

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

FINAL

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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 State Street Commercial Historic District  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Roughly, both sides of State Street between Sohl and Bulletin Avenues, including 5109 Bulletin N/A  not for publication  
city or town Hammond N/A  vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county Lake code 089 zip code 46320

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] 7/28/99  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
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:

|  |                                  |                         |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register.<br><input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.             | _____<br>Signature of the Keeper | _____<br>Date of Action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register<br><input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet. | _____<br>Signature of the Keeper | _____<br>Date of Action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register   | _____<br>Signature of the Keeper | _____<br>Date of Action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register  | _____<br>Signature of the Keeper | _____<br>Date of Action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)   | _____<br>Signature of the Keeper | _____<br>Date of Action |

Name of Property

County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 28           | 10              | buildings  |
| 0            | 0               | sites      |
| 0            | 0               | structures |
| 0            | 0               | objects    |
| 28           | 10              | Total      |

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution  
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Department Store  
 SOCIAL: Meeting Hall  
 GOVERNMENT: Post Office  
 GOVERNMENT: Courthouse  
 DOMESTIC: Hotel

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
 COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant  
 GOVERNMENT: Post Office  
 GOVERNMENT: Courthouse  
 DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling  
 DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling  
 RELIGION: Religious Facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

19th & 20th c. AMER.: Commercial Style  
 19th & 20th c. REVIVALS: Classical Revival  
 19th & 20th c. REVIVALS: Late Gothic Revival  
 MODERN: Art Deco

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
 walls BRICK  
 STONE: Limestone  
 roof ASPHALT  
 other METAL  
 TERRA COTTA

**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.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE \_\_\_\_\_

COMMERCE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1885-1946 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Bump, Edward \_\_\_\_\_

Berry, Addison \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

State Street Commercial Historic District  
Name of Property

Lake \_\_\_\_\_ IN \_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 11

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

|   |      |             |               |   |      |             |               |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|---|------|-------------|---------------|
| 1 | 1 6  | 4 5 6 7 0 0 | 4 6 0 7 6 3 0 | 3 | 1 6  | 4 5 7 2 6 0 | 4 6 0 7 0 8 0 |
|   | Zone | Easting     | Northing      |   | Zone | Easting     | Northing      |
| 2 | 1 6  | 4 5 7 2 6 0 | 4 6 0 7 3 1 0 | 4 | 1 6  | 4 5 6 7 0 0 | 4 6 0 7 3 8 0 |

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 Courtney Clark  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 7/30/98  
street & number 7129 Monroe Avenue telephone 219-931-8250  
city or town Hammond state IN zip code 46324

**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 various  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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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***Section 7 - Description***

This district is comprised of a total of thirty-seven buildings, 28 contributing and 10 non-contributing. The non-contributing buildings have been identified as such because they have either been significantly altered or were built after the period of significance. In some cases, the alterations include an aluminum "slip facade" that if removed, would re-classify the building as contributing. Although the Federal Building (507 State St.) was not constructed during the two major periods of commercial development, the period of significance has been extended to include it since it is significant in its own right and rated as an outstanding building in the survey.

The buildings in the State Street Historic District represent two periods in the commercial development of the street. These periods are reflected in the materials, types and styles of the buildings. The first period of development is 1885-1915. There were a few buildings dispersed along the street in 1885. The first major building was the department store built by E. C. Minas in 1894. Other businessmen followed Minas's lead and eleven buildings were constructed in the following years. The buildings in this period were either constructed in limestone, like the E.C. Minas Dept. Store (460 State- Photo 15), the American Trust and Savings Bank (479 State- Photo 6), the Henderson Building (464 State- Photo 16), and the Panama-Betz Building (442 State- Photo 13), or brick with limestone details, like the Barelli's Building (463 State- Photo 5), 516 State (Photo 18) or 576-78 State (Photo 21, 22). Except for the bank, all of these buildings were constructed in a commercial vernacular style and were typically two stories with a flat roof and a parapet wall on the street side.

The second period of development occurred from 1920-27. During the twenties, the entire downtown experienced a building boom. It was during this period of commercial development that fifteen of the existing thirty-eight buildings on State Street were constructed. The buildings from this period continued to be two stories in height with the exceptions of the large department stores and the Lincoln Hotel. These buildings were also constructed in brick in an updated version of the commercial vernacular tradition. During this period, however, there is a new building material introduced to the street, terra cotta. Five of the buildings constructed during this period use terra cotta in their facades. The Lincoln Hotel (519 State St.- Photo 9) and Seifer's Furniture Company (531 State St.- Photo 9, 10, 11) both have entire terra cotta facades in a Neo-Gothic style. The Semco Furniture Building (555 State St.- Photo 12) uses terra cotta in the window lintels, medallions and balustrade details. The designers of the L. Fish Furniture Building (481 State St.- Photo 7) experimented with colored terra cotta in an Art Deco style, with both street facades completely clad in the material. This period of commercial development brought a new variety and look of sophistication to the district.

The following is an inventory of the buildings in the district with brief descriptions of the contributing buildings and historical accounts of the businesses. Those which have an (O) have been rated outstanding and those which have an (N) have been rated notable in the *Lake County Interim Report*, a 1996

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survey of historic sites in Lake County. ("C", "N" and "O" properties are contributing to the district.)

**Inventory of Individual Buildings in the District**

**5109 Bulletin (C)-** (Photo 2, 3) This building was constructed in 1915 and is located on the south side of Willow Court. Its current primary entrance is on the south side facing an alley/parking lot. It is a two-story structure with brown brick on the north side and buff brick on the south side. The ground floor on the north side, covered with wood paneling, has two entrances, while the south side is faced with perma-stone. Between the first and second stories on the south side is a band of decorative brick work with a backlit "Wagon Wheel Saloon" sign in the center, and the second story appears to have its original window. The second-story windows on the north facade appear to have been replaced with smaller windows. Beneath the cornice on both sides is a "Hotel Goodwin" sign painted on the brick. The parapets on both sides form pediments and there is a stone panel in the apex that reads 1915.

**424 Willow Court (C)-** (Photo 2,3) This building is located on the south side of Willow Court. It is a one story, dark brown brick structure. On the east side of the building is a white garage door. There is a boarded doorway in the center of the building with a boarded window opening just west of the door. There is no ornamentation on the facade. The parapet wall steps up about 6"-12" in the center of the building.

