

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name NIES BLOCK

other names/site number Nies Building

name of related multiple property listing N/A

### 2. Location

street & number 63-87 Main Street [ ] not for publication

city or town Salamanca [ ] vicinity

state New York code NY county Cattaraugus code 009 zip code 14779

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [ ] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements as set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [X] locally. ([ ] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([ ] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

[ ] entered in the National Register

[ ] see continuation sheet

[ ] determined eligible for the National Register

[ ] see continuation sheet

[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register

[ ] removed from the National Register

[ ] other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

date of action

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**NIES BLOCK**

Name of Property

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(check as many boxes as apply) (Count only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/business; professional; specialty store; restaurant

DOMESTIC/multiple dwellings

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/

Italianate (Commercial)

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls Brick

roof Membrane

other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

**NIES BLOCK**

Name of Property

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location
- C** a birthplace or grave
- D** a cemetery
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. **NPS #40965**
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by historic American Building Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

**Areas of Significance:**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- ARCHITECTURE
- COMMERCE
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

**Period of Significance:**

1891-1919

**Significant Dates:**

1891; 1902; 1919

**Significant Person:**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect/Builder:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 0.24 acres

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

**Datum if other than WGS84:** \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 42.157781

Longitude: -78.715482

2. Latitude:

Longitude:

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Annie Schentag, Ph.D.; Kerry Traynor MArch, MS [Edited by Jennifer Walkowski, SHPO]

organization kta preservation specialists date 4/28/2024

street & number 422 Parker Avenue telephone 716.864.0628

city or town Buffalo state NY zip code 14216

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner** (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20503



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1

**Nies Block**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

**County and State**

**Narrative Description**

The Nies Block, also known as the Nies Building, is a three-story brick building located at 67-83 Main Street in Salamanca, New York. The building is located in Salamanca's downtown commercial district, on the west side of Main Street just south of River Street. The Allegheny River is located to the south of the building at the end of the block, where Main Street becomes a bridge across the river and continues to the south.

The building is located on the southwest corner of Main Street and River Street. Main Street features one lane of traffic running north and one lane running south. The surrounding area consists mostly of three-to-four-story mixed-use brick buildings with commercial space on the ground floor and offices or apartments on the upper floors. Many of the ground floor storefronts in the area have been altered, typically with replacement siding, slipcovers, or other alterations to the buildings. Despite these changes, the physical density of buildings on this block of Main Street retains sufficient integrity to convey historic meaning, and its sense as a commercial thoroughfare.

The Nies Block has a zero setback at the sidewalk, typical of commercial buildings in this area. The corner of the buildings is chamfered at the intersection of Main and River Streets. Designed in the Commercial Italianate style in 1891, the building includes commercial storefronts on the ground floor and apartments on the upper floors. There are four commercial storefronts on the east elevation, facing Main Street and one at the west bay of the north elevation facing River Street. The entrances into the commercial spaces are recessed and feature original, single-light wood doors with transom, hexagonal tile floors and a combination of green marble and paneled wood bulkheads. The wood signboard remains extant above cast-iron pilasters. Above the sign board is a decorative metal cornice that extends across the east elevation and turns the corner for a single bay along River Street. Above the cornice paired one-over-one double-hung wooden sash windows, with transom set within a brick segmental head, extend across the second and third floors creating a dynamic rhythm. A dressed limestone keystone and shoulders define each arched opening, and a decorative wood mullion separates each window pair. The north elevation features similar fenestration at the second and third floors; however, single one-over-one double-hung wooden sash windows with transom set within an arched masonry opening are located in each bay. At the bay to the north on the second floor is a hexagonal bay window. A decorative cornice extends across the east and north elevations, with a large pedimented parapet defining the corner, with the words "CHAS NIES." The cornice is defined by decorative wood brackets, with pointed arch motifs in between and a band of curved and sawtooth brickwork below. There are two entrances allowing access to the apartments: one at the bay to the west on the north elevation, and one at the fifth bay from the south on the east elevation.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2

Nies Block  
Name of Property  
Cattaraugus County, New York  
County and State

**Exterior**

The Nies Block at 67-83 Main Street was constructed in 1891 as a mixed-use commercial-residential building intended to spark development and economic activity in downtown Salamanca, New York. The three-story brick building is a good example of what historian Richard Longstreth has identified as the Two-Part Commercial Block in the Commercial Italianate style, with multiple ornamental details, including a bracketed cornice, corner parapet and arched windows that are indicative of the style. A prevalent form of commercial architecture from the 1850s-1920s, the Two-Part Commercial Block typology is usually two-four stories tall and is characterized by a horizontal division into two distinct zones. These zones include a commercial zone at street level and a slightly more private zone on the upper stories that usually accommodates apartments or offices. These zones are distinguished not only by their interior function but are also articulated on the primary street-facing façade of the building as well. The Nies Block is characterized by the visual and functional division of the primary elevation along Main Street turning the corner onto River Street into two distinct zones: commercial spaces on the first floor and residential spaces on the upper two floors.

The east elevation faces Main Street (Photos 1-2). The ground floor features five commercial spaces, with large glass storefront windows in each of the spaces. Each commercial space has its own entrance, typically delineated by engaged cast-iron pilasters with fluting and recessed entrance (Photo 6). There is a combination of marble and paneled wood bulkheads on the east elevation. A wood sign board divides the storefronts from the upper floors, with a simple parapet cornice and crowns topping the engaged cast-iron pilasters at regular intervals. A freestanding cast-iron column with fluting supports the overhanging eave at the recessed storefront entrances towards the center of the elevation. An entrance to the stairs accessing the upper floors is located to the north of center on this elevation and is less recessed from the street than the commercial entrances. This entrance is framed by cast-iron pilasters and features a transom window as opposed to a signboard above.

The twelve-bay-wide east elevation contains a paired window in each bay on the upper two floors. Each paired window is set within a stone sill and brick segmental arch with dressed limestone keys and shoulders. The windows are one-over-one double-hung wood sash windows with transom. Decorative mullions separate each window pair. An elaborate entablature adorns the roofline, with wood brackets and decorative molding on the architrave under a parapeted cornice. This entablature wraps around to the north elevation, although no brackets appear at the corner of the building, which is one bay wide. A decorative arched pediment with finial and the words 'CHAS NIES' serves as the focal point at the corner of the building (Photo 1). Historic photos indicate this corner bay also once provided a primary entrance into the largest, corner commercial space, but today this bay simply features a solid pane of storefront glass.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 3

Nies Block

Name of Property

Cattaraugus County, New York

County and State

The eight-bays wide north elevation is generally consistent with the east elevation, featuring the same entablature and similar fenestration on the upper floors as on the east elevation (Photo 3). The ground floor features storefront space that wraps around the corner from the east elevation on Main Street with the same organization of glass windows, wood transom and engaged pilasters. The second through fifth bays from the east of this elevation do not feature storefront windows on the ground floor but instead a solid brick wall interrupted only by a small window with stone sill and brick arch in the second and fifth bays. These windows are now boarded. The last three bays at the west end of the north elevation contain one commercial space on the ground floor, set within the same style of engaged cast-iron pilasters with bracketed crowns as on the east elevation. A recessed entrance to this storefront occurs at its east end, and an entrance to the apartments is located directly adjacent to the east of this commercial entrance. Above this storefront on the second floor, is a hexagonal bay with mansard roof, featuring an arched one-over-one double-hung wooden sash window on each face. The fenestration on the remainder of the north elevation is much the same as on the east elevation, although the rhythm of windows alters somewhat. In addition to the window pairs in the second and fifth bays from the east, are single, one-over-one double-hung wooden sash windows, with transom set within an arched opening defined by dressed limestone keys and shoulders. The entablature is consistent from the east elevation, culminating in a decorative wood finial at the west end.

The west and south elevations are not generally visible from the street, and therefore do not feature ornamentation as on the other elevations. The west elevation features two secondary entrances, one accessing the rear of the commercial space towards the north end and one accessing the rear of the commercial space at the south end (Photo 4). Simple one-over-one double-hung wooden sash windows set within brick segmental arches with stone sills line the west elevation on all three floors but feature no ornamentation. The south elevation is fully obscured by an adjacent, unconnected building.

**Interior**

The interior layout of the Nies Block reflects a division of functions typical of a mixed-use commercial-residential building, with five commercial spaces on the first floor and residential apartments on the upper two floors. The first floor contains separate commercial spaces with storefronts and the upper floors reflect their residential use in plan and materials. Ornamental details are retained in several places, including cast-iron columns, wood sash windows, and wood baseboards.

Circulation occurs through two primary stairwells accessing all floors, and two additional stairwells that provide access solely to the basement. On the first floor, there are no public corridors connecting the commercial spaces, as each space functions independently. On the upper two floors, circulation occurs in the corridors that connect

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 4

**Nies Block**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

**County and State**

the two stairwells to one another through the center of the building, accessing the residential spaces on both sides of the corridor.

First Floor

The first floor of the Nies Block contains five distinct commercial spaces, each with its own entrance (Photos 8, 11, 12, and 14). Four of the commercial spaces are accessed through recessed entrances on the east elevation along Main Street and the fifth is oriented towards River Street on the north elevation. Each of the commercial entrances feature wood stile and rail doors with large light panels and transoms. The recessed entrances also provide additional display space in the storefronts, with small ledges for holding items close to the full plate glass windows facing the sidewalk.

The corner commercial space is the largest and is accessed from an entrance on Main Street (Photos 7-8). Inside, the space is interrupted only by a row of five steel columns running north-south. The columns are fluted with simple bases and Corinthian capitals. The floors, which were likely hardwood, are partially covered with carpet. Duct work is exposed about two feet from the ceiling. A door at the rear, south end of the space accesses a service corridor leading west to a secondary entrance on the west elevation. This corridor also accesses the rear, south end of the adjacent commercial space to the west, which faces River Street. This westernmost commercial space has a simpler telescoping form, with a door, transom, and storefront, now boarded, facing River Street. Baseboards remain extant; however, the floors have been covered with board. The east wall of this space includes an entrance to a stairwell leading to all floors, accessed through doorways with fluted casing and decorative bullseyes.

