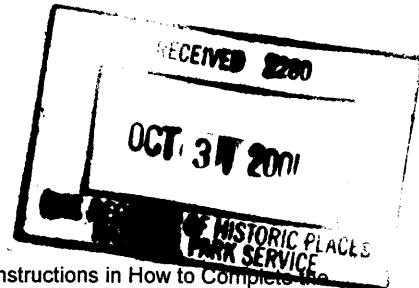


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

1248



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Porter Pool Bathhouse
other names/site number _____ 145-585-45024

2. Location

street & number 501 North Harrison Street N/A not for publication
city or town Shelbyville N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Shelby code 145 zip code 46176

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

C. St
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Date

10-25-01

D-SHPO

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall

Date of Action

12/7/01

Porter Pool Bathhouse
Name of Property

Shelby IN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- private
- public-Local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN: Art Deco

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

STONE: Limestone

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE _____

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION _____

Period of Significance

1930-1950 _____

Significant Dates

1930 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Bohlen, D.A. & Sons _____

Shelby Construction Company _____

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 605600 4375870
Zone Easting Northing

3 Zone Easting Northing

2

4

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christopher Baas

organization date 08-01-2001

street & number 21116 N. Banbury Road telephone 317/ 877-7799

city or town Noblesville state IN zip code 46060

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Shelbyville Parks & Recreation Department

street & number 945 S. Tompkins Street telephone 317-392-5128

city or town Shelbyville state IN zip code 46176

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1

Porter Pool Bathhouse of Shelbyville, Shelby County, Indiana

The Porter Pool Bathhouse, constructed in 1930, is an Art Deco style brick structure located in Shelbyville, Indiana. Both the exterior and interior maintain the highest integrity. The Shelby County Interim Report gives the bathhouse an Outstanding rating.

The bathhouse property is bordered on the north by the Big Blue River, the east by Harrison Street (State Road 9), the south by the Coca-Cola bottling Co., and the west by Tompkins Street. The site is flat and mostly covered with turf. The pool was originally located west of the structure, but has been razed, filled, and planted in turf.

The bathhouse is a long, one-story gable roof structure with a central two-story tower. It measures approximately 100 feet by 40 feet. It is constructed from brick laid in a stretcher bond, has limestone ornamentation, and a concrete foundation.

The central tower is square with chamfered corners. It has a low pitch, octagonal, asphalt shingle pyramidal roof with a finial. A limestone frieze wraps the tower's top. It has two wavy lines that simulate water, one layered over the other. The tower's entry is symmetrical with double doors below gothic-like windows, a second story octagonal window, and flanking side piers. The two wood entry doors have multiple panes, and the lower panes step out wider than the upper. The door's wood surface has a triangular projection into the lowest row of panes. A panel the width of the entry is over the door, and is topped with dentils. Three multi-paned windows are above the panel. Each six paned window is topped with a tracery-like three light triangle. Two inverted triangles are located between the window's triangular tops. The door and windows equal approximately two-thirds the height of the tower.

The entry and windows have a door surround of two broad bands of limestone on a limestone bed. It is chamfered at the top corners at an angle that matches the triangular topped windows. The bands step down to the limestone bed that is flush with the main surface of the tower. The bed parallels the sides of the opening, and steps inward towards the tower's center at the frame's chamfered corners. The octagonal window is centered over the entry. Its top abuts the limestone frieze, and the bottom abuts the limestone bed. The window is divided into multiple lights in the shape of an arrowhead. The remains of electric light sconces flank the entry.

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Section number 7 Page 2

Porter Pool Bathhouse of Shelbyville, Shelby County, Indiana

The tower's two square brick piers are located at its chamfered corners. They have concrete bases. The top of each pier is capped with a limestone cube on a small base, and limestone corner blocks that project down into the brickwork. The corner blocks create a step-like pattern in the surrounding brick. At the bottom of each pier is a limestone cube embellished with a simple inverted triangle. It rests on a larger cube, and originally held a decorative urn.

Two brick pilasters topped with limestone weatherings, one on the tower's front and one on its side, connect the piers to the tower. The pilasters create a stepped effect from the tower out to the column. Since the pilasters are smaller than the piers, the pier tops sit out from the tower.