**426 Willow Court (NC)-** (Photo 2,3) This building is located on the south side of Willow Court. It is a one story structure which has been covered with aluminum siding and wood boards making it difficult to determine original building material or features.

**435 State (C)-** (Photo 4) This building, circa 1930, is located on the north side of State Street. It is a one and a half-story structure with a glazed brick facade. Currently the storefront is covered with wood paneling and has one entrance on the east end of the building. There is a decorative band of dentils between the storefront and the parapet wall. The building is characterized by small, colorful terra cotta ornaments along the parapet.

**437 State (C)-** (Photo 4) This building is located on the north side of State Street. It is a one and a half-story structure with a buff brick facade. The facade is covered with wood paneling and a sign advertising a "Professional Arts Complex." The original piers are not covered and the building is characterized by white terra cotta adornments including a band along the parapet wall with a shield in the center. Shortly after this building was built around 1925, John Millet opened a sporting goods store. The store also featured radio sets and supplies.

**463 State (NC)-** (Photo 5) The Barelli's Building, located on the north side of State Street, was originally constructed around 1910. In the fifties, it was remodeled and the facade of the building was covered in square aluminum panels. Today the 1910 two-story, brick structure can be seen on the west side of the building where many of the aluminum panels have fallen off. An aluminum awning adorned with appliance

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name brands covers the sidewalk in front of the building. The storefront runs the entire length of the building with large windows for display. The building is characterized by a large neon sign that reads "Barelli's".

In the fall of 1997, the Barelli's Building underwent partial rehabilitation on the interior when an antique gallery called "Gallery 463 Antique Galleria" was opened in the east half of the retail space. The rehabilitation exposed the brick interior walls, the original 20-foot-high pressed metal ceilings and hardwood floors. The west side half of the interior appears to be currently undergoing rehabilitation and many of the aluminum panels have been removed on the exterior. An exterior rehabilitation may allow the building to be redefined as a contributing structure.

**465 State (N)-** (Photo 5) The Odd Fellows Building is located on the north side of State Street. It is a two-story, smooth-faced, limestone structure built in the Renaissance Revival style. It is unique in that all of its original windows, recessed storefronts and ornamental details appear to be visibly intact and in continuous use. Other buildings in the district are boarded over making it difficult to identify original features such as those used on this building. The ground floor consists of two storefronts and a central entrance. Above the main entrance is a limestone panel which reads "Odd Fellows Bldg". There is a decorative limestone band between the first and second story that carries a border with a Greek key motif. The second story consists of five arched windows with two slender double hung windows in each arch. Between the windows and on either side of the arch is a Corinthian column. The building has quoins at its corners and a dentil cornice with "I.O.O.F. Calumet Lodge 601" engraved in the frieze. The cornice is also adorned with a foliage pattern in a band that runs the length of the cornice.

The Odd Fellows Building was completed in 1925, at the height of a building boom downtown. In the late twenties, this building played host to Silver's Inc. Jewelers, Share's Army Store, and Stuart's Clothing Store. In 1936, Saint Demetrios' Greek Orthodox congregation worshiped in the Odd Fellows Hall on the second floor..

**469 State (NC)-** (Photo 6) This building is located on the north side of State Street. It is a one-story structure with an aluminum veneer on the front which makes it difficult to identify the underlying building material. The storefront consists of three large aluminum framed windows on the west end of the building. The front setback steps back a few inches in the center and the east end of the building consists of a glass door flanked by two more aluminum framed windows. There is no ornamentation on this building.

**479 State (N)-** (Photo 6) The American Trust and Savings Bank Building, constructed in 1899, is located on the north side of State Street. It is a two-story, rusticated limestone structure constructed in the Neo-Classical style. The main entrance is at street level and is defined by two Ionic columns supporting a cornice. Above each column in the entablature is a patera medallion. The main door is recessed in a large, arched entry. All of the windows have been replaced with glass blocks surrounding smaller fixed pane windows. Beneath the window sills on the ground level are modern pebbled-faced panels of concrete. A band of dentils band and four engaged bartizan-like structures adorn the top of the building. A checkerboard

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of rusticated and dressed stone blocks and oversize dentils also mark the parapet. When compared with a 1921 photograph, it is apparent that the building has retained much of its ornamental limestone and its original window and entrance openings. The only elements missing are a balustrade above the parapet wall and a shield flanked by two vases with the interlinked letters "A, T, and S" for the American Trust and Savings Bank which was then located in the building.

The American Trust and Savings Bank was opened in July of 1911 by bank president William J. McAleen and secretary H.M. Johnson, with a capital stock of \$100,000. It was first housed in the Henderson Building across the street. At that time, 479 State was owned by a Mr. Lash. Under his ownership, the building housed a saloon and a hotel upstairs. The addition on the west end of the building was added to house a restaurant. In 1916, the building was purchased by the American Trust and Savings Bank and became its new home. The bank, along with other financial institutions, served the banking needs of Hammond until 1930. With the Stock Market Crash of 1929, several of Hammond's banks and savings and loans were forced close. The American Trust and Savings Bank was the victim of a quiet "run" and it closed its doors in December of 1930.

In October of 1944, the facility was reopened as the Hoosier State Bank. John F. Wilhelm served as president and Lawrence S. Ervin served as cashier. It was the third bank to open its doors in Hammond after the Depression. In addition to banks, this building contained a host of businesses and offices, including Whitlatch and Whitlatch chiropractors, the Bismark Hotel, Dixie Shoe Store, and Irving's Jewelry.

**481 State (O)-** (Photo 7) The L. Fish Building is located on the northwest corner of State Street and Oakley Avenue with two main facades facing each street. Built in 1927, the four-story building is faced with multi-colored terra cotta in the Art Deco style. With its original geometric patterns and details adorning the building, it is a wonderful example of how colored terra cotta could be used in the Art Deco style. Each facade is six bays wide with white terra cotta pilasters separating each bay. At the top of each pilaster, along the parapet wall, is a finial. Each story is separated by a pale, blue terra cotta band with medallions and diamond-shaped adornments. The rest of the building is covered in large, square, mint green terra cotta panels. The storefronts have been filled in with concrete blocks; however, the original decorative foliate trim still remains around each opening on the ground level. The top of the building is adorned with a decorative arched frieze. The signature L. Fish neon sign with the large fish at the top hangs on the State Street facade. Below that is a sign advertising the First Baptist Spanish Sunday school classes that now occupy the building.

The L. Fish building was constructed in 1927 by the Minas Furniture Co. (later to be called the Minas Dept. Store Co.) to replace the furniture store building which had burned. In an article in *The Lake County Times*, it is stated that "some new ideas in colored terra cotta are being tried out in Hammond for the first time with pleasing affect." In 1929, shortly after it was built, Greenwald's Furniture Company moved into the building. It was not until 1958 that L. Fish Furniture Company occupied it. The building is currently home to the First Baptist Church of Hammond's Spanish Sunday school classes.

**507 State (O)-** (Photo 8) The Federal Building is located on the northeastern corner of State Street and



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Oakley Avenue. It is a four-story, smooth-faced limestone structure built in a simplified Neo-Classical style that shows influences of the Art Moderne style of the thirties. The main facade faces State Street and is nine bays wide. The depth of the building is five bays. The windows and entrances on the ground floor are framed by arched openings with recessed stone keys above each arch. They each house two double hung windows. The second and third floor windows are two-over-two square windows connected by large, vertical, rectangular openings. The fourth story is recessed with the same two-over-two windows. The building is characterized by its clean lines, smooth surfaces and lack of adornment, except for two medallions on either side of the main entrance. "United States Post Office and Court House" is engraved on the building just above the third story.

The Federal Building was completed in 1939 to replace the 1904 Federal Building on the same site. It originally included federal courts, the Internal Revenue office, Army and Navy Recruiting offices and allied departments. It was remodeled on the interior in 1967.

**519 State (O)-** (Photo 9) The Lincoln Hotel is located on the north side of State Street facing south. It is a three-story building constructed of Chicago common brick with a white, terra cotta facade in the Neo-Gothic style. The entire original terra cotta facade is intact and is characterized by its finials, pilasters, shields, and quatrefoil motifs. The first floor consists of three storefronts with the far left being the access to the upper floors. The storefronts retain the recessed entrance but are covered with wood paneling. There is an original pressed metal canopy over the west storefront that suggests the original grandeur of the hotel. The second and third stories each have six window openings with two double hung windows in each opening. The center of the elevation is taller than the rest of the building and "The Lincoln" is written on it. Lincoln Hotel advertisements are painted on the brick side walls.

Built in 1923, the Lincoln Hotel included a restaurant called the Lincoln Cafe. Max Levin also had a men's clothing store in the storefront in the late twenties.

**527 State (C)-** (Photo 9, 10) This building, circa 1935, is located on the north side of State Street facing south. It is a one story structure constructed of concrete blocks. There is no adornment on the building and the storefronts have been completely boarded up. Leon's Furniture was located here.

**531 State (O)-** (Photo 9, 10, 11) The Seifer Building, located on the north side of State Street, was built in 1925 for the Seifer Furniture Company. The five story building is constructed of Chicago common brick with a terra cotta facade in the Neo-Gothic style. The soaring vertical emphasis of the building is punctuated by its slender terra cotta piers, which are crowned with tower-like finials. The building is also adorned with finials, fleur de lis and sunburst motif panels, and gothic tracery. The first floor storefront is covered by wood paneling. Between the ground floor and the upper stories is a band of gothic arches with "Seifer Furniture Co." inscribed beneath it. Most of the upper story windows have been boarded up but there are a few with the original windows still intact. There are three remaining aluminum awnings on the third story windows. The original Seifers neon sign hangs down the middle of the facade. Seifer Furniture Company advertisements are painted on the brick side walls.

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**543 State (C)-** (Photo 11) The Friduss Building, located on the north side of State Street, was built for the Friduss Furniture and Carpet Company in 1921. It is a two-story structure with a white, glazed terra cotta facade in a commercial vernacular style. The storefront is boarded up, however, the original recessed entry appears to be extant. Above this storefront is a wide band of prism glass. This was historically used to reflect light into the back of a store. Above this is a panel which reads "FRIDUSS" which is flanked by two shields. The second-story windows have been replaced by inappropriate fixed pane windows surrounded by aluminum siding to fill in the original window openings. The parapet wall is a simple terra cotta band with shields at either end and at the center.

**551 State (C)-** (Photo 12) This building, constructed in 1923, is located on the north side of State Street. It is a brown brick, two-story structure in the commercial vernacular style. All the windows have been replaced with glass block. Decorative elements include stone keys in the second story lintel, a small, square stone panel above the central pier, and decorative bands of brick between the stories and the parapet.

**555 State (N)-** (Photo 12) This building is located on the north side of State Street. It is a two-story brick structure with terra cotta adornments that show influences from the Classical Revival style. The ground floor is covered with wood paneling and a small band of recently installed windows. The second story consists of three bays, each containing a Chicago style window. The lintels are formed by a pediment in terra cotta, and the openings are flanked with a medallion and pilasters. Above each pediment is a pair of sunburst motif medallions. Quoins define each bay and articulate the sides of the building. The attic level of the building features an engaged terra cotta balustrade.

Shortly after it was constructed in 1924, 555 State, then 255-57 State, became the home of the Semco Furniture company. Dave Semco, president of the Semco Furniture Company, opened the store in September, 1928. An article announcing the opening of the furniture store in *The Lake County Times* described the building and merchandise layout.

The entire two-story building, with basement, has been remodeled for the new furniture mart. A particularly attractive front has been constructed. It will be embellished with the second largest electric sign in Hammond. The first floor will be devoted to the display of living room furniture and floor lamps. The second floor will contain bedroom and dining room suites and rugs.

The basement will be devoted to the display of gas ranges, refrigerators, steel beds, and bedding. <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Dave Semco to Open New Furniture Store Saturday", *The Lake County Times*, 12 Sept. 1928.

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**557 State (NC)-** (Photo 12) This building is located on the north side of State Street. It is a one and a half story structure constructed of a buff brick. The storefront has been completely covered with a wood paneling and the building lacks any adornment.

**438 State (NC)-** (Photo 13) This building is located on the south side of State Street. The entire facade of the building has been covered a plaster-like material which makes it difficult to detect the original building material. There is a band of aluminum windows along the front facade and a recessed corner entrance. Above the band of windows is a long, horizontal sign for "Ace Exterminating Co." There is no other adornment on the building. It was originally constructed in 1880 but excessive alterations were made in 1949 and 1984.

**442 State (C)-** (Photo 13) This two-story brick building with a terra cotta facade and a cornice is located on the south side of State Street. All of the storefronts and second story have been boarded-up so that it is not possible to identify extant adornment, style or number of bays. There is a recessed entrance visible on the west end of the building which is adorned with decorative terra cotta panels.

