

A. HISTORIC NAME Old Montgomery Ward Building B. COUNTY Vanderburgh C. NUMBER 02-196-0020
 D. ADDRESS 517-19 Main Street E. TWP/CITY Pigeon/Evansville F. QUAD NAME Evansville South
 RATING Outstanding Significant/Notable Contributing/Reference Non-Contributing UTM REFERENCES 16 452100 4201500

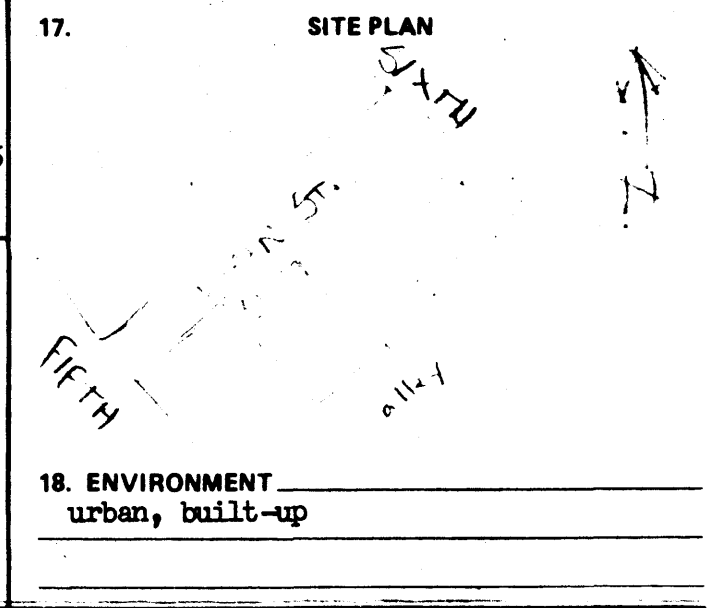
STATE OF INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES INDIANA HISTORIC SITES AND STRUCTURES INVENTORY REVISED 1981

MOUNT CONTACT PRINTS HERE

1. COMMON NAME Gerling Law Offices
 2. OWNERSHIP Public * Private
 3. VISIBLE * Yes No
 4. PROPERTY'S MAILING ADDRESS Gary Gerling
651 Walnut Street
Evansville, Indiana 47708
 5. LOCATION NOTES Main Street Walway midway between
Fifth and Sixth on the SE side.
20-34-6 less than one acre

6. USE	PRESENT	PAST	PRESENT	PAST	7. ENDANGERED	8. CATEGORY	9a. LOCAL LEGAL PROTECTIONS
Residence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/> Historic District
Govt./Pol.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Neglected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Landmark
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Encroachment	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Deed Restriction
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religious	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Park	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Object	
Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Museum	<input type="checkbox"/>		Multiple Resource	
Organization	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Educational	<input type="checkbox"/>	9b. SURVEYS		
Other <u>Office under construction</u>					SR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NHL <input type="checkbox"/> HABS <input type="checkbox"/> HAER <input type="checkbox"/>

10. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins
 11. BUILDING INTEGRITY Unaltered Altered Moved Date _____
 11a. Specify Alterations
 Removals _____
 Structural _____
 Replacement storefront altered, circe 1975
 Additions _____



12. DATE 1933 13. STYLE Georgian Revival 14. ARCHITECT/BUILDER Montgomery Ward Corp.
 15. DESCRIPTION see below
 Inscriptions none Facade Material brick; stone trim
 16. OUTBUILDINGS none

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	
<input type="checkbox"/> Arts	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<p>15: The Old Montgomery Ward Building, a brick-constructed building standing three stories in height with structural steel in its floors and ceilings, occupies a site in the center of Evansville's retail/commercial core. Evansville's Main Street was once lined with structures similar to this former retail store. Its Georgian Revival facade has been retained through the years and contains the significant architectural feature to be found in the exterior. The original store front was typically plate glass with steel frame and has been remodeled repeatedly during the course of the building's retail history. The present ground-floor treatment was installed in 1975 by the then owner and is of contemporary design which is compatible with the scale, design, materials, color and texture of this building. Above the ground floor is a two-story elevation executed in common bond brick. Three vertically organized bays punctuate the facade, carrying two sets of double hung multi-paned windows, one per floor. The bays are framed by short balustrades at the bottoms and molded cornices at the tops. Alternating corner quoins constructed of brick frame either side of the facade. String courses and a stone coping divide the elevation horizontally. The bottoms of the window ensembles rest on a beltcourse of soldier course brick. The outer dimensions of the building are approximately the same as those of an earlier building on the same site which was remodeled by the Ward chain to make room for their store in 1933. The party walls on either side of the elevation are completely devoid of decoration, as is the rear elevation. The interior clear-span space consists of a basement, first floor, mezzanine, and second and third floors. Interior renovations were performed from time to time to suit the needs of the then occupant. The only remaining original interior architectural feature is the metal rail and stair on the first, mezzanine and second floor levels.</p>
<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 type="checkbox"/> Social/Ethnicity	
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vernacular/Construction	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other <u>urbanization</u>	

19: see Additional Information Form

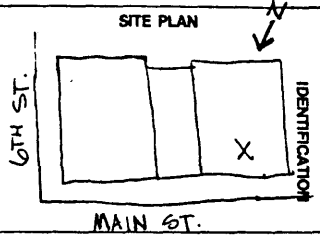
20. INFORMATION SOURCES Evansville City Directories; Evansville Journal (19 March 1909 and 15 March 1914); Latham, Frank B., The Story of Montgomery Ward, Chicago, 1972; Brant & Fuller, History of Vanderburgh County, 1889.

