

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received NOV 21 1983  
date entered

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

1. Name

historic  Evansville Municipal Market

and/or common  Old City Market

2. Location

street & number 813 Pennsylvania Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Evansville N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Vanderburgh code 163

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name City of Evansville

street & number 302 City-County Building

city, town Evansville N/A vicinity of

state Indiana 47708

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Vanderburgh County Recorder

street & number City-County Building

city, town Evansville

state Indiana 47708

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Indiana Sites & Structures Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Department of Natural Resources

city, town Indianapolis

state Indiana

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair  
 deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date N/A

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Evansville Municipal Market is situated at the intersection of two major thoroughfares at the edge of the city's downtown. This two-story, brick edifice occupies the northwest corner of First and Pennsylvania Avenues, approximately one-half mile to the northwest of Main Street and the center of Evansville's business and commercial district. The prevailing pattern of land use in the vicinity of the Market is light-industrial and commercial to the south with a residential district to the north. The square city-block site of the Market is completely built-up, with no landscaping or other open space improvements.

The building's original design comprised a two-story central section flanked by one-story open-air stalls. The central section was I-shaped in plan with a large, clear-span section transversed by two, two-story end sections. The market hall measured approximately 119' x 65' and was covered by a roof supported by steel trusses. Large steel-frame sashes composed of small lights and a skylight of "heroic dimensions" (since painted over) obviated the need for artificial illumination. The transverse end sections each contained two floors with rooms for assembly, the marketmaster's offices, and other rooms for city use. These end wings measured about 26' x 72' and were attached to the main hall at the north and south ends.

The exterior of the building was clad in a reddish-brown Rugby brick, and native limestone was used for windowsills, the watertable and other trim. The interior walls of the market hall were clad with white-glazed tiles. The low-pitched roofs and widely projecting eaves were covered with red pantiles.

On either side of the central portion of the complex were constructed one-story roof coverings for open stalls. These, too, were built of the same brick as the main section and were roofed with the same red pantiles. Brick piers supported the roof, and concrete slab-topped tables were provided for the display of farmers' produce. The T-plan stalls were connected to the central structure at a perpendicular, with the result being a double-H plan for the overall complex.

The Prairie School mien of the Market was most apparent in the use of materials, the roof forms, and in the plan and inter-relationship of the building's parts. Rugby brick was a local favorite and appeared in several of Shopbell's buildings of this period, particularly small houses of the kind sometimes referred to as "California Bungalow." Its rough texture and earthy color was suited to the Arts and Crafts feeling that Shopbell chose to emphasize in his brand of the Prairie School. Much the same could be said for the red pantile roofing. The low, ground-hugging quality of the complex was underscored by the broad horizontality of the roof forms. The deeply overhanging eaves and the two dimensional, planar quality of the low-pitched roofs made the Market certainly unlike any other public building in Evansville. The plan of the complex, with its interconnected and interpenetrating parts, suggested the complexity of the Prairie School without its asymmetry, making for a lively but formal ensemble.

The only major alteration to the original complex came as a result of the 1954 conversion to use by the Fire Department. The southern two-story end section—the one on Pennsylvania Avenue—was demolished and the flat elevation which was left was made into a double apparatus opening.

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

Specific dates 1916-18

Builder/Architect Clifford Shopbell & Company

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Progressive administration of Mayor Benjamin Bosse (1913-22) was responsible for the erection of this important public building. Designed by Clifford Shopbell & Company, in the manner of the Prairie School, this complex originally housed an all-weather municipal market, the only such structure in the city. Begun in 1916 according to the designs of architect Edward Thole and completed in the spring of 1918, the market was a major element of Bosse's efforts to improve the living conditions of the citizens of Evansville while, at the same time, affording businesses an increased opportunity for sales. This combined altruistic and commercial motive was characteristic of Bosse's approach to governing—an approach which resulted in a capital improvement program which might be termed Evansville's Golden Age. The red, Rugby brick building was designed to contain enclosed and open stalls in a central building flanked by long, open sheds. The offices of the marketmaster and other public rooms were contained in two-story sections at either end of the central building.

The piece of land on which the Market sits was planned for market use in the 1837 Lamasco City plat and was made into a city park after Lamasco was annexed by Evansville in 1857. The land remained devoted to park use until 1916, when the present building was begun.

The idea for a permanent, all-weather city market actually surfaced in about 1905. It was not until the administration of Bosse, however, that plans were pushed to fruition. Bosse and his favorite architectural firm, Clifford Shopbell & Company, were then collaborating on several major public works projects, including the Masonic Temple (1912, National Register, 1982); YMCA (1913, National Register, 1982); and Soldiers Memorial Coliseum (1915-16, National Register, 1979). Shopbell's principal designing partner, Edward J. Thole, was given the task of designing the Municipal Market with a complex program of meeting space, open and enclosed market areas, and office space for the marketmaster. News reports at the time declared that the design incorporated the best features of other modern markets researched during the formative stages of the project.

Agricultural commerce was an important element of the Evansville economy, and a large, permanent market served farmers, grocers, and others who bought and sold farm products. Bosse's motives, however, were probably not entirely altruistic. Although a modern market would raise the standard of living for the working-class residents of the part of town where the market was located, Bosse's Progressive character (he was a wholesale grocer at one time and was the son of a farmer) looked also to the good that could come to the businessmen of the Evansville community. The Municipal Market remained an active place for farmers and consumers to trade until the advent of the supermarket marked the decline of it and other neighborhood markets. In 1954 the City's Fire Department took over the main portion of the market complex, and only a few farmers today still make the Saturday trek to town to set up their goods in the open stalls which were part of the original design.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Evansville South

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	6	4	4	9	4	3	0	4	2	0	3	3	3	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

Plat of the Town of Lamasco, Block 173.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joan Marchand and Douglas L. Stern

organization Department of Metropolitan Development date May 22, 1981

street & number 216 Washington Avenue telephone 812/426-5487

city or town Evansville state Indiana 47713

# 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 J. M. Redman

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 11-7-83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

for Allison Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

date 12/22/83

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation sheet Evansville Municipal Market Item number 6

Page 1

The Evansville Municipal Market was determined eligible by the National Register on June 24, 1981, in connection with a highway project.

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Continuation sheet Evansville Municipal Market Item number 9

Page 2

City of Evansville, Indiana. Annual Reports (1916-18).

"Evansville Housewives Can Buy Their Spring Vegetables in Model Market House, to be Built on Willard Park." The Evansville Courier, November 26, 1916.

Gilbert, Frank M. History of the City of Evansville and Vanderburgh County, Indiana. 2 Vols. Chicago: Pioneer Publishing Co., 1910.

"Most Modern Municipal Market House in the U.S. to be Opened to Public." The Evansville Courier, March 1, 1918.

Remy, Richard W. Who's Who & Why. Evansville: The author. c. 1907.