This building, built in 1905, is called the Panama Building in the 1928 city directory and the Betz Building in the 1930 city directory. With eleven suites or offices, it accommodated dentists, real estate offices, barbers, tailors, and employment agencies. Notable tenant Frank Betz, owner of the Betz surgical supply manufacturing plant, had an office in the building. The storefronts were used for a number of businesses as well, including Consumers Wholesale Grocery and John Pappas jewelers in 1928.

**452-54 State (NC)-** (Photo 14) This building, built in 1912, is located on the south side of State Street. It is a three story brick structure completely clad in red, wood paneling. There are two, recessed, storefront entrances at either end of the building. Above the paneled storefronts is a band of aluminum framed windows across the length of the building. Above the windows is an aluminum canopy which separates the storefront from the upper stories. There is no adornment on the facade.

**456-58 State (NC)-** (Photo 14) This building, built in 1909, is located on the south side of State Street. There are two storefronts, both one and a half stories clad in wood paneling. The western storefront consists of a single white door and an aluminum canopy divides the storefront from the panel, white wood paneled upper story. The eastern facade consists of a recessed storefront with the windows paneled over and a glass, double door entrance. The upper story is plain wood paneling with a "Gerins" sign in the center. There are no other adornments on the facade.

**460 State (N)-** (Photo 15) The Minas Building is located on the south side of State Street. It is a three story commercial vernacular structure constructed of common brick with a limestone facade. The integrity of the facade is evident when compared with a photograph of the store taken in the twenties. The first floor storefronts are all boarded up and there are two aluminum awnings, with neon "Minas" signs above each end, to mark the entrances to the store. The building is ten bays wide, with a variation of the Chicago style

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window in each bay. All of these windows appear to be original and are characterized by a large window flanked by two double hung windows. Above the Chicago style windows are three smaller windows of the same width. The second and third story windows are divided by pressed metal paneled spandrels. The building has a cornice with dentils in limestone. A green neon sign spelling "Minas" in yellow letters which runs vertically down the center of the building.

Edward C. Minas worked as a clerk in the M. M. Towle Co. store before opening a hardware store on the corner of Oakley and State Streets in 1890. This in itself was a risky venture since State Street was devoid of many businesses at that time. Hohman Avenue was Hammond's main street, where all the commerce was located. The site adjacent to the Minas hardware store was a swampy lot overgrown with willows. Through advertising and promoting his business, he was able to corner the local market on construction hardware. The accelerating pace of development caused his business to grow too large for its building and in 1894 Minas constructed a large, three-story building that stood 50 feet wide and 100 feet deep. As reported in *The Famous 1904 Edition of the Hammond Daily News*, Mr. Minas initially "used the first floor for a store room and used the second floor for a storage room and the third was a lodge hall. Time brought more business and caused the removal of the tinning department to a frame structure across the alley in the rear, and brought the use of the entire second and third floors for sales rooms, furniture, carpets and rugs, being added to the other lines."

Minas continued to experiment with marketing techniques, offering enticing values and other inducements, to attract his growing clientele. In 1904, Mr. Minas was able to double the capacity of his store by expanding it 50 feet in width to the west. This addition matched the existing structure in appearance and made the Minas store the largest store in downtown Hammond at that time. At this time he added a dry goods department and other lines a department store would carry.

The E.C. Minas store continued to prosper and in 1912 the Hammond architecture firm of Bump and Berry designed a third addition to the east which also served to unify the State Street facade. A key feature of this addition was the inclusion of large display windows vital to turn of the century merchandising. The work done by Bump and Berry is significant in that they did many of the more significant buildings in town, including the Citizens' National Bank building, the Hammond Country Club, the First Baptist Church, the Orpheum Theater Building and prominent residences in town. According to Addison C. Berry's obituary, he came to Hammond in 1907 from Chicago, where he had worked with Daniel Burnham on such buildings as the Art Institute of Chicago and the Chicago Public Library on Randolph and Michigan Avenue. Mr. Berry also served as associate planner of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. The work Bump and Berry did on the E.C. Minas Department Store is one of the last surviving examples of their work in the city.

The E.C. Minas Department store served as an anchor for the retail stores on State Street after 1905. Other businessmen followed Mr. Minas' lead and located their businesses on State Street as well so that by the mid-twenties, State Street was a bustling, commercial avenue.

**464 State (N)-** (Photo 16) The Henderson Building, located on the south side of State Street, is a two story rusticated limestone building in an early twentieth century commercial vernacular style. When its current

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condition is compared with an early photograph and etching, it is apparent that the second story bay windows and the parapet above the central portion of the building have been removed. However, the original stone piers and facing are intact as well as the original openings and recessed entry.

The building has a gable roof with its ridge running parallel with the street. The first floor elevation has two storefronts, both of which are boarded over, and a second floor entrance in the center that has a recent steel door. The second floor has two large windows over each of the storefronts that have been filled in with glass blocks. There are two smaller windows over the main entrance, one of which is boarded and the other is open to the elements. The roof is covered in black asphalt shingles.

The Henderson Building was built in 1902 by Dr. J. P. Henderson, who came to Hammond in 1898 from Chicago. He set up a small practice from which he dispensed his own medicine. His medical dispensary proved to be very lucrative allowing him to build the Henderson Building only four years later. It featured a suite of physician's offices, the People's Drug Store and apartments on both the first and second floors. The Northern Indiana School of Nursing was located upstairs in this building as well.

The Henderson Building's tenants changed over the years and were used for the Tri-City Parlor, a clothing cleaners, in 1928. It was rented by a hat shop and Albert Ally's shoe repair shop in 1930.

**470 State (N)**- (Photo 16) This building is located on the south side of State Street. It is a two-story brick structure with a limestone facade in a commercial vernacular style. The facade of this building is characterized by an original, intact facade on the second floor while the storefront is completely boarded up. There is a cornice between the first and second stories. The original windows on the second floor are boarded up from the inside, revealing all the original sashes and muntins. They are Chicago style windows with additional frames along the top. Above the second story is a cornice with dentils and a parapet wall.

This building, built circa 1925, was the location of the Devco 5 and 10 Store in 1928. It later was the site of the Leader Department Store and Neumode Hosiery as well.

