

M.A.S. # 91

A. HISTORIC NAME Britz Building B. COUNTY Vanderburgh C. NUMBER 82-196-00031
 D. ADDRESS 415 Main Street E. TWP/CITY Pigeon F. QUAD NAME Evansville South
 RATING Outstanding Significant/Notable Contributing/Reference Non-Contributing UTM REFERENCES 118 4149 8910 412 012 61310

STATE OF INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES INDIANA HISTORIC SITES AND STRUCTURES INVENTORY REVISED 1981
 MOUNT CONTACT PRINTS HERE

1. COMMON NAME <u>Barrett's</u> 2. OWNERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private 3. VISIBLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	4. PROPERTY'S MAILING ADDRESS <u>Saylor Jr. & Mae Lucielle Byrd</u> <u>415 Main Street</u> <u>Evansville, Indiana 47708</u>	5. LOCATION NOTES <u>Northeast 1/4 of lot 204, Donation</u> <u>Enlargement. Tax Code: 20-28-13.</u>
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6. USE PRESENT PAST Residence <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Govt./Pol. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Organization <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	7. ENDANGERED PRESENT PAST Vacant <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Neglected <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Encroachment <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 9b. SURVEYS SR <input type="checkbox"/> NR <input type="checkbox"/> NHL <input type="checkbox"/> HABS <input type="checkbox"/> HAER <input type="checkbox"/>	8. CATEGORY District <input type="checkbox"/> * Building(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> 9a. LOCAL LEGAL PROTECTIONS Historic District <input type="checkbox"/> Landmark <input type="checkbox"/> Deed Restriction <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>
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10. CONDITION <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	11. BUILDING INTEGRITY <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved Date _____	11a. Specify Alterations Removals _____ Structural _____ Replacement <u>store front windows; upper</u> Additions <u>story windows covered</u>
12. DATE c. 1875 13. STYLE <u>Italianate</u> 14. ARCHITECT/BUILDER <u>not known</u>		17. SITE PLAN
15. DESCRIPTION <u>See below.</u> Inscriptions <u>none</u> Facade Material <u>brick</u>		
16. OUTBUILDINGS <u>none</u>		

18. ENVIRONMENT retail; commercial

19. AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Specify the significance for each area checked

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Environs/Neighborhoods <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration/Settlement <input type="checkbox"/> Humanities <input type="checkbox"/> Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Politics/Government <input type="checkbox"/> Religion <input type="checkbox"/> Science/Technology <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Ethnicity <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Vernacular/Construction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>urbanization</u>	15: <u>The Britz building stands three stories, is of brick (painted) and has a Main Street frontage of roughly 19 feet. The ground floor facade has been recently remodeled with large plate glass windows. Window openings of the upper two stories (three to a floor) have been boarded up, but their ornamental iron hoods and stone sills remain. (Just above the ground floor, and partially covering the second story windows, is a sign board of corrugated metal.) A bracketed cornice with a central pediment extends across the top of the building. The structure has a depth of about 144 feet, part of which is a circa 1900 two-story brick addition. The site comprises about .06 acre.</u>
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ATTACH NEGATIVE ENVELOPE HERE

19: See Additional Architectural Information form.

20. INFORMATION SOURCES Deed records; Assessment records; Lease records; City Directories; Journal-News, 4 June 1896.

21. SURVEYOR Douglas L Stern 22. DATE 7 December 1982 (amended)

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

Additional Architectural Information

A. NAME Britz Building **C. NUMBER** 82-196-00031

B. ADDRESS 415 Main Street

D. UTM References 116 449890 4202630

E. 19:

The evaluation of 415 Main Street hinges in large measure on its reflection of the city's post-Civil War economic development, its ethnic associations, and the rise of specialized retailing on Main Street.

Jacob Britz, a product of Evansville's first-wave German immigration, bought an existing building on the site of 415 Main in 1866. The seller was another Forty-eighter, Peter Heberer, an upholsterer. Britz (b. 1830) had operated a tannery since his arrival in Evansville in the late-1840s. His early residence and places of business were in the heavily German neighborhood adjacent to the Evansville Downtown known as Lamasco. He branched into retail leather goods and hardware when taking the step up to Main street. Britz retained his tannery in Lamasco when he opened his retail concern on Main and moved his family Downtown into quarters above his store. Judging from the facade ornament still intact on Britz's building, it appears as though he performed a substantial remodeling in the mid-1870s. (Not any emcumberances were found to be recorded, however, suggesting that Britz was doing well enough to pay cash to his contractors.) Britz's retail leather business remained at this address until 1889 (the family retained ownership until 1935). Britz died in 1896.

The presence of Jacob Britz on Main Street in the 1860s illustrates several significant cultural trends. Britz was a member of Evansville's cohort of hardworking, entrepenurial, Protestant Germans who fled the political rebellions of the late-1840s. His rise to self-sufficiency paralleled the same story seen with the original owner of the Britz property, Peter Heberer, or with the enterprise of Britz's two nextdoor neighbors on Main, bookbinder John Martin Geupel (82-196-00032) and Fred Feldhacker, a metal fabricator who built a mid-century store later remodeled as the Walk Over Boot Store (82-196-00033).

It was in the 1860s, some ten to fifteen years after their arrival in the United States, that Britz's immigrant cohort had realized enough success to

(continued)

F. INFORMATION SOURCES _____

G. PREPARED BY Douglas L Stern **H. DATE** 7 December 1982(amended)

FEB 23 1984

establish themselves on Main Street in the heart of the city instead of maintaining solely neighborhood-based small businesses. Main Street itself was well underway in changing from a pattern of land use more rooted in the town's pioneer beginnings to one more urbane and specialized. Stores of three and four stories were replacing simpler storehouses or dwellings beginning in the Fifties, and the citizens of Evansville were growing to depend on the Downtown for purchases of goods and services. The boom conditions of the Civil war era, the establishment of Evansville as a Port of Entry in 1856, and the presence of a class of entrepreneurs such as Britz combined propitiously in the 1860s to remake the face of Main Street and produce buildings the likes of Number 415.