The three other commercial spaces are oriented east-west to face Main Street, each with its own entrance at 63, 67, and 69 Main Street. A load-bearing wall is located between the first and second, and third and fourth bays from the south, while a line of cast-iron columns provides structural support between the second and third storefronts from the south and within the large, corner commercial space. Despite some organizational variations of the storefront in relation to the entrances, each of these spaces features the same recessed entrance with transom and glass storefront windows that are characteristic of all commercial spaces in the building. Non-historic partition walls have been added to most of the commercial spaces. A row of fluted cast iron columns is located in the third storefront from the south (67 Main Street). The capitals are hidden above a dropped acoustical tile ceiling. The commercial space at the fourth bay from the south (69 Main Street) features an exposed brick wall on its south end, dropped ceilings, and non-historic glass storefront windows facing Main Street. While some alterations to material fabric have occurred in some of the first floor commercial spaces, overall they each retain their integrity of plan, function, and character enough to convey historic meaning.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 5

Nies Block  
Name of Property  
Cattaraugus County, New York  
County and State

Second Floor

The organization of the second floor features a double-loaded corridor winding through the center of the building to connect the stairwell at the northeast to the stairwell near the west end of the building (Photos 16 and 18). The apartments are organized around the perimeter of the building to take advantage of the natural light and ventilation and are accessed off the corridor. Utility spaces, such as the electrical room and janitor's closet, are centrally located on the floor. Many of the paneled stile and rail wood entrance doors, with single lights, transoms, and wood casing remain extant, as do baseboards within the corridors. The floors, which are likely hardwood, have been covered with carpet. Wood baseboards line the corridor in most places, meeting the non-historic tiled or carpeted floors.

The second floor includes nine units total: one studio unit, six one-bedroom units and two two-bedroom units (Photos 19 and 20). The two-bedroom units are located along the north side of the building facing River Street, whereas the one-bedroom units are located along the west and east side of the building. The single studio unit is located near the southwest corner of the building. The basic plan of the Nies Block apartments features a living room, kitchen, bath, and storage closet in addition to one or two bedrooms. While the layout of each apartment varies in relation to its location within the building, the living rooms and bedrooms are organized on the exterior walls with one or two windows in each of those rooms. The kitchen, bath and storage closets are usually located closer to the central corridor, with no windows. In some units a casement windows at the top of plaster partition walls provide daylight and ventilation into the kitchens from living spaces adjacent to windows. Many of the units retain their original materials, including wood sash windows, aprons, stools and casing; wood baseboards and wainscoting. Non-historic tiled floors or carpeted floors are present in many of the units, but the original hardwood is likely intact beneath these materials. Some evidence of changes to the original plan of the units is visible in the form of truncated trim and door openings that have been infilled while retaining their original casing. The plan and finishes remain intact in each unit, particularly along the exterior masonry walls where original details remain.

Third Floor

The plan of the third floor units is generally the same as the plan of the second floor units. As on the second floor, the third floor includes nine total units, with one studio unit, six one-bedroom units and two two-bedroom units. Each unit is organized around the corridor in the same location as on the second floor, and the plan of each unit generally mirrors that of those on the second floor as well (Photo 25). Living rooms and bedrooms line the exterior walls of the building, with windows in each of those rooms. Kitchens and bathrooms are located closer to the center of the building, typically lining the corridor. Service closets for maintenance equipment, a trash room and utilities room are located on the west side of the central corridor as on the second

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 6

Nies Block

Name of Property

Cattaraugus County, New York

County and State

floor. Skylights add additional illumination to the central corridor on this floor (Photo 23). The material fabric of the third floor units is similar to that of those on the second floor, with original wood sash windows, casings, stools and aprons intact. Many of the third floor units are carpeted, but the wood baseboard remains intact, and it is likely that original hardwood floors remain intact underneath.

#### Basement

The basement has brick walls with thick square brick piers, and wood ceiling beams. There is a concrete floor, and some spaces are internally divided through simple wood partitions, likely used for storage. The stone foundation is visible, and mechanicals are exposed.

#### Stairs, Stairwells, Corridors

There are two primary stairwells accessing all floors, and two additional stairwells that provide access solely to the basement (Photos 17, 21 and 24). The latter are located at the rear of the commercial space at 67 Main Street and in the stairwell adjacent to the commercial space at 69 Main Street. One primary stairwell is located on a north-south axis at the north end of the building between the two commercial spaces on River Street and the other is set within the building on an east-west axis and accessed through 65 Main Street towards the south end of the building. An elevator is located directly adjacent to the south of the stairwell near 65 Main Street, accessing the upper floors.

The stairs accessing the basement have wood treads and risers and simple wood or metal handrails. The stairs accessing the upper floors have wood treads and risers with simple metal handrails. Wood beadboard paneling lines the south stairwell, whereas the northeast stairs are feature unadorned plaster walls. At the third floor the stair to the south lands at the corridor and is detailed with a wood rail featuring turned baluster rails and newel post (Photos 22 and 24).

On the first floor, there are no public corridors connecting the commercial spaces, as each space functions independently. A perfunctory service corridor runs on a north-south axis at the rear, west end of the commercial spaces fronting River Street. On the upper two floors, the corridors serve primarily to connect the two stairwells to one another through the center of the building, accessing the residential spaces on both sides of the corridor. These corridors tend to be relatively wide and feature arched soffits to define the ends of the corridors. On the second floor the plaster walls at the north end of the corridors curve to round the corners. This feature is absent on the third floor.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 1

**NIES BLOCK**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

**County and State**

**Summary:**

The Nies Block is significant as an architecturally sophisticated brick mixed-use building that played an important role in the commercial, residential, and political development of the city of Salamanca, Cattaraugus County, New York. Located at 67-83 Main Street in downtown Salamanca, the building was constructed in 1891 to the designs of an unknown architect or designer. The building was owned and occupied by Charles Nies, an important figure in the history of Salamanca, for several decades. Following his death in 1919, the building continued to be owned and occupied by members of the Nies family until 1985. Containing multiple storefronts, office spaces and residential apartments, the Nies Block is one of Salamanca's most important buildings and significantly contributes to its governmental, commercial, and architectural history.

As one of the largest and most sophisticated buildings in Salamanca, the Nies Block meets the requirements for Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Constructed at the corner of Main Street and River Street, the Nies Block was designed as a Commercial Italianate style mixed-use building to accommodate commercial and residential tenants in Salamanca's growing downtown area. With its large attractive storefronts and well-lighted second floor offices, the Nies Block was an attractive place that drew business owners. Its large size and prominent location also testified to its important place in the commercial life of the community. Both reflecting and encouraging the development of Salamanca in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Nies Block is a significant example of the two-part commercial block type. development. The period of significance begins with the construction of the building in 1891 and ends with Nies' death in 1919.

The Nies Block meets the requirements for Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government. The building served as the site of pivotal negotiations between the Salamanca citizen's committee and the Seneca council in 1892, when Charles Nies and other Salamanca businessmen convinced the Seneca Nation of Indians to extend the terms of the land lease for Salamanca properties from twelve years to ninety-nine years. This longer lease term was crucial to the development of Salamanca by American settlers on Seneca land, encouraging more construction and financial investment in the town and enabling its longevity. The U.S. Senate later revealed that the methods used by the citizen's committee included bribery and the intoxication of Seneca council members, deeming their part in the negotiations to be "shameful and corrupt." As Charles Nies was an integral figure of the citizen's committee, these negotiations took place on the second floor of the Nies Block, and the whiskey used to intoxicate the Seneca council was provided from Nies's saloon on the first floor. The building is therefore significant as the site of a crucial moment in the political history of Salamanca and the Seneca Nation of Indians.

The building also meets the requirements for Criterion A in the area of Commerce, as it both accommodated and encouraged the commercial growth of Salamanca. With space for five stores on the first floor and several office spaces and apartments on the upper floors, the building became an instant fixture in the commercial life of the community. Nearly all of the businesses in the building were locally owned and therefore significantly

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 2

**NIES BLOCK**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

**County and State**

contributed to the economic development of Salamanca. Fully occupied from the time of its opening into the mid-twentieth century, the Nies Block played an important role in advancing Salamanca from a small collection of frame residences into a more densely settled city.

**Neighborhood Context and the History of Salamanca**

In the early nineteenth century, Salamanca was populated by the Seneca Nation of Indians, which had occupied the land for centuries before Euro-American settlers. The region has a unique history, as the land of Salamanca is owned by the Seneca but populated primarily by American settlers. Beginning in the mid-nineteenth century, American settlers (mostly of European descent) began constructing modest buildings on the land, which they leased from the Seneca nation. As development continued over the next few decades, the lease terms were extended to sustain more building and occupation over longer periods. This practice has continued today, making Salamanca, “the only city in the nation built on land leased from an Indian reservation.”<sup>1</sup>

Commercial establishments began appearing in the village in the 1860s. As Ellis asserts, “The history of the trade of Salamanca begins with the opening of a grocery store by Peter Frank, Dec. 25 1863.”<sup>2</sup> Two more stores opened in 1866, a general store and a store operated by W.T. Fish that soon became one of the largest in the village. By 1873, 150 houses, 2 churches, and at least 4 stores had been constructed in Salamanca. The village continued to grow at a steady pace through the 1880s, with multiple businesses associated with the railroads, lumber mills, and commercial enterprises that emerged to serve the residents who were affiliated with these industries.

By the 1870s, the settlement had several houses, a three-story opera house, and a grocery store. The name was changed from East Salamanca to simply Salamanca in 1873, and in 1878 the community held an incorporation ceremony that celebrated its new status as a village. Delineating the Village of Salamanca, the notice of intention to incorporate was signed by Charles Nies, as well as other prominent settlers. The village was described in the document as “containing 1987 acres, extending from the Reservation limits on either side of the Allegany and along that stream to comprise the above area, the average width being about a mile.”<sup>3</sup>

By the 1890s, the population of Salamanca was about 6,000.<sup>4</sup> Development began to occur at a more rapid pace, particularly along Main Street, which had already become the primary commercial corridor of the village. Multiple storefronts were located along Main Street prior to the construction of the Nies building, including those belonging to W.T. Fish, the Hevenor Brothers, and Peter Frank. Charles Nies also owned a storefront

<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth Kolbert, “City on Seneca Indian Reservation Reaches New Lease with Tribe,” *New York Times*, May 22, 1990.

<sup>2</sup> Franklin Ellis, *History of Cattaraugus: Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of its Prominent Men and Pioneers* (Philadelphia: L.H. Everts, 1879), 350.

<sup>3</sup>Ellis, 349.

<sup>4</sup> Lucille Taylor, “The Original Lease Committee,” *Salamanca Republican-Press*, May 26, 1979.



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 3

**NIES BLOCK**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

**County and State**

along Main Street at Maple Street, which was also known as the 'Nies Block' through the 1880s, prior to the construction of the current Nies Block a few blocks south at Main Street and River Street. The first Nies Block contained the Palace Drug Store until 1888, when a large fire spread throughout the city and significantly damaged the building along with many others. Nies sold the building to Henry Brown in 1889, and soon began constructing the present Nies Block at the corner of Main Street and River Street. As a three-story mixed-use building constructed of brick, the Nies Block indicated that the commercial activity and architecture of Salamanca had graduated from the smaller frame buildings of the mid-nineteenth-century.

**The Nies Block, 1891-1985**

The construction of the new Nies Block in 1891 marked an important new era for Salamanca, one that divided the town's relatively rural past from the more commercial, bustling village it was becoming in the late nineteenth century. Designed by an unknown architect, the three-story building occupied the southwest corner of Main Street and River Street. The building cost about \$25,000 and construction began on April 21, 1891.<sup>5</sup> Designed in the Commercial Italianate style, the brick building with stone foundation featured arched windows with brick hoods and keystones atop stone sills. Glass windows were the prominent feature on the first floor, where storefront space extended around the corner of the building. The roofline was particularly prominent, with a cornice with intricate brackets running the length of the building and a large circular parapet culminated at the corner as a focal point. At the time it was constructed, it was "the largest business block in Cattaraugus County," and by the time of Nies's death in 1919 it was still "the largest in the city of Salamanca."<sup>6</sup>

The Nies Block is a great example of a mixed-use building from the late nineteenth century, with space for three to five storefronts on the first floor and offices and apartments on the two upper floors, the building was intended to house multiple businesses and residents simultaneously. Designed as a corner building with a total frontage of 100 feet, the Nies Block represented an urban approach to spatial efficiency and density in a prominent commercial area. While the context of Salamanca was still relatively small compared to larger nearby cities such as Buffalo and Jamestown, the construction of the Nies Block reflected the application of urban architectural styles to the village's downtown in anticipation of continued growth. Acknowledging the rapid developments and population increase that had already occurred in Salamanca in the 1880s, Charles Nies constructed the Nies Block with density in mind to simultaneously accommodate and encourage the growth of the community.

By the time the building opened in November 1891, many of the stores and offices were already occupied. As the *Cattaraugus Republican* reported one month prior to the opening, most of the storefront space had already been accounted for even before the building was finished. The first stores included:

<sup>5</sup> "Salamanca Scribbles," *Cattaraugus Republican*, June 12, 1891.

<sup>6</sup> "Charles Nies, Pioneer, Dead," *The Republican Press*, September 20, 1919.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 4

**NIES BLOCK**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

**County and State**

The elegant double store on the corner is occupied by Laing and Andrews with their stock of hardware. The single store next adjoining will be occupied early next week by Mrs. L.A. Goodell with a stock of millinery goods. The Salamanca Cooperative Mercantile Company, composed of John, Charles and Maggie Hevenor, are opening a new stock of dry goods in the fine double store next south, and M.D. Quigley will be occupying the remaining store in the Nies Block with a stock of groceries.<sup>7</sup>

A hardware store, millinery, dry goods store, and grocery store were the first occupants of the building, and this type of diversified commercial offerings continued for many decades. Nies himself also operated a saloon on the first floor in a space fronting River Street, which was a popular spot into the early twentieth century.

On the upper floors, several of the offices were rented to various professionals, and many of them remained in the building for several decades in the early twentieth century. Offices were rented to the Hons. C.D. Davie and J.S. Whipple, Dr. Dickson, and the Prudential Insurance Company on the upper floors for several years in the first decades after the building was completed. The *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map* from 1910 also suggests that a portion of the building along Main Street hosted moving picture shows on the ground floor in the early twentieth century.

A fire occurred in the building in 1902, which caused minor damage to the building inside the Nies's apartment but resulted in a loss of stock in the hardware store. As the *New York Times* reported, "The fire had started in the basement under the hardware store and eaten its way up through the ceiling into the store and Mrs. M.E. Graves's millinery store next door."<sup>8</sup> The loss of stock was estimated to be \$6,000, and repairs were made to the building shortly after the incident.

The second and third floors of the building also included apartments, where the Nies family resided as well as several other tenants. Charles Nies and his wife, Emma Karst Nies, had twelve children, and the family of fourteen lived in a large apartment on the second floor of the Nies Block for several decades. Located above the Andrew's hardware store, this apartment was likely the largest in the building.<sup>9</sup> Descendants later described these rooms in the Nies Block as the place "where all the children grew up."<sup>10</sup> Charles Nies lived the remainder of his life in the building, until he passed away in his own apartment in 1919.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>7</sup> "Salamanca's New Mammoth Brick Block," *Cattaraugus Republican*, October 23, 1891.

<sup>8</sup> "Losses by Fire," *New York Times*, November 21, 1902.

<sup>9</sup> "Fire in Nies Block," *Cattaraugus Republican*, November 21, 1902.

<sup>10</sup> Emily Campbell, "Block Past 'Sketchy History,'" *The Salamanca Press*, December 26, 1985.

<sup>11</sup> "Charles Nies, Pioneer, Dead," 1.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 5

**NIES BLOCK**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

**County and State**

**The Commercial Block Typology**

The commercial architecture seen in the Nies Block exhibits broader historical patterns of style and function that characterized mixed-use development during the late-nineteenth century. Centuries before the mixed-use style of development emerged in America, the shop-house combination building became a common form in Europe by the late Middle Ages, wherein a shop would occupy the ground floor of a building and a small residence would be located above. Architectural historian Richard Longstreth has identified that “Not until the early nineteenth century did the design of strictly commercial buildings emerge as a major component of architecture.”<sup>12</sup> As cities became increasingly dense due to new transportation networks, infrastructure and industries, these “new patterns and typologies of building became dominant in a markedly expanded realm of commerce that constituted [large groups] of narrow-fronted stores shouldering each other for a foothold of frontage on solidly built-up streets.”<sup>13</sup> Many of the development patterns and architectural typologies that were established by the mid-nineteenth century, “played a central role in defining the character of its settlements, clustered in central districts...Main Street became to America what the piazza was to Italy.”<sup>14</sup> Indicative of a nation where financial prowess and capitalism reigned supreme, the establishment of densely packed commercial corridors along typical ‘Main Streets’ in the nineteenth century was an essential part of American identity during this time.

While this type of development dominated cities for about a hundred years, from the 1850s-1950s, changes in size and density occurred in many commercial districts as they did on Main Street in Salamanca. Longstreth’s discussion of this type of growth applies directly to the development on Main Street, wherein “Isolated clusters of stores serving new residential areas in 1870 often led to a continuous linear development by 1900 and by 1930 transformed into major shopping districts, equivalent to the downtown of a modest city.”<sup>15</sup> These patterns of commercial development were evident in many American cities and towns by the time the Nies Block was constructed in the late nineteenth century, and they “remained dominant for another hundred years, despite the spiraling growth of concentrated settlements...and new forms of transportation.”<sup>16</sup> Even during the first half of the twentieth century, “the initial impact of the automobile was to intensify the primacy of the street.”<sup>17</sup> While the widespread use of the automobile transformed the settlement patterns of cities nationwide, it “generated comparatively few changes in commercial architecture until after World War II.”<sup>18</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Richard W. Longstreth, *The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2000), 12.

<sup>13</sup> Jeffrey Cohen, “Corridors of Consumption: Mid-Nineteenth Century Commercial Space and the Reinvention of Downtown,” *Visual Merchandising: The Image of Selling* (London: Ashgate Publishing, 2013), 20.

<sup>14</sup> Longstreth, 13

<sup>15</sup> Longstreth, 15

<sup>16</sup> Longstreth, 15

<sup>17</sup> Longstreth, 15

<sup>18</sup> Longstreth, 15

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 6

**NIES BLOCK**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

**County and State**

From the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century, multiple types of commercial-residential architecture appeared in American cities in varied stylistic interpretations that essentially “all constituted variations on the same basic theme.”<sup>19</sup> Typically arranged on a deep, narrow lot intended to maximize the number of lots on a single street, typical mixed-use architecture from this time reflected a desire to cluster several commercial spaces into a dense area and to provide each one with frontage on the street. Often arranged in a row along a single primary street, “buildings tended to abut the sidewalk and other buildings next door, filling as much available space as possible.”<sup>20</sup> Each vying for street frontage as well as space for their businesses inside the building, typical commercial buildings from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century were tall, narrow and deep on the lot. As a result of this density, these buildings frequently included skylights to illuminate these deep, dark spaces that were typically blind along party walls to adjacent buildings. The Nies Block has a particularly prominent street frontage for this typology, as it spanned two streets at the corner and was able to maximize its storefront space, which “was meant to flexibly accommodate a range of activities.”<sup>21</sup> This flexibility was intended to be “easily adaptable for what would often turn out to be a fairly frequent succession of varied businesses.”<sup>22</sup> Evident in the history of the many businesses that the building housed over time, this sense of adaptable commercial space was an essential component of the typology.

