OMB No. 1024-0018 NPS Form 10-900 United States Department of the Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

| This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. So Bulletin, <i>How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.</i> If any item do locumented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and ategories and subcategories from the instructions. | es not apply to the property being |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Name of Property | OCT 2 2 2019 |
| Historic name: Kahn Tailoring Company | |
| Other names/site number: | Natl. Reg. of Historic Places |
| Name of related multiple property listing: | National Park Service |

4717

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

| City or town: Indianapolis | State: Indiana | County: Marion | |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| Not For Publication: | Vicinity: | | |

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

| national | X statewide | local |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Applicable National | Register Criteria: | |

| XA | B | XC | D |
|----|---|----|---|
| | | | |

OF 10,17,209 ·C - 2 TEES SEEVICES Signature of certifying official/Title: Date

Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

| In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register cr | |
|--|--|
| Signature of commenting official: | Date |
| Title : | State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government |

Kahn Tailoring Company Name of Property

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

other (explain:) Signature of the Keeper

1. 29. 2019 Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

| (Check as many box Private: | es as apply.) |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Public – Local | |
| Public – State | |
| Public – Federal | |

Category of Property

| (Check only one box.) | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Building(s) | x |
| District | |
| Site | |
| Structure | |
| Object | |

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Number of Resources within Property

| (Do not include previously listed resources in the count) | | | |
|---|-----------------|------------|--|
| Contributing | Noncontributing | | |
| 1 | 0 | buildings | |
| | | | |
| 0 | 0 | sites | |
| 0 | <u>^</u> | | |
| 0 | 0 | structures | |
| 0 | 0 | ahiaata | |
| 0 | 0 | objects | |
| 0 | 0 | Total | |
| 0 | 0 | Total | |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register <u>0</u>

6. Function or Use Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.) INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility INDUSTRY/industrial storage COMMERCE/specialty store

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.) DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.) LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Neoclassical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.) foundation: CONCRETE

| iounuation. | | |
|-------------|-------------------|--|
| walls: | CONCRETE | |
| | BRICK | |
| roof: | SYNTHETICS/Rubber | |
| other: | | |
| | | |

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Completed in 1913, the Kahn Tailoring Company building is a four-story concrete masonry building that sits at the northwest corner of North Capitol and West St. Clair, just north of downtown Indianapolis. It was designed as a warehouse and production facility for the Kahn Tailoring Company by Vonnegut & Bohn, a prominent architectural firm in Indianapolis. It is reflective of their Neoclassical design aesthetic with Arts and Crafts features on an otherwise utilitarian building. Despite not having the original windows and the loss of some entrance features, the building's design presence continues to provide a sense of distinction and retains its architectural integrity.

Narrative Description

Site:

The Kahn Tailoring Company building occupies nearly its entire parcel at the northwest corner of North Capitol and West St. Clair with a small landscape area along the east (front) façade. There is an alley (identified as North Roanoke Street on some maps) to the west and a parking lot to the north. Although this area of Indianapolis was residential at one time, by the 1910s it was transitioning to an industrial area and remained mostly industrial until the 1990s. In fact, three significant homes were razed to construct the Kahn Tailoring Company building, including the home of Mayor Thomas Taggert. Taggert built the home in 1893 and lived in it during his term as Mayor from 1895 to 1901. In 1912 he moved to 13th and Delaware in the Old Northside as the area around North Capitol and West St. Clair became more industrial in character. With the redevelopment of the Central Canal during in the 1990s, many of these underutilized industrial buildings began to be adaptively reused as commercial or residential properties. The Kahn building was mostly vacant for several years until its rehabilitation as multi-family housing in 2014.

Exterior: East Elevation

The east, or front, façade is eleven bays across with the bays divided by pilasters of brown brick rising the full four-story height of the building. A stringcourse of limestone serves as the sill for the first floor windows and incorporates a short rectangular base for eight of the twelve pilasters along the façade. Brick spandrel panels are located below the stringcourse. The four pilasters on either side of bays three and nine do not have bases. A stone foundation course is present on the main façade. The window openings in bays two through ten, on floors two through four, sit on a painted concrete sill and spandrel panel. The fourth floor window openings are topped by a concrete spandrel panel as well. Bays one and eleven follow the same pattern, however the spandrel panels are brick. Large window openings are present between each pilaster on each floor. (Photo 1)

New industrial, metal sash windows based on historic photographs were installed in 2014. The historic windows had long been removed and all openings were infilled with concrete masonry units prior to the rehabilitation project. The new windows are multi-lite metal windows with three vertical mullions in bays two through ten. Each section has an awning-style window in the lower third of the unit separated by a horizontal mullion. Bays one and eleven have smaller window openings with one central mullion dividing the window units. The smaller windows also have an awning-style window in each section.

The treatment of the three central bays draws attention to the main entrance and gives the building its Classical appearance. Just above the second floor is an implied entablature of limestone with stylized capitals at each pilaster. The four central pilasters each feature a recessed panel up to the entablature. A decorative cartouche surrounded by scrollwork fills the top of the panel, just below the architrave. Each capital is accentuated by a decorative shield which is highlighted by a stone concave curve detail on each side that rests on the cornice and rises to meet a flat a horizontal member. The use of shields as decorative motifs is a hallmark of

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Vonnegut & Bohn's design work. Beneath the cartouches on the two central columns are round metal fixtures once used as anchor supports for a canopy above the main entrance. A new metal canopy has been installed with anchor points just under the original metal fixtures. Although the location of the entrance in the center bay has been maintained, the original doors have been replaced by contemporary storefront glass doors with newer brick infill that is painted. (Photo 2)

At the roofline, a simple cornice rests upon stylized capitals at the top of each pilaster. Each capital has four recessed panels, each topped with a decorative tassel. A parapet rises above the cornice over the outermost bays. Centered in each parapet is a rectangular panel which bears a relief of a tassel-shaped bunch of fruit wrapped in a ribbon and suspended from a ring. This relief is set upon a raised shield similar in shape to those used above the main entrance. Beneath each shield is a series of pyramid-shaped dentils, a detail in keeping with the stylized neoclassical elements used throughout the main façade. The coping, parapets, and sections of the cornice have been partially covered with sheet metal. These elements and brickwork at this level are painted. (Photo 1)

Exterior: South and North Elevations

The east façade treatment of the brick pilasters wraps around the building the width of two bays on the north, and three bays on the south, as does the cornice.

The remainder of the south façade has little decoration. This façade has a total of ten bays, one of which (the 8th bay heading west) once housed an open, double switch-back fire stairway. The openings in the stairway bay have been infilled with concrete masonry units. Originally this stairway was open air on floors two through four and then enclosed with industrial metal sash windows and doors on the first floor. On the remainder of the façade, there are concrete spandrel panels with sills beneath each window opening with the exception of the spandrel panels below the first three bays of the first floor windows. These three windows have stone sills instead of concrete and brick spandrel panels rest atop the stone foundation band. The windows in these bays match the majority of windows on the east façade. Window openings in the remaining bays of the south façade are larger and have a different spacing between the mullions that creates four window sections within each opening. However they do still have the awning style window in the lower third of each section. The cornice and foundation on this portion of the façade are concrete. (Photos 3 and 4)

On the north elevation, the third bay heading west contained another double switch-back fire stairway. This stairway had a similar treatment as the one on the south façade and has also been infilled with concrete masonry units. The remaining seven bays to the west are similar to those present on the south façade of the building, but this portion of the building is only three stories tall. There are concrete spandrel panels with sills between window openings on each level. The cornice and foundation are also composed of concrete. (Photo 6)

Exterior: West Elevation

A view of the west elevation along North Roanoke Street shows that the three-story portion of the building extends for seven bays from the north, with the remaining four bays to the south being four stories tall. The central bay at ground level accommodates an overhead loading dock

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Name of Property door which provides access to the internal courtyard. The same multi-lite metal windows are carried through to this façade, however six of the window openings on the first floor are infilled with concrete masonry units. All other window openings are separated between floors by concrete spandrel panels with sills. The foundation and cornice on this façade are painted concrete. (Photo 5)

Interior:

Not noticeable from the exterior is the fact that the building is only three bays deep all the way around its perimeter, providing for a central courtyard. The courtyard facades were constructed in a similar manner as the rest of the building with concrete piers and spandrels between floors of large window openings. New industrial-style, metal sash windows were installed in 2014 and were designed to resemble the historic window patterns. (Photos 7, 8, 9 and 10)

The interior floors, walls and ceilings of the building are constructed entirely of reinforced concrete. The main entrance off of Capital Avenue leads into a small entry foyer with a central iron stair that leads to the second floor where historically the business offices were located. To either side of the entrance are sets of double wood doors which provide entry into either the south or north half of the first floor. The floor of the entry area is covered in slate tile and the treads of the central staircase are white marble. (Photos 11 and 16)

Historically, the south half of the first floor was a showroom and retail store for the Kahn Tailoring Company. Immediately off the main entrance hall, the spaces accessed by double doors have been retained as the leasing office and the community room and their historic features such as railings, doors and decorative mushroom columns retained. (Photos 12 and 13)

The remainder of the floors were historically open manufacturing areas and were subdivided during the tax credit project that converted the building to a multi-family use. Character defining features such as exposed 14-foot concrete ceilings, decorative mushroom capital columns, and concrete floors were retained throughout all areas of the building. The corridors created to access the apartment units front the internal courtyard and retain exposed columns throughout. (Photos 15, 19, 25, 26, 29 and 30) The concrete columns were styled to resemble a traditional column. The columns are spaced on a grid running 15 feet on center north to south and 18 feet on center east to west. The columns start with a 20" diameter on the first floor and then get more slender by floor until the fourth floor where they are 16" in diameter. (Photos 14, 27 and 28)

The two original external double switch-back fire stairs had long been partially demolished and in some cases walled off from the interior of the building with drywall or concrete block partitions. In other instances, their original industrial metal sash enclosures were still intact on the interior of the building, mostly on floors three and four. These wall sections have been retained and reused in the new stair towers that were constructed at the historic locations. (Photos 22, 23 and 24)

On the second floor, there are remnants of the original office area with the wrought iron central stair exposed and a large safe manufactured by "The Mosler Safe Co." Both of these elements have been retained and incorporated into the unit layouts. (Photos 16, 17, and 18)

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Name of Property County and The building contains 111 residential units, the previously mentioned leasing office and community room, a laundry room, and business center.

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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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.) ARCHITECTURE COMMERCE INDUSTRY ETHNIC HERITAGE

Period of Significance 1913-1954

Significant Dates

Significant Person (last name, first name) (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder (last name, first name) Vonnegut, Kurt, Sr. Bonn, Arthur

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Period of Significance (justification)

The building was constructed in 1913 and the company continued to operate from this location until it merged with Globe Tailoring in November of 1954. After that date, Kahn Tailoring only maintained a retail location at 7 N. Meridian until its brand completely disappeared from the market place in 1970.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Kahn Tailoring Company building at 800 North Capital Avenue is significant at the statewide level under Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage, Industry and Commerce, as one of the most significant employers of Jews in Indiana, specifically Sephardic Jews from the Macedonia area. This building is the only tangible resource in Indianapolis with a direct connection to the historic Sephardic Jewish Community and their immigration work history. Through work with the Industrial Removal Office in New York City, Henry Khan and his company played a significant role in this national program through its employment of hundreds of immigrants and the social welfare programs offered to help assimilate the immigrants into American life. The company made substantial contributions to Indianapolis' Sephardic Jewish community and Indianapolis' garment industry. Kahn Tailoring was a major supplier of military clothing and men's ready to wear suits until the brand disappeared in 1970. The Kahn Tailoring Company building is also significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent example of Vonnegut & Bohn's work. The building, a rare industrial design from the Indianapolis firm, uses Neoclassical features applied to a typical industrial façade to elevate the design of the building. Character-defining features include pilasters with classical capitols, cartouches, scroll work, and shields.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Commerce Significance