**484-86 State (NC)**- (Photo 16) This building is located on the southwest corner of State Street and Oakley Avenue. It is a one and a half story structure. The base of the building and the entrance surrounds have been covered with a stucco-like material. The storefront is completely clad in a wood paneling, as is the upper stories. There is an entrance on the State Street facade and two entrances on the Oakley Avenue facade. There is a sign on either facade which reads "First Baptist Church-- The Sweetheart Couples Sunday School Class". There is no adornment on either side of the building or evidence of original material lying underneath the paneling.

**506 State (C)**- (Photo 17) This building is located on the southeast corner of State Street and Oakley Avenue. It is a one-story brown brick structure with little adornment. The windows are boarded up but the piers and the original recessed corner entrance are visibly extant. This building, built circa 1925, was host to the Economy Shoe Store in the late twenties and early thirties.

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**516-18 State (NC)**- (Photo 18) This two-story brick building is located on the south side of State Street. The storefront has been covered in brown paneling with one steel door for access. A large, red neon sign is anchored over the rest of the building advertising "Werth's Appliance Center" and several appliance name brands, including Motorola, Philco, Norge, GE, Emerson and Whirlpool. Only a small portion of the parapet wall is visible at the top. It is topped with four stone caps at the top of the four pilasters.

This building, built circa 1909, was constructed for the Minas Furniture Co. It was used by the Minas family to sell new and used furniture in addition to their department store down the street. In 1930 it housed the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, better known as the A & P grocery store. It is presently home to Sunday school classrooms for the First Baptist Church of Hammond.

**520 State (C)**- (Photo 18) This building, located on the south side of State Street, is a two-story structure constructed of rusticated limestone. The storefront is covered with the same wood paneling as the adjacent buildings. Above the storefront are the remains of a Leon's Floor Covering sign. The second story has three windows which have been replaced with glass block. The building has a stone pilaster on each side and a cornice with medallions. There are also six horizontal metal bands anchored to the building which were used to hang an aluminum facade that was recently removed. A vertical "Hammond Drapery" sign hangs from the last remaining aluminum panel.

This building, built in 1922, originally housed a billiard hall and barber shop. By 1928, it was home to Leon's Furniture Company and then Leon's Floor Covering Store. It housed this business for years until Hammond Drapery combined it with 522 State for their business.

**522 State (C)**- (Photo 18) This building, located on the south side of State Street, is a two-story brick structure. The storefront is clad in wood paneling with a single entrance in the center. Between the first and second stories is a horizontal sign reading "Hammond Drapery". The second story has two sets of double-hung original windows. There is terra cotta ornament along the parapet and in the attic story of the building. The facade of this building has the same six horizontal metal bands as the 520 State St. building, which were used to anchor an aluminum facade.

This building, built in 1920, was home to the Self Service Grocery. It later housed the General Electric Shop.

**524-530 State (C)**- (Photo 19) This building is located on the south side of State. It is a two-story brick structure characterized by small terra cotta adornments in the parapet wall and along the building piers. The ground floor consists of one central entrance flanked by possibly two storefronts on each side. The central entrance is recessed and adorned by terra cotta panels and a cornice. Between the first and second stories is a long band of black, pigmented, structural glass. The ghost of a sign spelling "Olitz Electronics" can be seen on the glass. The second story consists of eight large rectangular window openings, with the four west of center filled with glass block and one small fixed pane. Each of the four east windows has been replaced with three smaller adjacent panes under one long window pane.

This building, built in 1923, housed five storefronts. A variety of businesses were

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located here in the 1920's including Allen Oltz's General Engineering and Sales Company, Yuhas Bros. Bakery, Gehring and Snyder shoes, Peoples House Furniture Company, the Hammond Indoor Golf Course, and the Merchants Restaurant.

**532-34 State (C)-** (Photo 19, 20) This two-story buff brick building is located on the south side of State Street. Built circa 1940, it originally housed the Hammond Shade and Awning Works. The storefronts in this building have been bricked in except for small glass block windows that articulate a cross. The four original windows on the second story have been blocked in with glass blocks as well with a small fixed pane window in the center. There is no decorative brick work or adornments on this building.

**536-38 State (C)-** (Photo 19, 20) This two-story brown brick building is located on the south side of State Street. The entrances and storefronts have been boarded up but the original piers are visible. The second story windows have been replaced by double hung aluminum windows, with two having been bricked in. The building has a cornice and some stone details as well as brackets.

This building, built circa 1915, housed the Great Lakes Trading Company and the National Tea Company, both grocery stores. It also housed the Lake County Motor Car Company in 1930.

**540 State (C)-** (Photo 19, 20) This building is a two-story brick structure with terra cotta adornment in the cornice and frieze area, including brackets, dentils and diamonds. It stands on the south side of State Street. Both the first and second story are boarded up revealing only a recessed entrance and a cornice between the storefront and the second story.

Built circa 1924, this building housed a variety of shops and services in its storefronts in 1930 including Nagle and Spungen Delicatessen, Thelma Joseph's Beauty Shoppe and Sklarewitz and Son's Mens' Furnishings.

**544 State (C)-** (Photo 20) This building, located on the south side of State Street, is a two-story brick structure with Gothic terra cotta adornment. The storefront is paneled over but the original recessed entrance is still in use. Above the storefront is a panel of prism glass and between the glass and the second story windows is a band of terra cotta panels with ogee-like moldings. These flank a panel which reads, "The Hammond Furniture Co. Est. 1908, J. Arkin-Mgr.", with a clock in the center. The three second-story window openings are partially boarded and have new small double hung windows and an air conditioner. Above the second story windows is another band of terra cotta ogee motif moldings. Anchored to the building is a sign reading "Hammond City Rescue Mission."

This building was originally built in 1887. The Hammond Furniture Company located here in 1908 and renovated the building in 1910, when they included a marble plaque with the company's name and the date.

**564 State (NC)-** In the mid-60's, the Carnegie library and the surrounding Central Park were demolished for the federally-funded Turner Park Housing Project just north of downtown. At this time, the Library

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Board approached the owner of the State Theater building to purchase the building for demolition to build a new public library on the site. In 1968, a new Hammond Public Library was constructed on the site of the old State Theater building.

**570 State (C)-** (Photo 21) This building is a three-story brick building with terra cotta adornments and decorative brick patterns located on the south side of State Street. The first floor has an all glass paneled storefront with an entrance on the west side to access the upper floors. The piers and area between the first and second story is covered with terra cotta panels. The windows on the second and third story have been replaced with smaller double hung aluminum windows and by aluminum siding or boards that fill in the original window opening. Decorative brick panels appear above the third floor windows. Three piers run the height of the building and are decorated by terra cotta panels with different classical motifs. The parapet wall is adorned with terra cotta diamonds and a shield.