The Nies Block exemplifies one of many variations of a type of commercial-residential architecture known as the Two-Part Commercial Block, which is “the most common type used for small and moderate sized commercial buildings throughout the country.”<sup>23</sup> A prevalent form of commercial architecture from the 1850s-1920s, the Two-Part Commercial Block appears with stylistic variations applied throughout these decades but with several commonalities in form, massing, and function. The typology is usually two to four stories tall and is characterized by a horizontal division into two distinct zones. These zones include a commercial zone at street level and a slightly more private zone on the upper stories that usually accommodate apartments or offices. These zones are distinguished not only by their interior function but are also articulated on the façade of the building as well. Through ornamentation, material fabric, rhythm or other design elements, these zones may appear harmonious but different in character, or they may have little visual relationship at all. Sometimes the zones are distinguished through separate ornamentation for each area or may be designed to emphasize the commercial space within a unified façade instead. At the Nies Block, the upper floors are unified by their similar fenestration, whereas the ground floor commercial space is clearly delineated as a separate zone by a wood band with brackets and large glass storefront windows. Regardless of their stylistic variations, retailers “recognized the need for their stores to invite entry, to be visibly distinct from private homes.”<sup>24</sup> Articulation of

<sup>19</sup> Longstreth, 13

<sup>20</sup> Longstreth, 14

<sup>21</sup> Cohen, 28

<sup>22</sup> Cohen, 29

<sup>23</sup> Longstreth, 23

<sup>24</sup> Cohen, 20.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 7

**NIES BLOCK**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

**County and State**

the ground floor commercial space addressed this need, and therefore is a character-defining feature of the typology.

The Two-Part Commercial Block, as evidenced at the Nies Block, typically contained residential space on the upper floors. At a time when commercial corridors like Main Street were first emerging, these residential spaces frequently accommodated the building owner. By the early twentieth century, however, “a new ‘downtown’ devoted almost exclusively to commerce displaced sites of housing.”<sup>25</sup> Buildings like the Nies Block tended to be more frequently rented to tenants as well as occupied by owners during this time, which occurred more steadily in the early 1900s. In response to the increased density of the Main Street area, residential space became profitable on the upper floors, where stores would not be visible to pedestrians anyway. Despite the mixed-use nature of this typology, however, “Even when commercial facilities in neighborhoods contained apartments above, the character of the shopping street differed markedly from adjacent ones lined with residences alone.”<sup>26</sup> While residents lived on the upper floors of the buildings, Main Street remained primarily commercial in character. Accommodating both the building owner as well as some tenants, the Nies Block maximized profit by providing rental income as well as commercial income.

Although the typology persisted in this common form from about 1850-1950, stylistic variations occurred as aesthetic trends changing over time. These variations are evident “not only on the more elaborated, architect-designed commercial buildings, but also the more typical ones that formed the far greater part of this new urban landscape.”<sup>27</sup> For instance, exterior ornamentation became more elaborate in the 1870s and 1880s, when the intention for these buildings transformed from a purely functional approach to “the increasing desire to have the buildings themselves perceived as ornaments to the community.”<sup>28</sup> Coupled with the emerging ability to mass manufacture building products, including ornamentation, the lower cost of materials also enabled these buildings to “attain a distinctive appearance previously reserved for only the costliest edifices.”<sup>29</sup> Elaborate cornices, brackets and medallions appeared on Italianate, Second Empire, and Queen Anne style commercial buildings of this time, as seen on the Italianate style ornamentation of the Nies Block.

By the mid-1890s-1920s, however, there emerged among architects a conviction that the classical tradition should provide the basis for the principles of design. These values and methods were applied to the commercial building typology in place of the elaborate ornamentation of the previous decades, and by the turn of the century “a sense of order and unity prevailed in most work.”<sup>30</sup> These principles were applied not only to

---

<sup>25</sup> Cohen, 24

<sup>26</sup> Longstreth, 14

<sup>27</sup> Cohen, 21

<sup>28</sup> Longstreth, 31

<sup>29</sup> Longstreth, 13

<sup>30</sup> Cohen, 39

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 8

**NIES BLOCK**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

**County and State**

individual commercial buildings, but often were conceived in relation to the whole street as a cohesive unit. Although buildings were often constructed by different builders at different times, a sense of aesthetic cooperation in terms of massing, stylistic modesty and function was valued during this time. Commercial buildings were increasingly viewed as “dignified contributors to a coherent urban landscape” that should be analogously more related to creating a “polite conversation rather than strident competition.”<sup>31</sup> Demonstrating this architectural typology, the Nies Block attests to the broader patterns of building design, function, and development as it was constructed during the late nineteenth century.

The Nies Block is a prominent local cornerstone building, a highly intact example of a Two-Part Commercial Block with Italianate styling in Salamanca. Compared to other Italianate commercial buildings in the Salamanca area, the Nies Block is the largest and most elaborate example in town. The Union Block building at 123 Main Street (built 1880) is a more modest example of an Italianate commercial building, three-stories high with a three-bay-wide primary elevation (NRE as contributing to Eligible Salamanca Historic District, ca. 2022). It features a pressed-metal cornice with brackets, pointed window hoods, round-arched windows on the upper stories and cast-iron columns flanking the storefront. The storefront organization has been altered with non-historic window treatments and therefore the building does not provide as intact an example as the Nies Block.

The Newton Brothers Building at 85-87 Main Street (built 1882) is similar in scale and detail to the Union Block, located about one block away. It is a three-story, three-bay-wide commercial building with flat roof. It has a delicate denticulated cornice, with an ornate, bracketed pressed-metal cornice adorned with a sunflower motif. Fenestration is regular with tall, narrow, rectangular wood sash windows and decorative pedimented shouldered hood molds with keystone elements and stone sills. A contemporary metal and glass storefront, entrance, and signage have been added on the ground floor. Like the Union Block, the muddled storefront with non-historic materials and altered organization detract from the more intact storefront examples at the Nies Block. Both of these nearby examples in downtown Salamanca were constructed in the early 1880s at a three-story three-bay-wide scale befitting a modest downtown small town. The Nies Block, in contrast, represents the largest and grandest example of an Italianate commercial building extant in Salamanca NY.

**Governmental Significance of the Nies Block**

The Nies Block also played a significant role in Salamanca’s government, serving as the site of pivotal negotiations between the American residents of Salamanca and the Seneca Nation of Indians in 1892. As the village began to grow substantially during the 1880s, several business owners and residents became

<sup>31</sup> Cohen, 39

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 9

**NIES BLOCK**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

**County and State**

increasingly concerned that their investments were not secure due to the lease terms they had signed with the Seneca. As Ellis stated,

Nothing but the fact that it is located on the Reservation, and the consequent uncertainty of its tenure, has kept it from being the foremost place in the county. The question of leases has been so far determined that the improvements in the village are becoming more permanent and substantial, and already there are good business buildings as evidence of the prosperity of the place.<sup>32</sup>

In 1890, the U.S. Congress passed the Seneca Nation Settlement Act, which required residents to pay for the use of the Seneca property but did not stipulate how much that payment had to be.<sup>33</sup> In an attempt to procure longer lease terms from the Seneca, the owners of these ‘good business buildings’ banded together to form a council to address the issue. This occurred “sometime subsequent to the year 1892,” when business owners who had constructed buildings on Seneca land “organized themselves into what was known as the citizens’ committee for the purpose of securing the approval of Congress and the Seneca Nation through its councilors for an extension of the tenure of leases from a twelve-year to a ninety-nine-year tenure.”<sup>34</sup> Charles Nies was a founding member of this council, along with thirteen other businessmen such as W.T. Fish, J.S. Whipple, and Thomas Heller. The Seneca nation had only three councilors to represent their interests against these fourteen businessmen: C.C. Lay, Harrison Halftown and W.C. Hoag.

Over a period of six weeks, the Seneca councilors and Salamanca representatives negotiated the lease terms inside the Nies Block. As one of the founding members of the Salamanca committee and one of its most successful businessmen, Nies had a personal stake in extending the lease from twelve to ninety-nine years. By this point, Nies owned dozens of buildings in Salamanca and was the foremost real estate developer in the village. The Nies Block was also the largest building that could accommodate the negotiations, although it was hardly neutral ground. The rooms “where the negotiations took place was in what was known as the Nies Building, situated on the second floor of the building.”<sup>35</sup> These second-floor rooms, which may have otherwise been used as offices, were utilized in part because they connected to the saloon below. As the U.S. Senate later described this setup, “Charles Nies operated a saloon on the ground floor of the building; that one room in the back of said saloon and barroom was set aside for the exclusive use of the Indian councilors, and a stairway

---

<sup>32</sup> Ellis, 350

<sup>33</sup> Colum Lynch, “Bitter Residents Charge Indians Want Their Homes,” *Chicago Tribune*, January 30, 1992.

<sup>34</sup> U.S. Senate, *Ratification of Leases with the Seneca Indians Committee on Indian Affairs* (Washington D.C.: United States Government, 1931), 31.

<sup>35</sup> U.S. Senate, *Ratification of Leases with the Seneca Indians Committee on Indian Affairs* (Washington D.C.: United States Government, 1931), 31.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 10

**NIES BLOCK**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

**County and State**

connecting said room with the room where the negotiations took place.”<sup>36</sup> As multiple rooms housed these pivotal negotiations, the Nies Block is significant as the site where important discussions about the history of Salamanca and its governmental policies took place.

In a historic event that was later recognized by the U.S. Senate as a “shameful, corrupt and fraudulent negotiation,” Nies and his committee finally convinced the Seneca council to agree to a ninety-nine-year lease in the winter of 1892.<sup>37</sup> The Salamanca citizen’s committee used dishonorable methods to obtain this lease, including the replacement of some of “the councilors who refused to consent to the ninety-nine-year lease,” who were then “ousted and other members of the tribe who were willing to consent to the extension of the lease period were substituted.”<sup>38</sup> As the U.S. Senate later reported, “the Seneca Nation have been deprived of large sums of money through said manipulations.”<sup>39</sup>

Alcohol and bribes additionally played a large role in influencing the Seneca council’s decision. During the negotiations, “the citizens’ committee furnished all intoxicating liquors that the Indian councilors could consume and kept them in an intoxicated condition during all of the time of these negotiations.”<sup>40</sup> Additionally, the Seneca councilors “were housed and maintained at hotels free of charge and in many other ways entertained and bribed.”<sup>41</sup> Although the report does not state where the councilors stayed or what forms of ‘other entertainment’ this entailed, it did specify that “practically all the whisky furnished said councilors were purchased from Charles Nies and paid for out of the citizens committee’s funds.”<sup>42</sup> Nies himself was particularly intertwined with these dishonorable methods, as he “was a lessee of a large block or area of Indian land on which about fifty buildings from the Indians were paid for in whisky.”<sup>43</sup> Although it is not clear, it is certainly possible that the Nies Block was one of these buildings, which Nies initially paid the lease for in whisky.

