

INTERIM HISTORIC DESIGNATION PETITION INSTRUCTIONS

Please type or print clearly.

To request a public hearing on interim designation in accordance with Section 320-21 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances, it is necessary to complete the attached petition and return it to the staff of the Historic Preservation Commission. In general, the photographs, research, images and documentation submitted with this petition are non-returnable. To file a petition, you must be the owner of the subject property, or a resident of the City of Milwaukee, or a City of Milwaukee department, board, commission or official.

1. **Name of Property**

Provide the name by which the property is generally known, if any. Give the full address of the property including zip code.

2. **Name and Address of Owner**

Provide the name, address, and telephone number of the owner. If there are multiple owners of real interest, include all parties, using a separate sheet of paper, if necessary. Provide name, address, and telephone number of the applicant, if different from the owner.

3. **Attachments**

If possible, the petition should be accompanied by a minimum of one clear black-and-white (or color) original photograph at least 3 x 5 inches in size showing the principal exterior elevation of the building. Digital images on a disk or flash drive are also acceptable. It is advisable to provide additional photographs if the structure merits more extensive pictorial coverage or displays significant features on several elevations. To supplement your application, you may want to submit historical documentation as further evidence of why the structure is worthy of historic designation.

4. **Legal Property Description**

Provide the legal property description from the deed or tax assessor's records.

5. **Description of Structure**

Describe the structure's shape, building materials, and exterior features in paragraph form. Specify types and colors materials, the design or pattern of decorative ornament, and the arrangement of architectural elements. Also describe other features on the site such as outbuildings, decorative fences, sculpture, fountains, or landscape treatments that may add to the significance or historic character of the site. Briefly describe additions or alterations and non-historic features. Use continuation sheets, if necessary.

6. **Significance**

In a brief opening paragraph, enumerate the areas of significance checked above and explain specifically why the site is important in each of these categories. In subsequent paragraphs, and on continuation sheets, if necessary, detail the history of the site and the people or events that have contributed to its significance. You may want to attach photocopies of documentation to support and further amplify your research.

7. Major Bibliographical References

Include major references. Use continuation sheets, if necessary. Be sure to include publisher, city, and publication dates for books and edition dates for newspapers and periodicals.

8. Form Prepared By

Provide your name, your mailing address, and the telephone number where you can be contacted during the day. Have this form acknowledged by a Notary Public.

Please return this form to the following address:

**Historic Preservation Commission
City Clerk's Office
200 E. Wells Street Room B-4
Milwaukee, WI 53202**

If you have questions or need assistance in completing this form, please call the Historic Preservation staff at **(414) 286-5722 or 286-5712.**

INTERIM HISTORIC DESIGNATION PETITION

1. Name of Property: Sydney Hill
Address of Property: 300-318 W. Juneau Ave 53203
Zip Code

2. Name and Address of Owner

Name: SH Acquisition LLC
Street Address: 809 N. Broadway, Rm 104
City: Milwaukee State: WI Zip Code: 53202
Daytime Telephone Number: 414 286-5840
(Area Code)

Applicant (if different from owner) ERIN DORBIN
Street Address: 2628 N. Humboldt Blvd #305
City: Milwaukee State: WI Zip Code: 53212
Daytime Phone Number: 269-779-0164 Evening Phone Number Same

3. Attachments

The following information is enclosed:

- ☒ Exterior photographs (required)
☐ Color slides of exterior (required)
☐ Copy of newspaper notice of demolition permit application
☐ Other (explain) _____

4. Legal Property Description

(see attachment)

5. **Description of Structure**

Number of stories: 4

Wall cladding (check each that apply)

Clapboard ☐ Brick ☒ Stucco ☐ Stone ☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Terra Cotta ☐
Asphalt Siding ☐ Asbestos Tile ☐ Aluminum/Vinyl Siding ☐ Artificial Stone ☐
Other: _____

Describe Outstanding Features:

(See attachment p. 2 & 3 as well as
2009 Historic Designation Study Report
completed by Gail Fitch)

