

Amelio's

Founded: [ca. 1871]

Location: 431 Fifth Street (originally 39 Canal Street and now 431 South Fifth Street), Logansport

It is difficult to determine when the first saloon opened at the northwest corner of Fifth and Canal Streets in Logansport. The 1869 city directory contains a listing for John Mitchell at 39 Canal Street. Two years later it listed Joseph F. Matt as the keeper of a saloon at that address. Matt operated the saloon until at least 1900. From that point through the mid-1920s, Matt apparently leased the property to various individuals, who followed one another as operators of the saloon in rapid succession. In 1901 and 1902, for example, Louis Sewnig and his son ran the saloon; they advertised a selection of fine wines and liquors and declared oysters and clams as specialties. The next year the saloon was being run by John Cain.

From 1919 to 1933, the dates for Prohibition, the proprietors of the former saloon sold soft drinks instead of alcoholic beverages. In January 1924 Nicholas Amelio began operating the establishment as Nick's Place. He purchased the bar in 1939. In 1958 Amelio's son Francis, who had assumed ownership, renamed the restaurant and tavern Amelio's. In 1982 Amelio sold the restaurant and tavern to Ken Renkenberger. The following year Thomas L. and Loretta J. Keplar purchased the tavern, which they continued to operate as Amelio's.

The restaurant, which can claim fans from around the world, is famous for its meatball sandwiches. A bronze plaque inside the tavern indicates the high-water mark from the 1913 flood. In 1999 the Keplars continued to own and operate the business.