---

<sup>36</sup>U.S. Senate, *Ratification of Leases with the Seneca Indians Committee on Indian Affairs* (Washington D.C.: United States Government, 1931), 31.

<sup>37</sup>U.S. Senate, *Ratification of Leases with the Seneca Indians Committee on Indian Affairs* (Washington D.C.: United States Government, 1931), 31.

<sup>38</sup> U.S. Senate, *Ratification of Leases with the Seneca Indians Committee on Indian Affairs* (Washington D.C.: United States Government, 1931), 31.

<sup>39</sup> U.S. Senate, *Ratification of Leases with the Seneca Indians Committee on Indian Affairs* (Washington D.C.: United States Government, 1931), 31.

<sup>40</sup> U.S. Senate, *Ratification of Leases with the Seneca Indians Committee on Indian Affairs* (Washington D.C.: United States Government, 1931), 31.

<sup>41</sup> U.S. Senate, *Ratification of Leases with the Seneca Indians Committee on Indian Affairs* (Washington D.C.: United States Government, 1931), 31.

<sup>42</sup> U.S. Senate, *Ratification of Leases with the Seneca Indians Committee on Indian Affairs* (Washington D.C.: United States Government, 1931), 31.

<sup>43</sup> U.S. Senate, *Ratification of Leases with the Seneca Indians Committee on Indian Affairs* (Washington D.C.: United States Government, 1931), 31.



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 11

**NIES BLOCK**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

**County and State**

The U.S. Senate officially recognized these manipulations decades later in 1931, stating, “It was simply a shameful deal that should never have been permitted in any civilized country, that the money used for the purpose of corrupting and bribing the Indians was obtained from donations by white citizens of Salamanca...this money was used freely in corrupting, bribing and debauching the Seneca Councilors.”<sup>44</sup> Providing alcohol, bribes and space for both the negotiations themselves as well as entertainment in the saloon downstairs, Charles Nies and the Nies Block itself played an integral role in this historic manipulation. In this sense, the Nies Block represents not only the booming commerce of Salamanca, but also the darker side of its dealings with the Seneca council in order to obtain the lease that would subsequently result in more commercial endeavors.

Despite the dishonorable methods used to obtain these terms, the 99-year lease went into effect in 1892 and essentially lasted as initially determined until 1991. A new generation of Salamanca’s citizens and a new set of Seneca representatives again met in 1990, acknowledging the flaws of the previous lease and seeking a way to continue reaching an agreement. Nine months before the lease was set to expire in February 1991, officials of the Seneca nation and the city of Salamanca agreed to new terms. The agreement included a \$60 million payment to the Seneca Nation from the federal and state governments, “intended as compensation for the payments under the old agreement, which both sides conceded were unfairly low.”<sup>45</sup> The new length of the lease was set at forty years, rather than another ninety-nine years, with an option to renew after another forty years. In 2012, the Salamanca Common Council approved a resolution to convert all its leases with the Seneca Nation of Indians to eighty-year terms, providing a longer lease period they hoped would “boost confidence of residents, business owners and financial institutions.”<sup>46</sup> This lease covers about 90 percent of Salamanca land, and is set to expire in 2071.

**After the Period of Significance, 1919-2024**

The building continued to serve as a prominent mixed-use building in Salamanca for many years after the period of significance ended with Nies’s death in 1919. Upstairs, Nies’s wife, children and eventually some of his grandchildren continued to live in the building after his death in 1919 into the mid-twentieth century. In 1955, at least three members of the family lived in the second floor apartment, including Charles Nies Jr., Irving Nies, and Christine Nies.<sup>47</sup>

In 1923, the Nies Drug store moved into the building, and was run by Charles Nies’s eldest son, Carl Nies. Changes were made to the storefront of the building at this time, including “a new front of dark green marble

<sup>44</sup> U.S. Senate, *Ratification of Leases with the Seneca Indians Committee on Indian Affairs* (Washington D.C.: United States Government, 1931), 31.

<sup>45</sup> Kolbert, 17.

<sup>46</sup> Rich Place, “City Converts Leases to 80-year Terms,” *The Salamanca Press*, September 26, 2012.

<sup>47</sup> “\$150,00 Loss in Salamanca Business Block Fire,” *Times Herald* (Olean, NY) March 7, 1955.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 12

**NIES BLOCK**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

**County and State**

and copper, with woodwork of mahogany in natural finish. The store, which now occupies the ground floor and basement, will be enlarged to take in the second floor of the Nies Block.”<sup>48</sup> The drug store occupied the building, which was also owned by Carl Nies after Charles’s death in 1919, for several decades into the mid-twentieth century.

Additionally, the governmental office of the treasurer of Cattaraugus County was located in the Nies Building for nearly four decades, eventually moving to another location in 1938. Most of these occupants remained in the building for several years, making the Nies Block a stable fixture and prominent address in the community of Salamanca since 1891.

Several fires occurred in the Nies Block during the twentieth century. One occurred in 1925, which spread throughout the second story of the building causing significant damage. One newspaper reported, “The second story was destroyed and the fire burned down into the two restaurants on the ground floor. The loss is more than \$8000...The second story and roof of the building were ablaze and fireman had a hard battle.”<sup>49</sup> The building was not occupied at the time, but the second story required significant repair. Several smaller fires occurred in 1932, when “For the fourth time in less than five weeks, fire was discovered in the Nies Block in North Main Street.”<sup>50</sup> The fires were “put out without much damage,” but it was suspected that these were the result of arson.<sup>51</sup>

A more substantial fire occurred at the Nies Block in 1955, causing about \$150,000 of damage to the building. It took the fire department about six hours to put out the fire, when “the stubborn blaze swept through part of the basement and first floor of the building, completely demolished two stores and caused damage by flames, smoke and water to thirteen other stores and offices located on the upper floors.”<sup>52</sup> The fire was believed to have started in the basement below the corner storefront, much like the previous fires. At this time, firemen tried to drill through the concrete floor of the drug store to pour water into the basement. No one was injured, but newspapers reported several offices that were damaged, providing a glimpse of the building’s tenants at the time: “Whipple’s dentist office, the Cattaraugus County District Health Station, the Salamanca Board of Trade, the Western Union, the law offices of John G Kreiger and Jesse M. Seymour, and the office of Dr. James Taggart.”<sup>53</sup>

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, the Nies Block began to empty as a result of changing settlement patterns. New residential construction occurred outside the City of Salamanca after World War II, following broader

<sup>48</sup> “News,” *The Pharmaceutical Era* 56 (New York: D. O. Haynes and Company, 1923).

<sup>49</sup> “Police Investigate Blaze at Salamanca,” *The Evening Leader* (Corning, NY) June 18, 1925.

<sup>50</sup> “Another Fire in Nies Block,” *Republican-Press*, November 4, 1932.

<sup>51</sup> “Another Fire in Nies Block,” *Republican-Press*, November 4, 1932.

<sup>52</sup> “\$150,00 Loss..,” 1.

<sup>53</sup> I“\$150,00 Loss..,” 1.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 13

**NIES BLOCK**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

**County and State**

national trends of moving away from denser areas. Some stores remained in the commercial area of Main Street, but as consumer trends shifted towards larger stores and shopping malls, the small businesses that tended to locate in the Nies Block struggled to compete with these new patterns and the building subsequently deteriorated. A real estate developer interested in the Nies Block surveyed its condition in 1976, describing “an outmoded electrical system, exterior brick that needs pointing, windows that need to be replaced and a cornice needs to be painted; but these changes are minor when you consider the cost of saving this building compared to the cost of a new building on the same site.”<sup>54</sup> By this time, the *Salamanca Press* stated, “Due to outmoded mechanical systems and poor maintenance, the building is empty except for the ground floor and a single resident, a member of the Nies family, who lives on the second floor.”<sup>55</sup> One or more members of the Nies family lived in the building since it was constructed in 1891, and ownership remained in the family into the 1980s. By 1976, the Nies Block reportedly had “outmoded mechanical systems and poor maintenance,” and was “empty except for the ground floor and a single resident, a member of the Nies family, who lives on the second floor.”<sup>56</sup>

In 1985, the four grandchildren of Charles Nies decided to sell the building to the Rural Revitalization Corporation, effectively ending the period of significance.<sup>57</sup> As the building had been owned by the Nies family since its construction in 1891, the decision to sell the building marked a new era for the property. Mostly empty by this time, the historic function of the building as a multi-use block of businesses, offices and apartments was no longer relevant in downtown Salamanca by this time.

The Rural Revitalization Corporation continued to own the building for several more decades after the period of significance. Due to some outdated systems and poor maintenance, the building was not occupied to full capacity for many years. A few businesses occupied the ground floor storefronts, including Sears and a Texas Hots café, but by 2016 the last remaining business vacated the Nies Block. The building was entirely vacant by 2016. In 2017, the Mayor of Salamanca and a real estate developer received a Restore NY grant in order to rehabilitate the building.

**Notable Figures**

*Charles Nies, 1848-1919*

Born in 1848, Charles Nies immigrated to the United States from Waldeck, Germany, in 1867 to join his sister in Salamanca, NY.<sup>58</sup> He married Emma Karst Nies of Olean in 1878, and their first son, Carl Nies, was born in

<sup>54</sup> Rod Hensel, “Nies Block is Focal Point,” *Salamanca Press*, December 11, 1976.

<sup>55</sup> Hensel

<sup>56</sup> Hensel, 6

<sup>57</sup> Emily Campbell, “Block Past ‘Sketchy History,’” *Salamanca Press*, December 26, 1985.

<sup>58</sup> William Adams, *Historical Gazetteer and Biographical Memorial of Cattaraugus County, NY* (Lyman Horton, 1893), 1098.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 14

**NIES BLOCK**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

**County and State**

1881. The couple had twelve children total, six boys and six girls, and they lived together in a second floor apartment at the Nies Block for almost three decades.

