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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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received FEB 27 1987

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic Iddings/Gilbert/Leader/Anderson Block

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 105-113 North Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Kendallville N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Noble code 113

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Please see continuation sheet

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Noble County Courthouse

street & number 101 N. Orange Street

city, town Albion state Indiana 46701

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Indiana Historic Sites
title and Structures Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1986, Site #113-310-01042, 43, 44 federal state county local

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Iddings/Gilbert/Leader/Anderson Block, located at 105-113 North Main Street, Kendallville, Indiana, is a row of five connected, two-story commercial structures. Originally, the block contained two more structures extending the block to the corner of Mitchell Street and Main Street. The remaining five structures have almost identical pressed metal facades in the Queen Anne style with intact second story facades, two ground floor storefronts intact and three altered ground floor storefronts. Despite the ground floor alterations, the block as a whole maintains a striking 19th century rhythm with its delicately detailed features.

The second Iddings building (107) and the Gilbert building (109) both have virtually intact ground floor storefronts. These storefronts are typical of late 19th century storefront design, each having central double doors with large plate glass windows on either side being separated and supported by thin wood columns, covered with pressed tin and decorated with recessed panels and rosettes. The central doors are slightly recessed, creating a small alcove intended to provide more display frontage. The central doors each have long rectangular lights and their wooden panels at the bottom are even with the kickpanels across the front below the large plate glass windows. Above the windows and the doors is a multi-light transom. The transom at 107 has been covered by a sign, and the transom at 109 is partially obscured. The original ground floor fabric at 105 survives underneath an addition of a wood board-and-batten storefront and a shingled shed roof. The proportions of the original storefront at 105 remain. The storefronts at 111 and 113 have new brick ground floor facades and except for the transom windows at 111, the original fabric was removed.

The second floor facade remains intact except for the addition of storm windows at 111 and 113, and the replacement of one window at 107 with a single pane window, and the replacement of all windows at 109. All original windows are one-over-one. Each of the building's second floor facades is identical with the exception that 111 and 113 are slightly narrower in width.

The second floor facades give the block the appearance of a single building with five bays, each composed of a bay window which projects outward approximately three feet. The windows are separated by pressed metal columns decorated with recessed panels, moldings and rosettes. Between the projecting bays are panels outlined with molding and, in some cases, stamped with a decorative pattern. Above the windows and the aforementioned panels are transom panels outlined with molding and decorated with raised scrollwork, diamonds and rosettes. The cornice is elaborately embellished with raised scrollwork and deep, composite-curved molding. Brackets extend from the top of the columns separating windows and panels, with raised decoration, including rosettes. The central portions of the projecting bays are topped by pedimented parapet sections which bear the names of the buildings' developers: 105 and 107, L. Iddings; 109, G. W. Gilbert; 111, W. Leader; and 113 is now blank but once held the name of A. Anderson. These pedimented sections are also decorated with moldings, raised scrollwork and rosettes. On either side and at the apex of the pediments and topping the brackets between the projecting bays are urn-shaped finials. All of these pressed metal decorations remain in good repair.

The north facade of the block is a new brick wall with a simple cornice molding and some banding which continues lines from the front facade (photo 3). The south facade abuts the adjoining building. The rear, west facade is brick with some areas stuccoed over (photo 6). Original windows were one-over-one with segmentally arched, rectangular openings. Some of the original windows remain; others have been removed or replaced with

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Ethnic heritage (black)
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				
Specific dates	1891-1895	Builder/Architect	Various	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Iddings/Gilbert/Leader/Anderson Block is important as a fine example of the metal commercial storefronts produced during the latter part of the 19th century. It is one of three outstanding commercial blocks of this type in downtown Kendallville, and is the largest of the three. The block comprises five distinct storefronts of an original seven, and although three have been remodeled, overall the group retains a remarkable degree of integrity.

L. IDTINGS BLOCK, 105 NORTH MAIN

The first group of three storefronts, only one of which remains today at 105 North Main Street, were begun in 1891 by Captain Hiram Iddings on the northwest corner of Main and Mitchell Streets. Iddings razed a frame structure that had stood on the lot since 1849, to erect the three buildings at 101, 103, and 105 North Main. An 1881 newspaper article, which said that Iddings had received a contract for building the courthouse in Warsaw, suggests that he may have been in the construction business. Hiram Iddings died in January, 1892, however, just before his buildings were completed. Ownership of the northernmost storefront at 105 North Main (the southernmost of the five included in this nomination) passed to Hiram's brother, Lewis Iddings.