6. Significance

Areas of Significance:

☐ agriculture
☒ architecture
☒ art
☒ commerce
☒ communications
☐ community planning
☐ conservation
☒ science
☒ social/humanitarian

☐ economics
☒ education
☐ engineering
☒ exploration/settlement
☐ industry
☒ invention
☐ landscape architecture
☒ theater
☐ other (specify)

☐ law
☐ literature
☒ military
☒ music
☐ philosophy
☐ politics/government
☐ religion
☐ transportation

Date Built: 1876

Date Altered (if applicable) 1910 & later

Builder/Architect: unknown

Written Statement of Significance, including history of structure:
(continue on a separate sheet, if necessary)

(see attachment)

7. Major Bibliographical References

(see attachment p. 8)

8. Form Prepared By:

Name: ERIN DORBIN Date: MAY 23, 2012
Address: 2628 N. Humboldt Blvd #305
City: MILWAUKEE State: WI Zip Code: 53212
Telephone: 269-779-0164
Signature: Erin Dorbin

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF WISCONSIN
MILWAUKEE COUNTY

Personally came before me on this 23 day of may in the year of 2012
the above named Erin Dorbin to me known to be the
Name of Person
person who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledge the same.

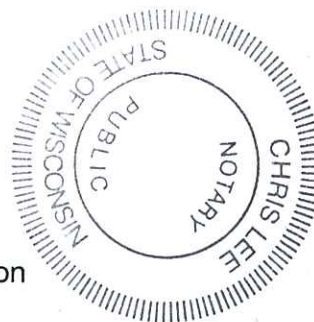
Subscribed and sworn before me

[Signature]
Signature of notary

Notary Public, State of Wisconsin

My commission is/expires: 8/5/2012

Notary Seal (required)



Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission
City Clerk's Office
200 E. Wells Street Room B-4
Milwaukee, WI 53202

414-286-5722 or 286-5712

**Interim Historic Designation Petition
May 2012**

1. Name of Property:

Historic Name: Nicholas Senn Building/Senn Block
Common Name: Sydney Hih
Address: 300-318 W. Juneau Avenue

2. Name & Address of Owner:

SH Acquisition LLC
Friebert, Finerty & St. John, S.C.
Two Plaza East - Suite 1250
330 East Kilbourn Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202
Phone: 414-271-0130

Milwaukee Economic Development Corp. (MEDC)
809 N. Broadway, Room 104
Milwaukee, WI 53202
Phone: 414-286-5840

**NOTE: THE ACTUAL PURCHASE OF SYDNEY HIH WAS
MADE BY SH ACQUISITION IN 2011. THE PURCHASE
WAS FUNDED BY MEDC. IT IS UNCLEAR WHO
TECHNICALLY OWNS THE PROPERTY. IT HAS BEEN
WIDELY REPORTED THAT THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE
IS THE CURRENT OWNER OF SYDNEY HIH.**

Address of Applicant:

(Please refer to actual Petition document)

3. Attachments:

The following information is enclosed:

Photographs related to the
Sydney Hih/Nicholas Senn Building's
Areas of Significance

4. Legal Property Description: Tax Key No.: 361-040-9100

Encompasses formerly numbered buildings: 306-308, 310, 316 W. Juneau Ave

Original Plat of the Town of Milwaukee, west of the river in SECS (20 & 29)-7-22

Block 39 Lot 16 & Part Lot 13 Com SW Cor Lot 13-th N 10'-th-E 60.2'-th S 7.2'-th E 15.43'-th S 1.74—th W 74.96' to Beg

Subj to X-WayEasmt

Bids #15, #21, TID #48

NOTE: THIS PETITION DESIGNATION IS MEANT TO RE-OPEN THE DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE SENN BUILDING'S DESIGNATION STATUS THAT WAS ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED BY GAIL FITCH IN 2009. ALTHOUGH THE ADJACENT BUILDINGS TO THE WEST ARE NOT LEGALLY DESCRIBED IN DEATAIL, CONSIDERATION FOR THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ENTIRE, CONJOINED SYDNEY HIH STRUCTURE IS SUPPORTED BY THIS DOCUMENT.

