



### On The News Front

#### **Historical Museum—**

The very first steps for the museum are now underway with the appointment of a Museum Director/Curator last month.

This is only the initial stages for a Historical Museum for the city. An opening day for the museum is still a long way off from becoming a reality.

#### **Hohman Settlement Marker—**

The possibility of a new historical marker to replace the current one which is in need of replacement is inching along as well.

Information is now being sought for a possible design and material concept. A style that is resistant to vandals is preferred. Also many other hurdles must be cleared before any physical results will be seen.

### The Hammond Historic Preservation Commission

Hammond Historic Preservation Commission has the primary responsibility to administer the municipal historic preservation program. Currently in Hammond there is one locally designated Historic District and two Historic Landmarks.

The Glendale Park Historic District was designated Hammond's first local historic district in July of 1984.

Hammond's first local designated landmark is the Marcus Morton Towle House at 229 Ogden Street. This was the home of the city's first mayor.

The second local landmark is the Indiana-Illinois Boundary Marker located near the Stalene Generation Plant. It is the oldest extant structure in NWI.



### JANUARY MEETING SCHEDULE

**Guest Speaker:**  
**Brian Poland**  
**Topic: Hammond Historic Preservation Commission**

**Sunday, January 18th at 2:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Hammond Public Library 546 State Street.**

Prior to our General Meeting, a Board of Directors meeting is scheduled at 1:30 p.m. in the Suzanne G. Long Local History Room located on the second floor of the Hammond Public Library Main at 546 State Street Hammond, IN.

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*FLASHBACK is published monthly from September thru May—Eight times a year*

— FLASHBACK is a publication of the Hammond Historical Society  
546 State Street Hammond, IN 46320-1532  
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### CEMETERY TOUR 2003 FINNANCIAL REPORT

<b>Tour Receipts</b>	<b>\$771.00</b>	<b>Cemetery Gross</b>	<b>\$845.50</b>
<b>Memberships</b>	<b>\$ 20.00</b>	<b>Economy Signs</b>	<b>-\$ 15.00</b>
<b>Food Income</b>	<b>\$ 74.50</b>	<b>Food Expense</b>	<b>-\$ 41.49</b>
<b>Book Sales</b>	<b>\$102.50</b>	<b>Printing</b>	<b>-\$ 85.00</b>
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>\$893.50</b>	<b>Cemetery Tour Net</b>	<b>\$704.01</b>

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# Early Health Care and Hammond's First Hospital

## *St. Margaret's Hospital*

The first hospitals to be located outside of the city of Chicago were set up in 1898. One of those was located right here in Hammond. When the region was first settled the only closest hospital services were located in Chicago, Illinois. Those who were in need of hospital services had to travel great distances, over horse and oxen trails.

A journey to the hospital took patients over and through some of the most rugged and wild terrain, since much of the area was unpopulated and undeveloped. In fact according to history, very few of these trips were ever attempted. Thus leaving many very sick and terminally ill residents on their own.

Early health care was barbaric compared to today's standards. The majority of surgical and medical care was provided by local doctors right inside of the patients very own home. Pioneer doctors served double duty, performing the duties of both the physician and nurse.

There was very little recovery for those who diagnosed as very ill. Most care simply involved just comforting the patient. Acute pain was relieved with doses of morphine and opium. Crude operations were done in bedrooms, with only the few small medical instruments brought in with the doctor. Treatment and recovery was often given by the relatives, friends or neighbors of the family.

The city of Hammond was one of the first in the country to acknowledge the need for an organized hospital service. Hammond was settled as a town in 1882 and became a city in 1884, but it wasn't until 1896 that the idea of hospital service was on the mind of civic leaders. A few years later with the help of Reverend Plaster, the Pastor of Saint Joseph's Church in Hammond, and several prominent citizens the first hospital in the city got its start.



*Saint Margaret's Hospital showing the first two additions to the hospital in its early days.*

Four Sisters of the Saint Francis of Lafayette order were requested to form the hospital. On February 2, 1898 the four Sisters, Sister M. Richardis, Superior, Sister M. Gerhards, Sister M. Edwards, Sister M. Marcelina arrived in Hammond. Upon arrival the sisters quickly set up shop in the old Lautman Home located at 30 Clinton Street. The frame home was converted into hospital facilities that could serve up to thirty patients and became the city's very first official hospital, Saint Margaret's Hospital.