21. SURVEYOR Douglas L. Stern 22. DATE amended 19 August 1982

98 93
 C. NUMBER 82-196-0020
 F. QUAD SHEET Evansville, South
 4202-600
 45000
 16
 CENSUS TRACT # 18
 I. UTM References
 B. COUNTY Vanderburgh
 E. TOWN/CITY Evansville
 HAER
 HABS
 NR
 NHL
 H.
 SITE
 X STRUCTURE
 A. NAME MONTGOMERY WARD BUILDING
 MONTGOMERY WARD BUILDING
 D. ADDRESS 517 Main Street
 G.

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

1. HISTORIC NAME MONTGOMERY WARD BLDG.
 2. OWNERSHIP: PUBLIC PRIVATE
 NAME RICHARD D. WEDEL, JOHN C. COX, JERRY M. ASHLEY
 ADDRESS _____
 3. LOCATION NOTES _____
 4. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY: YES NO



5. USE PRESENT PAST 6. CATEGORY 8. ENDANGERED
 Residential (sing.) DISTRICT NO
 Residential (mult.) BUILDING(S) YES/BY WHAT _____
 Commerce STRUCTURE CURRENTLY UNDERGOING
 Industrial SITE REHABILITATION
 Agriculture OBJECT
 Transportation _____
 Organization _____
 Military _____
 Political _____
 Unknown 7. ACCESSIBLE 9. DATE
 Vacant YES/RESTRICTED 10. ARCHITECT/BUILDER _____
 Other YES/UNRESTRICTED _____
 _____ NO _____

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

12. AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

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

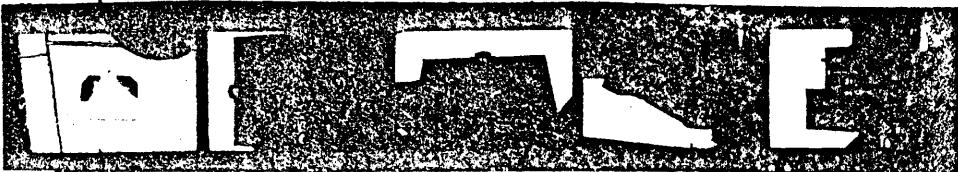
19. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT (NATURAL AND MAN-MADE) DOWNTOWN WALKWAY
REMODELED 1933 RESEMBLES MONTGOMERY WARD STORE IN
VINCENNES, INDIANA ALTHOUGH IT ORNAMENTATION IS
MORE SIMPLIFIED W. THE E'VILLE STORE.

20. INFORMATION SOURCES TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR.

21. PREPARED BY L. HAMMEL, et al 22. DATE 7/77

1. C. RECTANGULAR PLAN
2. E, THREE STORIES
3. C, THREE BAYS
4. C2, STRETCHER BOND WITH OCCASIONAL FLEMISH COURSE
5. D, WALL CONSTRUCTION CANNOT BE DETERMINED
6. B1, QUOINS; B3, STRING COURSES; B10, CORK
7. F, NO PORCH
8. F. COMPOSITION ROOF
9. J. FLAT ROOF
10. _____
11. _____ Remodeled by Montgomery
12. J, NO DORMER Ward about 1934-5.
13. L, PARAPET Presently (9/81) undergoing
14. C, BRICK + F, CONCRETE ROOF TRIM renovation and
15. R, NONE remodeling for
16. I, NONE conversion to
17. CH, NO ROOF TRIM (RAKING TYPE) (lawyer's)
18. A, FLAT WINDOW OPENING offices.
19. FG, FLAT HOOD HEAD
20. E WOODEN MOULDING (SURROUNDS- SIDE)
21. A WOOD WINDOW SURROUNDS
22. A, PLAIN SILL
23. B, DOUBLE HUNG SASH
24. A SIX OVER B NINE (2ND) + A SIX OVER B SIX (3RD)
25. _____
26. FIRST FLOOR ALTERED. ALUMINUM + PLATE GLASS DOOR + DISPLAY
27. WINDOWS, CEDAR PANELS

Architectural Information



DESCRIPTION

33. _____
34. _____
35. C. SIGNIFICANT INTERIOR FEATURES UNKNOWN

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INDIANA HISTORIC SITES AND STRUCTURES INVENTORY**

Additional Architectural Information

A. NAME Old Montgomery Ward Building C. NUMBER 82-196-0020

B. ADDRESS 517 Main Street

D. UTM References 16 450000 4202680

E. This property has been given preliminary approval by the Interior Department and the SHPO as a certified historic structure. A National Register nomination form was filed with the SHPO 15 September 1981.

It was not unusual for national corporations to use stock plans for their buildings when Montgomery Ward came to downtown Evansville in 1933. The firm extensively remodeled another building on this site, and distinct similarities can be noted between the Evansville store and stores throughout the Midwest.

F. INFORMATION SOURCES City Directories; Montgomery Ward Corporate History.

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