The tower's north and south facades are connected to the one-story structure, and have octagonal windows. The window is divided into multiple lights in the shape of an arrowhead. The bottom of the window has a horizontal limestone band the width of the wall and, like the front, the top abuts the frieze. The tower's west façade sits east, or in front of, the roof peak of the one-story main structure. It has a square limestone framed opening with wood louvers in a chevron-like design.

The one-story structure has an asphalt shingle roof with boxed eaves. A plain wood molding wraps the juncture between the roof and the wall. The windows come in two sizes, a multi-paned steel casement with hinges at the sides, and a larger multi-paned casement with fixed side lights. The windows have plain limestone sills and lintels that extend past the window opening into the surrounding brick. The lintels have three horizontal bands that step down towards the window panes. The windows on the west facade have brick header sills and vertical stretcher lintels.

Viewing the east façade, the one-story section of the structure appears like side wings to the tower. Each side of the façade is identical, and houses dressing rooms. Each roof has two shed dormers with a single light window. Each façade has four of the smaller steel casement windows, and a covered vestibule at the end of each wall that contains exit doors. The roof extends over each vestibule and has a concave flare, and there are arched openings on the vestibule's facades that face inward towards the tower. The east façade of each vestibule has a rectangular opening with a brick header sill and a vertical stretcher lintel. The opening has two identical wood screens with a triangular arrowhead-like design.

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Porter Pool Bathhouse of Shelbyville, Shelby County, Indiana

The north and south facades are identical and display a chimney flanked by louvers and windows. The gable's profile shows the roof's flared ends that cover the vestibules. The chimney narrows in size at two different levels, and is decorated with horizontal limestone bands. The lowest band has rounded edges, and rests on limestone corner blocks that step out towards the chimney's edge. A triangular block sits on top of the band. Limestone weatherings, sloping perpendicular to the facades, are located where the chimney first narrows. Another horizontal band, located over corner blocks that step out towards the chimney's exterior edge, is located where the chimney narrows a second time. The chimney's narrowest width has a plain limestone band, and a second limestone band over small vertical limestone corner blocks. The chimney is capped in limestone and has vertical corner blocks with hollow chamfers.

The chimney is flanked by wood louvers that have a chevron-like design, and limestone lintels and sills. The larger version of the metal casement windows is located beneath each louver. Smaller louvered attic vents flank the chimney at the roof's peak.

The structure's west façade is symmetrical and once faced the pool. It has a central cross-gable with boxed eaves, and covered vestibules at the end of each wall. The cross-gable is dominated by a multi-paned arched window with a brick sill. The arch is three brick headers thick, and has limestone imposts. The metal sash window contains a six light awning window. The arched window is flanked by six paned casement windows below a fixed two light transom. They have vertical brick stretcher lintels and header sills. Metal sconces are between the arched and flanking windows. A limestone diamond detail is located at the gable's peak.

The facades on each side of the cross-gable are mirror images of one another. Each has a metal door with fixed single light transoms next to the cross-gable, three of the smaller metal casement windows, and covered vestibules at the end of each wall. Metal sconces are located between each window, and the window and the metal doors. Each flank has two shed gables with single lights. The vestibules are covered by the concave flare of the roof, and contain footbaths. Brick arched doorways are on the vestibule's facades that face inward towards the cross-gable. The vestibule's west façades have a rectangular opening with vertical brick stretcher lintels, and header sills. The opening has three square wood frames with turned wood balusters.

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Porter Pool Bathhouse of Shelbyville, Shelby County, Indiana

The bathhouse's interior walls are glazed block laid in a stretcher bond. The windows have bullnose jambs and lintels, and limestone sills. The floor is concrete. The two-story tower has a one-story ticket booth with a wood framed opening, wood shelf, and a wire mesh that separates the employees from the swimmers. The tower is open above the ticket booth.

Doorways in the tower's north and south walls access long rectangular dressing rooms, and a door on the west wall accesses the cross-gable. The women's dressing room is north, and the men's is south. The men's dressing room extends into the cross-gable. The dressing room's ceilings are flat in the center and have sloping sides. The sides have framed openings at the dormers, and it is open at the cross gable. A wood molding wraps the juncture between the wall and ceiling. Each dressing room has a low counter, and shelves with wire baskets to hold personal belongings. The dressing rooms have free-standing concrete block shower partitions that are not original. The end walls have a small interior room, and a partition the approximate height of the building's walls. They are capped by a wood cornice molding. The partition provides privacy for the door accessing the footbath vestibule. Both end walls have small square openings near the floor that access the chimneys, and louvers near the ceiling.