The Kahn Tailoring Company was founded in 1886 by Henry Kahn who had learned the tailoring business from his father Isaac Kahn. Isaac Kahn was one of the first French Jewish immigrants to settle in Monroe County (Bloomington), Indiana in 1844. In 1866, Isaac moved to Indianapolis with his three children, Clementine, Cora and Henry so that they could prosper from a public education. Henry Kahn graduated from Butler University before opening a small

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Name of Property County and State tailoring shop on East Washington Street which later grew and moved across the street to a West Washington Street location (Figure 20).¹

Henry's business quickly thrived and he decided to shift to the mass production of men's suits, eventually becoming the largest manufacturer in the United States, with 12 retail locations nationally.² By 1911, Kahn Tailoring Company had outgrown its space on Washington Street and Henry commissioned the architectural firm of Vonnegut & Bohn to design a large production facility. This larger facility allowed Kahn to use his many relationships and astute advertising capabilities to become a principal supplier of military uniforms in both WWI and WWII.

By the late 1940s, over 2,000 dealers carried Kahn Tailoring clothing. This steady expansion continued until the company merged with Globe Tailoring of Cincinnati in 1954. All manufacturing moved to Cincinnati after the merger and the building at 800 N. Capitol was sold to the newly formed LithoPress Inc.³ The Kahn Tailoring name remained on various retail outlets in Indianapolis until 1970 and then disappeared from the market.⁴

Architectural Significance

The building design for the Kahn Tailoring Company is significant for a number of reasons. First, it was designed by an important architectural firm in Indianapolis – Vonnegut & Bohn. Bernard Vonnegut and Arthur Bohn formed a partnership in 1888, and were responsible for the design of some of the most well-known buildings in Indianapolis. The partnership worked in many styles, including Beaux-Arts, Neoclassical, the Chicago School, and Gothic Revival. The firm's successor, Vonnegut, Bohn & Mueller, in which Vonnegut's son, Kurt was a principal, continued to receive important commissions in Indianapolis through the 1930s.⁵

The legacy of Vonnegut & Bohn is extensive, including a number of early high-rise buildings in Indianapolis. Many of the buildings contribute to historic districts or are individually listed on the National Register, including the Herron Art Institute, Shortridge High School and the Athenaeum, also a National Historic Landmark. Commissions outside of Indianapolis include the federal building in Vincennes and the Student Building at Indiana University in Bloomington.⁶ The firm was very active and featured in many national trade publications such as *The American*

¹ Dunn, Jacob Piatt. Indiana and Indianans. Chicago: American Historical Society, 1919.

² Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. *Documentary History of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America 1918-1920*. Boston: Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, 1920.

³ The Indianapolis Star.

⁴ Polk, R.L. *Indianapolis City Directory*. Indianapolis: R.L. Polk Co. Various Years.

⁵ Society of Architectural Historians, "Brief Biographies of American Architects". <u>www.Sah.org</u>, September 16, 2004.

⁶ Society of Architectural Historians, "Brief Biographies of American Architects". <u>www.Sah.org</u>, September 16, 2004.

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Name of Property County and State Architect, The American Contractor and Architectural Record.⁷ In fact, the Kahn Tailoring Company building was featured in at least half a dozen articles from 1914 through 1920. (Figures 2-6, 8)

Secondly, the building was innovative for its design and use of materials and is an excellent example of the practice of adapting traditional architectural styles for industrial buildings. The Kahn Tailoring Company was an unusual commission for Vonnegut & Bohn, who rarely worked on industrial buildings. Only one other industrial building designed by the firm exists in Indianapolis – the Hibben Hollweg Company building at Georgia and Pennsylvania streets. Although used as a manufacturing facility, the Kahn Tailoring Company building was designed and constructed to bring daylight and fresh air into the interior spaces to the greatest possible extent through the use of the central courtyard and very large airshafts that circulated air more efficiently through the facility. The design and construction of the double switch-back fire stairs on the north and south sides of the building gained national recognition for the innovative approach to worker safety in large production facilities.⁸ The use of new concrete materials and construction methods also gained recognition for the building. These features could have been due to the influence of Henry Kahn and his executive officers, all of whom were considered very progressive in their concern for worker safety and production. The company was an early supporter of worker's unions and provided amenities beyond what was normal for the day.⁹

Vonnegut & Bohn's use of Neoclassical style on an industrial building such as Kahn takes the grand scale of the building and combines it with a simplicity of Greek geometric forms, particularly the Doric order. The style, mostly used for higher style government buildings, is an interesting application in this instance and adds to the building's architectural significance. The detail in the pilaster capitals on the east façade added to the buildings character and was not typical of industrial building design at the time.

Ethnic Heritage Significance

The garment trade in Indiana, like that in America overall, attracted a large number of people of the Jewish faith. In Europe, anti-Semitic laws forced Jews into certain professions, tailoring being one. So, when these individuals came to the United States, they entered the trades they knew. In Indianapolis, the largest garment manufacturer, Kahn Tailoring Company, was founded by Henry Kahn (1860-1934) in 1903. Kahn was born in Bloomington in 1860 to French, immigrant parents. His father, Isaac, was one of the first Jewish settlers in Monroe County, immigrating in 1844. The family moved to Indianapolis in 1866; Henry attended public school and went to Butler University in Indianapolis. He opened a small tailoring shop in 1886 on West

The American Contractor, Chicago and New York City; January 1916.