Businesses to occupy this storefront included a notions store in 1908, and later a cigar manufacturer, flower shop, billiard hall, and auto parts business. It presently houses a law office and, at the rear, a portion of the Business Service Company's operation.

L. IDTINGS BLOCK, 107 NORTH MAIN

Lewis Iddings, brother of Hiram, was born in 1820 and died in 1900, having spent most of his life on farms in the Kendallville area. He began construction of the building at 107 North Main in 1894, completing it in 1895, which gave him two adjacent business rooms. This building, at various times, housed a wine, liquor and cigar store, a hat shop, and restaurant. Since 1944 it has been occupied by the Business Service Company.

G. W. GILBERT BLOCK, 109 NORTH MAIN

George W. Gilbert, described in his obituary as a "veteran show man," erected the building at 109 North Main at the same time that 107, 111 and 113 were built (1894-95). Gilbert was born in Ohio in 1825 and came to Kendallville in 1866; he died in 1921. Businesses at 109 North Main included a pool and billiard hall, publisher, mission church, and tavern. The interior was recently remodeled and occupied by the Business Service Company.

W. LEADER BLOCK, 111 NORTH MAIN

The Leader block was built for William Leader in 1894-95. Little information could be found on Leader, except that he ran into health problems and financial difficulties in 1897. An 1896 newspaper indicated that he operated a grocery store. Later businesses in his building, which was assigned to James Graves in 1897, included a tailor, cigar store, furniture store,

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheets

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Kendallville Quadrangle/Indiana-Noble County Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	6	4	4	8	4	0	4	5	8	9	3	2	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

Please see continuation sheets

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 Thurlow Cazier

organization Business Service Company of America

date April 30, 1986

street & number 107 North Main Street

telephone 800-348/5353 - John Cazier
219/347-0150

city or town Kendallville

state Indiana 46755

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 Richard Hartman J. M. Redenow

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 2-18-87

For NPS use only

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

Patrick Andrew
for Keeper of the National Register

date 7/21/87

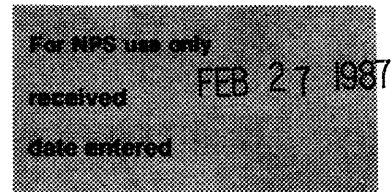
Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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

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



Iddings/Gilbert/
Continuation sheet Leader/Anderson Block Item number 4 Page 1

Names and mailing addresses of owners of record:

- No. 105: Howard S. Grimm, Jr.
 3106 Lake Avenue
 Fort Wayne, IN 46805

- No. 107: Thurlow M. Cazier
 520 N. Riley Street
 Kendallville, IN 46755

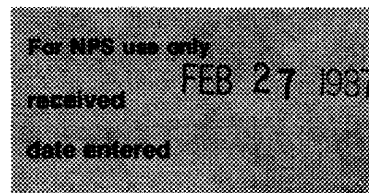
- No. 109: Eugene Newman and Roger Newman
 109½ N. Main Street
 Kendallville, IN 46755

- No. 111: American Ligonier Leasing & Realty, Inc.
 P.O. Box 100
 Ligonier, IN 46767

- No. 113: American Ligonier Leasing and Realty, Inc.
 P.O. Box 100
 Ligonier, IN 46767

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Item number

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smaller windows. Original doors were double leaf, wood paneled with transom lights above in a segmentally arched opening. Two of the original doors remain and some single leaf doors have been added.

The interior of 105 has a basement with walls of fieldstone and dirt floors; the first floor has been modernized for offices; the second floor has been modernized for use as an apartment. The first floors of 107, 109, 111 and 113 have been altered extensively for use as offices and businesses. The basements of 111 and 113 are unaltered and unused, having dirt floors. The first floor interior changes include carpeting, paneling, and lowered ceilings.

Despite the interior and exterior ground floor changes, the block still maintains much of its original 19th century, commercial character and architectural significance. The block has been well maintained and remains in very good condition.

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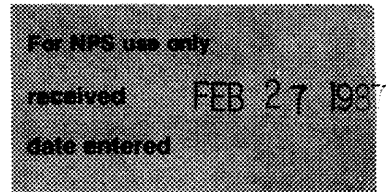
Iddings/Gilbert/Leader/

Continuation sheet Anderson Block

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shoe store and shoe repair shop, billiard hall and eight-ball club. The building has been occupied since 1983 by American State Bank, which did extensive remodeling at that time.

