

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

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

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

For NPS use only

received AUG - 1 1983
date entered

1. Name

historic	Brownell Block/Senger Dry Goods Company Building
and/or common	Senger Dry Goods Company Building

2. Location

street & number	Northeast Corner of Broadway and 5th Streets.		N/A not for publication
city, town	Peru	N/A vicinity of	
state	Indiana	code 018	county Miami
			code 103

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	Planned for
district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name	Board of Commissioners of Miami County, Indiana		
street & number	Courthouse		
city, town	Peru	N/A vicinity of	state Indiana 46970

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Miami County Courthouse, Recorder's Office		
street & number	Northeast Corner of Broadway and Main Street		
city, town	Peru	state Indiana	

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title	N/A	has this property been determined eligible?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no
date		federal	state	county local
depository for survey records	N/A			
city, town		state		

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/>	excellent	<input type="checkbox"/>	deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	good	<input type="checkbox"/>	ruins
<input type="checkbox"/>	fair	<input type="checkbox"/>	unexposed
		<input type="checkbox"/>	unaltered
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	altered
		<input type="checkbox"/>	original site
		<input type="checkbox"/>	moved
			date _____
			N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Constructed in 1883-84, the Senger Dry Goods Company building is a three story commercial structure located on a corner in downtown Peru. It is a brick building with a molded stone veneer, and measures 66½ feet by 132 feet on the ground floor.

Large plate glass windows occupy the first floor walls along the south and west sides of the building. On the west side, the windows are separated by large cast iron piers, while on the south side the piers are faced with stone. Above the plate glass windows is a wide band of Luxfer glass with movable ventilating panels at the center of each bay. Entrances are positioned along the south and west sides, while a service entrance is situated in the east side, opening onto an alley.

The second and third floors of the building are faced with molded stone. On the west side there are nine bays. In the center is a two story, projecting bay of frame construction. Flanking this are four double-hung windows on each side. Openings on the second story are segmentally arched, with incised decoration above the rectangular sash, whereas the third story openings and sash are rectangular. The second to last bay from each end is slightly different on each story, with a console. The south side has nine bays, as well, but they are spaced farther apart, and there are three projecting bays.

Above the third story is a deep entablature, with dentils, and modillions supporting the cornice; above this is a dentiled parapet. The roof slopes gently toward the alley.

At the east end of the three story building is a two story addition, with similar window treatments, but featuring only two projecting bays on the second story.

The second floor extends into an adjoining building along the north side; however, this portion of the second floor is not included in this nomination.

The first floor consists of a large open room with ceiling supports positioned symmetrically throughout the room. An elevator occupies a portion of the north wall of the room and a wooden staircase along the interior east wall of the room leads to a small mezzanine and upwards to the second floor. Wooden steps in the northeast corner of the room lead to the basement.

The second floor is a large open room with openings leading to the building next door along the north wall of the building and into the addition occupying the east side of the building. The second floor is serviced by the elevator.

The third floor is a large, open room with no openings for windows along the north interior wall. Access to the roof and the elevator are available from this floor.

There is a large, finished basement. Hardwood floors are noted throughout the building.

The building assumed its present appearance following an extensive remodeling in 1907-08. It had previously been a brick Italianate building, with cast iron columns framing the three storefronts on the west facade, and with corbelled brick embellishing the cornice line. The only elements from the original building that are still visible are the four large cast iron piers on the west facade, and the incised decorations above the second story windows. The present window heads are similar in shape to the originals, but are more simple.

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

X Specific dates 1883-84/1907-08 Builder/Architect Unknown/J. B. Goodall

Statement of Significance [REDACTED]

The Senger Dry Goods Company building is the largest turn-of-the-century commercial building remaining in Peru. It was also the home for 70 years of the Senger store, one of the longest-established businesses in the city until its closing in 1978.

The building was built in 1883-84 by C. H. Brownell, a banker. Known as the Brownell Block, it housed numerous business establishments, most notably the Lenhart and Simpson furniture store and undertaking business. In 1907, the building was purchased by B. E. Wallace.

Peru has long been the winter home of a number of circuses, and one of the best known circus owners was Wallace. He had come to Miami County in 1863 as a teenager, and eventually organized the Great Wallace Shows. When local banks became unable to handle the large sums of money necessary for the operation of his circus, Wallace organized the Wabash Valley Trust Company.

Wallace had furnished the financial backing for Frederick Senger to establish his dry goods store in a nearby building in 1906. By 1907 the business needed room for expansion, which prompted Wallace to buy the Brownell Block. In October a contract was let to J. B. Goodall for remodeling the building, and the building was renamed the Enterprise Block. It was at this time that the stone veneer was applied, and the windows were changed. The Senger Dry Goods Company moved into the building in 1908, and remained there until 1978.

Current plans are to restore the building, which dominates the Courthouse Square, to its 1908 appearance. It will house the collections of the Miami County Museum and the Puterbaugh Museum.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bodurtha, Arthur L., History of Miami County, Indiana, Vol. II, The Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago and New York, 1914.
Cook, Vesper, The Brownell Block and Senger Dry Goods Co., unpublished manuscript available through the Miami County Museum, Courthouse, Peru, Indiana

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Peru

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	1 6	5 7 8	5 5 0	4 5 1 1 7 5 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing	
C				
E				
G				

B				
	Zone	Easting	Northing	
D				
F				
H				

Verbal boundary description and justification South 66 1/2 feet of Lots 220 and 221, Original Plat. Starting at the northeast corner of the intersection of Broadway and Fifth Street, being also the southwest corner of Lot 220 in the original plat of the City of Peru, east 132' to the southeast corner of Lot 221, north 66 1/2', west 132' to the west side of Lot 220, south 66 1/2 feet to the point of beginning.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state		code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Robert A. Spahr, Attorney		
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organization	Miami County Historical Society	date	March 1, 1983
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street & number	P.O. Box 145, 55 S. Broadway	telephone	317/473-4690
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city or town	Peru	state	Indiana	46970
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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

James M. Anderson

7-21-83

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date

For NPS use only

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

*Entered in the
National Register*

date

9/1/83

for Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration