UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 The Bitterman Building  
AND/OR COMMON The New Bitterman Building

2 LOCATION  
STREET & NUMBER 202-204 Main Street  
CITY, TOWN Evansville

STATE Indiana  
CODE 18

CITY, TOWN Evansville  
VICINITY OF Eighth

STATE Indiana  
CODE 168

3 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  
□ OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY  
NAME Charles Duncan Rowe  
STREET & NUMBER 202-204 Main Street  
CITY, TOWN Evansville

STATE Indiana

5 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  
STATE Indiana
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXCELLENT</td>
<td>XUNALTERED</td>
<td>XORIGINAL SITE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>_ALTERED</td>
<td>_MOVED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAIR</td>
<td>_UNEXPOSED</td>
<td>DATE</td>
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DESCRIPT 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.
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.
**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

(See continuation sheet)

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME: Evansville South, Ind.-Ky.

UTM REFERENCES:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
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<th>Northing</th>
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QUADRANGLE SCALE: 1: 24,000

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See continuation Sheet)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>County</th>
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**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

**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: [Signature]

DATE: 7-11-80

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

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

DATE: 9/23/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE: 9/17/80
LOCAL HISTORIES AND ATLASES


PERIODICALS

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

Central Library Newspaper Clipping File.


PHOTOGRAPHIC SOURCES


PRIMARY SOURCE MATERIALS

City of Evansville Building Permits.

Evansville City Directories, 1858+.

Vanderburgh County Deed Indexes and Records.

Vanderburgh County Tax Assessment Books.
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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working Number</td>
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**TECHNICAL CONTROL**

- Photos: 2
- Maps: 1

**HISTORIAN**

- Accept
  - 9/17/80

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

- Inventory
- Review

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

- National Register Write-up: 2/3/81
- Federal Register Entry
  - Send-back
  - Re-submit
- Entered: SEP 22, 1980

United States Department of the Interior - Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
The New Bitterman Building
202-204 Main Street
Evansville, Indiana

Joan C. Marchand 1979
Department of Metropolitan Development

View of facade, looking northwest

PHOTO # 1 OF 2
The New Bitterman Building
202-204 Main Street
Evansville, Indiana

Vanderburgh Co.

Joan C. Marchand 1979
Department of Metropolitan Development

Rear view of New Bitterman Building

PHOTO # 2 of 2
#84 view west of 202 Main Street
#80 New Building
July 18, 1980

Dr. William J. Murtagh  
National Register of Historic Places  
Heritage Conservation & Recreation Services  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Please find enclosed a National Register nomination for the New Bitterman Building, 202-204 Main Street, Evansville, Vanderburgh County, Indiana.

This nomination has been reviewed at several meetings of the Indiana State Professional Consulting Committee, and it is unanimously recommended.

Very truly yours,

Joseph D. Cloud  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure
**ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

**STATE** INDIANA  
Date Entered SEP 22 1980

<table>
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<td>Old Bitterman Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bitterman Building</td>
<td>Evansville, Vanderburgh County</td>
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**Also Notified**

| Honorable Richard G. Lugar    | State Historic Preservation Officer |
| Honorable Birch Bayh          | Mr. Joseph D. Cloud                |
| Honorable H. Joel Deckard     | Director, Department of            |
|                               | Natural Resources                  |
|                               | 608 State Office Building          |
|                               | Indianapolis, Indiana 46204        |

NR Byers 10-7-80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.