

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUL 28 1980  
DATE ENTERED SEP 22 1980

**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

*g*  
The Bitterman Building

AND/OR COMMON

The New Bitterman Building

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

202-204 Main Street

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Evansville

\_\_ VICINITY OF

Eighth

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Indiana

CODE

18

COUNTY

Vanderburgh

CODE

163

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

\_\_DISTRICT

\_\_PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

\_\_UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

\_\_PARK

\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_BOTH

\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_OBJECT

\_\_IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_NO

\_\_MILITARY

\_\_OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Charles Duncan Rowe

STREET & NUMBER

202-204 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Evansville

\_\_ VICINITY OF

Indiana

STATE

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Vanderburgh County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

City-County Administration Building

CITY, TOWN

Evansville

STATE

Indiana

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

DATE

1978

\_\_FEDERAL  STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Indiana State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

STATE  
Indiana

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The New Bitterman building is located at 202-204 Main Street next to the Old Bitterman building; both structures are joined by a common party wall. (Photo 1) Although evidence indicates that a building has occupied this site since at least the 1850's, the present edifice was erected in approximately 1923 after a fire damaged several buildings in the downtown area.

Like the Old Bitterman structure, the newer three-storied Bitterman building has a rectangular plan. The main facade is three bays wide and is laid in smooth-dressed limestone; the remainder of the building is set in a common bond brick pattern. (Photo 2) The structure's design is derived from the utilitarian style of the Chicago commercial school of architecture. Although the building's exterior contains little embellishment, the first floor is trimmed with cast iron and marble paneling which extends around the base of the facade. The double glazed wood doors at the entrance to the building feature a single-light transom. Of special interest is the original curved glass entranceway surrounded on either side by large fixed sash display windows.

The Chicago-style lights on the upper two elevations are divided into three parts-- a large central light with narrow flanking lights and a transom bar, all with fixed sashes. The window-heads are flat with plain moulding on the sides, and the sills and window surrounds are made from smooth-faced cut stone, as is the parapet entablature capping the edifice.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1923

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Clifford Shopbell & Company

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The New Bitterman Building at 202-204 Main Street adjoins the older Bitterman Building. A photograph dating back to the 1880's shows that a more embellished structure occupied this site at that time; it was probably designed by local architect Frank J. Schlotter (1864-1943), who began his practice with the Reid Brothers firm in 1882. In approximately 1923, a fire heavily damaged the building, which was then extensively remodelled into a more functional and modern edifice. The design of the new structure is the work of Clifford Shopbell (1871-1939) and Company, one of Evansville's most prominent architectural firms.

In stark contrast to the more ornate features of the adjoining Old Bitterman Building, the New Bitterman Building is a locally rare example of the Chicago commercial school of architecture. Its utilitarian style is most evident in the plain but handsome three-part Chicago lights. Two bays in width, the windows feature a large central light with two narrower flanking lights, in addition to a transom bar. The parapet entablature is also unaffectedly simple and modern in design and continues to bear the inscribed name "Bitterman", which for nearly a century represented one of the city's most prominent retail jewelry businesses in downtown Evansville.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See continuation sheet)

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**  
**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Evansville South, Ind.-Ky.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1: 24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 | 449680 | 4202510

B    |    |     
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C    |    |   

D    |    |   

E    |    |   

F    |    |   

G    |    |   

H    |    |   

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See continuation Sheet)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

Joan C. Marchand and Patricia K. Sides, Historic Preservation Specialists

ORGANIZATION

Department of Metropolitan Development

DATE

December 21, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Room 301 Old Courthouse Center, 4th & Vine Sts.

TELEPHONE

812-426-5487

CITY OR TOWN

Evansville

STATE

Indiana

## 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

*Joseph Cloud*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 7-11-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Robert M. Daniel*  
9/22/80  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
ATTEST: *W. Ray Luce*  
CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION

DATE 9/22/80

DATE 9/17/80

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

LOCAL HISTORIES AND ATLASES

Griffing's Atlas of Vanderburgh County, Indiana. Philadelphia:  
D. J. Lake & Co., 1880; reprint ed., Evansville: Unigraphic,  
Inc., and Friends of Willard, 1975.

PERIODICALS

"Bitterman Building Sold to Import Shop." Evansville Courier,  
2 July 1968.

Central Library Newspaper Clipping File.

[Frank J. Schlotter obituary.] Evansville Courier, 15 May 1943.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Evansville Illustrated. 9 Parts. Chicago: H. R. Page & Co., 1889;  
reprint ed., Evansville: Unigraphic, Inc., and Friends of Willard  
Library, 1977.