This building, constructed circa 1920, housed the Ratley & Sons Furniture Co. and 10 apartments in 1930. In 1947, the Lincoln Life Insurance Company was located in the building.

**576-78 State (C)-** (Photo 21, 22) This building is located on the southwest corner of State Street and Sohl Avenue and has two main facades, one on State and one on Sohl. It is a two-story brick structure characterized by a cornice and stone keys in the second story lintels. It appears that most of the windows have been replaced with double hung aluminum windows. The storefronts are completely covered over in some instances but evidence of the original recessed entrances are apparent at the west and south entrances to the building.

This building was built in 1909. During the hey-day of the State Street commercial district, the Calumet Rug and Carpet Company was located in the building.

### ***Section 8 - Statement of Significance***

The State Street Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for commercial development and under Criterion C for architecture. It is a cohesive example of the commercial development of downtown Hammond from 1885 to 1940, with peak commercial growth periods from 1885-1915 and 1920-1927. When E.C. Minas built his department store in 1894, the street was home to only a few commercial buildings. Most of Hammond's commercial buildings were located on Hohman Avenue, perpendicular to State Street. Minas' store became an anchor for new development on State Street, drawing more businesses to it until it became one of two primary commercial avenues in the downtown.

The period of significance reflects the commercial boom the downtown, exemplified by State Street, experienced from 1885-1915 and from 1920-27. This district served as the primary shopping source for Hammond as well as the surrounding towns of Whiting, East Chicago and Calumet City. State Street is also significant under Criterion C, in that it is representative of early 20th century commercial architecture. It contains significant examples of terra cotta facades that reflect the sophistication of downtown, especially



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when compared to the more vernacular commercial downtowns of other Lake County cities, including Crown Point, Whiting, and East Chicago. It includes works by Chicago architects and provides a continuous streetscape that reflects the character of the boom period of Hammond's downtown.

**History of District**

**Overall History of City of Hammond- Pre-Settlement**

The landscape in Northwest Indiana's Calumet Region originally consisted of swamp and marshland punctuated by stretches of prairie and pine, cedar and scrub oak trees. John Tipton, a surveyor for Indiana, described it in 1821 as a "land of swamps and dunes that can never admit settlement nor never will be of much service to our state." The Potawatomi Indians, who were established in the area by 1700, had summer villages on the banks of the Grand Calumet River. The Calumet Region was one of the last parts of the state the Indians left and was the last to be settled.

**Settlement**

Ernest Hohman and Caroline Sibley Hohman were the first to settle in what is now Central Hammond in 1851. Fleeing a cholera epidemic in Chicago, the Hohman's were on their way to Merrillville, IN when they came through present-day Hammond and decided to buy a cabin and some land on the Grand Calumet River. Mr. Hohman built a 6 room addition on the cabin and opened an inn, which was located on a stagecoach line. He also built a toll bridge over the Grand Calumet, called "Hohman's Bridge".

In the late 1850's, the Sohl's (Caroline's sister and brother-in-law) settled in what is currently the downtown area and opened a grocery and liquor store. As more people of predominantly German descent came to the area, a small settlement was formed, called Hohmanville. Around this time two competing railroads, the Michigan Central and the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern were attempting to connect to Chicago from the East. The most direct route went through Hammond.

**Industry**

In 1869 George H. Hammond and Marcus Towle came to Hohmanville from Detroit. They purchased 42 acres of land next to the Grand Calumet River from the Hohman's on which they intended to build a meat packing plant. They chose Hammond for several good reasons. First, it was close to Chicago, so they would be near the live cattle market and be able to attract workers from the Chicago stockyards. Secondly, the town was along the newly laid railroad. And lastly, the land was cheap, with a relatively small population to complain about the stench. Finally, the Calumet River could be used to carry the waste away and there were nearby lakes for making vast quantities of ice for use in the new refrigerator cars.

The plant went from an average of 300 head of cattle per week to thousands of head per day. It was very profitable for Hammond and Towle. Marcus Towle opened a variety of businesses to serve the plant employees, including a general store in 1873 and a lumberyard in 1875. In that same year, Towle plotted a 20 acre "city of Hohman" consisting mainly of housing for his employees. Shortly thereafter, Towle sold

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his share of the Hammond Meat Packing Plant to George Hammond in order to concentrate on developing the town. He brought a number of new industries to the city. These included the Tuthill Spring Company, the Hammond Buggy Company, the East Chicago Steel Works, the Kingsley Foundry, the Chicago Steel Manufacturing Company, the Chicago Carriage Works, and the Hammond Corn Syrup Works. Downtown, there was E. E. Towles's meat market, a dry goods emporium, a men's clothing store, insurance agencies, saloons and even an art gallery. In 1884, Hammond was incorporated as a city.

George Hammond was right about the railway. It was an incredible asset to the growing, industrial community. By the late 1880's, Gibson Station (now part of Hammond) had become a major freight yard. By 1890, 50 trains from 8 major railroads, including the Erie, Nickel Plate, Monon, Michigan Central, and Penn Railroad, went through Hammond every day. This, combined with cheap land and a generous city tax policy, helped to build a strong industrial base in Hammond in the 1880's and 90's.

Hammond experienced exponential growth spurts just after the turn of the century. In 1910 the population was recorded at 20,925 and just ten years later in 1920 it was 36,000. In 1925 the population was 55,000 and by the end of the twenties, in 1930, it was 64,000.

**District Development**

**Early Development (1880-1900)**

In 1892, the Hammond Electric Railway Company was authorized to operate an electric railway system along two miles of Hohman Avenue. This replaced the previous mode of public transportation, the horse drawn City Omnibus line. Although it went bankrupt shortly thereafter, the electric railway company was purchased and renamed the Hammond, Whiting and East Chicago Electric Railway. This was an important factor in the prosperity of downtown Hammond. This railway laid tracks connecting the three cities, as well as Roby, Robertsedale, and South Chicago. This made Hammond's commercial district accessible to the inhabitants of the surrounding cities. The stores in Hammond, which were more elaborate and better-stocked than those in Whiting and East Chicago, were more attractive to shoppers. Because of this, the commercial business districts of East Chicago and Whiting did not develop to the degree that Hammond's did.