The Britz Building remains one of the city's best surviving examples of Italianate commercial architecture. Not more than a handful of such buildings still stand today. (The Old Bitterman Building--82-196-00064--is probably the best of the lot.) Despite the alterations to the facade (easily reversible), the essence of the Italianate comes through: Verticality, elaborate cornice, metal window hoods, and so on.

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

Additional Architectural Information

A. NAME Barrett's-Britz Building C. NUMBER 82-196-0031

B. ADDRESS 415 Main Street

D. UTM References 16 449890 4202630

E. Jacob Britz, a dealer in leather, bridles and shoe findings, occupied this site from 1866 until 1888. It was during that period--probably the 1880s judging from the style of the facade--that the present storefront was constructed. The window molding and cornice--probably galvanized metal--are still intact. A series of shoe stores occupied the building after Britz until recently.

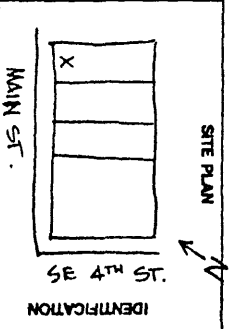
F. INFORMATION SOURCES City Directories; Assessments; Deed Records.

G. PREPARED BY Douglas L. Stern H. DATE 29 January 1982

A. NAME BARRETT'S B. COUNTY Vanderburgh C. NUMBER 82-196-0031
 D. ADDRESS 415 Main Street E. TOWN/CITY Evansville F. QUAD SHEET Evansville South
 G. SITE STRUCTURE H. NHL NR HABS HAER I. UTM References CENSUS TRACT # 18
16 449890 4202630

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

1. HISTORIC NAME _____ PUBLIC PRIVATE
 2. OWNERSHIP: NAME BELTZ REALTY CO. ADDRESS _____
 3. LOCATION NOTES _____
 4. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY: 20-26-13 YES NO



5. USE PRESENT PAST 6. CATEGORY DISTRICT (BUILDINGS) STRUCTURE OBJECT
 Residential (single)
 Residential (multi)
 Commerce
 Industrial
 Agriculture
 Transportation
 Organization
 Military
 Political
 Unknown
 Vacant
 Other

7. ACCESSIBLE YES/RESTRICTED YES/UNRESTRICTED NO
 8. ENDANGERED YES/NO YES/BY WHAT
 9. DATE ARCHITECT/BUILDER
 10. ARCHITECT/BUILDER

11. PERIODS: PREHISTORIC 17TH/18TH CEN 1800-1890 1891-1899 1900-PRESENT
 12. AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE
 Archeology-Prehistoric _____ Conservation _____
 Archeology-Historic _____ Economics _____
 Agriculture _____ Education _____
 Architecture _____ Exploration/Settlement _____
 Art _____ Industry _____
 Commerce _____ Politics/Government _____
 Communications _____ Invention _____
 Community Planning _____ Landscape Architecture _____
 Science _____

13. STYLE Federal _____ Gothic Revival _____
 Greek Revival _____ Italianate _____
 Second Empire _____ Stick Style/Eastlake _____
 Queen Anne _____ Romanesque Revival _____
 Colonial Revival _____ Neo-Classical _____
 Bungalow _____
 Vernacular _____
 Other (Specify) _____
 14. CONDITION EXCELLENT _____ FAIR _____
 DETERIORATED _____ UNEXPOSED _____
 15. ALTERATIONS UNALTERED _____ MINOR _____
 MAJOR _____
 16. SITE INTEGRITY ORIGINAL DATE _____ MOVED DATE _____
 17. OUTBUILDINGS/SECONDARY STRUCTURES YES _____ NO _____
 18. IN ESTABLISHED HISTORIC DISTRICT YES _____ NO _____

19. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT (NATURAL AND MAN-MADE) DOWNTOWN WALKWAY MUNICIPAL ON SIDE OF BUILDING FACING PARKING LOT.
 20. INFORMATION SOURCES TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR.
 21. PREPARED BY NANCY J. LONG 22. DATE 9/9/77

Architectural Information

1. C RECTANGULAR PLAN
2. E 3 STORIES FRONT, 2 STORIES REAR
3. C 3 BAYS
4. C-5 COMMON BOND BRICK, PAINTED
5. B INTEGRAL FRAME + WALL MATERIAL
6. B-2 METAL CORNICE, BRACKETED w/ SMALL PEDIMENT FORM
7. G ENTRANCE IS VOID FORMED BY DISPLAY WINDOWS, DOOR RECESSED
8. _____
9. E SHED ROOF
10. _____
11. _____
12. J NO PORCH
13. L PARAPET ROOF
14. B C E BRICK, TILE, NON BEER PORTION OF WALL
15. R NONE
16. I NONE
17. C-4 NO SPECIAL ROOF TRIM
18. A FLAT WINDOWS - UPPER STORIES
19. F-1 BRACKETED ENTABLATURE, POSSIBLY IRON
20. A PLAIN SIDES
21. H BRICK SIDES, IRON(?) HOOD/ENTABLATURE ON WINDOWS
22. A STONE SILLS
23. C COVERED OVER SASH
24. _____
25. A2 2 + 3rd STORIES THE SAME
26. M MODERN GLASS, BRICK + ALUMINUM ENTRANCE.
27. _____
28. _____
29. _____
30. _____
31. _____
32. _____
33. _____
34. _____
35. C UNKNOWN INTERIOR

