

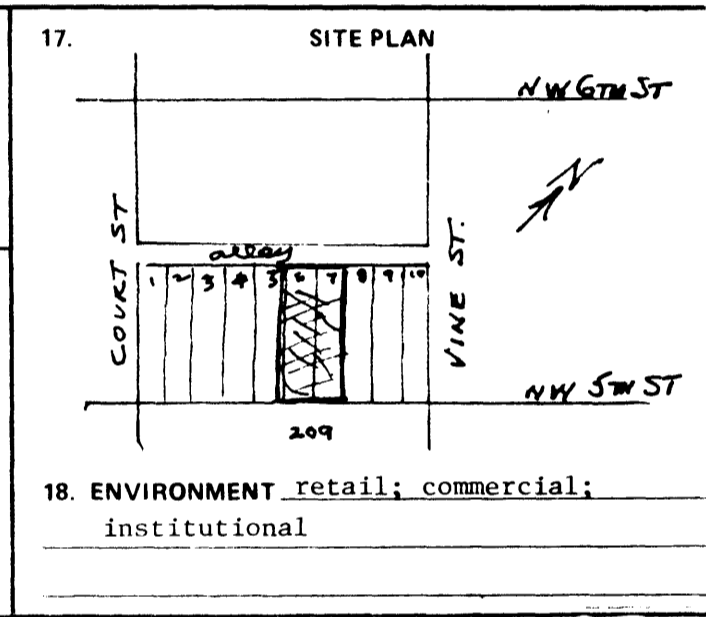
A. HISTORIC NAME Lockyear's Business College B. COUNTY Vanderburgh C. NUMBER 82-196-00241  
 D. ADDRESS 209 N. W. Fifth Street E. TWP/CITY Pigeon F. QUAD NAME Evansville South  
 RATING  Outstanding  Significant/Notable  Contributing/Reference  Non-Contributing UTM REFERENCES 16 449810 4202890

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

1. COMMON NAME Lockyear's Business College  
 2. OWNERSHIP Public  Private   
 3. VISIBLE Yes  No   
 4. PROPERTY'S MAILING ADDRESS Lockyear's Business College  
209 NW Fifth Street  
Evansville, Indiana 47708  
 5. LOCATION NOTES Eastern Enlargement block 33, lots 6 & 7, pt. (2'5") lot 5.

6. USE PRESENT PAST PRESENT PAST  
 Residence   Military    
 Govt./Pol.   Entertainment    
 Commerce   Scientific    
 Industrial   Religious    
 Agriculture   Park    
 Transportation   Museum    
 Organization   Educational    
 Other    
 7. ENDANGERED  
 Vacant   
 Neglected   
 Encroachment   
 Other   
 8. CATEGORY  
 District   
 Building(s)   
 Structure   
 Site   
 Object   
 9a. LOCAL LEGAL PROTECTIONS  
 Historic District   
 Landmark   
 Deed Restriction   
 Other   
 9b. SURVEYS  
 SR  NR  NHL  HABS  HAER

10. CONDITION  
 Excellent   
 Good   
 Fair   
 Deteriorated   
 Ruins   
 11. BUILDING INTEGRITY  
 Unaltered   
 Altered   
 Moved   
 Date   
 11a. Specify Alterations  
 Removals \_\_\_\_\_  
 Structural \_\_\_\_\_  
 Replacement \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additions \_\_\_\_\_  
 12. DATE 1911 13. STYLE Classical Rev. 14. ARCHITECT/BUILDER F. Manson Gilbert  
 15. DESCRIPTION See below.  
 Inscriptions none Facade Material brick  
 16. OUTBUILDINGS none



19. AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Specify the significance for each area checked  
 Aboriginal 15.  
 Arts  
 Architecture Lockyear's College building, with a frontage of 50 feet and a depth of 100 feet, is a free-standing, flat-roofed, red brick structure of two stories with a raised basement. The front of the building features a central two story portico with an entablature and cornice (of galvanized metal) supported by stone-based, fluted, wooden columns. The double-door entrance is round-arched and contains a fanlight. Above is a wooden balcony with panelled posts and a rail composed of square ballusters. Front windows flanking the portico and entrance are double-hung and coupled with 1/1 lights. Those of the second story have been covered with aluminum shutters. Sets of coupled windows extend along the side walls of the building. Stone serves as parapet coping, for window sills and for a water table. Pilasters flanking the entrance are also of stone. The approximate acreage of the site is .2 acre.  
 Commerce  
 Communications  
 Community Planning  
 Education  
 Engineering  
 Environs/Neighborhoods  
 Exploration/Settlement  
 Humanities  
 Indian  
 Landscape Architecture  
 Military  
 Politics/Government  
 Religion  
 Science/Technology  
 Social/Ethnicity  
 Transportation  
 Vernacular/Construction  
 Other  
 ATTACH NEGATIVE ENVELOPE HERE

20. INFORMATION SOURCES Evansville Journal-News, 14 May 1911; Evansville Daily Journal, 6 September 1852, 30 August 1856, 14 December 1857; Brant & Fuller, 1889; City Directories; Evansville Courier, 3 July 1902; Press, 30 December 1946.