⁷ The American Architect. Vol III; No. 2148; New York City, New York; January – June 1917, (photograph).

The American Architect, Vol. CXVII, No 2298, New York City, New York; March 1920, Pages 353-355.

⁸ The American Architect. Vol III; No. 2148; New York City, New York; January – June 1917, (photograph).

⁹ Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. *Documentary History of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America 1918-1920*. Boston: Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, 1920.

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Washington Street near Meridian Street. In 1903, he founded Kahn Tailoring Company. Kahn was active with the Industrial Removal Office to help Jewish immigrants find employment outside of New York City. While not an active member of the Jewish community, Kahn did employ hundreds of newly arriving Jewish immigrants.¹⁰

Kahn's Tailoring grew to become one of the most important retail establishments in Indianapolis, with multiple locations within the city. They rapidly expanded by providing both ready-made suits and suits-to-order and had dealers across the country. During World War I, the firm obtained contracts to supply the U.S. Army and Navy with officer uniforms. In 1919, the workers of the company went into agreement with the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union (the trade union for garment workers) for a 44-hour week. At this time, there was also a strike for the right of the workers to organize. The success of the 44-hour week and their right to organize and bargain collectively led to an agreement signed by Kahn Tailoring Co., which led to a \$5 a week raise, and 20 cent increase to piece workers.¹¹ The relationship that Kahn was able to create with Sidney Hillman, labor leader and head of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America for over 30 years and his nationwide network of distribution made Kahn Tailoring a major supplier of military uniforms, in particular Army and Naval officer uniforms, during both World Wars I and II. At its height, after World War II, the Kahn Tailoring Company distributed suits for men and women through about 2,000 dealers and 12 retail stores of its own in major cities throughout the United States. The 1950s saw a decline in made-to-order suits and increased competition from large ready-made clothing manufacturers. In 1954, Kahn Tailoring merged with Globe Tailoring Company of Cincinnati. By 1970, all Kahn Tailoring stores were closed in Indianapolis.¹²

Kahn Tailoring became an important part of the Jewish community of Indianapolis, at one time, employing almost half of the Sephardic Jews who lived in the city.¹³ While not the earliest settlement of Jewish people in Indiana, Indianapolis would become the center of the Jewish population in the state. The first Jews came to the city in 1849, with the evolution of the community being typical of the happenings statewide. The first wave of immigrants was German Jews. Many were peddlers, who took advantage of the blossoming city. From their positions as peddlers, they were able to purchase small garment stores, growing eventually to some of the largest retailers in the state. Like the rest of Indiana, the Jewish community dominated the clothing and tailoring businesses.¹⁴ In 1860, 56% of the clothing businesses in Indianapolis were owned by Jews.

¹⁰ Judith E. Endelman. *The Jewish Community of Indianapolis: 1849 to the Present*. (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1984), 37-38.

¹¹ Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. *Documentary History of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America 1918-1920*. (Boston: Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, 1920), 145.

¹² May R. Hyman, Editor. *The Journal Handbook of Indianapolis: An Outline of History and Description of the Capital of Indiana, with Over Three Hundred Illustrations from Photographs made Expressly for the Work.* (Indianapolis: The Indiana Journal Newspaper Company, 1902), 364.

¹³ Endelman, 85.

¹⁴ Richard Moss. "Jewish Identity in 1920s Indianapolis: The Jewish Welfare Federation and the Regulation of Leisure, 1920-1934," *Indiana Magazine of History*. Vol. 103, Number 1. (March 2007): 40-41.

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By the late 1860s, Eastern European Jews began moving into the city. What made Indianapolis unique was the ethnic diversity that allowed for many of the ethnic communities to found their own synagogues. In 1870, the Polish immigrants formed a prayer group that became Sharah Tefella. In 1884, the Hungarians organized Congregation Ohev Zedeck, and by 1889, the Russian community founded Knesses Israel. In 1906, a small group of Sephardic Jews settled in the city.

Unlike Ashkenazi Jews (which make up 90% of the Jewish population in North America today), Sephardic Jews originate from an area of southern Spain from which they were expelled in 1492, and dispersed into the Ottoman Empire (modern-day Turkey, Greece Southwest Asia, North Africa and the Balkans). They adapted much of their culture to their new surroundings, including food and language. Sephardic Jews speak a language unique to them called Ladino and do not speak Yiddish. For this, and other reasons, for many years the Sephardim were not recognized as Jewish by Ashkenazim (European) Jews.

The first Sephardic settlers to arrive in Indianapolis were Jacob and Rachel Sarfati Toledano, from Monastir, Yugoslavia, in 1906. They opened a small men's tailoring shop on West Washington Street. Almost all of the early Sephardic settlers came the Toledanos to find employment. Another Sephardic was David A. Nahmias, who owned a small shoemaker's shop close to Union Station train station. Eventually his shop became the first stop for all the newly arriving Sephardim. Here, new immigrants were introduced to other members of the community and given helpful information pertaining to employment, housing, and Jewish life in the city.

Before they had a synagogue, the Sephardic Jews used the Communal Building (a Jewish community center on the southside of Indianapolis) for religious services. The newest immigrants founded Congregation Sephard of Monastir in 1913. They purchased a cemetery on Kelly Street in 1916, one of the only extant pieces of the built environment related to the historic Sephardic community. By 1933, the Sephardic community consisted of about 75 families, totaling about 350 individuals. At that time, there were 2 market stand owners, 7 wholesale fruit peddlers, 4 retail fruit peddlers, 2 secondhand dry goods dealers, 3 privately owned tailoring shops, 3 shoemakers, 2 men's furnishing shops, 1 baker, 1 grocer, 1 confectionery, and 1 dry goods store. In addition to these individuals, almost 50% of the Sephardic community worked for the Kahn Tailoring Company, while a few others worked at the August Julian Tailoring Company on South Street.¹⁵

The city's great attraction was employment at the Kahn Tailoring Company, which hired many Jewish immigrants through cooperation with the New York City Jewish community. Kahn Tailoring was the largest employer of immigrant Jews in Indianapolis from the beginning of the 20th century until the 1940s.