In 1890, E.C. Minas opened a hardware and appliance store on State Street. This was a risky venture since State street was not a commercial thoroughfare at that time. Hohman Avenue was Hammond's commercial avenue. It was not long, however, before Minas' business had grown too large for its building and in 1894 he constructed a large, three-story building. Also at this time, the Hammond Jewish community formed Kneseth Israel, which met in a State Street storefront for years. Many fraternal clubs formed too, including the Odd Fellows who eventually built a hall on State Street.

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**Commercial Development (1900-1929)**

In 1901, the Packinghouse was completely destroyed in a fire. This left 2,000 people without jobs and many businesses failed as Hammond searched to redefine itself. Two factors helped to lift Hammond back to its feet again. First, there was the new W. B. Conkey Printing Co., which employed 2,000 people and served as an employment anchor for the community. Second, were the individuals who invested in the city and worked to see it recover. These men included E.C. Minas of the Minas Dept. Store, and William Gostlin and Peter Meyn of the Gostlin, Meyn & Co. at 92 State Street (west of Hohman). These men along with others led clubs, groups and civic organizations in an effort to attract industries to the community. Gostlin, Meyn & Co. provided incentives for potential industries, including land and loans. By 1905, \$550,000 in real estate exchanged hands and, by 1909, \$1,350,000 in real estate had exchanged hands since the fire in 1901.

The E.C. Minas Department store served as an anchor for the retail stores on State Street after 1905. Other businessmen followed Minas' lead and located their businesses on State Street so that by the mid-twenties State Street was a bustling, commercial avenue.

In 1910, the Hammond, Whiting, and East Chicago Railway added a new loop to the street car line in Hammond. "It consisted of a single track going around the block bounded by State, Morton Court, Sibley and Hohman, and it was here that the Route 11 cars used to lay over at Sibley and Morton Court." This confirms that State Street had, at this point, warranted its own identity as a commercial center. During the period of commercial development from 1900-1915 there were several new buildings constructed along State Street, including the Barelli's Building (463 State), the American Trust and Savings Bank Building (479 State), the Panama-Betz Building (442 State), the new addition to the Minas Building (460 State), the Henderson Building (464 State), and the speculative retail buildings at 516 State, 536-38 State, and 576-78 State.

Downtown Hammond was growing by leaps and bounds in the twenties. In 1923, there was four million dollars worth of commercial construction under way and, in 1925, 12 major buildings were completed in the downtown, including the State Theater and the Odd Fellows Building on State Street. In 1924, the city boasted eight banks, one of which was the American Trust and Savings Bank on State. In 1928, the downtown contained 5 hotels, 6 theaters, 161 groceries, 21 confectioneries and 15 laundromats. Of these businesses, State Street (east of the railroad) was home to 1 hotel, 3 theaters, at least 3 groceries, 1 confectionery and 1 laundromat. With new streets paved and widened in 1926, the downtown was virtually complete by 1928. The *History of Lake County*, published in 1928, stated that:

The business district of Hammond, in the heart of the Calumet Industrial District, is the regular shopping center for the 125,000 people of Hammond, East Chicago, Whiting and Calumet City. It draws considerable trade from Gary with an additional 85,000.

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This entire population, attracted by long-established department stores and shops of every kind, is brought by street car, interurban, and motorbus lines direct to Hohman Avenue and State Street.<sup>2</sup>

This growth in the downtown was reflective of a growing industrial base. Between 1920 and 1924, 23 new plants opened, in 1926 alone, more than 100 factories opened. NIPSCO, Junior Toy, Queen Anne Candy, the Roxana Refinery of Shell Petroleum and several railroad lines all came to Hammond in the twenties. The manufacture of railroad equipment became Hammond's economic backbone.

**Booming Commercial Avenue (1930-1945)**

The American Trust and Savings Bank, along with five other financial institutions, served the banking needs of Hammond until 1930. With the Stock Market Crash of 1929, several of Hammond's banks and savings and loans were forced to close. The American Trust and Savings Bank was the victim of a quiet "run" and closed its doors in December, 1930.

The Depression was a difficult time for Hammond, but with the enactment of President Roosevelt's New Deal, relief was in sight. The WPA improved street conditions, parks and public buildings. This included a new Federal Building on State Street to replace the existing one, built in 1904. This new Federal Building was completed in 1939 and was a "stately" addition to the commercial street.

Due to competition from the South Shore Commuter Train line, and increasing numbers of buses and autos, on June 9, 1940 the streetcar made its last run. This had a detrimental effect on the downtown commercial avenues.

The economy started to look up when America entered the World War II. There was a revival in the railroad business that enticed Pullman-Standard to reopen their doors, and starting a hiring frenzy. People from downstate and Kentucky flooded the Calumet Region looking for jobs.

In October, 1944, the former American Trust and Savings Bank building was reopened as the Hoosier State Bank. John F. Wilhelm served as president and Lawrence S. Ervin served as cashier. It was the third bank to open its doors in Hammond after the Depression.

**Decline (1946-present)**

After the war ended, the emphasis on home construction for the returning veterans caused a boom in Hammond's construction industries, but it was the outlying areas that were receiving all the development attention. Once the streetcar stopped running automotive passengers passed the store display windows;

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<sup>2</sup>*History of Lake County including Near North Illinois Towns, u.p., 1928.*

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Hammond became a diffused city. To make matters worse, in 1955, Woodmar Shopping Center was built, creating even more competition for the Minas and Goldblatt department stores downtown. In 1966, the River Oaks shopping center was completed in Calumet City. This had a detrimental affect on the downtown business because so much of the nearby Illinois population had used the downtown commercial center due to its close proximity. Downtown shops must have "seemed old fashioned in the consumer oriented '60's compared to the new malls with their easy access, free parking and modern merchandising." These new malls played host to Marshall Field's, Sears, and Carson Pirie Scott. This, combined with the proliferation of neighborhood strip malls, led to Minas opening a store in River Oaks, Montgomery Ward's moving to Munster, and Sears closing its doors due to the close proximity to its store in River Oaks. The banks also starting building local branches for their decentralizing clientele. At this time, NIPSCO built a new building and St. Margaret's Hospital expanded, reaffirming that a new, non-commercial downtown was emerging.

With the building of the Borman Expressway, downtown was thrown even farther out of the loop. Just four of the expressway motels offered as many rooms as all six of the downtown hotels had in the '20's.

