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SHAPED GABLE COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS ON LINCOLN AVENUE

The most numerous examples of ethnic-looking buildings on Lincoln Avenue are those that feature gables with curvilinear profiles. These lively, energetic curvaceous gables stand out conspicuously from their plain, angular neighbors and are based on the scrolled gables of European townhouses dating from the 17th to early 18th centuries when the Baroque and Rococo styles were predominant. In these local examples, however, the various S-scroll and C-scroll forms are very imaginatively interpreted in the interest of uniqueness rather than slavishly copying actual antique examples. In place of the detailed pediments, mouldings, and ornamental pieces found on many of the buildings commissioned by German clients, the Lincoln Avenue stores have flat, unornamented gable ends that depend entirely on their bold shapes for their design impact. A brief overview of some of the more interesting curvilinear-gabled structures follows.

Stanley Dejewski Building

Year Built: unknown;
Remodeled 1916

1131-1133 W. Lincoln Avenue

Architect: A. Michalak
(1916 Remodeling)

Ethnic Origin: Polish

The eye-catching gable on this facade has a little more detail than most and features a fascia board that accentuates the flowing shape of the gable, which is ornamented with four short pilasters. Stanley Dejewski moved to an existing building on this corner in 1901 when he was 36 years of age and operated a saloon and an express business with his partner, Joseph Filipkowski. Dejewski later operated a grocery store here. The old building was remodeled to its present form in 1916 at a cost of \$4,000, which included raising the roof and brick veneering the entire structure, as well as constructing a new front facade. Still later, Dejewski worked as a cabinetmaker. He died in 1944 at the age of 79. The storefront was later rented out to various tenants including a clothing store, a jewelry shop, and a drug store. The gable's original stucco cladding was covered with asbestos shingles in 1938. ❖



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Frank Bzdawka Building

Year Built: 1919

1112-1114 W. Lincoln Avenue

Architect: unknown

Ethnic Origin: Polish

This is one of the handsomest commercial buildings on Lincoln Avenue with its boldly profiled combination of steps



and curves in the gable end, punctuated by a large keystone at the crest of the facade. Bzdawka, the son of Polish immigrants, took over a butcher shop run by Constantin Czarnecki on this site in 1910 and replaced the original, simple, wood frame building with the present brick one in 1919. The Bzdawka family lived in the upstairs flat. After Frank Bzdawka died at the age of 64 in 1944, the family continued to operate the meat market here through the 1960s. The street level storefront portion of the building is one of the few in the neighborhood to retain its original appearance. ❖

Henry F. Czerwinski Building

Year Built: 1920

501-503 W. Lincoln Avenue

Architect: unknown

Ethnic Origin: Polish



This handsome brick building replaced a livery stable on the site and was constructed to house Henry F. Czerwinski's pharmacy. Czerwinski had previously worked as a clerk in drug stores owned by others before opening up his own business. His family lived nearby at 575 W. Lincoln Ave. in another shaped-gable building built by his immigrant father, Barney Czerwinski, in 1912. Other early tenants of the Czerwinski Building were Dr. Robert P. Bergwall, a physician, and Dr. Robert E. Dunbar, a dentist. The building remained in use as a drug store into the mid-1960s. ❖

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