



FLASHBACK

HAMMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APRIL 2002

Annual Dinner and Membership Dues Renewal

Our *2002 Dinner* will be held at the *Christian Fellowship Church* located at the corner of 165th Street and Jackson Avenue. The time is set for 6:30 p.m. on *Tuesday May, 14th*. Tickets should be purchased in advance. The cost for each ticket is a donation of \$10 per person. Remember that this is an important fund raising event for us. So please make your reservations as soon as possible. Use the form provided below.

Also—now is the time to renew your membership dues. To do this check the label on the address side of this newsletter. If the set of numbers to the upper right of your name reads 04/02 or 04/2002 your dues need to be renewed. Again use the form we have provided for you below. By not renewing your membership you risk the chance of having your name removed from our mailing list and missing the next issue of FLASHBACK.

Please photocopy or clip out this form below and send in with your payment

2002 Annual Dues and Dinner Form

Please check the appropriate box / boxes

Membership Dues Renewal —

Annual Dinner 2002 —

Hammond Historical Society Tuesday, May 14th

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP+4 _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Attending Dinner _____ @\$10.00 donation per person

Please renew my annual Dues @ \$10.00

Total amount I have enclosed is: _____

Please enclose check or money order **DO NOT SEND CASH**

Make your check or money order payable to the:

Hammond Historical Society - 564 State Street - Hammond, IN 46320-1532

▶▶▶ PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for receiving reservations by mail is Tuesday, May 7th



April Meeting News Update

Sunday, April 21, 2:30 p.m.
Congregation Beth Israel
7105 Hohman Avenue

This month's meeting will be held at the Congregation Beth Israel located at 7105 Hohman Avenue. The meeting will take place at 2:30 p.m.

A short history and tour of the building will take place.

Of Special note—a board meeting will take place at 1:30 p.m. before our general meeting takes place.

Reminder

The Hammond Achievement Award Dinner will be held on Tuesday, June 11th.

This event will kick off the start of Hammond Pride Week for 2002.

Editor in Chief — Roy J. Speelman
Layout Editor — William J. Uzdanovich

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The Goldblatt's Clock Dedication

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In case you missed it last month the Old Goldblatt's Clock dedication was quite an event. A crowd that was estimated to be from 150 to 200 was in attendance for the St. Patrick's Day event.

The program got under way as scheduled at 2:00 p.m. Highlights included a welcome introduction by Margaret Evans, Director of the Hammond Public Library - Comments were given by Mayor, Duane W. Dedelow, Jr. - A brief history of the Goldblatt's Clock was spoken by Brian Poland, Hammond City Planner - An acceptance of the transfer of the clock was received by Shirley Keown, Friends of the Library - Curtis Freeman, Hammond, Historical Society - Patrick Swibes, Hammond Preservation Commission - and Ron Sims, Board of Trustees of the Library - Closing remarks by Margaret Evans marked the finale.

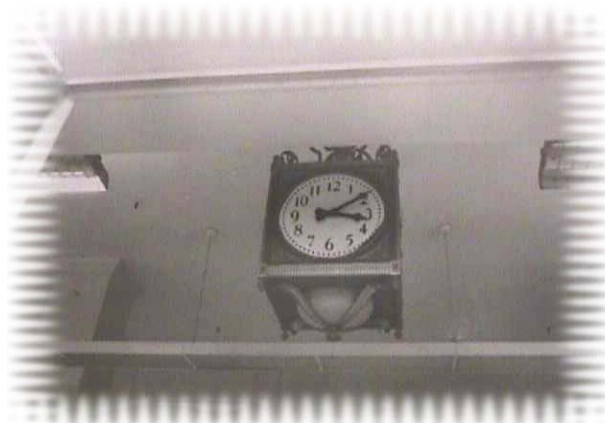
Once again we would like to give a round of thanks to all of those involved in the long and complicated journey from the clock's last days in the old Goldblatt's building to it's brand new home in the renovated Hammond Public Library Main building. Also to all of those who were present for the clock's dedication.

Although the official plaque marking this event was not ready in time, a mock up was unveiled. The bronze plaque is now at the library and waiting to be displayed for viewing. The dedication plaque will hang on a column at the base of the grand center staircase. A descriptive brochure on the Goldblatt's clock history and how it arrived at the library is in the works.

The top two sets of photos at the upper right show the clock in the old Goldblatt's building prior to its demolition.

Next the bottom two pictures show the clock at its new home in the Hammond Public Library's newly renovated main branch.

Now restored to its former glory, it has probably never looked better since it was first uncrated and installed when the Kaufman & Wolf's Lion Store opened in 1928. It is truly a treasure.



Past

1993



Present

2002



The Minas Façade Can It Be Saved?

How ironic in our April issue from last year a story appeared about the Edward C. Minas Company. Now one year later in our April issue we are now writing a story on the demolition of this historic building.