One of the reasons for State Street's demise that had plagued it for years was its adjacency to the railroad tracks. E.C. Minas continuously fought to have the tracks elevated. They were an impediment to downtown growth and made parts of the downtown inaccessible, including State Street, due to slow rolling or standing freight trains.

By the 1970's, there was minimal retail shopping to be done downtown. The buildings that were not boarded up were used for the city's banking, corporate offices and the St. Margaret's Medical Center. In 1973, the Hammond Rail Relocation Committee received a federal grant to study the railroad problem. As a result, tracks were removed, routes were combined and overpasses were constructed. By 1980, only the Belt Line was left in the city. Hammond's identity as a railroad town was over. It needed to redefine itself again.

Not only were many of the railroads leaving the city but many of the industries were leaving as well, taking many jobs with them. In the '70's alone, Swift's Woodmar Plant, American Steel Foundries, Pullman Standard and Allied Structural Steel all left the city. Many outlying areas of Hammond thrived at this time, but Central Hammond suffered enormously.

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***Section 10 - Geographical Data - Verbal Boundary Description.***

Beginning at a point where the northwest curb of Sohl Avenue intersects with the rear property line of the lot commonly known as 576-578 State Street, proceed northwest following the rear property lines of the properties on the southwest side of State Street to a point where the rear property line of 570 State Street intersects with the Hammond Public Library parking lot. At this point proceed southwesterly along the parking lot boundary line to the curb of Sibley Street. Proceed northwest along said curb to the point where the curb intersects with the northwest property line of 564 State Street. Proceed northeast along said property line to the point where the property line intersects with the rear property line of 544 State Street. Proceed northwest and following the all the rear lot line of the properties on the southwest side of State St., crossing Oakley Avenue, to a point where the said rear property lines intersect with Bulletin Avenue. Proceed north along the eastern edge of Bulletin Avenue, crossing State Street, to the point where said eastern edge of Bulletin Avenue intersects with the southwestern curb of Willow Court. Proceed southeast along said curb to point where the curb intersects with the southeastern property line of 426 Willow Court. Proceed southwest along said property line to the point where it intersects with the rear property line of 435 State Street. Proceed southeast following all rear lot lines of the properties on the northeast side of State Street, crossing Oakley Avenue, to a point where it intersects with the southeast curb line of Oakley Avenue. Proceed northeast along said curb to the point where the curb intersects with rear property line of 507 State Street. Proceed southeast along the rear property line of said lot to a point where it intersects with the

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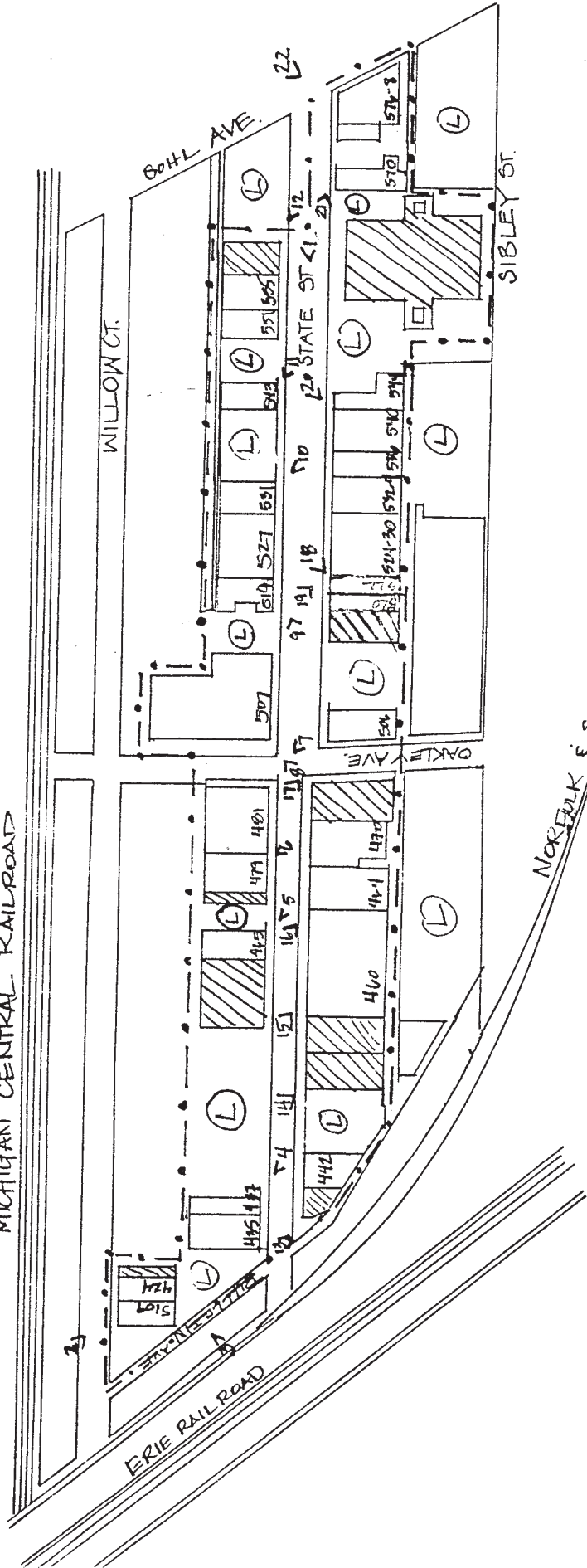
southeast property line of said 507 State Street. Proceed southwest along southeast property line to the point where it intersects with the adjacent rear property line (vacant lot). Proceed southeast following all rear lot lines of the properties on the northeast side of State Street to a point where it intersects with the southeast property line of 557 State Street. Proceed southwest along said southeast property line to the point where it intersects with the southwest curb of State Street. Then proceed southeast along said curb to the point where the curb intersects with the northwest curb of Sohl Avenue. Proceed southwest to the point of origin.

***Boundary Justification***

The boundary was suggested by the Lake County Interim Report of 1996. Several edges of the district are defined by multiple line rail right of ways that create a distinct break in the density of buildings. Loss of continuous building frontage characterizes the areas outside the district; some individual commercial structures remain, but without significant context. South and east of the district (and further southeast down State Street) are scattered apartment, commercial, and religious buildings.



MICHIGAN CENTRAL RAILROAD



STATE STREET COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 HAMMOND, INDIANA  
 LAKE COUNTY



SCALE

--- BOUNDARY

NON-CONTRIBUTING

CONTRIBUTING  
(Address)

VACANT LOT / PARKING LOT

PHOTO

FINAL