5. Description of Structure:

The full physical description of the Nicholas Senn building has already been submitted to the HPC in 2009 by Gail Fitch. To avoid repeating what the HPC already knows about this building, please refer to pages 3 and 4 of the original Historic Designation Study Report under Section VI, titled "Physical Description".

The 2009 Study Report can be viewed at
<http://city.milwaukee.gov/hpc/OtherStudyReports>

6. Significance:

The historical significance of the Nicholas Senn portion of the Sydney Hih complex, as it relates to Dr. Nicholas Senn, has been thoroughly detailed in Gail Fitch's 2009 Historic Designation Study Report. To avoid unnecessary repetition, please refer to the 2009 Historic Designation Study Report for the history of Dr. Nicholas Senn (<http://city.milwaukee.gov/hpc/OtherStudyReports>). The goal of this Interim Designation Petition is to expound upon what was presented in the 2009 report to include an in-depth study of the post-Nicholas Senn years. The historical, social and cultural significance of the Sydney Hih Complex spans multiple decades of the 20th century, extending well beyond the time period that Dr. Nicholas Senn occupied the building (late 19th century). The post-WWII period also witnessed the conjoining of the four separate structures to create a cohesive building and history of the former 306-308, 310, 316 structures. This period suggests that the united Sydney Hih structure in its entirety is worthy of a thorough historical evaluation and inquiry. Below are the specific "Areas of Significance" that can be used to signify why Sydney Hih and the Nicholas Senn building in particular deserve protection under a historic designation nomination.

Specific Areas of Significance:

Architecture, Art, Commerce, Communications, Science, Social/Humanitarian, Education, Exploration/Settlement, Invention, Theater, Military, Music

Architecture:

The Sydney Hih/Nicholas Senn Building is located at the former site of the first commercial brick building in Milwaukee, John Hustis Public Hall, built in 1840. The Nicholas Senn Building was designed in an Italianate style, constructed with Pressed Cream City brick. This type of Cream City brick is the rarest of its kind and very few other buildings in Milwaukee were made from this material. The Nicholas Senn Building is one of the last existing large masonry buildings in the city with an upper story hall. In the 1870s, the commercial block structure with upper story hall became a popular architectural design. This building type reflects the explosion in the number of social and fraternal groups that occurred after the Civil War, groups that needed spacious accommodations for their meetings, social events, educational programs and the like.

*refer to the 2009 Historic Designation Study Report for more information about the buildings architectural significance

Art:

In the early 1970s, the Nicholas Senn building became known as Sydney Hih. The building quickly became an epicenter in Milwaukee for arts and music. Artists both lived in the building and created work in private studios. Artists connected to Sydney Hih went on to make a positive impact in the surrounding city while the building itself remained an artistic and creative hub in Milwaukee well into the early 2000s.

Example of Artists that were a part of the Sydney Hih era:

Jim Mitchell

- Well-known underground Milwaukee cartoonist who once worked in Sydney Hih
- Best known for his *Smile* comic, and regularly contributed to famous alternative Milwaukee newspaper, *Bugle-American*
- Currently owns Distant Thunder Studios, Milwaukee-based art studio

Prophet Blackmon

- Owned the Revival Center Shoe Repair and Shine Parlor inside Sydney Hih
- Blackmon an Army veteran of WWII
- Artist's paintings are now included in the collections of the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C., American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore, American Folk Museum in New York, and the Milwaukee Art Museum

Peter Di'Antoni

- Well-known local photographer that started his career in the Sydney Hih building
- Editor of the internationally distributed *Cog Magazine* dedicated to bike culture

Commerce:

The Sydney Hih/Nicholas Senn Building is directly related to the spirit and overall growth of

independent and local business in Milwaukee. Since its construction in 1876, a long and unique list of shops, businesses, services and restaurants have succeeded in the location's lower-level commercial spaces. In 1894, the building became the West Side Savings Bank. By 1920, the West Side Savings Bank was considered to be one of the strongest and most financially sound institutions in the city, whose officers and stockholders boasted the names of Adam Gettleman, George Koch, Fred Usinger, Otto J. Schoenleber and Victor Schlitz. In 136 years, The Sydney Hih/Nicholas Senn building has housed everything from an experimental medical laboratory, Milwaukee's first organic food restaurant, a Caribbean imports shop, and winemaking consulting firm.

List of some of the businesses associated with the building:

Merk's Cheese and Sausage – products can be found in grocery stores across Wisconsin
Playhouse – handmade stuffed toy store
Delhi Emporium – Indian imports shop
Fantasies in Glass – glass blowing studio
Underfoot – Iranian shoe and clothes boutique
Puerto Rican Valley – a Caribbean imports shop
Dreams and Dragons –glass store
British Record Shop – record store
Western Tradition – western-themed leather shop run a by 24-year-old Iranian, Shahrokh Zonoozi
Mouse Trap – body jewelry store run by Robert B. Zacher, art teacher at John Marshall H.S.
Shish Kabob – Iranian short order kitchen
Fertile Dirt – first organic food restaurant co-operative in Milwaukee
Con Art Gallery – gallery featuring artwork produced by Wisconsin state prisoners
Fermentation Plantation – winemaking consultants
Betty's Bead Bank – (opened 1976) sold handmade beads and were the longest running business in the building
Gus' Mexican Cantina – Mexican restaurant
The Unicorn – underground punk rock bar
The Mine Shaft – restaurant and bar
The Milwaukee Eagle – popular gay bar
and many more.

Communications:

Dr. Nicholas Senn's original intent for the building was for it to become a place of learning and city-wide communication. The architectural style was chosen to create an environment conducive to learning for students, as well as one that could host large community discussions and groups on its upper floors. This upper hall additionally provided much needed space for numerous meetings, social events, and educational events offered by community groups throughout its history. The Sydney Hih era was a continuation of the community-building efforts of earlier inhabitants to unite residents, provide a location to share ideas, experience new experiences in Milwaukee and to improve Milwaukeeans' access to the arts. The building became a hub of learning and discovery that still stands as a prominent symbol of successful community-driven dialogue and development in Milwaukee.

Science:

Medicine is the application of certain sciences including molecular biology, biochemistry, medical physics, genetics, pharmacology and neuroscience. The work of Dr. Nicholas Senn greatly improved

medical practices worldwide. Dr. Senn's work in the field of applied science includes some of the most extensive accomplishments achieved by any one medical professional in the field. The medical experimentation and study that took place in the Nicholas Senn Building greatly expanded the understanding and practice of surgical techniques throughout both the local and worldwide medical community. The building is a living symbol of scientific and medical discovery. Its presence in the built landscape functions as a prominent physical reminder of the extraordinary achievements obtainable by Milwaukee's talented and skilled citizenry.

*refer to the 2009 Historic Designation Study Report for more information about Dr. Senn's important work

Social/Humanitarian:

The work of Dr. Nicholas Senn was primarily motivated by a personal quest to make the world a better place. He made his positive contributions on the local and national level via the improvements he spearheaded in the medical community, namely developing techniques that limited the spread of disease. His selfless attitude, tireless work ethic, and passion to contribute to the betterment of the world around him became an integral and long-lasting ethos associated with the building. The sound and honest business practices later associated with the West Side Savings Bank and the numerous individuals who made positive contributions on both the local and national level during the Sydney Hih era reaffirm Senn's early passions to make the world a better place. In short, Senn's aspirations for positive growth and influence in the larger community did not dissipate when Senn last exited the building. Throughout the 20th century, the Nicholas Senn Building was home to the first organic restaurant co-operative in Milwaukee and also the location of one of Milwaukee's first gay night clubs. The building has historically been respected as a home for multicultural and diverse tenants, and as a gathering place for socially-conscious artists and musicians. The socially-conscious and culturally-diverse atmosphere that fostered these numerous positive contributions to American and international communities demonstrates how the historic character of the building has persevered from its inception and into the 21st century. Further, this continuum of cultural pluralism and innovation demonstrates how the building holds the potential to thrive in the 21st century as a vital community center, if given the opportunity.