The hospital's first patient was registered the very next day, Mr. John Stephens an early settler. The attending physician was Dr. J. T. Clark. Saint Margaret's first attending doctors were Dr. J. T. Clark, Dr. J. Pannenberg, Dr. C. W. Campbell, Dr. A. C. Schlicker, Dr. W. F. Howat, Dr. H. E. Sharrer and Dr. T. W. Oberlin. Dr. J. W. Iddings of Lowell, Indiana and Dr. M. W. Bacon of Englewood, Illinois were also on the hospital staff.

Up until the founding of Saint Margaret's, the closest hospital in the Hammond vicinity was a small private hospital located in Michigan City, Indiana. In the onset the hospitals budget relied mainly on the generosity of the public it had served. The hospital was well received and grew rapidly. One hundred eighteen patients were cared for during the first full year of Saint Margaret Hospital's operation.

Although Hammond's new hospital was considered modern for its time it was very limited in its equipment and conveniences. The operating table consisted of an ordinary kitchen table, a tin pan served as a receptacle for the operating room instruments. The building also lacked an elevator and patients had to be carried from floor to floor by stretchers.

The fast growing hospital was in dire need on additional beds. In August of 1899 ground was broken for the first addition to the hospital. The four story structure was completed on October 4, 1900 at a cost of \$40,000. The cornerstone was laid on October 10, 1900.

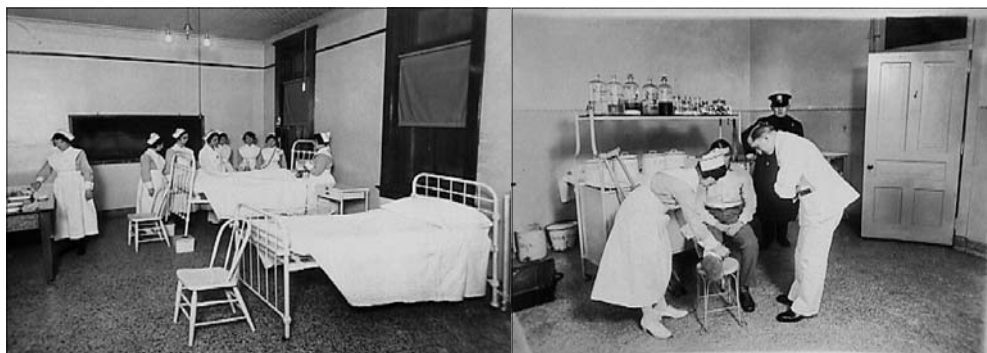
# Early Health Care and Hammond's First Hospital

## *St. Margaret's Hospital*

From 1900 to 1908 the number of patients cared for, kept increasing steadily that a second addition was needed. In 1908 another four story structure was started, and on July 11, 1909 the east wing was completed and ready for occupancy. The building was also designed to complement the first addition and had space for one hundred fifty additional patients.

In 1923 a south wing was added and was also built to correspond with the existing hospital. The newest wing was built with reinforced concrete, red brick and Bedford stone. This addition faced Douglas Street and changed the entire layout of the hospital. The main entrance, admitting, and surgical along with other departments were now housed in this addition. This brought the hospital capacity to two hundred fifty beds. Today the hospital now known as Saint Margaret Mercy Healthcare Center still continues to expand and fill the needs of the surrounding communities.

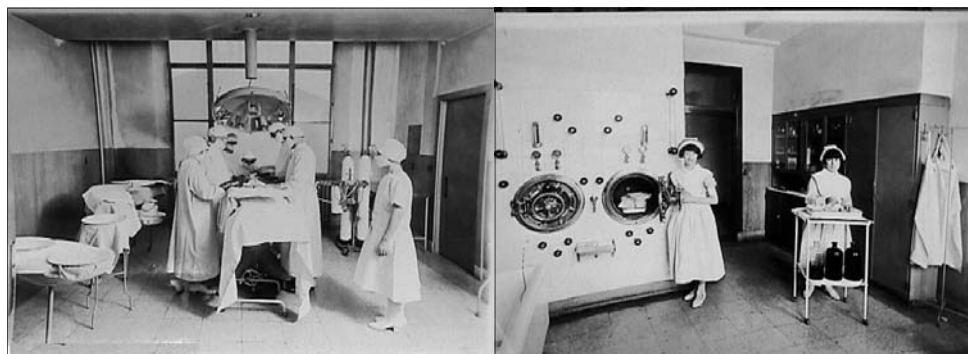
Over the years several other attempts for another hospital in the city of Hammond have tried and failed. Most of these never made it off the drawing board. In the early 1900's the Hammond Hospital operated in a small storefront in the Henderson Building on east State Street. In 1913 the Francis Willard Hospital was incorporated. The old H. M. Godfrey residence at Oakley and Truman was purchased. A \$60,000 building was to be built there but failed to materialize. Then in 1914 the Godfrey house was set to be renovated into a hospital, these plans fell through as well.