PRIMARY SOURCE MATERIALS

City of Evansville Building Permits.

Evansville City Directories, 1858+.

Vanderburgh County Deed Indexes and Records.

Vanderburgh County Tax Assessment Books.

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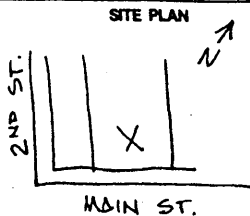
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Part of lot number 109 in the Original Plan bounded as follows:  
beginning at a point 18 feet and 9 inches from the corner of said  
lot on Main and Second Streets running thence along Main Street towards  
Third Street 37½ feet thence at right angles to Main Street and parallel  
to Second Street towards the alley in the rear of said lot 90 feet  
thence on a line parallel with Main Street towards Second Street 37½  
feet and thence to the place of beginning.

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

1. HISTORIC NAME BITTERMAN BLDG.  
2. OWNERSHIP: PUBLIC  PRIVATE  
NAME CHAS DUNGAN + MARIA ROWE  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
3. LOCATION NOTES \_\_\_\_\_  
4. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY: 20-15-9  YES  NO



5. USE PRESENT PAST 6. CATEGORY 8. ENDANGERED  
Residential (sing.)   DISTRICT  NO  
Residential (mult.)    BUILDING(S) YES/BY WHAT \_\_\_\_\_  
Commerce   STRUCTURE \_\_\_\_\_  
Industrial   SITE \_\_\_\_\_  
Agriculture   OBJECT \_\_\_\_\_  
Transportation   \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization   \_\_\_\_\_  
Military   \_\_\_\_\_  
Political   \_\_\_\_\_  
Unknown   7. ACCESSIBLE 9. DATE 1923  
Vacant    YES/RESTRICTED 10. ARCHITECT/BUILDER  
Other   YES/UNRESTRICTED CLIFFORD SHOPBELL  
\_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

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

12. AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE


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

15. ALTERATIONS 17. OUTBUILDINGS/SECONDARY STRUCTURES 18. IN ESTABLISHED HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 UNALTERED  NO  
 MINOR YES/NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other (Specify) CHICAGO SCHOOL MAJOR  
19. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT (NATURAL AND MAN-MADE) DOWNTOWN WALKWAY

20. INFORMATION SOURCES TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR

21. PREPARED BY NANCY J. LONG 22. DATE 9/8/77

1. C RECTANGULAR PLAN
2. E 3 STORIES
3. B,C THREE BAYS MAIN FLOOR, 2 BAYS UPPER FLOORS  
D-7 FIRST FLOOR IRON
4. B-2, C-5 SMOOTH DRESSED STONE FACADE, COMMON BOND BRICK BODY
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. B-2 ENTABLATURE; B-10 MARBLE PANELING AT FLOOR LEVEL OF FACADE
7. G ENTRANCE VOID
8. A UNKNOWN ROOFING
9. 
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. J NO DORMERS
13. M PARAPET ENTABLATURE, BRACKETED IN STONE
14. B STONE
15. R NONE
16. I NONE NAT'L REG - 22 Sept 80  
NOM. FORM by
17. C-4 NO SPECIAL ROOF TRIM PAT SIDES
18. A FLAT WINDOWS, UPPER FLOORS
19. A PLAIN MOULDING
20. A PLAIN SIDES
21. B STONE SURROUNDS
22. A STONE SILLS
23. A FIXED SASH CHICAGO WINDOWS:
24. LARGE CENTRAL LIGHT WITH NARROW FLANKING LIGHTS, TRANSOM
25. A FIRST FLOOR LARGE FIXED SASH ~~STONE~~ WINDOWS; CURVED AT DISPLAY ENTRANCE
26. B-1 CENTRAL ENTRANCE
27. A FLAT DOOR
28. A PLAIN MOULDING
29. A PLAIN SIDES
30. A WOOD
31. A-1 PLAIN
32. A NO SIDELIGHTS EXCEPT DISPLAY WINDOWS
33. B-2 SINGLE-LIGHT TRANSOM
34. C-2 DOUBLE GLAZED WOOD DOORS
35. A PRESSED METAL CEILING

Architectural Information

IDENTIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION/DATE

SIGNIFICANCE

DESCRIPTION

84 80  
A. NAME ROWE'S IMPORTS  
B. COUNTY Vanderburgh  
C. NUMBER 92-196-0063  
D. ADDRESS 102-204 Main Street  
E. TOWN/CITY Evansville  
F. QUAD SHEET Evansville South  
G. SITE  STRUCTURE  
H. NHL  NR  
I. UTM References 449670 4203530  
J. TRACT # 10 024670