Education:

Dr. Nicholas Senn's original intent for the building was for it to exist as a locus for learning and a hub for city-wide communication. The building's specific four-story architectural style that included an upper hall was employed to create an environment ideal for learning, including the ability to host large group discussions on its upper floors. When Sydney Eisenburg bought the building in the early 1970s, he and others were developing plans to further the building's initial scope of design to create an environment that fostered educational opportunities and promote techniques affiliated with the arts and crafts. For instance, a closed circuit television system was in development with the intent to install monitors in specific shops to broadcast artists at work throughout the building. These broadcasts were intended to promote the visual arts, an understanding of artistic techniques, and provide opportunities for skills sharing. Jeff A. Krueger and Micheal J. March of Sydney Hih Forum Co-operative also created a multimedia art studio and drama hall in the building. The hall was designed as a space for musicians, artists, and actors to practice their skills, teach, and share their crafts.

The Sydney Hih/Nicholas Senn Building was built by a world-renowned educator for the purpose of creating a structure that could house, inform and educate citizens of Milwaukee. The Sydney Hih era extended this long-standing tradition of achieving education through thoughtful design and use of

Milwaukee's built environment into the 2000s by continuing to facilitate and host opportunities for learning in the arts and music.

Exploration/Settlement:

The Sydney Hih/Nicholas Senn Building is one of the last existing remnants of Kilbourntown. Due to the Park East freeway project most of this historic community/landscape has been lost to demolition. The corner where this building sits was once lined with breweries and thriving businesses. The Sydney Hih/Nicholas Senn building is the last physical remnant of this once vibrant commercial district in Milwaukee. The building is a living symbol of the origins of our city and a direct window into our proud past.

Invention:

Dr. Nicholas Senn was one of the first medical surgeons to begin using protective gloves during surgery to prevent the spread of germs, infection and sepsis. After investigating the causes of blood infection and sepsis, he determined that bacteria was being transmitted by the hands of surgeons and thereby infecting their patients. The use of cotton gloves boiled in water was pioneered by him and marked a new beginning in the understanding of how germs spread. Dr. Nicholas Senn was also the first surgeon to use hydrogen gas to inflate a patient's intestines to detect perforation. This technique, which he perfected in the basement of Sydney Hih, became widely used to find bullet puncture wounds in the stomachs of wounded soldiers.

The research and experimentation carried out in the Sydney Hih/Nicholas Senn building by Dr. Nicholas Senn led to notable breakthroughs and discoveries that forever changed the way surgery has been practiced throughout the world.

Theater:

The former John Hustis Public Hall building was torn down in 1876 to build the Nicholas Senn building. The Hustis building, constructed in 1840, was considered Milwaukee's first music hall and was designed to accommodate visiting artists and performers. The first known theatrical performance in Milwaukee was held in the Hustis Music Hall in 1842. The play was called *Shylock* and was produced by Thomas Lynn and Thomas Powell of the Detroit and Chicago Company. The theatrical heritage of the site was revived when Milwaukee's famous Theatre X company held their early rehearsals in the building. An array of actors and performers called the building home at this time. Theatre X would go on to become one of the oldest operating experimental theatre ensembles in the United States. World-famous stage and film actor (and Wisconsin native), Willem Dafoe, was once a part of the Theatre X company.

