

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 FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**old  
The Bitterman Building  
^  
HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

The Old Bitterman Building

**LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

200 Main Street

--NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Evansville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Eighth

STATE

Indiana

VICINITY OF

CODE

18

COUNTY

Vanderburgh

CODE

163

**CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY** DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS** OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO**PRESENT USE** AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER:**OWNER OF PROPERTY**NAME  
Hinkebein CorporationSTREET & NUMBER  
323 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Evansville

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Indiana**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Vanderburgh County Recorder's Office

STREET &amp; 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  LOCALDEPOSITORY 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 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		

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

The Old Bitterman building is located at 200 Main Street on the corner where NW Second and Main Streets intersect. (Photo 1) Evansville's earliest commercial and residential district originated in this vicinity, primarily owing to its proximity to the riverfront. Today the site borders on the city's urban renewal area, although the Main Street district is still regarded as one of Evansville's busiest commercial hubs.

Designed in the Italianate style, the Old Bitterman edifice was probably constructed in 1885 when the Bitterman brothers moved their jewelry business to that address. Situated on a corner lot, the building is a three-storied, sharply-defined rectangular block, ten bays in length on the NW Second Street elevation and four bays wide on the main facade. The body was laid in stretcher bond brick of a deep red hue. (Photo 2)

On the second and third floors of the building's facade, a series of flat-headed windows joined by a common cut-stone trim and set into recessed panels enhances the overall wall design. Engaged pilasters and columns flank the 1/1 doublehung lights. The spandrel beneath these two floors is accented by brick rectangles decorated with disc-shaped encaustic tiles. (Photo 3) A corbelled brick pattern appears in the wall just below the parapet entablature. Brackets support the entablature's metal cornice, and flush gable chimneys top the roofline. (Photo 4)

Throughout the years, the Old Bitterman building has been minimally altered; large glass display windows with fixed sashes and a glass entranceway now dominate the main floor of the structure.

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

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1885

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Bitterman building at 200 Main Street is situated in the heart of downtown Evansville, a site which has witnessed a heavy volume of commercial traffic since at least the mid-nineteenth century. The building presently standing derives its name from the Bitterman brothers, Isaac and Adolph, and was probably erected in 1885 when the Bittermans moved their jewelry business there. Since 1897, when they transferred to new quarters, the building has housed a wide variety of businesses, including an "amusement parlor" shortly after the turn of the century.

After 1961, Evansville instituted an urban renewal program which razed a four-block district of older structures near the riverfront. The Old Bitterman Building was one of the few buildings to survive demolition. Still in good condition, owing largely to its fine workmanship, the building is in pristine condition except for minor alterations to the entranceway. The limestone trim which connects the windows and at intervals features decorative carving, along with the unusual disc-shaped encaustic tiling in the wall designs of the spandrel, make the Old Bitterman Building one of the more striking buildings on the downtown walkway and one of the city's finest examples of Italianate architecture.

# 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 4491675 42102500  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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

Patricia K. Sides and Joan Marchand, Historic Preservation Specialists

ORGANIZATION

Department of Metropolitan Development

DATE

December 21, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Room 301, Old Courthouse Center

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 X

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

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

W. Kay  
ATTN: W. Kay  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 9/12/80

DATE 9/17/80

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

LOCAL HISTORIES AND ATLASES

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

PERIODICALS

Central Library Newspaper Clipping File

(Frank J. Schlotter obituary.) 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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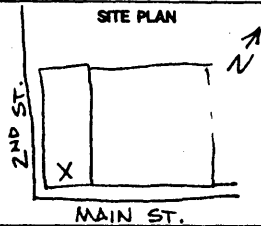
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Sub Lot #1 of Old Plan # 109: commencing at the southeast corner of lot 109, running 18.75 feet parallel with Main Street; thence along the line separating Sub #1 from Sub #2 90 feet; thence at right angles to Second Street; thence southeast to the point of beginning.

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

1. HISTORIC NAME  
2. OWNERSHIP: PUBLIC  PRIVATE  
NAME HINKEBEIN CORP. (BEING SOLD ON  
ADDRESS CONTRACT TO ROWE'S IMPORTS)  
3. LOCATION NOTES  
4. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY: 20-15-10  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 C. 1885  
Vacant    YES/RESTRICTED 10. ARCHITECT/BUILDER  
Other    YES/UNRESTRICTED  NO

11. PERIODS: PREHISTORIC 17TH/18TH GEN. 1800-1880  1881-1899 1900-PRESENT

12. AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE  
Archeology-Prehistoric Conservation Law Sculpture  
Archeology-Historic Economics Literature Social/Humanitarian  
Agriculture Education Military Theater  
 Architecture Engineering Music Transportation  
Art Exploration/Settlement Philosophy Other (Specify)  
 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 17. OUTBUILDINGS/SECONDARY STRUCTURES  
Second Empire RUINS  NO  
Stick Style/Eastlake UNEXPOSED YES  
Queen Anne  
Romanesque Revival  
Colonial Revival  
Neo-Classical  
Bungalow  
Vernacular  
Other (Specify)  
15. ALTERATIONS 18. IN ESTABLISHED HISTORIC DISTRICT  
UNALTERED  NO  
MINOR YES/NAME  
MAJOR 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR

19. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT (NATURAL AND MAN-MADE) DOWNTOWN WALKWAY

20. INFORMATION SOURCES TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR, CITY DIRECTORIES, OWNERS, ABSTRACT

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

1. C RECTANGULAR PLAN
2. E 3 STORIES
3. C,D,N FACADE: 3 BAYS SECOND FLOOR, 4 BAYS 3RD FLOOR, 10 BAYS SIDE ELEV. (UPPER FLOORS)
4. C-2 STRETCHER BOND, BRIGHT RED BRICK, STONE + TILE DETAILING
- 5.
6. A-1 RECESSED PANELS; B-2 CORNICE; B-4 CORBELLING; B-6 DECORATIVE PANELS; B-9 VENTS
7. F NO PORCH
- 8.
- 9.
10. A-3 FLUSH CHIMNEYS NAT'L REG - 22 SEPT 1980  
FORM PREPARED BY  
PAT SICES
- 11.
12. J NO DORMERS
13. M PARAPET ENTABLATURE
14. G METAL CORNICE, BRACKETED ON FRONT + SIDE w/ VENTS
15. R NONE
16. I NONE
17. C-4 NO SPECIAL DETAILS
18. A FLAT WINDOWS (UPPER STORIES)
- 19.
20. A+D BRICK SIDES, SOME HAVE STONE COLUMNS BETWEEN
21. B STONE, C BRICK
22. A STONE SILLS
23. B DOUBLEHUNG SASHES
24. A-1 OVER B-1
25. A 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOORS THE SAME
26. MAIN FLOOR ALTERED SIDE DOOR HAS LINTEL MATCHING UPPER FLOOR WINDOWS
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
35. C UNKNOWN INTERIOR



A. NAME  
B. COUNTY Vanderburgh  
C. NUMBER 82-196-0064  
D. ADDRESS 200 Ma In. Street  
E. TOWN/CITY Evansville  
F. QUAD SHEET Evansville South  
G. SITE X STRUCTURE  
H. NHL X NR  
I. UTM Reference  
J. HAER  
K. HABS  
L. NR  
M. 449660  
N. 4203320

Architectural Information

IDENTIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION/DATE

SIGNIFICANCE

DESCRIPTION