451 E. Ferry Street, Detroit, Michigan 48202

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## September 22, 2021

TO: Amelia Zamir, Method Development

FR: Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting

RE: 1315 Broadway, history

Per the *Proposed Broadway Historic District Final Report* prepared by the City of Detroit Historic Designation Advisory Board the building at 1315 Broadway (aka 1313-1319 Broadway) was constructed as a two-story building in 1912 and designed by Smith, Hinchman & Grylls. In 1915 the building was expanded to its current four-stories tall. The storefronts were remodeled in 1927 and have subsequently been altered.

According to various years of *Polk's Detroit City Directories* and *The Detroit Free Press* the building has had a variety of uses over its lifetime.

The building's address before 1920 was 27-29 Broadway. D. Levy and Sons, a purveyor of fish, oysters, and game occupied the building from at least 1915 until 1922. Additionally, between at least 1922 and 1926 the building also contained the Broadway Bowling and Billiard Hall.



Detroit Free Press, September 2, 1922

As early as 1926 a movie theater was located in the building, a 1933 *Detroit Free Press* article refers to a fire in the Republic Theater in the building.

## Movie Patrons Flee Fire

Movie-goers fled to the street Monday noon when film caught fire in the projection booth of the Repulic Theater, 1315 Broadway. The projection room was ablaze when fire apparatus arrived but the fire was extinguished quickly. The fire attracted a large crowd.

Detroit Free Press, June 13, 1933

In 1936 R. M. Hansen Inc. opened in the building selling floor coverings.

## R.M. Hansen, Inc., Opens New Store

A new floor-covering specialty store, R. M. Hansen, Inc., has been opened at 1315 Broadway, according to an announcement made Saturday by R. M. Hansen, owner and manager. The new store is presenting complete lines of carpets, rugs, linoleum, Oriental rugs and other floor coverings. Mr. Hansen has been associated with the floor-covering business for the past 10 years and was a member of Mc-Guire & Hansen, Inc.

Detroit Free Press, December 20, 1936

In the late 1940s Broadway Furniture was located in the building.



Detroit Free Press, June 20, 1949

Richard's Shoes occupied the building from 1954 until 1980.



1976 Detroit Survey photograph

Since 1980 the building has been a night club and a private club. It is currently vacant.



1916 postcard showing the building soon after stories added. Property Detroit Historical Society.



1924 postcard showing possible marquis above storefront. Property Detroit Public Library.



1957 photo, property Detroit Public Library