Military:

Dr. Nicholas Senn's research and experimentation was motivated by the goal to make battlefield surgery safer and simpler to perform. He focused on techniques that would prevent the spread of infection. His work directly contributed to an increase of survival for thousands of wounded American soldiers. In 1888, Senn was appointed Surgeon General of Wisconsin and in 1892 became the Surgeon General of the Illinois National Guard. In 1891, Senn created the Association of Military Surgeons of the National Guard of the United States. He participated in the Spanish American War and became Chief of Operating Staff Surgeons with the American army. The work Dr. Nicholas Senn completed

inside the Senn Building directly contributed to the betterment of military medical practices and forever changed the way battlefield surgery was conducted.

In 1880, a historic meeting took place in Senn's Hall related to the forming of a Civil War Veteran's organization. Members of Wisconsin's famous Iron Brigade met on the upper floor of the Nicholas Senn building and here decided to form a permanent organization dedicated to supporting and improving the lives of Wisconsin's war veterans. This was the first organization of its kind in Wisconsin and it laid the groundwork for present-day war veteran assistance programs. The Sydney Hih/Nicholas Senn Building has a direct connection with the advancement of military medicine and is the only building in the City of Milwaukee that has a direct connection with the first steps taken toward creating war veteran assistance programs in Wisconsin.

Music:

The Sydney Hih/Nicholas Senn Building was constructed on the exact site where the John Hustis Public Hall was once located. The Hustis Public Hall, built in 1840, is considered to be the very first music hall in Milwaukee and is also the location where the very first theatrical performance took place. When Sydney Eisenburg purchased the Senn Building in the early 1970s, the building became an art and music epicenter. Musicians of every type populated the numerous studios that were created in the Sydney Hih era, and the building became a center for local artistic and musical development. Hundreds of different local Milwaukee musicians and bands practiced and performed inside this building, many of whom also called the place home.

In 1980, Gus Hosseini opened a nightclub called The Unicorn in the basement level of the Sydney Hih/Nicholas Senn Building. The Unicorn was the first punk rock bar in Milwaukee and it became a huge success, hosting (then pre-Grammy-award-winning) artists including Nirvana, The Smashing Pumpkins, Green Day, Soundgarden, Pearl Jam, and Seven Mary Three. While these groups all performed at The Unicorn prior to achieving world-wide success and notoriety, this significant period in rock music history affirms the building's legacy as an environment for artists, musicians, actors, and other performers to hone their crafts. It also hints to the future incubator the structure can provide Milwaukee-based artists, musicians and actors to catapult their careers into the mainstream.

Noteworthy local musicians that spent time in the Sydney Hih/Nicholas Senn building:

Chris Rosenau

- Practice studio inside Sydney Hih
- Performed in groups Collection of Colonies of Bees and Volcano Choir

Andy Noble

- Played music at Sydney Hih and also regularly attended musical performances at the building
- Created the local band King's Go Forth that toured internationally
- Owned Lotus Land Records in Riverwest
- Currently DJs the "Get Down" at Mad Planet in Riverwest

Dan Duchaine & Rushmor Records in Bay View

- Owner of Milwaukee's longest-running record shop and performed music at Sydney Hih
- Currently plays drums for local Milwaukee band Speed Freaks

Die Kreuzen

- Practice space was in the Sydney Hih/Nicholas Senn Building
- The band is credited with bringing intelligence and lyrical diversity to the heavy metal genre
- 2011, inducted into the WAMI Hall of Fame (Wisconsin Area Music Industry)

Rich Menning

- Frequently Performed music at Sydney Hih
- Founded East Side record store, Atomic Records: Atomic Records was an iconic record store in the city of Milwaukee that garnered a national reputation

Damian Strigens

- Lived in Sydney Hih and held additional space in the building for band practice
- Currently in local Milwaukee band Testa Rosa
- Performed in groups The Lovelies and The Frogs
- Currently Art Director at Hanson Dodge in Milwaukee

Jeff Castelaz

- Well-known participant in the Sydney Hih music scene
- Founded Danger Bird Record Company that held roster of popular national bands
- Founded The Pablove Foundation to fight childhood cancer: World famous bicyclist, Lance Armstrong, works very closely with Pablove Foundation

