

ARCADE BUILDING
(Arkin Building)
439 State Street
Hammond
Lake County
Indiana

HABS No. IN-252

HABS
IND
45-HAMM,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHY
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, P.A. 19106

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Location: 439 State Street, Hammond, Lake County, Indiana

USGS Calumet City, IL - IN Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates 16.456787.4607393

Significance: The Arcade building, a neoclassical commercial structure, is a contributing building within the Downtown Hammond: State Street Historic District, a district eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Local significance is based on its architecture; the location of a prominent, local business; and the association of its owner/builder with the local Jewish community.

The significance of the State Street Historic District is based on: 1) its architecture including fine examples of terra cotta from the 1920's, many of which were designed by the architects of Chicago; and 2) its history (a) being one of the two primary commercial - retail streets of Hammond which served as the major commercial and retail center for the Calumet region of Indiana and Illinois from the early 1900's to the 1960's; and (b) the location of a concentration of Jewish-owned businesses from the early 1900's until the 1960's.

Description: The building faces southwesterly along State Street which runs parallel to the Michigan Central Railroad tracks in the central part of Hammond. The building is two story with a mezzanine level at the rear. The front facade is adorned with stone neoclassical details. These details include highly detailed pilasters between the 2nd floor windows, brackets and modillions supporting a cornice, and inset panels between arched niches at the parapet wall. At the center of the panels below the cornice, there is an inscription which reads "Arcade." The three second floor windows are double hung with a large square lower sash and a smaller rectangular upper sash. The first floor store front retains the recessed entry, but has been covered with metal panels approximately 36" x 30" (date unknown). The building is constructed of block tiles (1st floor) and common brick with some steel structure.

No information on the architect is available.

History:

According to the Assessors office, the Arcade building was constructed in 1927. Charles Arkin purchased the property in 1923. The title records include a reference that the sale was subject to a lease with Sam Gubitz dated May 18, 1917. Sam Gubitz operated a shoe store at this location at least since 1914. Charles Arkin demolished the building previously at this location in order to construct the new building. He then moved his business from 163 State Street (the Odd Fellows Building now 465 State St.). Even though the building is inscribed with the name "Arcade", the City Directories always referred to this building as the Arkin Building (from 1928 to 1956). In 1931, the City changed its street numbering system. The address changed from 149 State Street to 439.

Charles Arkin emigrated from Russia in 1889. He opened his business in that year and he came to be known as "Hammond's Oldest Jeweler". Charles Arkin & Sons, Inc. Jewelers sold watches, silverware, and leathersgoods in addition to diamonds and jewelry. He had three previous locations in downtown Hammond before operating at this location from 1929 until his death in 1936. Arkin was a charter member of Temple Beth-El, established in 1911 as reformed Jewish congregation, along with many of the other prominent Jewish business owners from State Street.

Charles's son Abraham continued to operate the business at this location until 1937 when the business was relocated to the Indiana Hotel (the business closed in 1938). However, the property had been sold in a sheriff's tax sale in 1933 to the Lincoln National Life Insurance Co. of Fort Wayne, IN. After Arkin's business moved out of the building in 1937, Simon Werbner of Chicago rented the building for his men's clothing store. Werbner's remained at this location until 1959 even though the insurance company had sold the property to Vasiliki Pappas (later Pecoulas) of Chicago in 1944. She continued to own the property (in trust, then later jointly with her second husband) until 1975.

Another men's clothing store briefly operated out of the building until Sidney Turek opened his Fur Salon in 1962. This business lasted until 1971. Reflective of the downturn in the importance of State Street as a retail center, the 1970's saw various owners trying to operate various businesses at this location. In 1981, the building was purchased by Betty Knight to operate her auction business. That business closed in 1984 leaving the building vacant. Knight quit claimed the property to Lake County for non-payment of property taxes.

With the building being vacant since 1984, it continued to deteriorate and unpaid taxes continued to accrue. After years of complaints from adjacent property owners, the City of Hammond is forced to demolish this blighted structure in January 1994.

Sources: No architectural drawings or historic photographs are available.