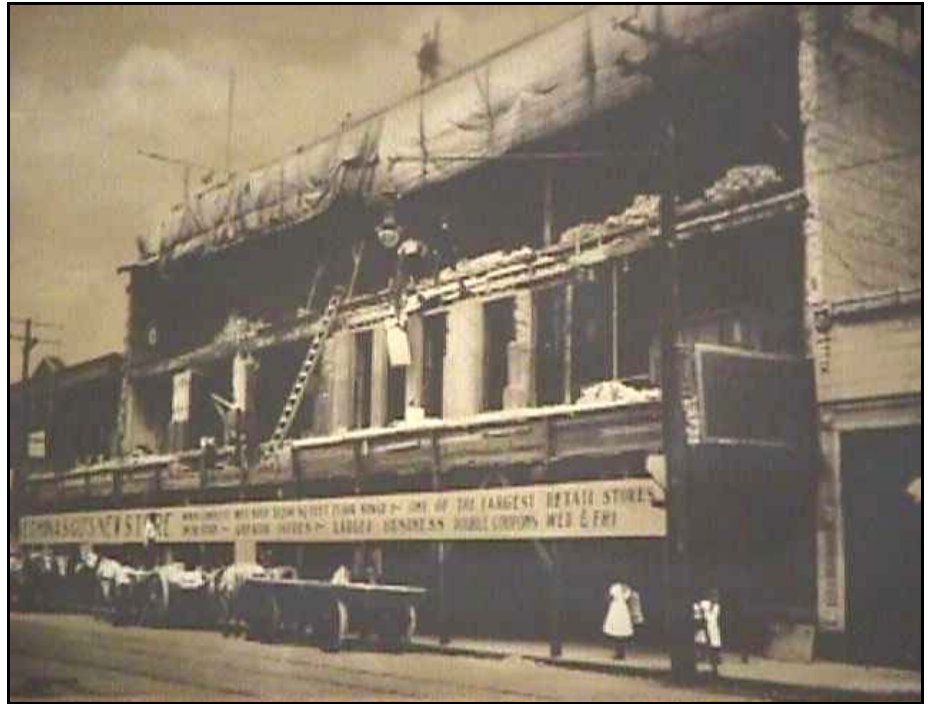
Yes it's true, the famed flagship store of Minas is now facing the wrecker's ball, if it already hasn't by the time this newsletter gets in the mail.

Plans are now underway to level the building for a new development. However a slight glimmer of hope remains to at least save the buildings historical façade. But once again time is a major factor. Although the building appears to have out lived its usefulness. The big question is. Can its façade at least be saved?

The structure has remained vacant ever since the store closed in mid to late 1984, despite several failed attempts to redevelop it. Now the former store which catered to generations of shoppers for over 90 years, is in a sorry state of disrepair. The one and only thing of any major value that remains is the store's terra cotta façade.

Looks like we'll need more than a few prayers to save this historically significant storefront façade, perhaps something in the order of a divine intervention is needed now.

Here's a brief history on the building and the terra cotta façade itself. In 1910 the Minas Company purchased 75 feet of property east of his current over crowded store with plans to expand and construct the largest retail establishment in the city. This was on hold until the leases on the current two story brick store front expire in a little over a year's time, which would then be demolished itself.



The photo above shows us the installation of the new Edward C. Minas Company façade during the company's renovation and expansion of the store in 1913. Soon this building will be all but a memory. With some luck and determination it's historical façade will remain preserved.

Details were finally made public in July of 1912 of the forth coming expansion of the store. Improvements and extensions at a cost of \$100,000 would take place, making it the largest department store in the city and reportedly the state.

The building when complete would give State Street the finest store in the city. The newly enlarged store would cover 175 feet by 118 feet and total 81,200 square feet of floor space.

Hammond architects Bump & Berry designed plans for the remodeling and expansion of the building. The Minas retail establishment is comprised of three floors and a basement. The front of the building is covered with a gray terra cotta facing brick

Here's another interesting little historical note. It was reported on October, 28, 1912 that famed architect A. C. Berry of Hammond was successful in his attempt to build a marquise out of terra cotta material. Two of them are located over the entrances of the Minas store.

Mr. Berry had devised an original idea of hanging the terra cotta on a lighter steel or iron truss. His way made the marquise much more attractive and about \$200 cheaper.

The old way was to make the entire marquise out of cast iron, which was much more heavier and costly. The terra cotta manufacturers were very hesitant in constructing it, saying that is wasn't practical. But Mr. Berry proved them wrong. In fact now that Berry's little invention was so successful. One terra cotta firm had planned to take pictures of the new terra cotta design and feature it in their next catalog.

So this somewhat forgotten wall of fired clay, the terra cotta façade of the Edward C. Minas Company can still claim some deep dark secrets from its storied past.

The terra cotta marquises above the entryways were the first ones ever to be made, it was thought at that time.

This building dates all the way back to before Hammond was even a city. Located on State Street adjacent to the Minas structure.

Built in 1885 this structure is one of the oldest of the original buildings along east State Street. As you can see in the picture to the right, it was one of the more substantial buildings on State Street at a time when a majority of the other structures on the block were homes and storefronts constructed of wood.

The Henderson Block has seen many changes during its tenure. It has seen the small village of Hammond develop into a town and then quickly into a full fledged city.

It has also served many various businesses over time as well. Early on it housed the Hammond Hospital and a small Barber Shop. Then it functioned as the American Trust and Savings Bank before they moved across the street.

Finally it housed the Display Department of the Edward C. Minas Company, which had expanded directly to its west.

The Henderson Building / Hammond Hospital



This photograph from 1906 shows a group of nurses from the Hammond Hospital posing for the camera. Note the small frame cottage to the left of the building.



HAMMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
564 STATE STREET HAMMOND, IN 46320-1532

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Please Note the New Location!

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