Left—Nurses congregate for the camera near a bed in a patient ward.  
Right—Care is administered to a patient by a nurse and doctor.



Left—A nurse provides assistance to a patient under going recovery.  
Right—This room looks very frightening with its heavy steel door.



Left—Operating Room of Saint Margaret's Hospital was considered modern for its time.  
Right—Nurses use the sterilization equipment for instruments prior to surgery.

In May of 1915 ground was expected to be broken, for a new \$200,000 general hospital in the new Maywood Park area of the city. Those plans stayed alive up until the late 1940's, when it was thought that the new hospital would be constructed and named in honor of the nation's war veterans. A lack of funding prevented this hospital from becoming a reality. October 1915 saw the start of the Ostrowki Brothers Hospital, at the corner of Douglas and Stateline. It was to become Hammond's second hospital. It too faded from the scene quickly.

*Source information from the microfilms of "The Times" newspapers at the Hammond Public Library. Photos from the archives of the Hammond Historical Society.*



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

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Hammond, Indiana  
Permit No. 1843

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

January 18, 2004—2:30 p.m. Meeting Guest Speaker—  
Brian Poland—Topic—Hammond Historic Preservation Commission

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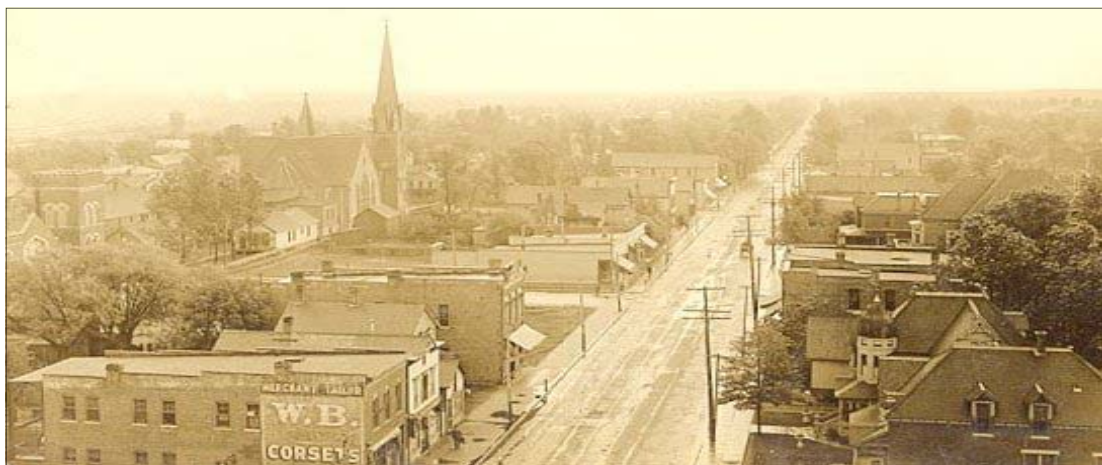
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# *Vintage View*

## *Along South Hohman Avenue*

A semi panoramic view of south Hohman Avenue looking out from high atop the old Lake County Superior Court House clock tower. This is what the city of Hammond looked like around one hundred years ago.

The cross street at the center of the photograph is Russell Street with Clinton Street just south of there. The city was in it's infancy and was sparsely populated beyond this point.



The large church spire in the mid background was the steeple of Saint Paul Lutheran Church. Built in 1901 it was at one time, the tallest structure in early Hammond. The building was raised in 1978 to make room for of all things a parking lot.

The Downtown Hammond of yesterday and the Downtown Hammond of today has changed dramatically over time. As can be seen by the picture above taken around 1906.

From the looks of things here, it would be safe to say that very few of these buildings seen above remain today. The vast majority of these quaint little homes and shops have bowed to the wrecker's ball or as some may say—That's progress!

But as time marches forward, is bigger always better? Let us answer that question by saying, not always. It is equally important to try and preserve the past for future generations as well.