Anne
 Romanesque Revival
 Colonial Revival
 Neo-Classical
 Bungalow
 Vernacular RICHARDSONIAN MINOR
 Other (Specify) ROMANESQUE X MAJOR

15. ALTERATIONS 18. IN ESTABLISHED HISTORIC DISTRICT
 UNALTERED NO
 YES/NAME

19. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT (NATURAL AND MAN-MADE) MAIN ST. WALKWAY, 1ST FLOOR
SUBSTANTIALLY ALTERED.

20. INFORMATION SOURCES PIGEON TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR, CITY DIRECTORIES

21. PREPARED BY NANCY J. LONG 22. DATE 10/4/77

1. C RECTANGULAR PLAN
2. F 4 STORIES
3. D 4 BAYS
4. C-6, C-7 COMMON BOND RED BRICK BODY, DECORATIVE (ARCADED) YELLOW BRICK FACI
5. D
D-3 STRIMA COURSE (TERRA COTTA)
6. A-2 ARCADE, B-2 ENTABLATURE, B-5 PLINTH (BASE OF COLUMNS), B-6 TERRA COTTA DECC
7. F NO PORCH
8. A ROOFING UNKNOWN
9. E SHED ROOF
10. A-3 FLUSH INTERIOR CHIMNEYS
11. B BRICK NAT'L REG - 3 JAN 50
12. J NO DORMERS NGM. APPLICATION -
13. L PARAPET NJ LONG
14. ROOF TRIM POSSIBLY TERRA COTTA NR 3 JAN 1980
15. R NO RAKING TRIM
16. I
17. 3 ENGAGED PILASTERS CAPPED W/ SQUARE STONE
18. A FLAT WINDOWS 2ND + 3RD FLOORS
19. B-2 DECORATED LINTELS, ORNAMENTAL PANELS BETWEEN FLOORS
20. E ROUNDED BRICK PIERS
21. H BRICK SIDES, LINTELS TERRA COTTA OR STONE
22. B DECORATED SILLS
23. B DOUBLEHUNG SASH
24. A-1 OVER B-1
25. B 4TH FLOOR ROUND-HEADED W/ RADIATING BRICK ARCHES SPRINGING FROM ORNAI
IMPACT
26. 1ST FLOOR SUBSTANTIALLY ALTERED. TWO SEPARATE STOREFRONTS.
27. 
28. 
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
35. C INTERIOR UNKNOWN

Architectural Information

CLASSIFICATION/DATE

SIGNIFICANCE

DESCRIPTION