In the late 1860s, Nies was first employed in the town by the Erie railroad in its local carpenter shop, and “later he engaged in the coal and wood business.”<sup>59</sup> In the early 1870s, “he engaged in dealing in real estate and became also an extensive builder on his own lands.”<sup>60</sup> His first major venture in real estate was “when he erected the block at the corner of Maple and Main Streets.”<sup>61</sup> This building was also referred to as the Nies Block, but is not the same as the nominated building. The first Nies Block was sold in the late 1880s after a fire, and the nominated building was not constructed until 1891. While the Nies Block was the largest of his properties, Nies eventually acquired dozens of properties throughout Salamanca by the 1910s. He was one of the largest property owners in the area.

Charles Nies was active in the community of Salamanca, and served in various public positions that had a major impact on the development of the area. As one newspaper stated, “From the early days Mr. Nies was keenly interested in the growth of the community and had great faith in its future.”<sup>62</sup> Even before he played a role in extending the lease terms for land in Salamanca, “Mr. Nies believed that good titles to property would be established here eventually and backed his judgment, acquiring real estate even before the execution of the original twelve-year lease with the Seneca.”<sup>63</sup> In 1892, he was a founding member of the citizen’s committee that negotiated a new ninety-nine-year lease term with the Seneca Nation of Indians. This controversial series of negotiations was conducted by Nies and other members of the committee at the Nies Block over a period of six weeks.

Charles Nies was also a freemason and was instrumental in encouraging the construction of the Masonic Hall across the street from his own building on Main Street. He was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors for the Wildwood Cemetery Association in 1901, a place he also helped to establish. In addition to serving as treasurer of Salamanca for a term, he also “financed many home building projects and was also one of the organizers of the Salamanca Loan and Building Association which has been an important factor in the residential development of the city.”<sup>64</sup> Nies’s career reflects that he “was extensively interested in real estate, almost from the time of his arrival [in Salamanca] up to his death he had owned and developed many properties in his active career...some of the most important in the city.”<sup>65</sup> He died due to complications from a stroke in

<sup>59</sup> “Charles Nies, Pioneer, Dead,” 1.

<sup>60</sup> Adams, 1098.

<sup>61</sup> Adams, 1098.

<sup>62</sup> “Charles Nies, Pioneer, Dead,” 1.

<sup>63</sup> “Charles Nies, Pioneer, Dead,” 1.

<sup>64</sup> “Charles Nies, Pioneer, Dead,” 1.

<sup>65</sup> “Charles Nies, Pioneer, Dead,” 1.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 15

**NIES BLOCK**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

**County and State**

the family apartments on the second story of the Nies Block in 1919. The building continued to be owned and occupied by his descendants until 1985.

**Summary**

Constructed in 1891, the Nies Block is a significant contribution to the history of government, commerce and architecture in Salamanca, NY. Owned and occupied by Charles Nies, an important settler of the region, the three-story building figured prominently in the growth of Salamanca for several decades. Positioned at the corner of Main Street and River Street, the building represented the heart of Salamanca's business community and commercial activity. Providing space for local small businesses in five storefronts on the first floor as well as offices and apartments on the upper floors, the Nies Block was the largest building in Cattaraugus County at the time of its construction. Designed in a commercial Italianate style that reflected the sophistication of larger cities, the architecture of the Nies Block conveyed the newfound importance of Salamanca as a commercial center and growing city. The building was also the site of the historic negotiations between the Salamanca citizen's committee and the Seneca Nation of Indians council in 1892, when Nies and other businessmen succeeded in extending the terms for the lease of Salamanca land from the Seneca to a ninety-nine-year agreement. The Nies Block therefore meets the requirements for Criterion A in the areas of Politics/Government and Commerce, and Criterion C in the area for Architecture. The period of significance begins in 1891 when the building was constructed and ends in 1919 when Charles Nies died.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 1

**NIES BLOCK**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

**County and State**

**Bibliography**

- “\$150,00 Loss in Salamanca Business Block Fire.” *Times Herald* (Olean, NY), March 7, 1955.
- Adams, William. *Historical Gazetteer and Biographical Memorial of Cattaraugus County, NY*. Salamanca: Lyman Horton, 1893.
- “Another Big Brick Block.” *Cattaraugus Republican*, April 24, 1891.
- “Another Fire in Nies Block.” *Republican-Press*, November 4, 1932.
- “Bad Blaze at West Salamanca.” *The Republican Press*, April 17, 1908.
- Bingham, Robert W. *Cradle of the Queen City: A History of Buffalo to the Incorporation of the City*. Buffalo, N.Y.: Buffalo Historical Society, 1931.
- Campbell, Emily. “Block Past ‘Sketchy History.’” *Salamanca Press*, December 26, 1985.
- “Charles Nies, Pioneer, Dead.” *Republican Press*, September 20, 1919.
- Ellis, Franklin. *History of Cattaraugus: Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of its Prominent Men and Pioneers*. Philadelphia: L.H. Everts, 1879.
- Everts, Deb. “Salamanca, Transitioning into the Future.” *Salamanca Press*, August 12, 2009.
- “Fire in Nies Block.” *Cattaraugus Republican*, November 21, 1902.
- Floyd, A.B. *The Ins and Outs of Buffalo: The Queen City of the Lakes*. Buffalo: A.B. Floyd, 1899.
- Goldman, Mark. *City on the Edge*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2007.
- Hensel, Rod. “Nies Block is Focal Point.” *Salamanca Press*, December 11, 1976.
- “Looking Backward: One Hundred Years Ago Today.” *Salamanca Press*, September 17, 1981.
- “Looking Backward: Forty Years Ago Today.” *Salamanca Republican-Press*, February 29, 1928.
- “Losses by Fire.” *New York Times*, November 21, 1902.
- “Mrs. Goodell.” *Cattaraugus Republican*, November 27, 1891.
- “News.” *The Pharmaceutical Era* 56. New York: D.O. Haynes and Company, 1923.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 2

**NIES BLOCK**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

**County and State**

“Police Investigate Blaze at Salamanca.” *The Evening Leader* (Corning, NY): June 18, 1925.

“Republican Nominations.” *Republican Press*, October 12, 1905.

“Salamanca.” *Cattaraugus Republican*, July 14, 1881.

“Salamanca Scribbles.” *Cattaraugus Republican*, November 15, 1889.

“Salamanca Scribbles.” *Cattaraugus Republican*, June 12, 1891.

“Salamanca Scribbles.” *Cattaraugus Republican*, December 25, 1891.

“Salamanca’s New Mammoth Brick Block.” *Cattaraugus Republican*, October 23, 1891.

Sanborn Map Company. *Fire Insurance Maps of Buffalo, New York*. Pelham, New York: Sanborn Map Company. 1889-1951.

Taylor, Lucille. “The Original Lease Committee” *Salamanca Republican-Press*, May 26, 1979.

United States Senate. *Ratification of Leases with the Seneca Indians Committee on Indian Affairs*. Washington D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1931.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 1

**NIES BLOCK**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

**County and State**

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is indicated with a heavy line on the attached maps with scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the original parcel associated with this building. The boundary reflects the historic and current parcel containing the Nies Block building during and after the period of significance.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

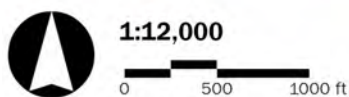
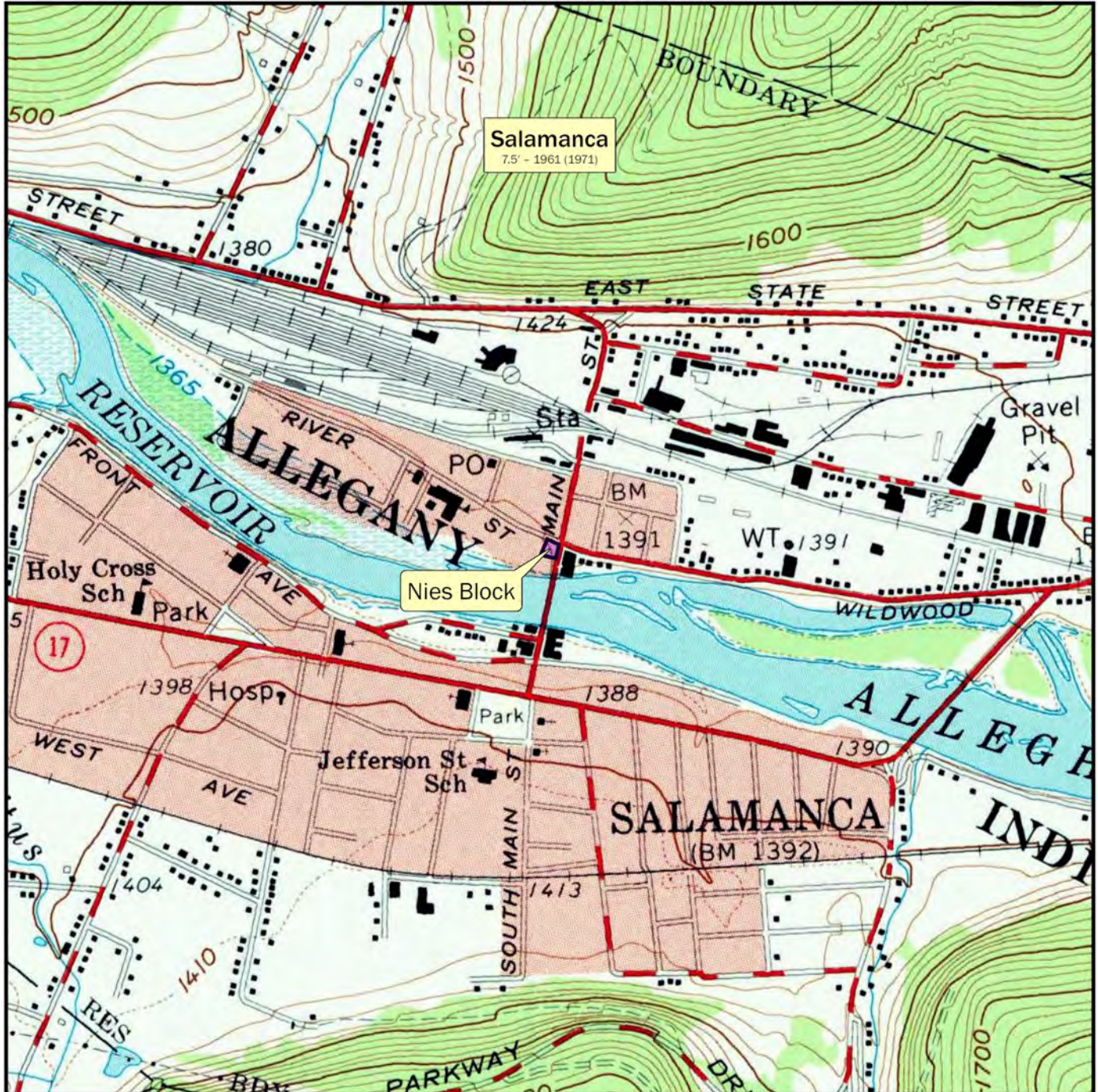
Section 10 Page 2