A. ANDERSON BLOCK, 113 NORTH MAIN

Alonzo (Lon) Anderson, who built the building at 113 North Main in 1894-95, is perhaps the most interesting figure among the men who erected this group of buildings. Anderson was a black man, and he and his wife, Emma, are the only black people known to be buried in Lake View Cemetery, the principal burial ground for the community of Kendallville. Born in Terre Haute in 1845 as one of 16 children, Alonzo moved with his parents to Kokomo in 1849. In 1864 he enlisted in the 28th U.S. Colored Regiment and during the Civil War marched into Richmond, Virginia. He was mustered out of the Army in 1868. His parents apparently moved to Kendallville in the 1860s. Reports claim that Alonzo's mother was part Potawatomi Indian and part Negro. Alonzo moved to Kendallville with his second wife, Emma, in 1874.¹

Anderson and his brother, Jerry, were Kendallville barbers. Alonzo had no children but Jerry had five, including Warner Anderson, who became a respected medical doctor after graduating from the Fort Wayne Medical College in 1895. It is thought that the Anderson children were the only black children ever to graduate from Kendallville High School until very recently.

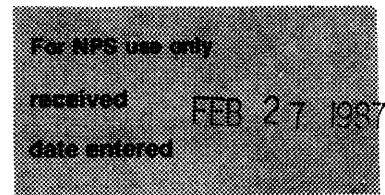
Alonzo Anderson moved his barber shop into his building at 113 North Main in 1896. He died in 1899, and his wife transferred title to the building to Mary E. Zonker the following year. The Zonkers ran a buggy and implement business in the building for a number of years. Later businesses included a plumbing, heating and roofing business, second hand store, and pool hall. This building was also remodeled and occupied by the American State Bank in 1983.

The Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory rated these buildings as "Outstanding," and despite some changes, the buildings are still among the finer examples of pressed metal architecture in the northern part of the state. The buildings further represent a significant episode in Kendallville's commercial development during the late 19th century. The building at 113 North Main particularly illustrates the commercial success of a black businessman, an unusual occurrence for small Indiana towns.

¹"Historic city building built by black merchant," Kendallville News-Sun, October 4 and 5, 1986.

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Iddings/Gilbert/Leader

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Alvord, Samuel E. Alvord's History of Noble County, Indiana. Logansport, Indiana:
B. F. Bowen, 1902.

Counties of LaGrange and Noble, Indiana, Historical and Biographical. Chicago: F. A.
Battey & Co., 1882.

Deed Records, Office of the Recorder, Noble County Courthouse. Tax Assessment Records,
Office of County Assessor, Noble County Courthouse

An Illustrated Historical Atlas of Noble County, Indiana. Chicago: Andreas & Baskin, 1874.

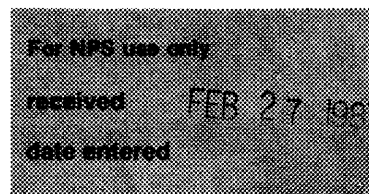
Kendallville City Directories from 1903, 1908, 1916, 1926-27, 1931, 1935, 1938 and 1943.

Kendallville News-Sun, December 20, 1919; October 21, 1927; and October 4 and 5, 1986.

Kendallville Standard, various issues from 1872 to 1905, available at the Kendallville
Public Library.

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Iddings/Gilbert/Leader/
Continuation sheet Anderson Block Item number 10 Page 5

Verbal boundary descriptions, by address, all within Mitchell's Addition to the town (now city) of Kendallville:

105 North Main

Twenty-two (22) feet off the north side of lot number fourteen (14), excepting forty-four feet and nine inches (44'9") off the west end of said lot. (Deed Record Book 67, page 585, Office of the Recorder, Noble County Courthouse)

107 North Main

Ten (10) feet off the south side of lot number fifteen (15), and also the entire alley, heretofore vacated lying between said lot number fifteen (15) and lot number fourteen (14), excepting forty-six (46) feet off the west end of the above described real estate, and also including therein the right of way from Mitchell Street to the above described real estate, which right of way is ten (10) feet wide and is now established. (Deed Record Book 194, page 483, Office of the Recorder)

109 North Main

The north twenty-one and one-half (21½) feet of the south thirty-one and one-half (31½) feet of lot number fifteen (15) as numbered and described in D. W. Meyers Plot of said town (now city) of Kendallville, which was recorded September 4, 1855. (Warranty Deed dated 12th day of March, 1982, grantee Thurlow Cazier, Inc.)

111 North Main

Eighteen (18) feet off the south side of the north thirty-four and one-half (34½) feet of lot fifteen (15). (Warranty Deed dated February 18, 1982, grantee American Ligonier Leasing & Realty, Inc.)

113 North Main

North half of the north half of lot fifteen (15), and 6 inches off the south side of the East eighty-two (82) feet of lot sixteen (16). (Office of County Assessor, Noble County Courthouse)