21. SURVEYOR Douglas L Stern DATE 15 December 1982 (Amended)

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

Additional Architectural Information

**A. NAME** Lockyear's Business College **C. NUMBER** 82-196-00241

**B. ADDRESS** 209 NW Fifth Street

**D. UTM References** [1,6] [4,4,9,8,1,0] [4,2,0,2,8,9,0]

**E.** 19.

The importance of a business and commercial college to the economy of the city was apparent well before Melvin H. Lockyear constructed his school building in 1911. Evansville's first such institution opened its doors in 1852 on Northwest Fifth Street as the city was just emerging as an economic power (see 7.2 and 8.4). Founded and operated by Pennsylvania native Jeremiah Behm into the mid-1860's, the Evansville Commercial College specialized in the business training of the day, offering particularly the revolutionary double entry method of bookkeeping.

Behm was followed by a series of successful business educators, capitalizing on Evansville's growing need for clerical help and the appeal which city-living and mercantile employment had for young men (and later young ladies) in search of alternatives to the hard life of the country. The business college diploma was marketed as a vehicle for speedier entry into the business world than that allowed by a long and arduous apprenticeship.

One of those young men lured from the farm to the promise of business success in the big city was Lockyear. Born in neighboring Warrick County, Indiana, in 1855, Lockyear came to Evansville to enroll in the early 1880's in the Evansville Business College, one of the successors to Behm's college. (The loss of an arm as a child in a hunting accident may have reduced his chances of finding success on the farm.) For a time, the student became the teacher, employed after his graduation in about 1884 as an instructor. Lockyear went on to serve as a bookkeeper and business agent until late 1893, when he and William E. Wilson established the Columbian Business College, the third college at the time to provide training for mercantile positions. Lockyear established his own college in May 1897, and that college remains today.

Lockyear's independent efforts were soon rewarded. As noted elsewhere (see 7.3, 7.6, and 8.4), the Evansville economy was booming after the turn of the century. Commerce was nearing its peak, and the demand for qualified clerical assistance was strong. Writing in January 1911, Lockyear declared that his school meant much "to the business interests of the city....More than 200 concerns apply here every year for stenographers, clerks, and bookkeepers." If the college were not

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**F. INFORMATION SOURCES** \_\_\_\_\_

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**G. PREPARED BY** Douglas L Stern **H. DATE** 15 December 1982 (amended)

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19. (continued)

enough of an asset for its contribution to the education of commercial employees, then Lockyear could remind employers of the school's place in the city's cash flow: "The retail merchants, keepers of boarding houses, hotels and restaurants feel the effect of the trade which students attending this school bring to Evansville." The school also served to keep the city's young people from leaving to find their fortunes and to attract the youth of the surrounding region (as with Lockyear himself some thirty years earlier). Lockyear's 1911 enrollment reportedly numbered 500, with students from ten different states.

The substantial college building erected by Lockyear later in 1911 mirrored his success, illustrating the school's role in the commerce of the city and the collegiate image which Lockyear wanted to project. The \$20,000 building was constructed according to the plans of F. Manson Gilbert. Gilbert's fondness for classicism was legendary (his study and travels through Italy in the 1900's brought him a reputation among the local architectural public for archeological eclecticism). The influence of Stanford White's reconstruction of Jefferson's Rotunda at the University of Virginia was a powerful force in the design of college buildings, especially in the collegiate architecture of the first quarter of the 20th Century. The Jeffersonian axis (as opposed to the Collegiate Gothic preferred by Anglophilic institutions) was apparently at work on Gilbert's design for the Lockyear College building. Its monumental portico, red brick, and white trim were all touchstones of Jeffersonian college architecture employed by Gilbert to give the building "a distinctive scholastic effect in appearance," a reminder that this was the first structure in the city erected strictly for purposes of higher education (all of the earlier business colleges were quartered in the upper stories of Main Street commercial buildings, and the campus of the Evansville College was still a decade away). The newspaper's reference to Gilbert's attic story treatment (a "fine balustradal or rampartal top") as being in the "best manner of the adapted French renaissance" must have been journalistic license.