NIES BLOCK

Name of Property

Cattaraugus County, New York

County and State





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 3

NIES BLOCK

Name of Property

Cattaraugus County, New York

County and State



1:1,200

0 50 100 ft

Projection: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 17N



Nomination Boundary (0.24 ac)



Tax Parcels

Cattaraugus County Parcel Year: 2021



New York State  
Parks, Recreation and  
Historic Preservation

Mapped 04/19/2024 by Matthew W. Shepherd, NYSHPO

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

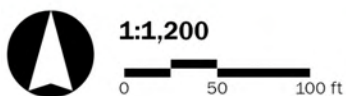
Section 10 Page 4

NIES BLOCK

Name of Property

Cattaraugus County, New York

County and State



 Nomination Boundary (0.24 ac)



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**NIES BLOCK**

Section 11 Page 1

**Name of Property  
Cattaraugus County, New York  
County and State**

Additional Information

Photo Log:

Name of Property: Nies Block  
City: Salamanca  
County: Cattaraugus County  
State: New York  
Photographer: kta preservation specialists  
Date Photographed: April 2023  
# of Photographs: 25

Photograph:

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0001  
View looking southwest showing east and north elevations.

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0002  
View looking west showing west elevation.

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0003  
View looking south showing north elevation.

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0004  
View looking northeast showing west elevation at alley.

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0005  
View looking southwest showing corner elevation and historic prism glass and "HARDWARE" at storefront.

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0006  
Looking south west showing entrance into main entrance at Storefront 75.

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0007  
View looking southwest into Storefront 75, first floor.

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0008  
View looking northwest, Storefront 75 showing storefront and restored prism glass.

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0009  
View looking west at Storefront 67. Note extant decorative columns.

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0010  
View looking southwest at Storefront 67. Note original stair access.

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0011  
Looking east at Storefront 67 showing restored storefront and wood stool.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**NIES BLOCK**

Section 11 Page 2

**Name of Property**  
**Cattaraugus County, New York**  
**County and State**

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0012

Looking northeast at Storefront 65. This is the main entrance into the Apartment Lobby.

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0013

Looking west into elevator lobby for Apartments.

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0014

Looking east showing restored storefront at the entrance to Storefront 63.

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0015

View looking west at top of the stairs accessing River Street. Note restored doors, baseboards, plaster.

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0016

View looking east at second floor corridor.

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0017

Looking northwest at second floor corridor. Stair is the main access to third floor.

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0018

Looking north, second floor corridor to the east.

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0019

View looking into typical second floor apartment, Unit 204.

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0020

View looking northeast into Unit 207, second floor.

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0021

View looking up the main stair from the second to the third floor.

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0022

View looking northeast at third floor corridor.

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0023

View looking northwest showing restored skylight and monitor lights. Plaster walls and ceilings were restored.

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0024

View looking north at third floor corridor.

NY\_Erie County\_NiesBlock\_0025

View showing detail of restored wood floors, looking east, Unit 307, third floor.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 11 Page 3

**NIES BLOCK**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

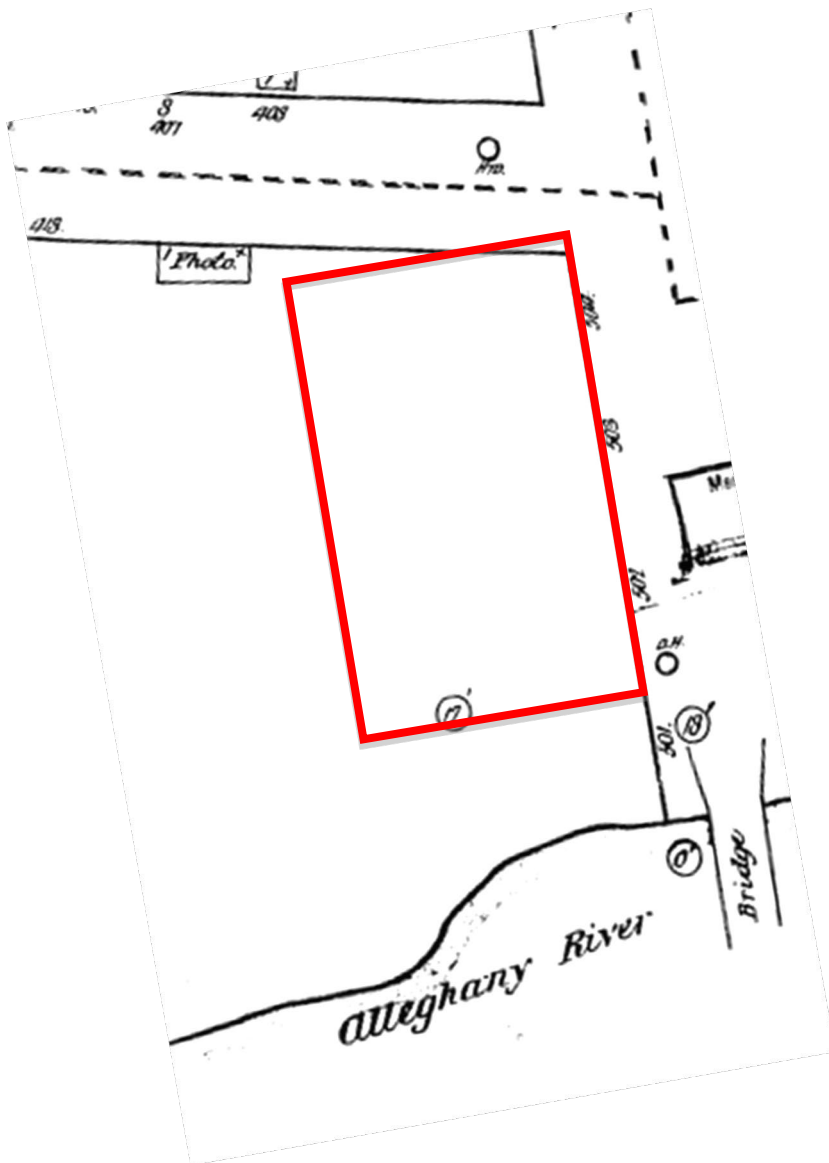
**County and State**

*Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1888*

Volume 1, Sheet 2

Note the location of the site at the corner of Main Street and River Street was vacant in 1888. This is the future site of the Nies Block.

N<sup>^</sup>



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 11 Page 4

**NIES BLOCK**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

**County and State**

*Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1893*

Volume 1, Sheet 2

The Nies Block, constructed in 1891, is visible at the corner of Main Street and River Street.