With a massive number of new Jewish immigrants coming from Europe to New York City, Jewish philanthropies and charitable organizations feared their resources would be overwhelmed. Uncoordinated plans for immigrant dispersion in the 1880s and 1890s were adopted by several Jewish organizations. But in 1901, a large wave of Romanian Jews fled to New York City. A

¹⁵ Endelman. 162-163.

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plan was created between the Independent Order of B'Nai B'rith¹⁶, the Jewish Agricultural and Industrial Aid Society, and other Jewish organizations throughout the country.¹⁷ The *Romanian* Committee was quickly formed to distribute the immigrants to other towns where they might find employment. B'nai B'rith lodges in these towns and cities assisted the refugees upon their arrival. The *Romanian Committee* rapidly evolved into the Industrial Removal Office (IRO), which took over the work on a much larger scale and opened its availability to any unemployed Jewish immigrant, regardless of their origin. The IRO worked to relocate immigrants from New York City, and Kahn Tailoring was an active participant in the effort. The process of procuring work for immigrants was done through traveling agents, who also obtained the cooperation of local Jewish organizations. Starting in 1904, a traveling agent visited Indiana and opened the Indianapolis IRO office.¹⁸ In the first year of the IRO's existence, nearly 2,000 individuals were sent to 250 places throughout the United States.¹⁹ Over the next 20 years the IRO assisted approximately 80,000 of the 2.5 million Jewish immigrants who came to the United States. In the eastern part of the Midwest (Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin) 25,000 migrants settled. From 1901-1917, 900 individuals came to Indiana – only 8 states received more individuals.²⁰

The philosophy behind the IRO was to assimilate the immigrants into American society, both economically and culturally. Kahn Tailoring actively cooperated with the local IRO office and became the single largest employer of Jewish immigrants in Indianapolis. The company offered a social welfare department, which provided for the needs of all employees, especially those new to the city. Kahn provided generous worker benefits, including health care, night school, a social welfare office, English classes, and even an orchestra to play during lunch periods.

Like Henry Kahn, many of the company's Jewish executive officers and staff were also highly engaged in the community, including the following connections:

Ernest Cohn was an advertising executive with Kahn Tailoring and was published multiple times for his progressive advertising and marketing efforts nationally.²¹

Aaron Wolfson was a treasurer of the company who became an Indiana State Senator (1917-1920). He was president of the Indianapolis Club, a Mason, and on the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce.²²

¹⁶B'Nai B'rith is the oldest Jewish service organization in the world, founded in New York City in 1843.

¹⁷ Cyrus Adler, *The American Jewish Year Book 5664, September 22, 1903, to September 9, 1904.* (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1903), 135.

¹⁸ Lindsey Baron Mintz, "Jewish Educations in Indianapolis Through 1985" (Thesis, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, 2005), 31.

¹⁹ "Guide to the Records of the Industrial Removal Office," American Jewish Historical Society, access 30 Jun 2018, <u>http://digifindingaids.cjh.org/?pID=109188#serII</u>.

²⁰ Jack Glazier. "'Transplanted from Kiev to Hoosierdom': How the Industrial Removal Office Directed Jewish Immigrants to Terre Haute," *Indiana Magazine of History*, Vol. 97, No. (March 2001).5-6.

²¹ The Clothier & Furnister, Geo. N. Lowry & Co. Publishers, New York City, New York; February 1914.

²² Indiana State Senate. Journal of the Indiana State Senate during the First Special Session of the Seventy-First General Assembly Commencing Friday, January 16, 1920. (Fort Wayne, IN: Fort Wayne Printing Company, 1920), 35; "Funeral Conducted for Aaron Wolfson," The Indianapolis Star. 21 Apr 1924, page 4, col. 5; "Wolfson Suicide Laid to Illness," The Indianapolis Star, 19 Apr 1924, page 1, col 7.

Marion County, Indiana County and State

Isaac Cohen, one of the first Sephardim to arrive in Indianapolis, served his community by allowing immigrant families to stay in his house and collected for charities. He was born in 1883 in Monastir, coming to the United States to work in the West Virginia coal mines. Eventually he arrived in Indianapolis, where he went to work for Kahn Tailoring. He opened a clothing and dry goods store on West Washington Street. Cohen was one of the founders of the Etz Chaim Sephardic Congregation. Until a rabbi arrived, he served as acting rabbi.²³

Isaac Levy was a Sephardic immigrant, born in 1887, in Monastir. He worked at Kahn Tailoring during the early part of the 20th century. After leaving Kahn's, he worked at L. Strauss (a local department store) for twenty-two years. While at L. Strauss, he also operated his own small tailoring shop in the downtown area. He was a member of Etz Chaim Congregation and served as its president. He was also active in the Chevra Kedisha (burial society).²⁴

Leonard Strauss (officer at Kahn Tailoring) was one of the founders of Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and the Indiana Jewish Federation.²⁵

Industry Significance

Kahn Tailoring was also an industry leader in rights for women in the workplace. During war times, both WWI and WWII, which were some of the most lucrative times for the company, Kahn Tailoring was a major employer of Jewish women in Indianapolis.²⁶ This, combined with the efforts in social welfare, workers' rights', and the betterment of the whole family, led the company to invest in facilities and product lines, including women's wear, that reflected that ethic. Kahn was a major supporter of the YWCA and local American Red Cross chapters.²⁷

Kahn Tailoring Company was also one of the first garment industry companies in Indiana to become involved with the newly formed Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (ACWA), an offshoot of the United Garment Workers Union. Formed in 1914, in Chicago, Kahn became a close ally with Sidney Hillman, the new organization's founder. Although Kahn was already a leader in the Indiana garment industry, this new association brought more national success. ACWA was able to secure very lucrative military uniform contracts with the United States government, and because Kahn Tailoring already had a nationwide distribution network for its clothing lines, it was well-positioned for the majority of the work.²⁸ As a result of this relationship, Kahn Tailoring was manufacturing United States Army and Navy uniforms even after its acquisition by Globe Tailoring in 1954.

²³ Indiana Jewish Post and Opinion. *Indiana Jewish Pioneers*. (Fort Wayne, IN: The Indian Jewish Historical Society, January 1982), 52.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, 52.

²⁵ "Martinsville Tea to Honor Symphony Orchestra Leader," *The Indianapolis News*, 9 Jan 1932, page. 8, col. 7.

²⁶ Casanova, Monica. "The Indianapolis Sephardic Jewish Congregation and Community: An Oral History Account, 2000". Manuscript and Visual Collections Department, Indiana Historical Society, June 2007.

²⁷ The Indianapolis News.

²⁸ "Kahn Suits Go Over U.S.," The *Indianapolis Star.* 31 Dec 1948, page 30, col. 1; "Leonard A. Strauss Heads Jewish Body," *The Indianapolis News*, 15 Sept 1926, page. 19, col. 3; "Symphony's Cofounder Found Dead," *The Indianapolis Star*, 31 Jan 1954, page 1, col.2.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

In 1954, after Kahn Tailoring Company merged with Globe Tailoring, all manufacturing moved to Cincinnati and the large production facility at 800 N. Capitol was no longer needed. The building was sold to LithoPress Inc., a large format printer founded the year before by Bernard Lacy. LithoPress remained in the building until the early 2000s. The building sat mostly vacant until it was purchased in 2012 and was rehabilitated using historic tax credits in 2014.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

<u>X</u> preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested (#40029)

- _____ 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 #
- _____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #_____

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- ____ Other State agency
- _____ Federal agency
- Local government
- _____ University
- <u>X</u> Other

Name of repository: National Park Service_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 098-296-01433____

Marion County, Indiana County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

Use the UTM system

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

| NAD 1927 or | x NAD 1983 | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 571782 | Northing: 4403500 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Fletcher's subdivision Lots 1 through 7 and south half of Lot 8; also vacated alley adjacent. (parcel #1046554)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This is the legal description of the property.

Marion County, Indiana County and State

11. Form Prepared By

| name/title: <u>Amy S. Kotzbauer and Jeannie</u> | Regan-Dinius_(INS | HPO) | |
|--|-------------------|------------------------|--|
| organization: ASK Consulting Services, LI | | | |
| street & number: <u>3755 East 71st Street</u> | | | |
| city or town <u>: Indianapolis</u> | state: Indiana | zip code: <u>46220</u> | |
| e-mail: askconsultingservices@gmail.com | | - | |
| telephone: <u>317-652-8456</u> | | | |
| date: May 11, 2019 | | | |
| | | | |

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Name of Property

Photographs

Marion County, Indiana County and State

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Name of Property: Kahn Tailoring Company

City or Vicinity: Indianapolis

County: Marion State: IN

Photographer: Amy S. Kotzbauer

Date Photographed: July 29, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of _30__.

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of the Kahn Tailoring Company looking northwest from the corner of Capitol and St. Clair at the east and south facades. **IN MarionCounty KahnTailoringCompany0001**

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 Detail view of the center bays of the east (front) façade facing Capitol Avenue. IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0002

Kahn Tailoring Company Name of Property Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of the south façade facing St. Clair. IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0003

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of the south façade looking east down St. Clair. IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0004

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of the west façade which faces an alley. **IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0005**

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of the north façade from the adjacent parking lot to the north. IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0006

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of the interior courtyard facing SW with a large masonry air chase in view. IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0007

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of the interior courtyard looking NW with new windows. IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0008

 Kahn Tailoring Company
 Marion County, Indiana

 Name of Property
 County and State

 Kahn Tailoring Company
 Amy S. Kotzbauer

 Marion County, Indiana
 Amy S. Kotzbauer

 September 15, 2014
 September 15, 2014

 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220
 View of the interior courtyard looking SE with an abandoned elevator shaft now used as balconys.

 IN MarionCounty KahnTailoringCompany0009
 Marion County KahnTailoringCompany0009

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of the interior courtyard from the fourth floor. IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0010

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of the entrance lobby off the east façade with intact metal railings, slate floors and marble stair treads.

IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0011

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of the original wood doors leading off the south side of the lobby into what is now the community room. IN MarionCounty KahnTailoringCompany0012

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of the area off the north side of the entrance lobby in what is now the leasing office. IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0013

Kahn Tailoring Company Name of Property Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of the leasing office with exposed mushroom column capital. IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0014

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of the leasing office with exposed concrete ceilings and exposed mechanical systems. IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0015

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of the entrance lobby stairs looking down from the second floor. IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0016

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of the railing around the second floor stairs looking west toward the interior courtyard. IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0017

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of the safe and vault now used as a bedroom closet on the second floor. IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0018

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of the third floor corridor with a view into the interior courtyard to the right of the photo. IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0019

Kahn Tailoring Company Name of Property Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of a typical east/west corridor on the third and fourth floors. IN MarionCounty KahnTailoringCompany0020

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of a typical corridor on the third and fourth floors. IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0021

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of the retained central stairwell with original railings and concrete stairs.. IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0022

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of the north end stairwell with safety glass enclosures re-installed in a mirror image of their historic locations as approved by the National Park Service. **IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0023**

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of the north end stairwell with safety glass enclosures re-installed in a mirror image of their historic locations as approved by the National Park Service. **IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0024**

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of a first floor apartment looking east toward Capitol. IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0025

