

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **AUG 21 1986**

date entered

SEP 22 1986

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

1. Name

historic Sherman Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2-4 South Court Street N/A not for publication

city, town Sullivan N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Sullivan code 153

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 checked="" 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
	<u>N/A</u>	<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 J. David Shrum, d/b/a Shrum and Son

street & number R. 5, Box 302

city, town Sullivan vicinity of state Indiana 47882

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Recorder, Sullivan County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Sullivan state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A (See Continuation Sheet) has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

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 Sherman Building is a three story, rectangular, red brick structure with white terra cotta trim and a flat roof. Designed by local architect F. J. Nicholas and constructed in 1915 by Cuthbert J. Sherman, the building has elements of the neo-classical and commercial styles, and is prominently sited on the northwest corner of Sullivan's Courthouse Square (photo #10). The building houses a theatre in the first and second floors and offices on the third floor.

The original exterior of the Sherman Building was typical of small town, commercial structures of the period (photo #1). Though the first floor of the facade has been remodeled at least twice, substantial details of the original building remain. These include a stone foundation, white terra cotta trim, and a repetitive, one-over-one window treatment on the second and third floors of the main (east) facade and north elevation of the building.

The first floor of the east facade retains little of its original appearance (photo #2). The original large, northeast corner plate glass windows with small, multi-paned glass transoms, and a small marquee above the recessed main entrance in the center bay have since been removed. A new recessed theatre entrance replaced the original northeast corner windows some years ago. Recently, double aluminum doors were added to this entrance, making it flush with the facade. A modern plate glass window and off-center aluminum door have replaced the south bay's originally symmetrical entrance. The center bay has a recessed entrance and marble stair to the basement level.

The upper floors of the east facade are basically unaltered. A wide terra cotta band crowns the first floor with the name, "Sherman Building," inscribed in the band above the main central entrance. Brick pilasters extend from the foundation to the terra cotta cornice, creating a recessed effect for the single, one-over-one windows above the main entrance, and the pairs of one-over-one windows on either side. The windows have plain surrounds and terra cotta sills. A classically inspired, terra cotta cornice with modillions extends across the facade and around the north elevation, just below the roofline. Terra cotta coping also caps the flat brick walls which extend just above the roof.

The north elevation, which also faces the street, is the only other side of the building with significant architectural details. The ground floor features three theatre exits with shaped terra cotta door surrounds, with flat hoods on brackets surmounted by keystone pediments. The left and right entrances have double wood paneled doors, while the center entrance has been bricked in. The three exits are joined by terra cotta panels along the foundation. Second and third floor features are the same as the main facade, including the brick pilasters, terra cotta band above the ground floor, pairs of one-over-one windows, and the terra cotta cornice. Pilasters divide the north facade into nine major bays, with a pair of windows in each. A major difference on the second floor is the presence of four ornate, terra cotta-framed, blind brick panels. The panels were placed there for decorative purposes, only, and were never intended as additional window space, since the balcony is at this location (photo #'s 3, 4).

The rear, or west, elevation has a single paneled door at the north end of the first floor, and an iron ladder and fire escape which leads to a third floor door with a single light.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1915-16

Builder/Architect

F. J. Nicholas

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Sherman Building is historically significant for housing the 70-year-old Sherman Theatre, the town's last movie house, and for once being the home office for the prominent Hays and Hays law firm. Architecturally, it is significant for being the second largest building in Sullivan, and for its ornate theatre interior. The Sherman Building is a fine example of the type of buildings that accompanied Sullivan's commercial building boom of 1915.

The Sherman Building was built by Cuthbert J. Sherman and was designed by local architect/builder, Frank J. Nicholas. The present building replaced the "Sherman Corner", which had burned in November, 1914. The Sherman Building took less than a year to build, opening on February 1, 1916.

The building's historical significance is closely related to the Sherman family's long commercial association with the town of Sullivan. The first Shermans came from North Carolina to Sullivan County in 1816 and began farming. Cuthbert Sherman's father, Thomas K., held various county offices and was a local bank president. His mercantile business, T. K. Sherman and Son, served the community for more than 25 years on the site of the present building. Cuthbert Sherman had the building and theatre built as a major contribution to Sullivan's growing commercial prosperity.¹

According to the Sullivan Daily Times (12-16-1915) over \$200,000 was spent in Sullivan's 1915 commercial building boom. Prior to the erection of the Sherman Building, Cuthbert Sherman and the Peoples State Bank had built a commercial building on the opposite, southwest, corner of the public square, which contained the bank offices and the Scott Hardware Company.²

Occupying the Sherman Building were the theatre, the Hays and Hays law firm, which was located on the third floor, and other, smaller concerns. Will Hays, of the Hays and Hays firm, was National Chairman of the Republican Party just after World War I, then became President Harding's Postmaster General until resigning to become president of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America in 1922. Hays remained a partner in the firm, which was started by his father and included his brother, and continued to draw clients for them although he was not active in the firm and no longer lived in Sullivan after c. 1920.

The Sherman Theatre, seating nearly 600, opened on March 1, 1916, and was in competition with two other theatres. It was promoted to be one of the finest in the state, with its interior highlighted by ornate, gold plaster relief, double-bracketed pilasters, and large plaster and stained glass chandeliers.³

The architect/builder, Frank J. Nicholas, was a native of Morgan County and learned the bricklayer's trade in Brazil, Indiana. In 1900, he moved to Sullivan and is responsible for the Citizens Trust and Loan Company building, the Carnegie Library, the Jackson Street High School, the Leach Block, and other buildings and homes.

In later years the Sherman Building was the home office of the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad and the House of Stewart, Inc., an international film distribution firm. The theatre has been operated infrequently over the past 20 years, yet remains Sullivan's last remaining theatre. Its ornate plaster interior, which is largely intact, is the only space of its kind in Sullivan.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Sullivan County

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	4	6	4	6	6	0	4	3	2	7	2	2	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 and justification Starting at the southwest corner of Washington and Court Streets, 150' west down Washington, 50' south, 150' east to Court, then 50' north to the corner.

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

state None code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. David Shrum

organization N/A date February 22, 1986

street & number R. 5, Box 302 telephone 812/268-6674

city or town Sullivan state Indiana 47882

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 Richard Hart for J.M. Pedersen

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 7-23-86

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register date 9-22-86

for Alvin B. ...
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

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received
date entered

Continuation sheet The Sherman Building

Item number 6 and 9

Page 1

Survey:

The Sherman Building received a preliminary determination of individual listing from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office of the National Park Service on January 30, 1984.

Item number 9

Wolfe, Thomas J. ed. A History of Sullivan County, Indiana. 2 Volumes. Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1909.

Art Souvenir of Leading Citizens and Farmer's Directory. The Sullivan Times Company, Publishers, 1896.

Sullivan Daily Times, December 16, 1915, Page 1.

Indianapolis Star, "Sullivan, Indiana." March 19, 1952.

Memoirs, Will Hays, Garden City, New York. Doubleday, 1955.

Interviews with Will Hays, Jr., June 13 and 16, 1986.

Sullivan Daily Times, January 27, 1916; March 2, 1916.

Wolfe, Thomas. History of Sullivan County, Lewis Publishing Company: New York, 1909.

¹Sullivan Daily Times, February 25, 1916, page 3.

²Sullivan Daily Times, January 25, 1916, page 1.

³Sullivan Daily Times, March 2, 1916, page 1.