

Collection #
P 0687

**INDIANAPOLIS L. STRAUSS BUILDING
SLIDES, CA. 1966–1970S**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

**VOLUME OF
COLLECTION:** 5 slide bins

**COLLECTION
DATES:** ca. 1966–1970s

PROVENANCE: James K. Stevens, Clarendon Hills, IL

RESTRICTIONS: Color slides in cold storage need at least 4 hours to acclimate, so patrons should call ahead if they wish to view materials that are in cold storage.

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**ALTERNATE
FORMATS:**

**RELATED
HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION
NUMBER:** 2016.0017

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

L. Strauss & Company, originally called Eagle Clothing Company, was a clothing retailer based out of Indianapolis. Founded in 1853 by Max Dernham and John Gramling, its first location was on Washington Street. Leopold Strauss, a young tailor from Germany, came to the company as a clerk. Within five years he had become partner, and in 1879 he purchased the business.

In 1899, Strauss changed the name of the Eagle Clothing Company to L. Strauss & Company. It operated at 33 West Washington St. under Strauss from 1905 until his death in 1914. From then, New York merchandiser Abram L. Block took control of the company until 1935. In April 1946, the company relocated to the Occidental Building at the corner of Illinois and Washington streets, where it faced the Lincoln and Claypool Hotels.

During the 1950s, two other locations opened in Broad Ripple (1956) and Glendale Center (1958). By the 1960s, the company had another location in Greenwood. The downtown location moved to Claypool Court in 1985, then Monument Circle in 1991. The stores sold clothing for men, women, and children. The company filed bankruptcy in 1993.

Sources:

Sheryl D. Vanderstal, "L. Strauss and Company," *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, ed. David J. Bodehamer and Robert G. Barrows (Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1994), 885–886.

Information in the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains ninety-five color slides that show the exterior and inside of the Indianapolis L. Strauss Co. buildings downtown and in Glendale, and exteriors of Anchor Federal Savings.

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