The following is available at:

Lake County Government Complex
2293 N. Main St.
Crown Point, IN 46307

Lake County Recorders Office
Deed Records: Bk. 259 pg. 78; Bk. 307 pg. 121; Bk. 511 pg. 200; Bk. 703 pg. 231; Bk: 861 pg. 264; Bk. 1295 pg. 452.

Lake County Assessors Office
Real Estate Assessment and Transfer Record
Key number 36-238-37

The following is available at:

Calumet Room
Hammond Public Library
564 State Street
Hammond, IN 46320

Haines Criss-Cross Northwest Indiana Suburban Directory.

Schaumburg, IL: Haines & Company, Inc. 1980, 1981, 1984, 1985, 1988.

Polk's Hammond (Lake County, Ind.) City Directory. Chicago: R. L. Polk and Company, 1928, 1929, 1931, 1937, 1939, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1964, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1979.

Smith's Directory of Hammond, Ind. and West Hammond, Ill. For 1914 Volume 2; For 1919 Volume 4; For 1921-22 Volume 5; For 1923-24 Volume 6. Dorchester, MA: Edgar Smith.

Smith's Directory of Hammond, Indiana including West Hammond, Illinois For 1911-12. Gary, IN: Edgar Smith, 1911.

Calumet Room Vertical Files: Beth-El, Temple

The Times (Hammond, IN) "Temple Beth-El Marks 60th Year"
9/17/71.

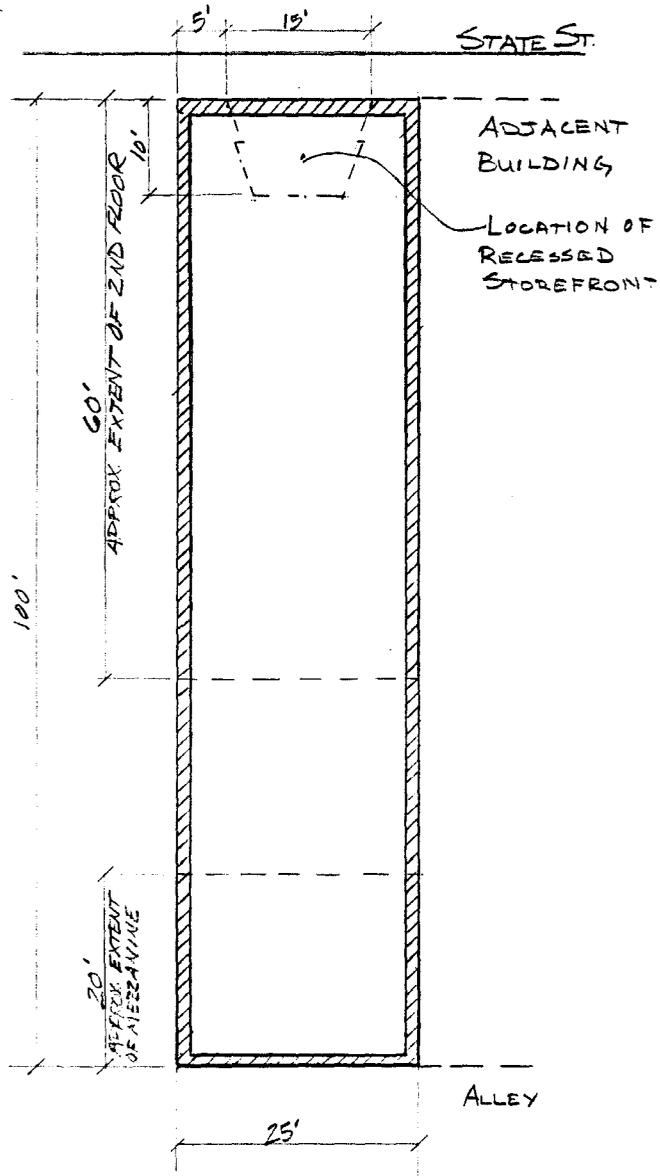
Levin, Daniel. "The Jews of Hammond, Indiana: Their Homes and
Business in 1937, 1954, and Today." Publication No. 26.
Indiana Jewish History. Fort Wayne, IN: The Indiana Jewish
Historical Society, Inc., June 1990.