Kahn Tailoring Company Name of Property Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of a typical second floor apartment looking west toward the alley side. IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0026

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of a typical apartment unit with exposed mushroom column capitals and ceilings. IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0027

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of a typical apartment unit with exposed mushroom column capitals and ceilings. **IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0028**

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of a typical upper floor unit looking out onto the interior courtyard. IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0029

Kahn Tailoring Company Marion County, Indiana Amy S. Kotzbauer September 15, 2014 ASK Consulting Services, LLC, 3755 E. 71st Street, Indpls, IN 46220 View of a typical upper floor unit with exposed ceilings and floors. IN_MarionCounty_KahnTailoringCompany0030

Kahn Tailoring Company Name of Property



Figure 1 – Photo of Thomas Taggart house at 810 Tennessee Street which was later renamed Capitol Avenue and was razed in 1912 to make way for construction of the 1913 Kahn Tailoring Building.



Figure 2 – Photo from professional journal dated 1917.

Name of Property



KAHN TAILORING COMPANY BUILDING, INDIANAPOLIS. A DOUBLE STAIRWAY EXIT ON STREET FRONT

In the case of the stairs used on the building for the Kahn Tailoring Company, they are open on one side, the other three sides are inclosed in metal sash and wire glass. The fourth side is inclosed in the first story, where two exit doors are provided. The construction is clearly shown in the photographs and the locations shown in the sketch plan well indicate the very ample means of egress provided in this building.

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

The interior views show a work room and the cafeteria. In the former the natural lighting is shown to be ample. The artificial illumination is of two kinds, general and individual at the work tables. The general illumination is provided by ceiling lights and need only be of such intensity as to afford safe passage for the operatives. The table lighting will naturally be of greater intensity and adjustable to the individual needs of the workers.

The exterior of this building is of a simple and dignified character. The principal elevation with the return of three bays, is faced with brick. The balance of the exterior walls is of concrete. This building affords an excellent opportunity to compare a brick and a concrete wall. The brick piers are wider than the concrete piers, it is true, and therefore the brick faced elevation is in better proportion and slightly more ornate. It is doubtful if the concrete portion would in any degree compare with the brick portion even if constructed after the same detail. There is yet much to be done in developing concrete walls so as to produce a result that is in even a slight degree as pleasing as the walls finished in brick, terra cotta or stone. Even with the introduction of color and various kinds of surface treatment, it is doubtful if a concrete



TYPICAL INTERIOR VIEW, KAHN TAILORING COMPANY BUILDING, INDIANAPOLIS. IN WORKSHOP GENERAL AR-TIFICIAL ILLUMINATION IS PROVIDED, SUPPLEMENTED BY INDIVIDUAL ILLUMINATION AT THE WORK.

surface can ever be made as pleasing in appearance as a wall of well made brick. The introduction of the stone bases under four of the piers in the principal elevation would have been an improvement in the design.

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Figure 3 - Excerpt from a professional journal article about the innovative safety design aspects of the building.

Kahn Tailoring Company Name of Property



Figure 4 – Product advertisement using Kahn as its example.

Name of Property

Marion County, Indiana County and State

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

KAHN TAILORING COMPANY BUILDING, INDIANAPOL IS. VONNEGUT, BOHN & MUELLER, ARCHITECTS DOUBLE STAIR EXIT SHOWN ON SIDE ELEVATION

I N the building for the Kahn Tailoring Company, Indianapolis. here illustrated, the socalled "double stairway" was used. This type of construction is described in THE AMERICAN ARCHI-TECT of April 16, 1919, page 557. This building is 200 ft. x 200 ft. in size with a large interior court. This interior court is connected with the street by a wide driveway extending through the first story. There are two sets of these stairs in the outside walls and two sets in the interior court. This in effect provides eight stairways, using a floor area equal to that which is usually provided for four ordinary stairways. Thus a double duty or service is secured without loss of floor area. The advantage of this arrangement, as a protection to life in case of fire, is readily understood.

In this building the height from top to top of floors is 14 ft. With a 6 in. thick platform this would give a clear headroom of 6 ft. 6 in. under the platforms. The story height is governed by the thickness of the platform construction and the allowed headroom. It is possible to construct such platforms as thin as 4 in. or less when made of reinforced concrete or metal plates. A study of the details shown in the article above mentioned will clearly show the possibilities of this form of stair construction.



details shown in the article above mentioned will BUILDING. NOTE EXCELLENT DISTRIBUTION OF EXITS

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Figure 5 – Another article showcasing the innovative design of the building. NOTE: Although this sketch drawing shows the courtyard as more square in shape the overall shape of the courtyard has not changed. We believe this illustration was used to point out the exit locations only and was not included as a true representation of the building footprint. 1915 Sanborn maps show the current configuration has not changed. (See Figure 9)

Kahn Tailoring Company Name of Property Marion County, Indiana County and State



THE CAFETERIA KAHN TAILORING COMPANY BUILDING, INDIANAPOLIS.

Figure 6 – Photo from same article showing the cafeteria and highlighting the social aspects of the building.

Kahn Tailoring Company Name of Property Marion County, Indiana County and State



Figure 7 – Advertisement by Kahn.

Sections 9-end page 36
Kahn Tailoring Company Name of Property



Figure 8 – *Product advertisement using Kahn as an example.*



Figure 9 – Details from the 1915 Sanborn Map.

Kahn Tailoring Company

Marion County, Indiana County and State



Figure 10 – 1914 Bass Photo, Indiana Historical Society.



Figure 11 – Bass Photo showing company choir. Indiana Historical Society.

Sections 9-end page 39

Kahn Tailoring Company Name of Property Marion County, Indiana County and State



Figure 12 – Company picnic from 1919. Indiana Historical Society.



Figure 13 – Photo from 1936 from <u>The Indianapolis Star files</u>.