Paul Finger

- Held studio space inside Sydney Hih building
- Member of the popular Milwaukee band Wild Kingdom
- Paul Finger left the group and later reformed as Citizen King: Citizen King went on to gain worldwide fame

7. Major Bibliographical References:

Nicholas Senn Building 2009 Historical Designation Study Report, by Gail Fitch
<http://city.milwaukee.gov/hpc/OtherStudyReports>

“History of Milwaukee Wisconsin” - The Western Historical Company, A.T. Andreas, Proprietor, 1881

Milwaukee's King of Comix - The Underground Art of Jim Mitchell, by Curtis L. Carter, February 29, 2012, The Sheperd Express

“Prophet Blackmon was a Milwaukee Artist and Preacher”, by Amy Rabideau Silvers
March 19th, 2010 – Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

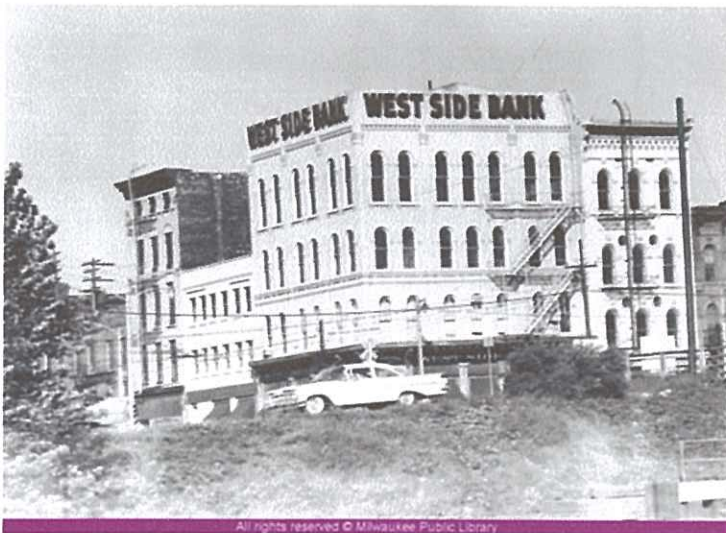
<http://www.allmusic.com/artist/chris-rosenau-p433283/biography>

“Building on Juneau is Center for the Arts” - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, June 21, 1972

The Life Cycle of the Senn Block



The Senn Block Circa 1870 's



The West Side Bank Circa 1950's



Sydney HiH circa 1970's

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Street Views



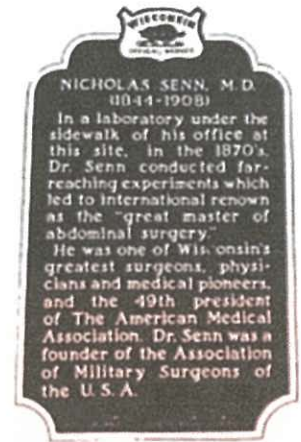
Street view circa 1910. Senn Block
in right foreground



Street view circa 2009. Park East
project decimated this area, leaving
Sydney HiH as one of the only
structures left from the
Kilbourn era.

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Dr. Nicholas Senn



This historic marker graced the building during the 1960's paying homage to Dr. Senn's contributions. The plaque was stolen 8 years later and never recovered



Sydney Eisenberg transformed the building into an arts and crafts epicenter during the 1970's and renamed the building "Sydney HiH"

SYDNEY HiH GAZETTE

December

Published For and By the Merchants

1976

SYDNEY HiH STILL FUNCTIONING

In spite of the reports that Sydney HiH Shopping Complex was gutted by the fire which occurred on October 31, 1976 and the building was to be razed, the Sydney HiH merchants refused to believe it. They would not give up and today the first two floors of the shopping complex are alive and functioning. These people of course, were the shop owners who were lucky to have suffered damage but could recover enough to once again open their shops.