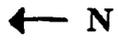
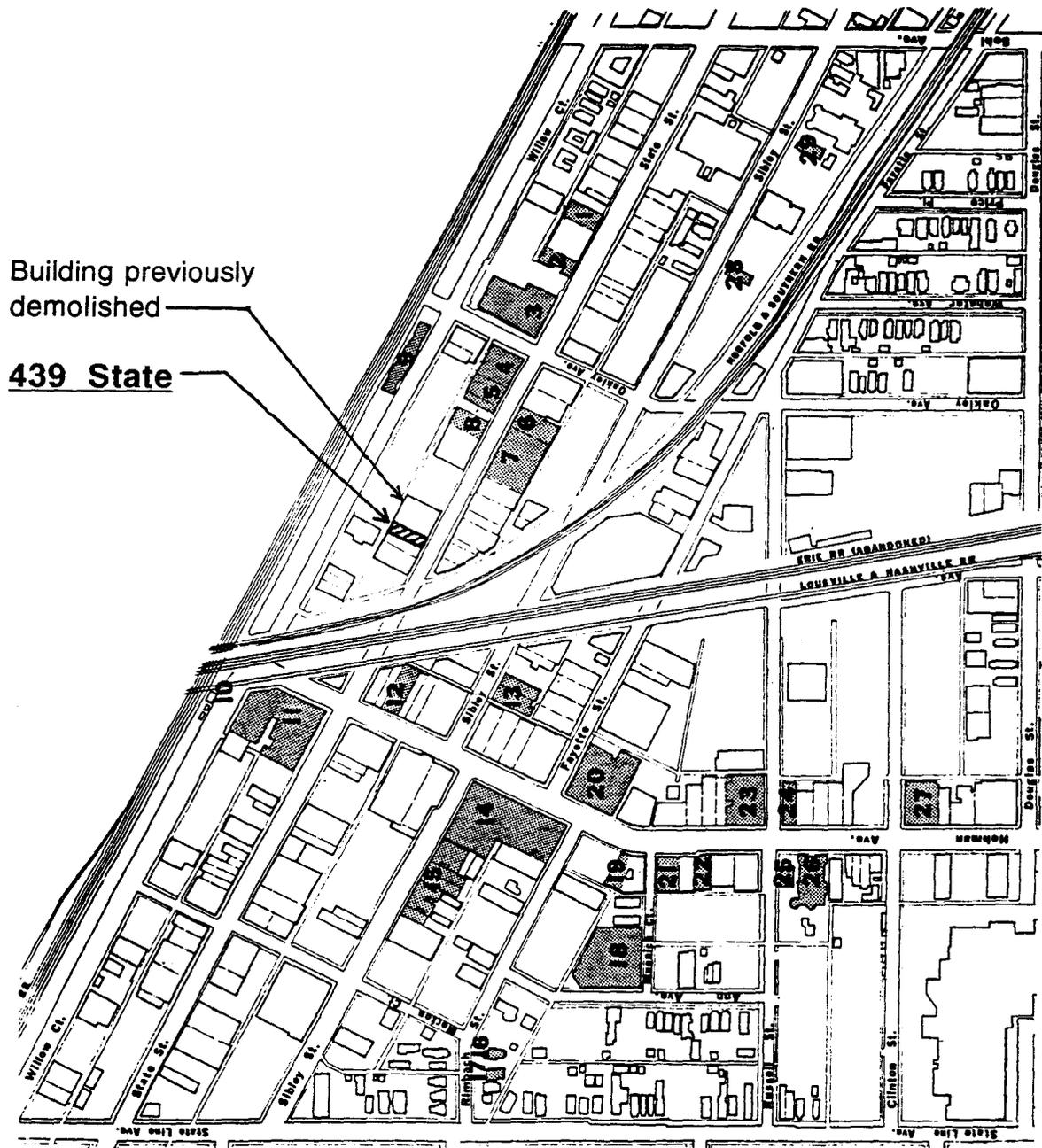
The Times newspaper microfilm. (at Newspapers and Periodicals
Desk)

The Hammond Times. "Charles Arkin Dies After 48 Years in City."
2/3/36 pg. 1 col. 6.

Historian:

Brian L. Poland, Assistant City Planner
City of Hammond Department of Planning
December 29, 1993





Map source: Downtown Hammond: An Historical and Architectural Guide. Brochure by The Hammond Centennial Committee, 1984.