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Porter Pool Bathhouse of Shelbyville, Shelby County, Indiana

Porter Pool Bathhouse is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. It is a locally significant illustration of historic recreational trends, an outstanding example of the Art Deco style, and is associated with the D.A. Bohlen architectural firm. The structure displays exceptional detailing, and has a high level of integrity.

The bathhouse is significant in the civic and recreational contexts of Early Twentieth Century Shelbyville, Indiana. Shelbyville was platted in 1823 on the south bank of the Big Blue River. It began to prosper in the 1850's with the construction of a railroad that serviced a flourishing furniture industry. As the county seat, it was also the center of local government and its associated business, financial, and political activities.

The prosperity of the furniture industry continued into the early decades of the Twentieth Century. As many as twenty-one factories operated at one time, and employed hundreds of locals. Shelbyville was second to Grand Rapids in the quantity of furniture produced, and relied heavily on the Chicago Furniture Shows trade. Other local industries included the G. W. Kennedy Milling and Grain Company that made paper liners for wheat hauling boxcars, and the Chambers Company that manufactured gas ranges.

The city's growth, along with a national trend towards developing parks and recreation facilities, resulted in a local demand for recreational opportunities. Shelbyville's first park was established in 1914, was expanded and improved in the ensuing years, and was dedicated Morrison Park in 1928. A second park, Kennedy Park, was established in the late 1920's.

Nationally, swimming had developed into a popular sport, and in Shelbyville swimming holes along the river provided the best, albeit unsafe, opportunities. By the 1920's local support was growing for a healthy and safe public pool, and in the summer of 1929 the American Legion sponsored a drive to construct a pool. In August, Mr. and Mrs. Enos Porter offered a gift of \$40,000 to construct an outdoor pool in memory of their son William who died in 1925. The Porters founded the Porter Mirror and Glass Company, and later the Porter Steel Specialty Company.

In January 1930 the heirs of William Teal offered a site for the pool, and in March the Porters purchased the site of the city's first mill to enlarge the Teal donation. A special pool committee received eleven bids and awarded the contract to Shelby Construction Company, with D. A. Bohlen as the architect. Bohlen designed an Art Deco Style bathhouse to support an outdoor pool.

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Section number 8 Page 6

Porter Pool Bathhouse of Shelbyville, Shelby County, Indiana

Bathhouse design evolved along with the modernization of plumbing and water supply, public health standards, and public demand for safe and affordable swimming facilities. Early bathhouses were unsupervised and considered unhygienic buildings. Patrons were issued keys to private dressing rooms where they changed and stored their possessions. The design evolved towards accommodating the local demand for swimming as hygienic, efficient, and since they were typically public funded structures, as cost efficient as possible. Individual dressing rooms were replaced with an open shared dressing space, with locker or basket storage. Men's dressing spaces were typically open with benches, and women had individual booths. Showers were provided where health laws required bathing prior to swimming, and footbaths were located at doors accessing the pool deck.

The Art Deco Style was a European influenced style that flourished between the World Wars. The style received its name from the 1925 Exposition des Arts Decoratifs in Paris. Its development was a reaction to revival styles and Beaux-Arts classicism. Unlike Modernist architects who completely abandoned ornamentation, Art Deco architects modernized by abstraction existing classically-based architectural elements. The style is characterized by simple cubic forms, linear edges with a vertical emphasis, and flat surfaces. Structures were adorned with geometric octagons, chevrons, and zigzag designs. Many have sculptural relief ornamentation with floral, sunburst, and human figure inspired designs. Roofs were often flat, and windows were metal casement.

The style was typically applied to public and office buildings, but rarely in houses. New York skyscrapers like the Chrysler Building and Empire State Building, and cinema houses throughout the country, are examples of the style.

Shelbyville has several notable examples of the style. The Shelby County Courthouse, another D. A. Bohlen and Sons design from 1936, is located on South Harrison Street; Lora Pearson School constructed c.1935 is located on Colescott Street; and adjacent to the Porter Pool Bathhouse is the Coca-Cola Bottling Company constructed c.1937.

D. A. Bohlen (1827-1890) was a German-born and trained architect that immigrated to the United States in c. 1851. He arrived in Indianapolis a year later and worked for architect Francis Costigan, the designer of Madison's Lanier Mansion. Bohlen established his own firm in 1853, a firm that eventually included four generations of Bohlens.

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Porter Pool Bathhouse of Shelbyville, Shelby County, Indiana

Bohlen designed such Indiana landmarks as the Morris-Butler House in 1864, Crown Hill Cemetery Chapel in 1877, and several churches and public structures. His son Oscar joined the firm in 1884, and the firm became D. A. Bohlen and Son. Their work included the City Market in 1886. On his own, Oscar designed the Majestic Building in 1896, and the French Lick Springs Hotel in 1898. Oscar's son August joined the firm in 1909 and was the coauthor of Indiana's first building codes. He also designed the Indianapolis Star-News Building in 1924. August's son Robert joined the firm in 1946, and the two designed the Empire Life Building in 1950. The firm incorporated with David Burns in 1961, and ultimately became Bohlen, Meyer, Gibson and Associates. The National Register of Historic Places has more than twenty Bohlen projects.

The Bohlen firm has a history of designing buildings in Shelbyville. D. A. Bohlen designed the County Jail in 1874, the Thatcher House in 1877, a remodel of the original 1854 courthouse in 1878, and the Laughlin House in 1890. In 1937 D. A. Bohlen and Sons designed the Art Deco Style County Courthouse.

Bohlen and Sons design for the Art Deco Style Porter Pool Bathhouse displays the standardized form of bathhouse design, and details and forms characteristic of the Art Deco Style. The bathhouse has a central entry, or control point, to efficiently collect fees and disperse swimmers to their respective dressing rooms. In response to hygiene requirements, the interior walls were constructed with easy to sanitize glazed block, and the floor constructed of concrete. The dressing rooms have showers, and swimmers were required to wade through footbaths when exiting the rear of the structure. Air movement, essential to drying the structure, was accommodated with dormers, numerous windows, and end-wall louvers.

The Bathhouse displays a variety of Art Deco Style details. The entry has classical columns and gothic windows that have been abstracted, or modernized. The emphasis on verticality is evident in the two-story tower that serves no purpose other than providing height to the structure, streamlined columns and pilasters, the tower entrance's elongated windows, and the vertical lines of the entry door surround. The step motif is evident in the layered door surround, chimney and column corner stone details, entry door windows, window lintels, and the pilasters stepping out to the columns. Art Deco ornamentation is found on the urn bases, octagonal and triangular windows, and vestibule screens. Chevron-like patterns are seen in the louvers.

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Porter Pool Bathhouse of Shelbyville, Shelby County, Indiana

In June of 1930, the city awarded American Legion Post 70 a contract to manage the pool, and the facility was dedicated July 4 with a public ceremony where Mr. Porter turned the property over to Mayor Webb. A boy and girl were chosen from the crowd to take the first plunge. The pool was typically open from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and admission was 25 cents for adults and 10 cents for children.

In 1955 pool management was turned over to the Shelbyville Parks Department. The pool was renovated in 1975, and new showers installed in the bathhouse in 1977. More upgrades and repairs were added in the 1980's including a water slide. However, expenses to repair and maintain the pool, and an interest in a more modern family aquatic center, caused the parks board to begin construction of The Shelbyville Family Aquatics Center. Porter Pool officially closed in August of 1998, and the pool structure and deck razed. The bathhouse is presently vacant.