Sections 9-end page 40

Kahn Tailoring Company

Marion County, Indiana

| Name of Property | | | County and State |
|------------------|---|--|--|
| | SEP. OIP | TAILORING COMP | ANY |
| | Industrial Removal | | t. F2, 07. |
| | Gentlemen: We are n will pay \$15 and u need not necessar: is required of the We assume that th: | New York City. needing 4 or 5 coat makers to upward in accordance with ab- ily be familiar with English em being that they be good co is is the class of people the ould be very pleased to hear | ility. They , all that oat makers. at you are |
| 1 | to the second | Yours very truly, KAHN T. | AILOR DIG CO. |
| / | E.A.E. R.E.G. | | By |
| | | | |

Figure 14 – Letter from Kahn Tailoring to the Industrial Removal Office found at the Indiana Historical Society.

Kahn Tailoring Company





Marion County, Indiana County and State

Figure 15 -- Isaac Levy (left) with Davie Eskenazi (Right). Levy came from Monastir in 1911 and worked at Kahn Tailoring through the IRO. Photo courtesy Dr. Susan Hiatt, IUPUI.

Kahn Tailoring Company Name of Property

Indiana Pioneers Isaac Levy

Isaac Levy was something more than just another one of the Sephardic immigrants who worked at Kahn Tailoring during the early part of this century. He came from a relatively wealthy family in Yugoslavia, had traveled throughout Europe as a very young man, and spoke nine languages. His gifts brought him the position of liaison between the management of Kahn and the new immigrants working there.

Born in 1887 in Monastir, Levy made his first, abortive trip to the United States in 1911. For several months, he worked as a hatcheck clerk in a New York restaurant. He went home to visit his family that Passover, however, and did not return. Two years later, after his father died, Levy came to live in Indianapolis, where several other Jews from Monastir had preceded him. Once here, he married Grace Asael, also from Yugoslavia.

AFTER WORKING at Kahn's, Levy worked at L. Straus for 22 years. While at Straus, he also operated his own small tailoring shop in the downtown area.

Levy was a member of Etz



ISAAC LEVY ...liaison at Kahn Tailoring

Chaim Congregation, and served as its president on more than one occasion, says his son, Judge William Levy. He was also active in the Chevra Kedisha, or burial society.

Levy died in December 1973. He is survived by three sons: Judge William Levy; Isidore Levy of Dallas; and Morris Levy of Fort Worth; and three daughters: Sophie Cohen of Van Nuys, Cal.; Mary Moss of Pompano Beach, Fla.; and Anne Nedelman of Ft. Lauderdale.

Figure 16 -- Isaac Levy obituary; Kahn employee.

Kahn Tailoring Company Name of Property



Figure 17 – Kahn Tailoring war era advertisement.

Kahn Tailoring Company Name of Property



Figure 18 – Kahn Tailoring advertisement.

Kahn Tailoring Company Name of Property



Figure 19 – Kahn Tailing baseball team.

Kahn Tailoring Company Name of Property





P0130_P_BOX9_FOLDER3_8813

Digital image © 2004 Indiana Historical Society. All Rights Reserved.

Figure 20 – Historic photo of the 2 West Washington Street location of Kahn Tailoring before their expansion and move to North Capital Avenue. This was the last of three Washington Street locations (both East and West addresses) between 1886 and 1915.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



ZONE 16 571782 4403500



SHEET NO. C201




































































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

| Requested Action: | Nomination | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Property Name: | Kahn Tailoring Company | | |
| Multiple Name: | | ··· ··· · ··· ··· ··· ··· ··· ··· ··· | |
| State & County: | INDIANA, Marion | | |
| Date Rece 10/22/20 | | | ate of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List: 12/6/2019 |
| Reference number: | SG100004717 | | 11 ° 11 ° 11 ° 11 ° 11 ° 11 ° 11 ° 11 |
| Nominator: | SHPO | | |
| Reason For Review | • | | |
| Appea | 1 | X PDIL | Text/Data Issue |
| SHPO | Request | Landscape | Photo |
| Waiver | | National | Map/Boundary |
| Resub | mission | Mobile Resource | Period |
| Other | | TCP | Less than 50 years |
| | | CLG | |
| X Accept | Return | Reject11/29 | 1/ 2019 Date |
| Abstract/Summary Comments: | Significant in industry as a manufacturer with regional reach in men's clothing, national reach in military uniforms, but more important locally in ethnic history in the company's efforts to help recent Jewish immigrants assimilate into the community. the building is also an atypical work of locally important architects Vonnegut & Bohn. | | |
| Recommendation/ Criteria | Accept / A & C | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | |
| Reviewer Jim Gabbert | | Discipline | Historian |
| Telephone (202)354-2275 | | Date | |
| DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No | | | |

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



Indiana Department of Natural Resources Eric Holcomb, Governor Cameron F. Clark, Director

Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology • 402 W. Washington Street, W274 • Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739 Phone 317-232-1646 • Fax 317-232-0693 • dhpa@dnr.IN.gov • www.IN.gov/dnr/historic

October 17, 2019

Ms. Joy Beasley Keeper of the National Register National Register of Historic Places Mail Stop 7228 1849 C St, NW Washington, D.C. 20240



Re: Kahn Tailoring Company, Marion County, Indiana

Dear Ms. Beasley,

Enclosed is a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Kahn Tailoring Company, Marion County, Indiana. The Indiana Historic Preservation Review Board reviewed the application and voted to recommend its approval to the National Register of Historic Places.

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Kahn Tailoring Company, Marion County, Indiana to the National Register of Historic Places.

Please address any questions you or your staff may have about this nomination to my National Register staff members, Paul Diebold or Holly Tate.

Sincerely,

and F. Clac

Cameron F. Clark State Historic Preservation Officer

CFC:PCD:pcd

enclosure: nomination package