N^



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

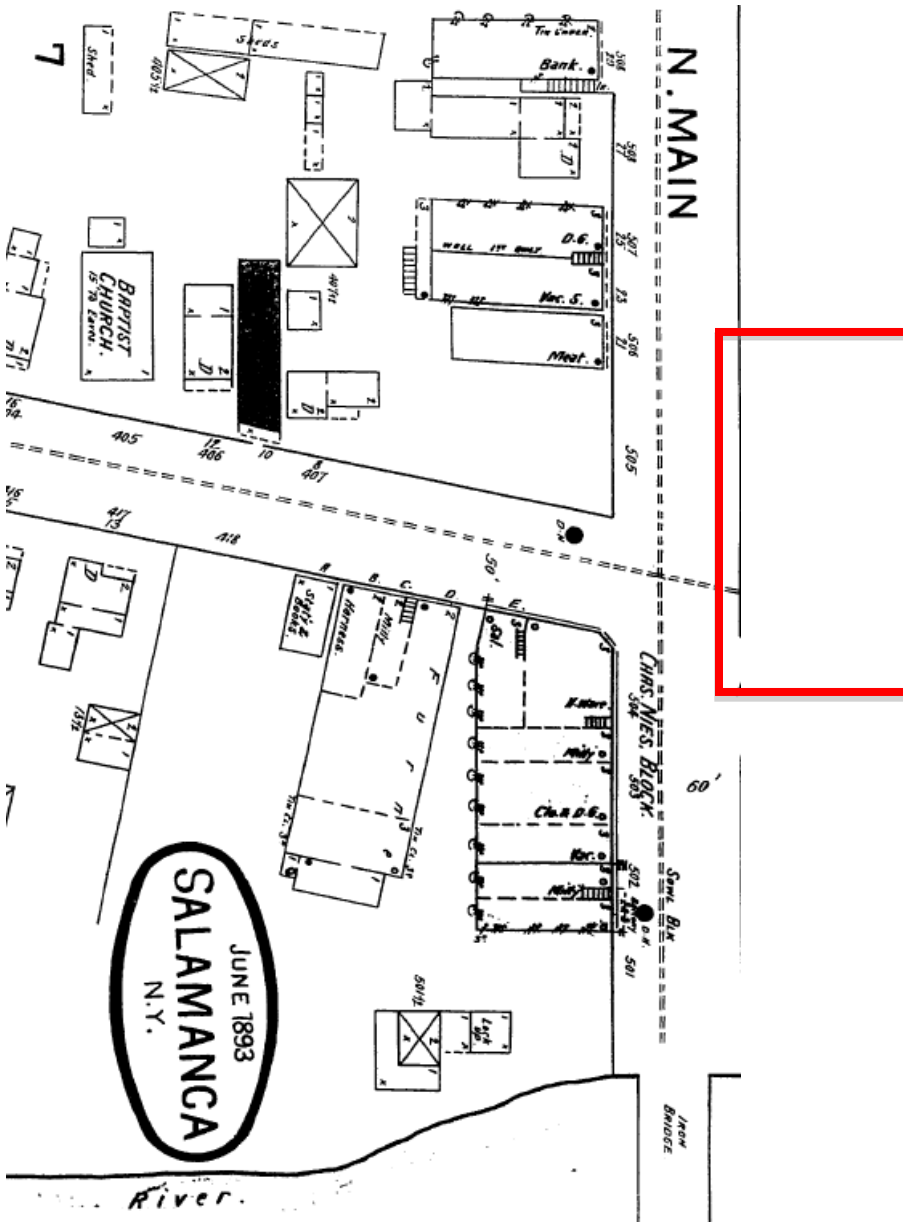
Section 11 Page 5

NIES BLOCK

Name of Property

Cattaraugus County, New York

County and State





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

NIES BLOCK

Name of Property

Cattaraugus County, New York

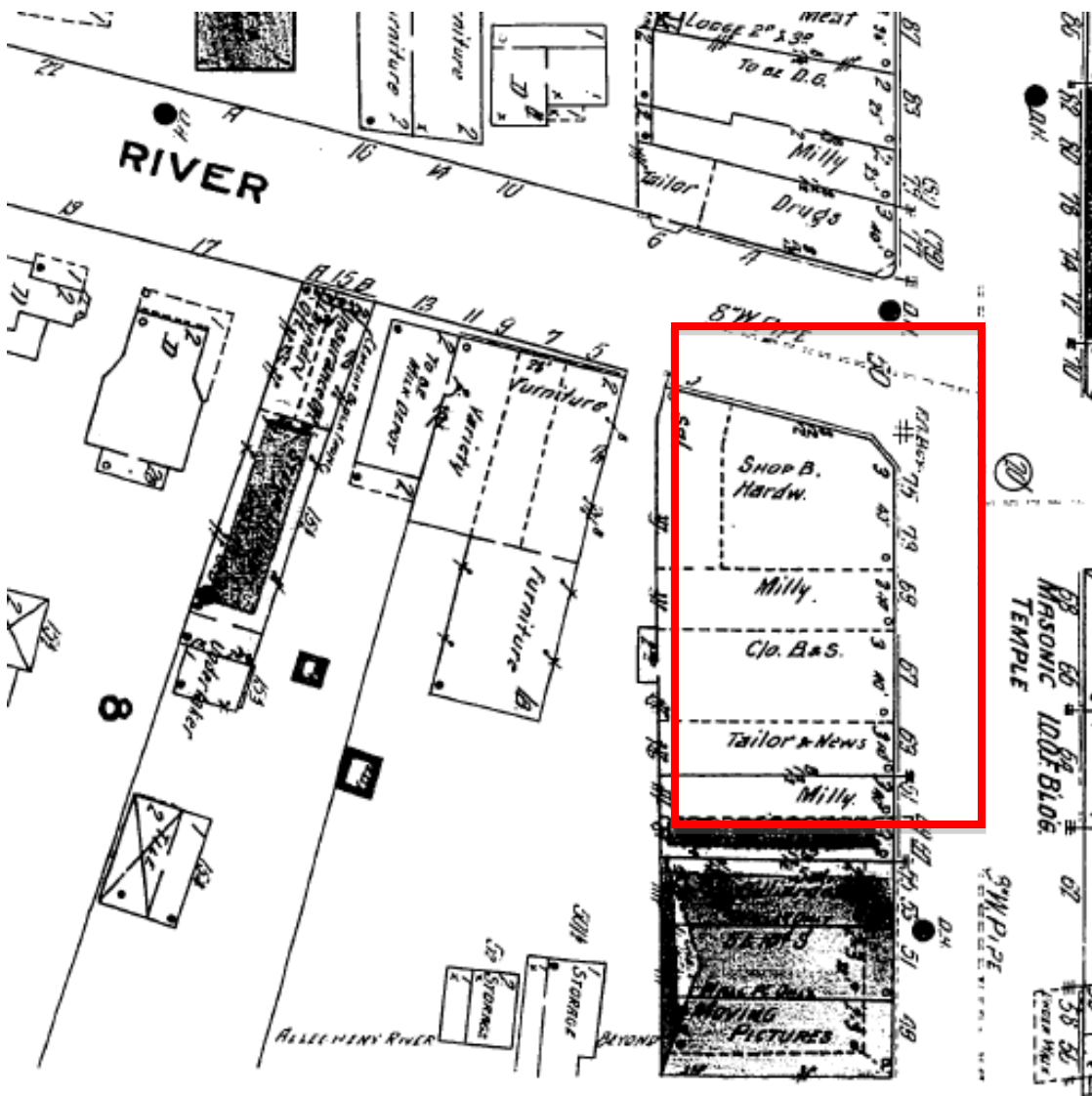
County and State

Section 11 Page 6

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1910  
Volume 1, Sheet 3

Note that the businesses inside the Nies Block include a millinery, hardware store, tailor, and a moving picture space at the south end of the building. The saloon facing River Street next to the hardware store was operated by Charles Nies since the building was constructed in 1891.

N^



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

NIES BLOCK

Name of Property

Cattaraugus County, New York

County and State

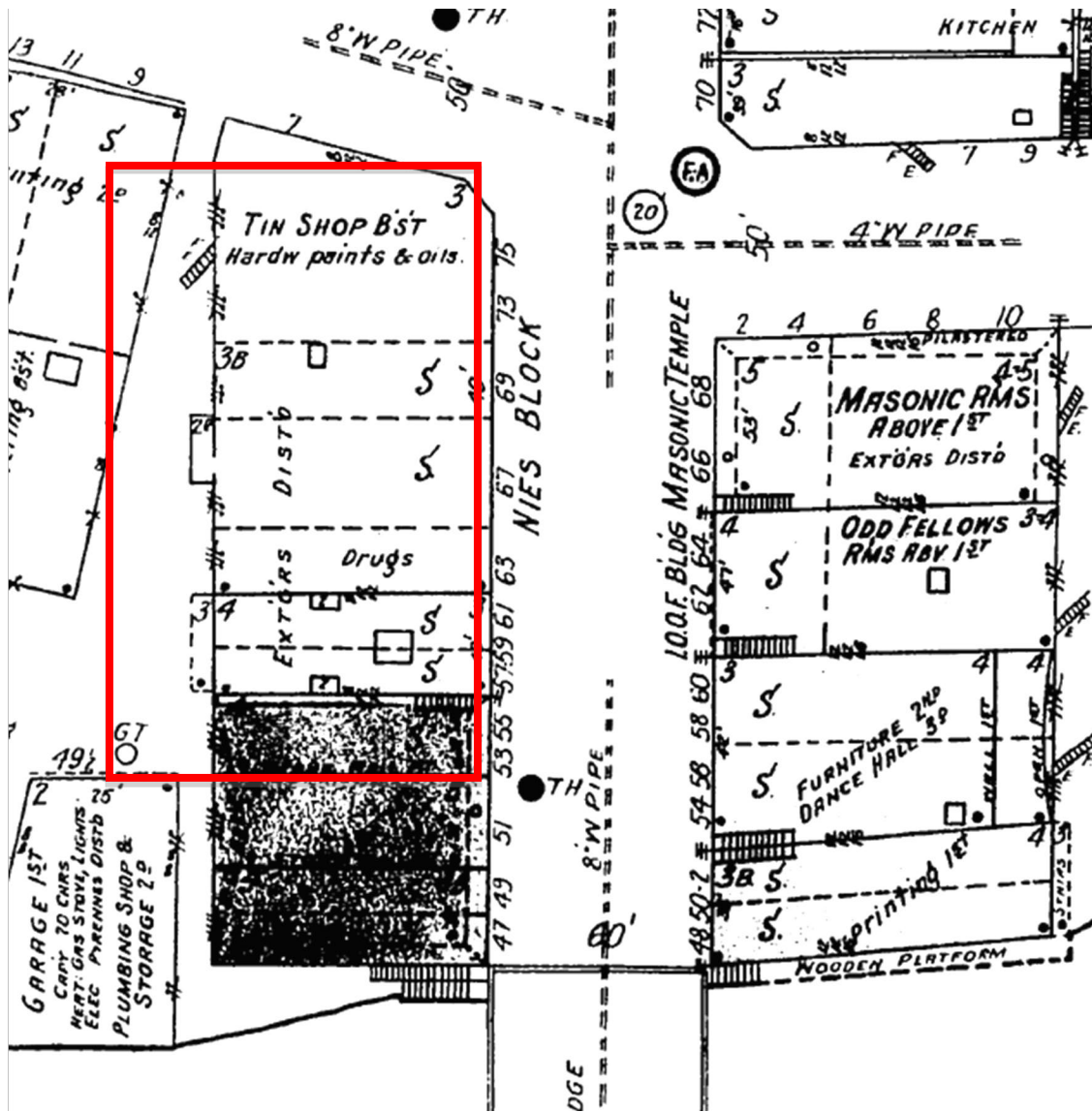
Section 11 Page 7

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1927

Volume 1, Sheet 3

Note the saloon is no longer listed, due to prohibition.

N^



View of the Nies Block ca. 1900. Original photograph used as part of a collage that remains.  
Courtesy of Salamanca Area Historical Society Museum.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 11 Page 8

NIES BLOCK

Name of Property

Cattaraugus County, New York

County and State



Postcard of the Nies Block, ca. 1907

Source: [https://m.media-amazon.com/images/I/819G3YhBHZL.AC\\_SL1500.jpg](https://m.media-amazon.com/images/I/819G3YhBHZL.AC_SL1500.jpg)



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 11 Page 9

**NIES BLOCK**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

**County and State**



Nies' Drug Store, Pubs. NIES BLOCK, MAIN STREET (SOUTH), SALAMANCA, N. Y.



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 11 Page 10

**NIES BLOCK**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

**County and State**

View of the Nies Block during a celebration in 1908. Nominated building is on the left. Courtesy of Salamanca Area Historical Society.





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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 11 Page 11

**NIES BLOCK**

**Name of Property**

**Cattaraugus County, New York**

**County and State**

View of the Nies Block during parade. Building on the left is the nominated building. Ca. 1940s. Courtesy of Salamanca Area Historical Society.





















