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Porter Pool Bathhouse of Shelbyville, Shelby County, Indiana

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Section number 10 Page 10

Porter Pool Bathhouse of Shelbyville, Shelby County, Indiana

Verbal Boundary Justification

Plus or minus 4.5 acres beginning at the northwest corner of Harrison and Pennsylvania Streets, in the City of Shelbyville, Indiana thence West along the North property line of Pennsylvania Street, Two hundred sixty four feet (264) to the east side of a sixteen foot alley; thence in a Northerly direction along the east side of said alley one hundred thirty six and one half feet ($136 \frac{1}{2}$) for a starting point, thence west Two hundred seventy seven feet (277), more or less, to the east property line of Tompkins Street; thence in a northerly direction Three hundred seventy two (372) feet, more or less, along the east property line of Tompkins Street to the south bank of the Blue River with the meanderings thereof to its junction with the following described line;

Commencing at the beginning point above described and running thence North along the east line of said sixteen foot alley, extended a distance of One hundred thirty one feet (131) to a point where this line is intersected by the property line dividing the lands of Martin Curtsinger and Rebie Curtsinger and the lands held by the heirs and devices of William E. Teal, deceased, and described as follows: Beginning at the north West corner of Harrison and Pennsylvania Street in the City of Shelbyville, Indiana, and running thence North along the West line of Harrison Street One Hundred and eighteen feet (118); thence North Fifteen (15) degrees and thirty minutes west fifty feet for a beginning point; and running thence North Fifteen degrees and Thirty minutes west eight and one tenth rods (8.1); thence south Seventy-seven degrees and fifteen minutes West Six and twenty six hundredths (6.26) rods; thence North twelve degrees and forty five (45) minutes West one and one tenth (1.1) rods thence south seventy seven degrees (77) and fifteen minutes west six and nine tenths (6.9) rods from which point the line here varies north Five degrees (5) and thirty minutes (30) West a distance of Three hundred fifteen feet (315) and six inches (6) more or less to the South Bank of the Blue River.

Boundary Justification

The verbal boundary justification is the legal description for the original Porter Pool property. It contains the bathhouse that maintains its historic integrity. Although the associated pool no longer exists, the site as a whole helps convey the suburban setting and atmosphere of the property. For these reasons the entire 4.5 acre parcel is included. No non-contributing buildings or structures are included within the boundary.

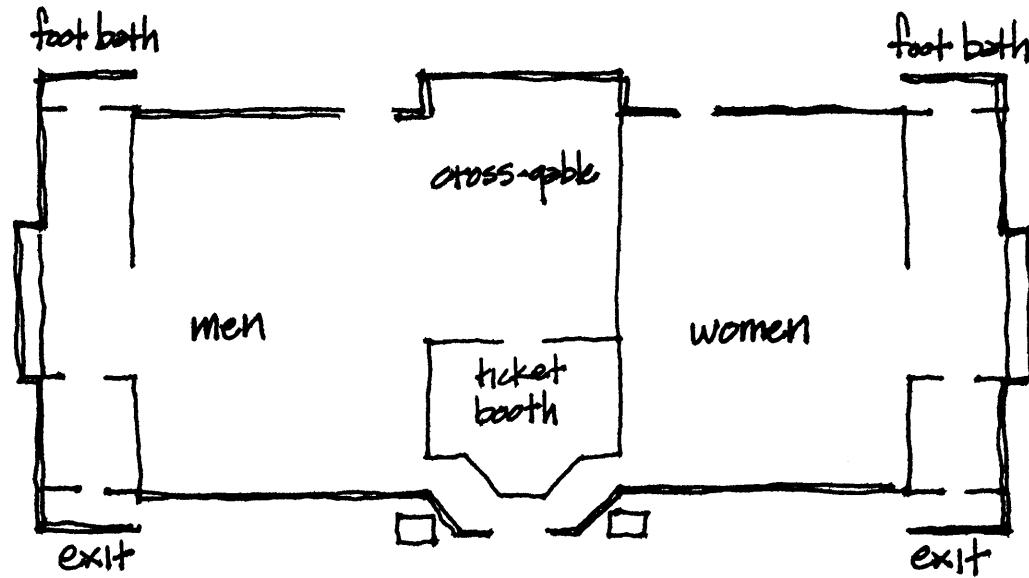
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section number 11 Page 11

Porter Pool Bathhouse of Shelbyville, Shelby County, Indiana
Photographs (July 2001)

1. East façade looking southwest.
2. Central tower looking northwest.
3. Detail of window with sidelights.
4. North façade looking south.
5. South façade looking north.
6. West façade looking east.
7. Cross-gable looking northeast.
8. Metal sconce.
9. Interior of men's dressing room looking southeast.
10. Interior of men's dressing room looking northwest.



Sketch: Porter Pool Bathhouse

No scale

North →