

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received AUG 27 1984
date entered SEP 27 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic State Bank of Hammond Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 5444-5446 Calumet Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Hammond N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Lake code 089

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Mercantile National Bank Trust No. 4183

street & number 5243 Hohman Avenue

city, town Hammond N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46320

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lake County Government Complex

street & number 2293 Main Street

city, town Crown Point state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Hammond Historical and Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date December, 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Hammond Dept. of Planning and Development

city, town Hammond state Indiana

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on a commercial street in Hammond, the State Bank of Hammond Building is a two-story, Neo-Classical structure with a full basement. The flat roofed rectangular building is constructed of brick, concrete, and steel and has 18" thick outer walls and steel reinforced concrete floors.

The main facade is covered with glazed terra cotta and is five bays wide. The central three bay section is recessed from the main structure. A colossal entry portico defines the recessed area. It is composed of two fluted, square, engaged columns and two fluted, round columns which support a wide entablature. The columns are 20' high and have composite capitals. The entablature includes a medallion at each end of the frieze and a dentiled cornice.

The main entrance is located in the center bay; the door has a single light transom surmounted by a decorative terra cotta entablature with "State Bank of Hammond" inscribed on the frieze. Paired consoles sit atop the cornice.

Flanking the entrance there are two large windows. Each has a large center light, two end lights, and a three part transom. Three large fixed sash windows with 15 lights each are positioned above the first-level windows and entry. Located in the side walls of the recessed area are two entrances which provide direct access to other areas in the building. These entrances have multi-light windows above them.

On the first level, each of the end bays has a two-light casement window with a transom. These windows have terra cotta surrounds and lintels. A decorative, horizontal band of terra cotta extends across each of the end bays, except for where it is interrupted by the window, just below the first-level window lintels. Directly above these windows there are two like windows, except without surrounds and lintels. All windows on the building have steel frames. All first-level windows have vertical steel bars on the interior side of the window for security. Few of the original wire glass panes are intact.

Above the portico there is a recessed rectangle. An early illustration of the building depicts the inscription, "State Bank of Hammond," in this space. No such inscription exists today. It may have been on a sign which was removed after the bank closed. The building terminates in a stepped parapet with paired consoles, identical to the ones over the entry, flanking the raised center section.

Between the windows of the first and second levels of the bays which flank the main entry are terra cotta panels. There is also a terra cotta panel below each of the first level windows.

The brick side facades were originally without openings; recently an overhead door was installed on the south facade in anticipation of the building's use as a warehouse. Otherwise, the building's exterior is essentially unchanged.

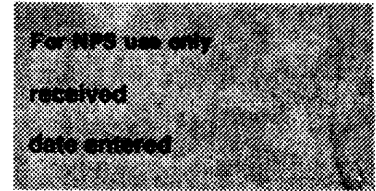
The rear facade has several paired, double-hung windows with two lights in each sash. These windows have steel frames and stone sills.

A flagpole is centered near the front of the flat roof. An interior flush brick chimney is located on the north side.

The center entrance leads to a small vestibule followed by a spectacular lobby with a 25' ceiling. The lobby is illuminated by a 20' x 30' translucent skylight assisted by electric lights. The walls are plaster upon clay brick tiles. The classical plaster ornamentation includes floor to ceiling pilasters and detailed cornices. The lobby floor area is covered with 6" square terra cotta tiles.

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Continuation sheet State Bank of
 Hammond Building

Item number 7

Page 1

The north entry leads to a large private office and the south entry provides access to a marble stairway with wainscoting, and this leads to four, upper story private offices with two bathrooms. A marble lavatory serves these offices, which were unrelated to the bank's operation. The south street access is also the passageway to the basement which was arranged for office use. A private stairway at the rear of the bank leads to the second story Boardroom and a large steel, walk-in records vault.

The building boasted an innovative forced air ventilation system to circulate air through sheet metal air ducts artfully concealed in the lobby pilasters, and integrated into the skylight. This permitted the movement of radiated heated air throughout the lobby area.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1927

Builder/Architect K. Vitzthum and J. Burns

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The State Bank of Hammond Building is a significant example of commercial architecture in Hammond and is the best remaining example of the Neo-Classical style in the city. It was designed by prolific architect, Karl Vitzthum, who was known for a number of his buildings. The building has housed banks and other commercial enterprises.

Characterized by many distinctive Neo-Classical features, the structure has symmetry in design, a colossal entry portico, parapet, pilasters, and columns. It is representative of the style of bank buildings popular in the Midwest during the economic boom of the 1920's. When it was dedicated in September, 1927, the Lake County Times proclaimed the structure "modern in every respect."

The architect, Karl Vitzthum, designed over 50 banks in his career. He is best known for designing One North LaSalle Street, the tallest building in Chicago until 1965, the old Great Lakes Training Center, Cook County Hospital, St. Peter's Church, and Comiskey Park.

Built in 1927, the State Bank of Hammond Building was the home of the State Bank of Hammond for only five years, but these spanned the economic boom of the 1920's and the Great Depression of the 1930's. The bank was founded in 1917 by prominent local businessmen, A. Tapper, E. Ullrich, and T. Moor. In 1931, the bank was voluntarily liquidated and has the distinction of being the last bank in Hammond to close after the Crash of 1929, and the only bank not to fail. In 1933, the building was reopened by the Calumet State Bank, but it was vacated within two years when the bank moved to the downtown area, taking with it over 500 safe deposit boxes. Since then, the building has served as a license bureau and various other retail and office uses. At one time the city planned to demolish the structure, but this plan was discouraged because of the basic integrity and soundness of the building. A renovation is being planned.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hammond Historical and Architectural Survey, Department of Planning and Development, 1981
 History of the Lake and Calumet Region of Indiana. Indianapolis: Historians Association, 1927.

Lake County Times, September 7, 1927

Condit, Carl W. Chicago, 1910-29. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1973.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Calumet City, IL

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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4	5	7	5	8	0
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4	6	0	6	8	7	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 4 and 5, H. W. Sohl's 3rd Addition to the City of Hammond as per plat thereof in the office of the Recorder of Lake County, Indiana

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state		code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title William I. Fine, Attorney at Law

organization N/A date May 24, 1984

street & number 5246 Hohman Avenue telephone 219/931-5380

city or town Hammond state Indiana 46320

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *John T. Cottrell*

title Deputy Director, Dept. of Natural Resources date 8-17-84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 9-27-84

Joyce M. Sammons
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration