

THEATRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

At the Willis & Shirley Johnson & Classic Cinemas Research and Education Center you can find information for architectural restoration, to help gain landmark status, or document performances and the history of a theatre in your community.

The American Theatre Architecture Archive (ATAA) is currently home to over 100,000 items documenting over 18,000 theatres in America. The largest holding of its kind, the resources available in our collections document the architectural heritage of theatres in America from the 1880s to present day.

[Browse our 'Finding Aides'](#) to learn about the collections in the archive and how they can help you. For example, you can learn about the Paul S. Moore Collection, the Michael Miller Collection, and the Chicago Architectural Photographing Company Collection.

[Chicago Architectural Photographing Co Collection](#): 1,400 views of 255 theatres, mostly in the Midwest and many are contemporaneous to the opening of the buildings, done mostly for Rapp & Rapp and Paramount Publix Theatres. Mostly 8x10 film negative but some 8x10 glass plate negatives and 4x5 copy negatives.

[Michael Miller Collection](#): Consisting of 10,000 35mm slides mainly color and primarily in the New York City area. The Michael Miller Collection also includes his index of New York City theatres occupying 9 linear feet of space, approximately 1,088 snapshots (mainly color), and approximately 1,200 35mm negatives of the preceding snapshots with some additional views.

The Paul S Moore Collection contains 1,000+ files of research material focusing on Chicago theatres and nickelodeons, but also including some files on New York City, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Buffalo, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Milwaukee, Detroit, Orlando, Tampa, Cleveland, Toledo, St. Louis, Louisville, and Seattle. There are also a handful of subject files on theatre chains, etc. Also, a hard copy of his "Chicago Theatres 1871 – 1940," a 550-page compilation of his research on Chicago theatres sorted chronologically, by theatre chain, by architect, by name, and by address. Additionally, approximately 70 color snapshots of Chicago, Cincinnati and Indianapolis.

The American Theatre Architecture Archive collections are accessible in person by appointment at the [Willis & Shirley Johnson and Classic Cinemas Research and Education Center](#).

For more information about onsite research and research by THS staff contact Theatre Historical Society of America [Archives Director](#) or submit a [Research Request here](#).

To enjoy some of the THS archive's treasures, visit our [online catalog and type Photo into the search field](#).



www.historictheatres.org