Other friends of Sydney HiH and the proprietor of the Mineshaft and the fortunate shop owners are collaborating in holding a BENEFIT for the Burned Out Shopkeepers. You can help these people by attending this Benefit which will be held at the Mine-

shaft. The price to hear several good musical artists is \$2.00 per person for admission. The Benefit will be held on two nights, Wednesday December 8 Thursday December 9, 1976. All proceeds from this Benefit will be used to help the Burned Out Shopkeepers.

Come on down to the Mineshaft and you will have the time of your life, plus you will be helping people who have dreamed about doing their thing and doing what they want to do.

Is Sydney HiH going to be better than it was? You can bet your bottom dollar on it. One reason why is that you are now reading the first Sydney HiH Gazette—it is going to be published in the future—Sydney HiH's own miniature newspaper.

Blaze Guts Shopping Complex



The Sydney HiH building produced its own internal Gazette for a time during the 70's and 80's. The paper was created to strengthen the sense of community and keep tenants of the building on the same page.

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Sydney HiH's iconic paint job with the Park East Freeway behind it.


facebook

Email or Phone

☒ Keep me logged in


Password

[Forgot your password?](#)



Sydney HiH is on Facebook.

To connect with Sydney HiH, sign up for Facebook today.



Sydney HiH

330 likes · 62 talking about this

[Community](#)

[About](#)

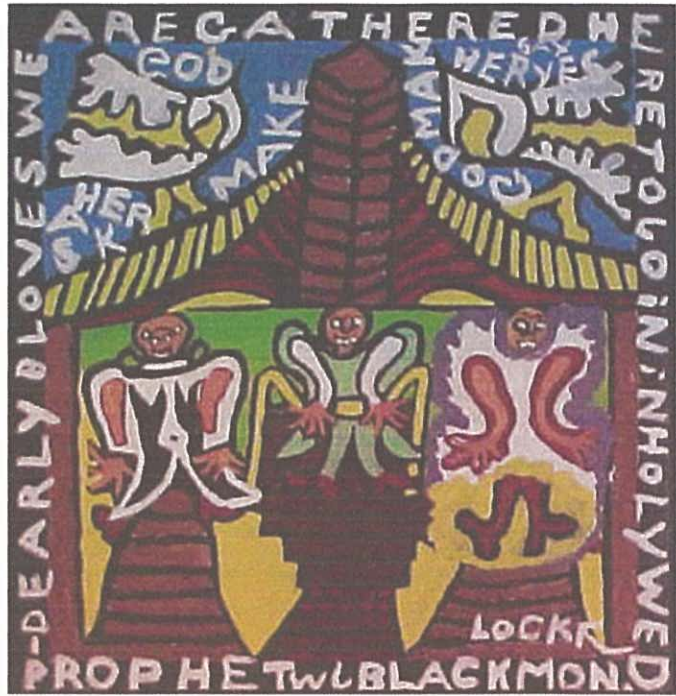
[Photos](#)

330

Facebook page for Sydney HiH has garnered over 300 "likes" in less than 2 months. Outpouring of support on this page. Page has been liked worldwide.

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A sampling of creative achievement that has grown out of those involved during Sydney HiH era



Prophet Blackmon, owner of the Revival shoe shine parlor inside the Sydney HiH building was also an accomplished artist. His work is part of the permanent collection in the Smithsonian Art Museum in Washington D.C., as well as the Milwaukee Art Museum. Blackmon was also a WWII vet in the US Army



Milwaukee resident Peter Di'Antoni got his start in the Sydney HiH building, even living there for a few years in the 90's. Di'Antoni is now an accomplished commercial photographer and Founder / Editor of the biking culture magazine COG.



Milwaukee native and now Los Angeles based Jeff Castelaz frequented the Sydney HiH arts and music scene in the 90's. He is the founder of both the Pablove Foundation for the fight against childhood cancer, and is the owner of Dangerbird Records which represents nationally touring acts from all over the country. Above, Castelaz is pictured with Pablove supporter / Olympian Lance Armstrong

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